



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 Baptism of the Lord

12th 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 : 13th– 19th January

Monday:		
Tuesday pm:	6.30pm	FFS
Wednesday:	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	9.15am	FFS
Friday:	9.15am	FFS
Saturday Vigil:	5.30pm	FFS
Sunday:	8.30am 10.30am	FFS 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

CRC MELTON CHAPEL: 8.00am

Next Mass will be held 31st January 2020



ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 13th-19th January

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

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday:	5.30pm	FFS
Wednesday :	8.00am	FFS
Thursday :	8.00am	FFS
Friday:	8.00am	FFS
Saturday Vigil :	5.00pm	FAA
Sunday :	8:30am 10.00am	FAA 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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NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

CATHOLIC CHURCH PLANS NATIONAL RESPONSE TO BUSHFIRE CRISIS—

STATEMENT FROM CONFERENCE PRESIDENT ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE - (EXTRACT)

Australia is facing an unprecedented calamity as fire engulfs the land in many places. We have all seen the apocalyptic images, even if we are not in the areas most affected. Lives have been lost, homes and towns have been destroyed, smoke has shrouded large swathes of our country. And there is no end in sight to the horror which confronts us with our powerlessness before the devastating force of nature. The efforts of firefighters have been heroic. The resilience of the communities affected has been extraordinary. This has been Australia at its best, and we all stand with those who have been most stricken and with those who are putting their lives on the line to fight the fires. But we need more than words.

From the Bishops Conference, that national response includes:

- The distribution of special prayers and other resources for use in parishes, families and other Catholic communities.
- Collaboration with key national agencies like Catholic Health Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, the National Catholic Education Commission and the St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) to ensure as effective a response as possible from the wider Catholic community.
- Cooperating with Catholic Religious Australia and religious institutes and their ministries.

A genuinely Catholic response to a crisis of this magnitude must draw strength from prayer which inspires concrete and compassionate action.

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

BUSH FIRE SPECIAL COLLECTION-THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we will take up a special collection to help with the devastation the bush fires have caused in the East Gippsland area. Our collection will be sent to the Catholic Parish in Bairnsdale, to help them in this time of crisis. Please give generously. Thank you.

ST VINNIES BUSH FIRE APPEAL

If you would like to make a donation to St Vinnies Bush Fire Appeal directly, please visit the website: www.vinnies.org.au

BINGO

Bingo will return on the 14th January 2020.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

GODFREY PINTO– FUNERAL DETAILS

Godfrey Pinto passed away peacefully on Sunday 5th January. May his soul rest in peace.

His funeral details are as follows:

Monday 13th January– St Anthony's Church

Viewing: 12.00 noon

Rosary: 12.30pm

Mass: 1.00pm

Burial: Melton Cemetery

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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open Tuesday—Friday 9am –1pm in January.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

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

PRIME TIMERS AGM

Our first meeting will be Prime Timer's AGM. 11.30 am on 28th January 2020 at the Leisure Centre, Lifestyle Village, Brookfield. Please BYO lunch. Tea/coffee provided.

Confirm attendance with Ineke on 0400120401 or email ineke49@yahoo.com.

ST BERNARD'S

READERS

A new roster is being prepared for the next three months. If you are currently reading and would like a rest, or to come off the roster, please let the parish office know asap. Anyone wishing to join or who may have slipped off the list please also contact the office asap. Thank you.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPE NO. 150

Could the Parishioner who has envelope No.150 please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

Prayer for Firefighters

Merciful Father in heaven, look down in Your love upon all those who protect us and ours from the ravages of fire and flame. Grant them courage and skills to carry out their duties well and safely. When they must go into the face of danger, be by their side in the smoke and flames. Watch over their families, ever reminding them that those who fight fire are also in your loving care. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen



Source: www.beliefnet.com

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 18th & 19th January
MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : To be Advised
8.30am: Annonica Mavaega
10.30am: Rosabella Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Dolores Turcsan (P) & Philip Anyayahan
8.30am: Ineke Allen (P), Lois Brewis & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Sally Markulin (P) & Richard Tuala

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Carmen Vella & Pat Fernandez
8.30am: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard
10.30am: Leonia Jessop & Annonika

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 recently deceased:
Godfrey Pinto

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:
Arthur Noel Abel, Molimau Asiata, Alfredo Ling Baoan, Emanuel Bonello, Maria Cachia, Lorraine & Toni Camilleri, Wilma Dacunha, Ursula & Joe Formosa, Letizja Gatt, Louis & Grace Stellinin, Louis Stellini & Colin Proud.

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, 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: 18th & 19th January
MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Miesen family
8.30am: Kratochvil family
10.00am: Lindorff family

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Mary Beaton
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi
10.00am: Tup Shea

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

January: Parish Office Staff

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

ST BERNARD'S YOUTH GROUP

Growing in the Spirit of Faith, Friendship and Fun
Age group: 11-30yrs Where: St Bernard's Church chapel and Parish Centre
61 Lerderberg Street, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340
When: Fortnightly, Thursday's 7:15pm - 9:15pm
Next Youth Group meet up: **To Be Advised**
Email contact: saintbernardsyouthgroup@gmail.com

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:

Kathleen Adair, Charlie Azzopardi, Katherine Caldwell, Catherine Hynes, Maree Maitland, and Lorraine Turner.

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 Pater-son, Georgia Peacock, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist, Hayden Tung, Mitchell Tung, 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: 18th & 19th January

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Volunteer Please
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Indika Silva

CUPPA ROSTER

Next Cuppa Date : To be advised



CHURCH FLOWERS-January

Doris Bonello



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 : 18th & 19th January

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Sean Giani
Sunday: Marj Tung

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—January

Silk flowers only- To be advised



COUNTING TEAM # 5

Pat O'Leary
Joanne Cowan
Peter Lafranchi
Frank Pomeroy
Stuart Robertson

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (January)

Front Garden: Stuart Robertson
Back/Side Garden: Volunteer Please
Parish Centre: John Tung
Carpark/Pines: John Tung
Back Paddock: Ron Geurts

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 23rd Jan**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **1st & 15th 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. **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: **Anna Samy** 0435 258 230

Group 2: **Iopu & Agnes Akalga** 0401 975 591

Group 3: **Louise Sciberras** 9748 1376



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 26th January**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **1st & 15th 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. **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 : Steve & Geraldine

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

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son; with whom I am well pleased.

FIRST READING Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people
and light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 28

Comm: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

All: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever.

All: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

SECOND READING Acts 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I
have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have
favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God
and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it
was to them that the good news of peace was brought by
Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must
have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about
Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John
had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the
Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him,
Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen
into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by
John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism
from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus
replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we
should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At
this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water,
and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of
God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a
voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my
favour rests on him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS –

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Is 49:3, 5-6;

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:1-3;

Gospel: Jn 1:29-34



The life of Catholic worship and piety VII

Popular piety (continued)

Processions

The practice of having processions on parish property for the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord, the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Way of the Cross, and other occasions should be preserved.

Novenas

Novenas are also encouraged, especially those leading up to liturgical solemnities (for example, Pentecost or Christmas), as are vigils in preparation for great feasts.

Popular Devotions; Private Revelation

Some popular devotions are based on private revelations rather than public revelation. The Church distinguishes between public revelation, which God has given to the Church as a whole and to which all the faithful are bound, and private revelations, which God has given to a particular individual or group and which place no obligation on the rest of the Church.

The term public revelation refers to the revealing action of God directed to humanity as a whole and which finds its literary expression in the Old and New Testaments. It is called revelation because in it God gradually made himself known to men, to the point of becoming man himself, in order to draw to himself the whole world and unite it with himself through his incarnate Son, Jesus Christ.

Public revelation has been transmitted in Sacred Scripture and in Sacred Tradition, which together form one sacred deposit of the word of God, committed to the Church. This is the revelation that was given to the entire Church and that must be received in faith by all the People of God. It is complete in itself and does not need to be supplemented by later revelations. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council affirmed: "We now await no further new public revelation before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Private revelations refer to all the visions and revelations which have taken place since the completion of the New Testament. A vision or any other kind of miraculous communication from God or from Mary or another saint falls into this category. Private revelations are given to an individual or small group, not to the Church as a whole. Consequently, while specific commands may be directed to an individual or small group, no obligation of assent of Catholic faith is placed on

the Church as a whole. Even when a private revelation has spread to the entire world and has been recognised in the liturgical calendar, the Church does not make mandatory the acceptance either of the original story or of particular forms of piety springing from it.

Private revelations do not have the same authority as public revelation. Public revelation demands faith; in it in fact God himself speaks to us through human words and the mediation of the living community of the Church. Private revelations do not demand faith on the part of the Church as a whole because they do not belong to the deposit of the faith. Their role is not to improve or complete Christ's definitive revelation, but to help people live it more fully in a certain period of history.

(Cardinal Prospero Lambertini (later Pope Benedict XIV) wrote regarding private revelation: "An assent of Catholic faith is not due to revelations approved in this way; it is not even possible. These revelations seek rather an assent of human faith in keeping with the requirements of prudence, which puts them before us as probable and credible to piety.")

The role of private revelations is to help people to enter more deeply into the faith that has been revealed publicly. Private revelations are thus in service to the faith, which is based on public revelation. Private revelations are a help to this faith and shows its credibility precisely by leading one back to the definitive public revelation.

Private revelations are always to be judged by their conformity to public revelation, particularly to the Sacred Scriptures. As public revelation is centred on Christ, any genuine private revelation will make Christ known and will help bring people to Christ. The criterion for the truth and value of a private revelation is its orientation to Christ himself.

When it leads us away from Christ, when it becomes independent of him or even presents itself as another and better plan of salvation, more important than the Gospel, then it certainly does not come from the Holy Spirit, who guides us more deeply into the Gospel and not away from it. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 67: "Christian faith cannot accept 'revelations' that claim to surpass or correct the revelation of which Christ is the fulfilment, as is the case in certain non-Christian religions and also in certain recent sects which base themselves on such 'revelations.'")

Although not every popular devotion has its origin in a private revelation, every popular devotion must be in conformity with the Church's faith based on public revelation and be centred on Christ.