



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 of Lent

Year A

15th March 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 9.00—12 noon

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 : 16th-22nd March

Monday:	7.30pm	FFS
Tuesday am:	9.15am	FAA
Tuesday pm:	6.30pm	FLM

Novena to St Anthony starts after Mass on **Tuesday 17th March** for 13 weeks ending on Our Parish Feast Day 13th June.

Wednesday:	7.45am	FLM
	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	7.45am	FFS
	9.15am	FLM
Friday:	7.45am	FFS
	9.15am	FAA

Stations of the Cross	12.30pm	
Adoration and Confession	6.00pm	
Stations of the Cross	7.00pm	

Saturday:	8.30am	FAA
Saturday Vigil:	5.30pm	FAA
Sunday:	8.30am	FAA
	10.30am	FAA

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 4.45pm and before weekday Mass.

ROSARY:
 Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

ADORATION:
 30 min. before and 30 min. after every weekday Mass.



ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 16th-22nd March
 All weekday Masses (except Thursday) will be held in the Chapel

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday:	5.30pm	FAA
Wednesday :	9.30am	FAA
Thursday :	9.30am	FAA
Stations of the Cross	10.00am	
Friday:	9.30am	FLM
Senior Parishioner's Mass	10.30am	FFS
Stations of the Cross	7.00pm	
Saturday Vigil :	5.00pm	FFS
Sunday :	8.30am	FFS
	10.00am	FFS

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 2nd April**

ADORATION: 30 minutes before every weekday Mass. Adoration is held every first Friday 10.00am until 4.00pm
 Next Date: **Friday 2nd April**

PROVIDENCE MASS: Is held on the second Friday of the month at 11.00am The Village 5-7 Griffith St, Maddingley.
 Next Mass: Friday **10th April**

SENIOR PARISHIONER'S MASS
 Is held on the third Friday of the month in the Parish Centre at 10.30am. Next Senior's Mass: **Friday 20th March**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIME
Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm FLM

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE



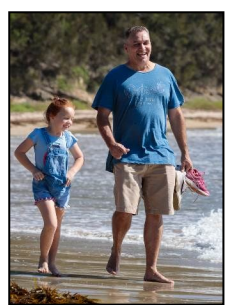
Third Sunday of Lent
 15th March 2020



Barry grew up in a tough environment. With the support of a program from Caritas Australia's partner, Red Dust Healing, Barry has overcome many of life's challenges. He is now an inspirational father to his four girls and a leader in his community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help vulnerable people like Barry, so that they are empowered to assist members of their communities in Australia.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

ADDITIONAL PASTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS-NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID2019)

- **Holy Water** should be temporarily removed from entrances of the church to reduce the possibility of transmission of the virus. Holy Water should continue to be available to take home.
- **Rite of Peace** when exchanging the Sign of Peace, individuals should avoid shaking hands but encouraged to say "Peace be with you" and offer a smile, nod or bow.
- **Holy Communion** Parishes should cease distributing Holy Communion from the Chalice until further notice. The faithful are reminded that Christ is fully present under either species. The novel coronavirus is easily spread through saliva. In celebrations of the Ordinary Form of the Latin Rite, it is therefore recommended that the Body of Christ only be administered in the hand because of the high risk of transmission if people continue to receive it on the tongue.
- **General Preventative** Individuals should consider their own health, including any potential to infect others with a contagious disease, before attending a public liturgical celebration.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melb will continue to monitor advice from health authorities and will provide further updates when required.

TRIDUUM OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Throughout the Archdiocese of Melbourne we will be praying for a 3 day period for Priestly and Religious Life. 1 hour of Adoration.

St Anthony's Parish: Fri 20th March 6.00pm-7.00pm

Sat 21st March 4.30pm-5.30pm

Sun 22nd March 9.30am-10.30am

St Bernard's Parish: Fri 20th March 8.30am-9.30am

Sat 21st March 4.00pm-5.00pm

Sun 22nd March 10.45am-11.45am

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE 362 Albert Street East Melbourne invites parishioners, families & friends to their first Weekend Open Day for 2020 on Saturday, 21st March from 10.00am – 4.00pm. Visit the Mary MacKillop Museum, the Chapel where Mary prayed, as well as the Gift Shop & Refreshments area for morning or afternoon tea. A Mary "MacKillop Walking Tour" will take place at 11.00am. Everyone welcome & entry is free.

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH Sunday 22nd March 2020 Josefina Maria's Two Hearts Eucharistic Chapel, 274 La Cote Road, Greendale. **1.30pm** Holy Rosary Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **2.00pm** Holy Mass followed by afternoon tea in the adjoining Saint Joseph's Hall. Cost: Free Main Celebrant: Fr Fabian Smith. A Prayer Card of St Joseph will be given to everyone in attendance. For further details please contact Sr Maria Faustina 0425 882 470 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

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

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.

LENTEN PRAYER GROUP

The Lenten Prayer Group will meet on Monday mornings at 10.30am in the Holy Family Room.

Contact Marion Muller 0400 007 286

COMBINED CHURCHES MELTON SPECIAL COLLECTION- THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we will have a special collection to support the Combined Churches Caring Melton Inc. The group aims to supply free food to help people in need and walk along side of them to reduce dependency through friendship and education. Please give generously. Thank you.

CHURCH GARDEN WORKING BEE

A working bee for the upkeep of the Church garden is being scheduled for Saturday, 21 March 2020 from 7:30am to 11:00am. Please bring along your garden tools and help us. If you are attending, please contact Godwin on 0425 734 449. Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Before and after 9.15am masses on weekdays & 6pm-7pm on Fridays.

Also **7pm-8pm Monday 6th April** (6 Priests available).

UPCOMING EVENTS SAVE THE DATE

Volunteers Lunch Sunday 3rd May,

International Food Day Sunday 31st May. Details to be confirmed.

ST BERNARD'S

LENTEN REFLECTION

Beginning on **Tuesday 25th February 10.30am to 11.30am** at St Joseph's Convent 68 Lerderberg St and for the following 5 Tuesdays. Please contact Sr Mary 5367 2078 if coming.

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE- SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we will have a special collection for The Neighbours Place. The group is a Christian not for profit organisation whose aim is to serve people who are disadvantaged, at risk or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family and who are in need of emergency food relief. Please give generously. Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Half hour before weekday masses Tuesday-Friday.

Also **6pm-7pm Tuesday 7th April** (5 Priests available).

SENIOR PARISHIONERS' MASS GROUP

All parishioners are warmly invited to join with the Seniors in celebrating the Eucharist at their monthly Mass, next Friday - March 20, at 10.30 a.m. in the Parish Centre.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 21st & 22nd March MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Michael Higgins
10.30am: Regina Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Gavin Pereira & Ann Tennakoon
8.30am: Ron Howard & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Doris Bonello & George Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Godwin Barton & Carmen Vella
8.30am: Lina Calleja & Julie Seufatu
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Josephine German

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Jonathan Dacunha & Mason Azzopardi
8.30am: Rhys Tuala & Andre Oqueli
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 those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Charles Depares, Paola Giordamanja, Charles Giordmaina & Bill Ryan

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: 21st & 22nd March MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra
8.30am: Moira Ross & Marj Tung
10.00am: Sr Mary Fermio

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Geraldine Vereker
8.30am: Ben Kratochvil
10.00am: John Wilson

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

March: Dianne Corro

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

FAITH ON FIRE PRAYER GROUP

Every fortnight on Thursday at 7.00pm. We pray the Rosary, Stations of the cross, Divine Mercy chaplet and do a Bible reading and discussion.

Next meeting **19th March**

We pray for those who have recently died:

Peter Fernando

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Bob Carr, Fredrick Goehler Dockter, Cristina Kingcott, Ronald Lebner, Alan McHugh, Joan Shanahan, Peter Ward, and Bernard Wilkie.

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, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Mari- anne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Johnson, David Kasprzak, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Mary Pauline 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, Dolores Turcsan, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Mary Wadeson, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, & Betty Young.

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

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 21st & 22nd March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Kristina Scerri

8.30am: Judy Johnson

10.30am: Sally Markulin

CUPPA ROSTER

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



CHURCH FLOWERS

Lent— No Flowers



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

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 21st & 22nd March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Jan & Colm

Sunday: Mandy Harrington

MORNING TEA ROSTER

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

Next Morning Tea: **5th April**

Host: **Rosary & Prayer Group**



CHURCH FLOWERS

Lent—No Flowers



COUNTING TEAM # 5

Pat O'Leary

Joanne Cowan

Peter Lafranchi

Frank Pomeroy

Stuart Robertson

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (March)

Front Garden: Stuart Robertson

Back/Side Garden: Volunteer Please

Parish Centre: Ron Geurts

Carpark/Pines: Ron Geurts

Back Paddock: Colm Carragher

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 26th March**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **3rd & 17th May**

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: **Shane & Dolly Barrow** 0439 386 130

Group 2: **Greg McCutcheon** 0455 457 645

Group 3: **Michael & Monica Kratochvil** 0438 765 776



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 22nd March**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **3rd & 17th May**

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 : Justin & Katie

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 94

Comm: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

All: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

All: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7,10-13;

Second Reading: Eph 5:8-14;

Gospel: Jn 9:1-41



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering
and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink,
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again;
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give

will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know;
for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come - in fact it is here already -
when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:
that is the kind of worshipper
the Father wants.

God is spirit,
and those who worship
must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.

Catholic worship and piety: Lent 2020 IV

How do penance and mortification differ?

The distinction between mortification (synonymous in most spiritual writers with self-denial, abnegation, self-renunciation, dying to self) and penance (synonymous with penitence, sacrifice or self-sacrifice, and “reparation”) has to do with the interior motive behind the action. In other words, the exterior action (fasting, for example, or taking a cold shower on a cold morning) can be exactly the same, but depending on the reason why I am doing the action (my intention), the spiritual nature of the act can be either mortification or penance.

The intentionality of an act of mortification is to “punish [that is, discipline] my body [self-seeking tendencies] and bring it under control, to avoid any risk that, having acted as herald for others, I myself may be disqualified” (1 Corinthians 9:27).

In other words, I freely deny the satisfaction of a normal and healthy desire in order to grow in my spiritual maturity, to learn to govern the self-seeking tendencies of my fallen nature. For example, I purposefully mortify my perfectly legitimate desire for dessert on Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent, so that I am better able to control an illegitimate desire — say, to get drunk — whenever that desire happens to surface. Mortification is spiritual training, tempering of the willpower so as to be able to better govern our passions and instincts, starving the bad plants in the garden (vices and selfish tendencies) so the good plants (virtues) can flourish.

The intentionality of an act of penance is to “make up in my own body what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ” (Colossians 1:24). I am doing penance for sin, making up for an evil, destructive deed, just as Christ did by dying on the cross. He offered his obedience as “payment” (or atonement) for our disobedience.

This is how he repaired (made “reparation” for) the breach between God and man created by original sin. He sacrificed himself (made himself into an offering to God) on our behalf. Penance, therefore, is done as a way to tell God we are sorry for our sins, or for the sins of others, and to make up for them. Thus, my teenage son refused to go to Mass on Sunday, and so, to make up for this ungrateful offence

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against the majesty and goodness of God, I do penance on his behalf — perhaps making a Holy Hour on Monday evening instead of watching a favourite television show, or not listening to music during my morning commute this week, just to show God that someone (I) does indeed love the Giver more than the gifts.

When we do penance, we are repairing for sin, reversing the self-indulgent act of sin by replacing it with a self-giving act of mortification.

Two further points on this issue. First, the only way that mortification and penance really help advance Christ’s Kingdom is if we are united to Christ. We must be living the life of grace — Christ must be alive in us — in order for us to unite our actions to his, so that they share in his merits. It’s like having a bank account with co-signers. The cheque only draws from the vault of merit if it is signed both by me (junior partner) and by Christ (senior partner). We cannot save ourselves by ourselves; we cannot grow in holiness apart from the source of holiness: “for cut off from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Second, the concept of sacrifice also includes an element of intercession and petition. Offering God a sacrifice can be a way of intensifying a prayer of intercession. Thus, when St Thérèse of Lisieux was interceding for the conversion of a criminal condemned to death, she and her sisters joined sacrifices (acts of self-denial) to their prayers. In the same way, we can offer sacrifices (acts of self-denial, obedience, patience) to God in order to benefit other members of the Body of Christ who may be in need — those in temptation or sorrow, those in prison or suffering persecution. We are connected to them through our membership in Christ.

We can draw a whole host of conclusions from these observations, but I will finish by pointing out just one. Since the distinction between mortification and penance is in the spiritual intention, not the physical action, the same physical action can serve simultaneously as both an act of mortification and of penance. We can do one action with multiple intentions. So, don’t worry too much about whether your Lenten sacrifice is for mortification or for penance — make it for both!