

67-74 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338. P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338 TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422



61 LERDERDERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340 TEL: 5367 2069 FAX: 5367 4863 **OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBEIT** 309 MYRNIONG-KOROBEIT ROAD 3341

#### **5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR C

**10TH FEBRUARY 2019** 

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

**Assistant Priests:** Fr Patrick Bradford & Fr Joseph Panackal IV Dei

#### 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: 9743 1401

Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12) **Principal:** Mr Mark Sheehan 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 –Thurs 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	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	03 9747 0078
Natalie Howard	0410 478 046
Rose Ma'ae	0431 386 473
Marthese Mercieca	0421 378 691

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Patrick Bradford, Fr Joseph Panackal and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

#### ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Cathy Belcher	0431 082 886
Shane Cook	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
David Loxley	0459 974 960
Moira Ross	0400 675 056
Emillio Scalzo	5366 5800
James Waters	0403 822 795

Ex-Officio:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Patrick Bradford, Fr Joseph Panackal 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 Tuesdays. Email: judyparishnews@gmail.com For urgent matters only please call on 0414 007 009

#### MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH

ST BERNARD'S

Senior's Mass:

**BACCHUS MARSH** 

MASS TIMES: 11/02/2019-17/02/2019

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday morning:9.15amFJPTuesday evening:6.30pmFJP

Wednesday:9.15amFJPThursday:9.15amFJP

Friday: 9.15am FJP

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm FPB
Sunday: 8.30am FPB

10.30am FPB

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and before and after weekday Mass.

**ROSARY:** 

Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

**ADORATION:** 

30 minutes before and 30 minutes after every weekday

Mass.

**CRC MELTON CHAPEL: 8.00am** 

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBEIT

**MASS TIMES:** 

Saturday: 6.30pm Mass FJP

MASS TIMES: 11/02/2019-17/02/2019

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

Chapel

Monday: No Mass

**Tuesday** 5.30pm FPB

Wednesday: 9.30am FPB

**Thursday:** 9.30am FPB

Friday: 9.30am FPB

10.30am

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm FJP

Sunday: 8:30am FJP

10.00am FJP

**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 1st March

ADORATION:

30 minutes before every weekday Mass.

**PROVIDENCE MASS** 

Is held on the second Friday of the month at 11.00am

The Village 5-7 Griffith St, Maddingley.

Next Mass: Friday 8th March

**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: Friday 15th February 2019

## **NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE**

#### A VIRTUAL PRAYER

Join with people from all around Australia (and beyond) in pledging a prayer for more vocations to the religious life and priesthood. Go to: <a href="https://www.pledgetopray.com.au">www.pledgetopray.com.au</a> where you can pledge a variety of prayers for vocations and see others who have joined you in this virtual community of prayer. Prayer is the first step to more vocations.

#### **ORGAN & VOCAL CONCERT**

Tuesday 19 February, 6.30pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne

Join us for an evening of exquisite sounds performed by organist Johann Vexo who at age 25 was appointed Choir Organist of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, and cantor Damien Rivière who regularly sings in services at Notre-Dame Cathedral.

**Cost:** \$20 no concessions, Children under 15 free **Enquiries:** music@cam.org.au or 9926 5753 (Wed–Sun)

Bookings: https://www.trybooking.com/ZONI



**FPB** 

### **PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES**

#### **RCIA 2019**

If you want to learn more about the Catholic Faith, want to become a Catholic, or you didn't receive all your Sacraments as a child and you want to receive them.

Classes for Adult Faith Formation are being held: February 10<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup>,10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. At St Bernard's Parish Centre Bacchus Marsh 5pm till 6pm.

For further information, can you please contact the Parish Office on 5367 2069.

#### **BINGO**

We have 3 sessions each Tuesday 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 provided. Canteen services available. Remember you have to be in it to win it! Held at St Anthony's Padua Hall.



#### **NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES**

#### ST ANTHONY'S

#### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER-COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

In 2017 World Day of Prayer Australia funded the Bible Society programme in the Philippines. This highly regarded Bible-based programme is being prepared for Slovenia and the particular needs of Slovenian women. The collection next weekend will enable the Trauma Healing for Women programme to transform lives in Slovenia over the next two years. Collection baskets will be at Church exits, please give generously.

#### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER—ECUMENICAL SERVICE

An Ecumenical service is being held on Friday 1st March at 10.00am at St Mark's Lutheran Church, 100 Coburns Road, Melton.

Posters at the side entrances of the Church.

# ST ANTHONY'S THANKSGIVING MEMBERS WHO PAY BY CREDIT CARD

If your credit card details (expiry date etc.) have changed in the last 8 weeks can you please contact the Parish Office at your earliest convenience.

Phone 9747 9692 Email: <a href="mailto:meltonsouth@cam.org.au">meltonsouth@cam.org.au</a>. Thank you.

#### PRIME TIMERS

Our February outing will be on Tuesday 26th February to the Braybrook Hotel. 353 Ballarat Rd. Braybrook. Lunch at 12 o'clock. Seniors cost \$19.90. RSVP me by 22nd Feb. If you need a lift please call Ineke on 0400120401 or email on <a href="mailto:ineke49@yahoo.com">ineke49@yahoo.com</a>

#### ST BERNARD'S

#### SAVE THE DATE ST. BERNARD'S PARISH FETE

Friday March 15 from 3.30pm more information to follow.



#### SENIOR PARISHIONERS' MASS GROUP

We are well into 2019 and with it comes the first Senior's Mass for the year. Mass will be celebrated next Friday, February 15 at 10.30 a.m. in the Parish Centre. Look forward to catching up with old friends and, hopefully, some new ones. Remember, one doesn't have to be a senior member of the Parish - everyone is welcome to come along and share in the Celebration of the Eucharist.

#### **KSC**

KSC meeting this Monday 11th Feb. 8pm in the Parish Centre.

#### The humility of Christ

Lord Jesus, the world might have expected that God in the flesh would appear to us mighty and glorious and exalted over all; but who could have anticipated that you would come instead in humility, and obscurity, and as the servant of all? I marvel at you, my humble Lord.

#### **WORSHIP NEWS**

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

#### ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

#### **NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 16th & 17th February**

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

Patrick Ilustrisimos 5.30pm: 8.30am: Michael Higgins 10.30am: Susan Malinov EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Mila Little (P) & Dolores Turcsan 8.30am: Lois Brewis (P), Sue Alexander &

Geoff Sutton

10.30am: John Scerri (P) & Volunteer Please

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

MASS COORDINATORS

Godwin Barton & Pat Fernandez 5.30pm: 8.30am: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard 10.30am: Godwin Barton & Ken Dumandan

**ALTAR SERVERS** 

5.30pm: Kieran Grech & Jedi Anyayahan 8.30am: Nixon, Thytus & Aaron Ben 10.30am: Anakin Anderson & Nick Taunuu

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:

Peter Azzopardi, Maria & Joseph Cauchi, Arthur Chiles, Margret Decrues & George Portelli.

Please pray for the Sick: Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, John Osborne, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts. Peter Roberts. Pat Roberts. Charlie Spiteri, Clint Abela Wadge, Michael Wright & 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

Amen

May you be wrapped up in God's love. Found deep in his everlasting wings; Carried and kept safe and cherished. May the healing power of Christ be with you.



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 16th & 17th February

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: Trish Davine

8.30am: Peter Lafranchi & Margaret Love 10.00am: Diane Corro & James Waters

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS** 

5.00pm: Vikki Benson 8.30am: Colm Carragher 10.00am: Jenny Kearney

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

February: Mary Flanagan

ALTAR SERVERS 5.00pm:

8.30am: To Be Advised

10.00am:

#### ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

#### SPIRITS OF THE TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

Experience faith, friendship and fun.

Age group: 11years+ When: Every 4th Thursday of the month 7.00pm-9.00pm Where: Two Hearts Centre,

274 La Cote Road, Greendale Contact: Sister Clare 0415 806 217 or

Email: twoheartscentre@bigpond.com

'Coordinated by the Missionaries of Love and Peace of the Most

Blessed Trinity of the Pilgrimage of the Two Hearts'

We pray for the recently deceased:

Betty Jean Tregurtha & Peter John Shea.

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Katherine Caldwell, Alma Dowsett, Andree (Onnie) Greenwood, Raymund Hare & Samara Vereker.

#### Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Ted Cooling, 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, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Loretta Kervin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Maryo, Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Danny McRae, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin,

Kevin O'Gorman, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Arabella Periera, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Marian Smith, Frank & Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist, Hayden Tung, Mitchell Tung, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, Carol Wells,

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: 16th & 17th February** 

#### PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Liza Fernandes 8.30am: Edwina La Rose 10.30am: Indika Silva

#### **CUPPA ROSTER**

Cuppa Weekend: 23rd & 24th February

5.30pm:

8.30am: Roster Pending

10.30am:



#### **CHURCH FLOWERS**

Rosabella Tuala



#### **CLEANING ROSTER: Thursday**

Lorelle Porter

Volunteers would be appreciated as well.

#### SERVICE AND COMMUNITY QUADRANT

Volunteers are required for the following groups: Piety Stall & Social Committee.

Contact:

Natalie Howard 0410478046, Amy Honrade 0457042695 Lillian Christian 0400441257

#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday

morning in the Holy Family Room 10.00am.

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 10.00am—12.30pm School Holidays:

#### ST BERNARD'S

**VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND: 16th & 17th February** 

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Jan Farmelo Sunday: Carmel Shea

#### **MORNING TEA**

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

Next Morning Tea: 3rd March 2019

Host: Parents and Friends

#### **CHURCH FLOWERS**

Bernadette Kearney

#### **COUNTING TEAM #7**

Denis Everard 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: Henry Gasior

#### 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 28th Feb Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: 3rd & 17th March

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.

Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Patrick, Fr Joseph 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 Patrick or Fr Joseph.

**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:

**Julius Caan Can** Group 1: 0430 880 728 Group 2: Tune & Epi Kepu 0410 416 445 Group 3: Mary & Tony Galea 0410 285 685



#### ST BERNARD'S

#### **BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM**

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

Next program: Sunday 24th Feb Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: 3rd & 17th March

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.

Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Patrick, Fr Joseph or the Parish Office for queries.

**COORDINATORS:** To Be Advised

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

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 ANTIPHON**

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

#### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Here am I! Send me.

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out one to another in this way,

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said:

'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost.

for I am a man of unclean lips

and I live among a people of unclean lips,

and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips,

your sin is taken away,

your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'

I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 137**

**Comm:** In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

<u>All:</u> In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises,

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,

you have heard the words of my mouth.

Before the angels I will bless you.

I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you.

On the day I called, you answered;

you increased the strength of my soul.

All earth's kings shall thank you

when they hear the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the Lord's ways:

'How great is the glory of the Lord!'

You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me.

Your love, O Lord, is eternal,

discard not the work of your hands.

<u>All:</u> In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

#### **SECOND READING**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians I preach what they preach, and this is what you believe.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord.

and I will make you fishers of my people.

Alleluia!

#### **GOSPEL**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke *They left everything and followed him.* 

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats - it was Simon's - and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

#### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS-6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading: Jer 17:5-8;

**Second Reading:** 1 Cor 15:12,16-20; **Gospel:** Lk 6:17, 20-26



# The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world X

#### THE HOME IS THE FIRST CHURCH

Parents must be their children's first teachers. They must educate their children in the faith, prayer and all virtues.

Our vocation as Christians is to follow Christ. We must give good example and be true Christian role models for our children. We must pray, work, plan and play with our children. We must also give them the gift of our time, which may be difficult in this modern society in which we must work and our children are left by themselves with no guidance or supervision. The consequences for children are grave: drugs and alcohol, bad company, lies, stealing. This list is endless. Let us remember that the family that prays together stays together in unity, love, understanding and suffering and joy.

Where there is no family, there is no Church or school; there is no love, no joy; only troubles. We must imitate the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the model given us by God our Father Himself. Then the children will respect, love and obey their parents (who represent God), and our leaders and old people. The children also will love God, obey His laws and be fine Christians, full of faith and trust in Christ's family, the Church.

In the providence of God, each person is to be born to a mother and a father, into a society of persons modelled on the Holy Trinity. The husband and wife, joined by the sacrament of Matrimony, receive special graces to love and care for every need of their child.

The most pressing need for every child is for God. Hence, he has the right to be taught to know, love and serve God. Parents are the primary teachers and God, as the most loving Father, provides special graces to assist them in fulfilling this sacred duty.

The duty of parents to transmit the faith to their child cannot be delegated to anyone, neither priest nor religious sister. With all due respect for the faithful religious who wore themselves out teaching children, the strong Catholic school system of yore is gone. Gone forever is the day when parents could turn the religious formation of their children over to the sisters and rest easy.

Today's parents will find, as their love for God and His Church grows, that the labour of

forming their child into a fervent Catholic becomes easy and the burden light. To share the faith is a joy that no man can take from such parents.

Everyone is a believer; we are made to worship something. We communicate what we believe. Certain subjects tend to dominate our thoughts. The object of our repeated attention is our "god", of which we tend to speak. Whatever the child hears his parents speak becomes what the child thinks. We must be prudent in our speech so that we honour the God in whom we believe.

Since no one can share what he does not possess, parents must do diligent study and practise their faith. Any Catholic who can read can find magisterial teaching. The correspondence course in Catholic catechetics used by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity is a good choice. Written by Fr John Hardon, SJ, it presents the Faith clearly so that one understands reasons for holding the faith he professes.

To share faith in God means two things: to instruct the intellect in what is to be believed; and to form and inspire the will. Faith is the acceptance of the word of another, trusting that the person speaking knows the truth and is honest in telling that truth. Authoritative teaching is from God.

Second, the will must be inspired to love and obey God. A person who believes will be moved to share that faith with others. Everyone who believes has come to do so only because someone else who had the faith shared it with him.

Those who teach need authority, which is the basic motive of all faith. God bestowed divine authority by supernatural revelation. God is most directly and immediately the source of authority in teaching and governing the faithful within the Catholic Church. In teaching others the truths of the Faith, the teacher draws his authority from the Church, which was given that authority by God Himself.

For the Catholic who wishes to teach the truth, knowledge is not enough. To share the Faith with others, the teacher must love God as the object of that faith — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Only love can inspire, that is, breathe in a faith so deep it must be shared.