



St Anthony's Parish



St Bernard's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL: 5367 2069
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

26th January 2020

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint & Fr Alexander Athanas SAC

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

Mon 9.00am-4.00pm **Tue** 1.00pm-5.00pm

Wed—Thurs 9.00am-5.00pm **Friday** 9.00am-4.00pm

Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au

Website: stanthonysmeltonsouth.wordpress.com

St Anthony's School Principal: Damien Schuster
Wilson Road, Melton South 3338

Phone: 8099 7800

Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:

Naim Chdid Fri 10.00am—3.00pm

Parish Office Hours: Tue –Fri 9.00am-1.00pm

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website: http://pol.org.au/bacchusmarsh/Home.aspx

St Bernard's School Principal: Emilio Scalzo
19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Phone: (03) 5366 5800

Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Sue Alexander	0400 171 843
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	03 9747 0078
Natalie Howard - Chair	0410 478 046
Villy Julita	0403 751 343
Rose Ma'ae	0431 386 473
Marthese Mercieca	0421 378 691
Kim Nguyen	0431 035 980

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Alexander Athanas
and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Cathy Belcher - Vice Chair	0431 082 886
Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
Moirra Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell	0401 927 502
John Thorne - Secretary	5310 6692
James Waters - Chair	0403 822 795

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Alexander Athanas
and Emilio Scalzo

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)

Officers: Aloysious Dacunha, Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

Please contact Judy Johnson for any Parish news you would like published in the Newsletter

Articles must be received by midday Wednesdays. Email: judyparishnews@gmail.com

For appointments with Father Fabian please call Judy on 0414 007 009

If you need a Priest in the case of an emergency please call 0403 435 471

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES : 27th January– 2nd February

Monday:	7.45am	FFS
Tuesday pm: St Thomas Aquinas Memorial	6.30pm	FAA
Wednesday:	7.45am	FFS
	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	7.45am	FAA
	9.15am	FAA
Friday: St John Bosco Memorial	7.45am	FAA
	9.15am	FAA
1st Saturday Devotions	9.15am	FFS
Saturday Vigil:	5.30pm	FFS
Sunday:	8.30am	FFS
	10.30am	FFS

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and **before** and weekday Mass.

ROSARY:

Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

ADORATION:

Adoration resumes Tuesday 4th February



ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 27th January-2nd February

All weekday Masses (except Thursday) will be held in the Chapel

Monday :		No Mass
Tuesday: St Thomas Aquinas Memorial	5.30pm	FAA
Wednesday :	9.30am	FAA
Thursday :	9.30am	FFS
Friday: St John Bosco Memorial	9.30am	FFS
Saturday Vigil :	5.00pm	FAA
Sunday :	8:30am	FAA
	10.00am	FAA

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.30pm and before and after weekday Mass.

ROSARY: Prayed every Monday at 7.30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour. Rosary is also held on the first Friday of the month following morning mass.

Next Date : **Friday 7th February**

ADORATION: Adoration resumes Tuesday 4th February

PROVIDENCE MASS: Is held on the second Friday of the month at 11.00am The Village 5-7 Griffith St, Maddingley.

Next Mass: **14th February**

SENIOR PARISHIONER'S MASS

Is held on the third Friday of the month in the Parish Centre at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome not just the seniors.

Next Senior's Mass: **21st February**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil:	6.30pm	FAA
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AUSTRALIA DAY PRAYER

Australia Day Prayer

*We bless you, God of the universe,
for this land, for its contrasts of landscape and climate,
for its abundance of wealth and opportunity.
We bless you for our history, with all its struggle in adversity,
its courage and hope.
Give us in our diversity
tolerance and respect for each other
and a passionate commitment to justice for all.
Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*



Source: catholicdoors.com

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

HOUSE VISITATIONS AND BLESSINGS

Dear Parishioners, if you would like a Priest to visit your home and have a house blessing please contact Judy Johnson 0414 007 009 or email judyparishnews@gmail.com a date and time can be organized.

BINGO

Every Tuesday evening we have 3 sessions per evening with a cost of \$3.00 a book. Eyes down at 7.00pm. Finish time is 9.45pm. Come and have a great social evening, have some fun and maybe get lucky too. Coffee and tea is provided and there are canteen services available. Remember you have to be in it to win it! Venue: St Anthony's Padua Hall.



NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

ST ANTHONY'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Our Sacramental Program Catechesis commences Saturday 1st February for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist and it will be held at the St Anthony's Church.

Lessons for **Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist** are 2.00pm-6.30pm.

February: Saturdays 1st, 8th, 15th & 29th

March: Saturdays 14th, 21st & 28th

April: Saturday 4th

THESE SESSIONS ARE COMPULSORY FOR ANY CHILD ENROLLED IN OUR PROGRAM

DONATIONS FOR HEATING AND COOLING FOR CHURCH

If you would like to make a direct online donation to the heating and cooling fund you can do so with the following details

Account Name: St Anthony's Parish Annual Appeals

Account No: 083347/025471925

Reference: 110116461. Thank You.

PIETY STALL

The Piety Stall will be closed during the renovations. We will be setting up a small Piety Stand with a few popular items while the renovations are underway. The Piety Stand will be set up shortly and Parishioners will be advised when it is open.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE—ENVELOPE NO 4031

Could the parishioner who placed envelope number 4031 in the plate on Sunday 29th December please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

MARRIAGE BLESSINGS—NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend at all Masses you are invited to have a Marriage Blessing, if you have celebrated or about to celebrate your Wedding Anniversary. You will be invited to stand and receive the Blessing at all Masses next weekend.

THANK YOU - AUSSIE FOOD SALE & CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank all the volunteers for raising \$244.15 with the Aussie food sale and \$452.05 with the Christmas Raffle tickets in December 2019. Special thanks to all those who supported this. The proceeds will go towards the extension of the Church.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS—THIS WEEK

The Parish Office will be open:

Tuesday-Thursday— 1.00pm-5.00pm

Friday— 9.00am-1.00pm

ST BERNARD'S

ST BERNARD'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Our Sacramental Program Catechesis commences Saturday 1st February for the Sacraments of 1st Eucharist & Confirmation and it will be held at the Parish Centre, St Bernard's

Lessons for **1st Eucharist and Confirmation** are 1.45pm-5.45pm.

February: Saturdays 1st, 8th, 15th & 29th

March: Saturdays 14th, 21st & 28th

April: Saturday 4th

THESE SESSIONS ARE COMPULSORY FOR ANY CHILD ENROLLED IN OUR PROGRAM

GETTING TO KNOW ST MARY MACKILLOP-OUR AUSTRALIAN SAINT

A monthly hour of stories, reflection and prayer on the **first Thursday at 10.30a.m.** at St Joseph's Convent 68 Lerderberg St. Bacchus Marsh.

Topic 6th February: Mary's childhood and Celtic spirituality.

Please ring Sr Mary 5367 2078 or

email mary.fermio@sosj.org.au

CATHOLIC MUSEUM

Car raffle tickets will be available for purchase after each Mass this weekend. 2 Mazda cars as prizes- \$2.00 per ticket.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS— THIS WEEK

The Parish Office will be open:

Tuesday-Thursday— 9.00am-12noon

JOHN BOSCO

Feast day: January 31

Patron: of apprentices, editors and publishers, schoolchildren, magicians, and juvenile delinquents

Birth: August 16, 1815

Death: January 31, 1888

Beatified: June 2, 1929 by Pope Pius XI

Canonized: April 1, 1934 by Pope Pius XI



"Be good. This will make your angel happy. When sorrows and misfortunes, physical or spiritual, afflict you, turn to your guardian angel with strong trust and he will help you."

WORSHIP NEWS

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 1st & 2nd Feb MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Marian Muller
8.30am: Amy Honrade
10.30am: Karina Dunne

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Gavin Pereira (P) & Ann Tennakoon
8.30am: Ron Howard (P), Sue Alexander & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Elaine Lacey (P) & Sally Markulin

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact the emergency minister on the roster. Thank you

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Godwin Barton & Dolores Turcsan
8.30am: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard
10.30am: Leonia Jessop & Annonika

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Kieran Grech & Mason Azzopardi
8.30am: Nixon, Thytus & Aaron Ben
10.30am: Nick Taunuu & Ethan Porter

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Anton Belacic, Mary Winifred Cochrane, Ellen Dodemaide, Krystyna Kwiatek, Eunice McRoberts, Rosa Portelli, Tulo Tuala & Andrew Waleryszek

Please pray for the Sick:

Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Liza Fernandes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Brendan Michael, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, John Osborne, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Dolores Turcsan, Clint Abela Wadge, & John Xuereb and all those who have requested our prayers.

(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father we lift up all those who are facing illness. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love.
Amen



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 1st & 2nd Feb MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Trish Davine
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi & Margaret Love
10.00am: Diane Corro & James Waters

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Colin Remedios
8.30am: **Volunteer Please**
10.00am: Anne Daly

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

February: Mary Flanagan

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

FAITH ON FIRE PRAYER GROUP

Every fortnight on Thursday 7.15pm - 9.15pm. Prayers in the Church followed by fellowship in the Parish Centre.

Next meeting **To Be Advised**

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Mary Blood, Janet Bourke, Barry Dean, Gary Dodd, Jeanette Hurley, Joe Marshall, Salvatore (Sam) Provenzano, Pat Sherry & Joan Welsh.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Brian Harrison, Adam Hillier, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Johnson David Kasprzak, Loretta Kervin, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis MaryPauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist, Hayden Tung, Mitchell Tung, Dolores Turcsan, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Nils Wyren, Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young & Hannah Young.

(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND: 1st & 2nd February **PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS**

The Piety Stall will be closed during the renovations. We will be setting up a small Piety Stand with a few popular items while the renovations are underway. The Piety Stand will be set up shortly and Parishioners will be advised when it is open.

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppas after Mass will return after the Church Renovations are completed.



CHURCH FLOWERS-February

Rosabella Tuala



CLEANING ROSTER: Thursday

Lorelle Porter

Volunteers would be appreciated as well.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Holy Family Room 10.30am.

New members most welcome, training provided.

Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' at the back of the Church. Thank you.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

CCCM's aim is to supply free food to help people in our local community in need and walk alongside them to reduce dependency through friendship and education.

Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

Hours: Mon- Thurs: 10.00am-3.00pm

Friday : 10.00am-12.15pm

School Holidays : 10.00am-12.30pm

God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our Churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow with Jesus Christ offering to you their gifts and talents.



Amen

ST BERNARD'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND : 1st & 2nd February **PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS**

Saturday: Jan Farnelo

Sunday: Carmel Shea

MORNING TEA ROSTER

Is held on the first Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre after 10.00am Mass.

Next Morning Tea: **2nd February 2020**

Host: **Parish Pastoral Council**



CHURCH FLOWERS—February

Rita Marshall



COUNTING TEAM # 7

Bernard Coburn

Mary Flanagan

Patrick Flanagan

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (February)

Front Garden: Stephen Millington

Back/Side Garden: Volunteer Please

Parish Centre: Volunteer Please

Carpark/Pines: Sean Giani

Back Paddock: Volunteer Please

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

The Vinnies Store is located at 8 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh. The store is open 7 days a week. If you are able to volunteer and would like some more information, please contact the Store Manager on 8199 4205.

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

Emergency Foodbank and Hospitality centre

Address: 77 Main Street Bacchus Marsh

Open: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.30am-3.00pm

Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food provides a free community meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays), in the Uniting Church Hall, Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh. Meals are served up at 12noon. All are welcome and this is a free event. No need to book, just come along.

Contact: Jenny Kearney 0408 104 155

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427 Mon—Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm

Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Held on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Church 6.30pm-7.45pm.

Next preparation : **Thursday 27th Feb**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **5th & 19th April**

See details on Parish Homepage as listed on front page and download forms. Forms are also available from the Parish Office or from the Sacristy after Mass from Father. Both parents are required to attend these meetings. We kindly request adults only and a copy of the birth certificate. **Please be advised that Baptism applications must be submitted 2 months in advance.** Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Alexander, Fr Lucas or the Parish Office for queries.

BAPTISM TEAM: Karina Dunne & Judy Johnson

ADULT PREPARATION for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Fabian, Fr Alexander or Fr Lucas .

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Is held during Saturday evening Vigil Mass and Sunday 10.30am Mass.

DIVINE MERCY: 1st Sunday of the month at 3pm .

FATIMA STATUE

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1: **Joe & Jacqueline Spiteri** **0402 512 841**

Group 2: **Elena & Joseph Laurel** **0432 940 930**

Group 3: **Godwin & Kim Barton** **9747 9493**



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Held on the fourth Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre at 11:15am.

Next program: **Sunday 23rd Feb**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **5th & 19th April**

Registration forms can be downloaded from our website www.pol.cam.org.au/bacchusmarsh. Bring completed registration form with a copy of birth certificate to the program. Please note: Both parents are required to attend the program. **Please be advised that Baptism applications must be submitted 2 months in advance.** Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Alexander, Fr Lucas or the Parish Office for queries.

COORDINATORS : Kate & Danny

ADULT PREPARATION for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Fabian, Fr Alexander or Fr Lucas.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Is held every Sunday during 10.00am Mass in the meeting room in the Parish Centre.



PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



NICENO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

[bow during the next line]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

WEEKLY PRAYERS & READINGS

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place

FIRST READING Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and
the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer
glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan,
province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 26

Comm: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4;

Second Reading: Heb 2:14-18;

Gospel: Lk 2:22-40



SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to
make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing
among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice.
From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers,
it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I
mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am
for Apollo', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been
parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you
baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good
News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which
the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 4:12-23

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee,
and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a
lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way
the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,

Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness

has seen a great light;

on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message,
'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'.

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers,
Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were
making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen.

And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of
men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of
Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their
father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once,
leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues,
proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of
diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

The life of Catholic worship and piety IX

Exposition and Benediction

Unfortunately, the lack of familiarity with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is not uncommon these days. When I was growing up in the 1960s I remember that on special occasions my home parish had Exposition and Benediction. Then, for whatever reason, this beautiful ritual disappeared.

I never remember encountering the practice until I went to the seminary in 1979, where we had Exposition and Benediction for Sunday Vespers, Wednesday Holy Hours and 40 Hours Devotion. Nevertheless, when I was assigned as a college chaplain, I met several college students who had never witnessed Exposition or Benediction, or even understood what the terms meant.

Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is not only a very old devotion in our Church, but it is one that highlights the fundamental mystery of the Holy Eucharist: that our Lord is truly present, body and blood, soul and divinity, in the Blessed Sacrament.

In his 1980 Holy Thursday letter to priests, *Dominicae cenae*, Pope Saint John Paul II wrote: "Since the Eucharistic mystery was instituted out of love, and makes Christ sacramentally present, it is worthy of thanksgiving and worship. And this worship must be prominent in all our encounters with the Blessed Sacrament."

While emphasising the importance of the Mass, the Holy Father recommends various forms of Eucharistic devotion: personal prayer and periods of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, Exposition and Benediction, Forty Hours devotion, Eucharistic processions, Eucharistic Congresses and a special observance of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

All of these devotions, which focus on the Blessed Sacrament, aid in our spiritual union with our Lord. As Jesus said: "I Myself am the Bread of Life. No one who comes to Me shall ever be hungry, no one who believes in Me shall ever thirst" (John 6:35).

The ritual for Exposition and Benediction as presented most recently by the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship (1973) basically follows this ritual: The priest places

the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance or ostensorium on the altar for adoration. (A ciborium containing the Blessed Sacrament may also be used, but the monstrance allows one to view the Holy Eucharist.)

At this time, a hymn of praise (such as *O Salutaris Hostia*) is sung as the priest incenses the Blessed Sacrament. During the period of adoration, the faithful may pray in quiet and foster a deeper spiritual communion with the Lord. However, the adoration period should also include prayers, such as a novena or Liturgy of the Hours, and readings from Sacred Scripture accompanied by a homily or exhortation to increase the understanding of the Eucharistic mystery.

At the end of the period of adoration, the priest again incenses the Blessed Sacrament as a hymn of praise is sung (such as *Tantum Ergo*), and then blesses the congregation with the Blessed Sacrament, making the sign of the cross. After the blessing, the priest reposes the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

This ritual seems to have arisen around the institution of the Feast of Corpus Christi by Pope Urban IV in 1264. On this feast day, the Holy Eucharist was carried in procession in vessels similar to our present day monstrances, which allowed the faithful to view the Blessed Sacrament. Eventually a custom arose, especially in Germany, of keeping the Blessed Sacrament continually exposed to view in all of the churches.

At the same time, members of guilds began to gather to sing canticles in the evening after work in honour of the Blessed Mother. In particular, the singing of the *Salve Regina*, composed in the 11th century, became popular in these devotions. These evening services were called "*Salut*" (salute or hail, as in "Hail, Holy Queen") in France.

Over the next two or three centuries, these two services seem to merge. The faithful would gather, usually in the evening, for chanted prayers, particularly in honour of our Blessed Mother. The Blessed Sacrament would be exposed, more prayers would be chanted or recited, and the service would end with Benediction. Interestingly, Benediction is still known in France as *La Salut*.