



St Anthony's Parish



St Bernard's Parish

67-74 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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

15th September 2019

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Patrick Bradford & Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint

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: 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 –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 Patrick Bradford, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint 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
Moira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell	0401 927 502
Emillio Scalzo	5366 5800
John Thorne - Secretary	5310 6692
James Waters - Chair	0403 822 795
EX-OFFICIO:	
Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Patrick Bradford, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint 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 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 September

Monday: Sts Cornelius & Cyprian 7.45am FFS
Tuesday:
morning: 9.15am
evening: 6.30pm
Wednesday: 7.45am FFS
 9.15am FFS
Thursday: 7.45am FFS
 9.15am FFS
Friday: Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Paul Chong Ha-sang
 9.15am FFS
Saturday: St Matthew Feast
Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm FFS
Sunday: 8.30am FFS
 10.30am FFS

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and before and after weekday Mass.

ROSARY:

Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

ADORATION:

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

CRC MELTON CHAPEL: 8.00am

Mass held on Fridays during school term.



ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 16th-22nd September

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

Monday : Sts Cornelius & Cyprian No Mass
Tuesday: 5.30pm FPB
Wednesday : No Mass
Thursday : 9.30am-No Mass
 6.30pm FPB
Friday: Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Paul Chong Ha-sang
 9.30am FPB
 Senior Parishioner's Mass: 10.30am FLM
Saturday: St Matthew Feast
Saturday Vigil : 5.00pm FPB
Sunday : 8:30am FPB
 10.00am FLM

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 4th October**

ADORATION: 30 minutes before every weekday Mass.

Adoration is held every first Friday 10.00am until 4.00pm

Next Date: **Friday 4th October**

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

Next Mass: **Friday 11th October**

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 20th September**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBEIT

MASS TIME:

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm FPB

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY /SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY

As a lead in to Social Justice Sunday on 29 September 2019 in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, you are advised that **Sunday 15 September 2019 is acknowledged as Social Services Sunday** within the archdiocese. On this day we are invited to acknowledge and pray for all the Catholic social services agencies across the archdiocese that offer professional and volunteer services and support to those most needy and marginalised in our society.

More information and support possibilities can be found at www.css.org.au

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

PARISH DATABASE UPDATE

A census will be held at all Masses this weekend so we can update our parish database records. This is an important process so we can be assured we have the current contact details of our parish families. The census cards will be distributed as you arrive for Mass and only one card per family is required. We thank you in advance for your assistance with this important process.

JOINING TOGETHER FOR PEACE 2019

The United Nations Day of Peace will be held on Sunday 22nd September. The Moorabool Interfaith Group is holding a half hour peace vigil at the Peace Pole at the Eddie Toole Rotunda, Main St, Bacchus Marsh at 7.45am. The emphasis will be on positive things which can bring our many Faiths closer together. Please join us.

OLIVE WOOD PIETY STALL

The stall will be held at St Anthony's on the 21st/22nd September and at St Bernard's on the 27th/28th September.

ARE YOU FLUENT IN ITALIAN?

We have an Italian gentleman in care in Melton South that does not speak English, who needs Communion taken to him or maybe a ride to Mass. Can you help? If so please ring Lesley at the St Anthony's Parish Office on 9747 9692. Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

CATECHESSES OF THE NEO-CATECHUMENAL WAY

Catechesis for Adults and Youth Jesus Christ has an answer for the sufferings in your Life. In these talks we will announce the Good News of Jesus Christ Risen. Please join us as we explore our Baptism and grow in faith. Every Monday and Wednesday 7:30-8:30pm Beginning Monday 23rd September IN THE PADUA HALL for babysitting or transport please contact: Jeremy 0416 052 018

PRIME TIMERS

Our next outing will be on WEDNESDAY 25th September for Mass with Fr Martin at St Ambrose Church Woodend. Mass at 11 am followed by lunch at the Victoria Hotel Woodend at 1 pm. RSVP Monday 23rd. Ineke 0400120401 or ineke49@yahoo.com

MILA AND JOHN LITTLE

Dear Friends of St Anthony's,
We would like to invite you to a Thanksgiving Mass at 11.00 at the farm on Sat 21st September followed by lunch. Please leave your names at the back of the church for catering purpose.
God Bless. Mila & John Little

THANK YOU - INDIAN COMMUNITY

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Indian Community for raising \$3531.85 at their Rock & Roll Dinner Dance held last Saturday. Special thanks to all those who supported this event. The proceeds will go towards the extension of the Church.

PARISH PICNIC- SAVE THE DATE

In the school grounds Sunday 10th November
11.30am -2.00pm
More details to follow.

THANK YOU - MEAT TASTING VOLUNTEERS

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank all the Meat Tasting Volunteers for their participation. \$1000.00 was presented to the Parish. A big thank you to Anthea & John Scerri for organising the event. The proceeds will go towards the extension of the Church.

ST BERNARD'S

READERS

A set of notes prepared for the Readers' Workshop has been emailed to readers as has a copy of Fr Patrick's workshop presentation. If you are not on the email list and would like copies please ring the parish office.

ST. BERNARD'S PARISH PICNIC

Sunday 6th October from 11.00am at St. Bernard's Primary School
Sausages and bread provided by St. Bernard's Parish
Please bring a salad and sweet to share.
BYO plates, cups, cutlery, chairs, running shoes and competitive spirit
Races, games and great fun provided!

ST BERNARD'S PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

As the lyrics of ABBA's **Money! Money! Money!** say ...**Money! Money! Money!** All the things I could do if I had a little money. It would be wonderful if our parish could do all the things it would like to do however realism prevails. Our parish has two major projects it considers essential and your support of the **new Stewardship Programme** will allow them to proceed.
The serious dampness damage to our church must be addressed if the church is to continue as our place of worship. The dampness in the roof is spreading because the bricks have become porous. A sealing treatment is required to arrest the problem and prevent continued damage.

Refurbishment of St Bernard's Presbytery. You will recall Bishop Mark Edwards gave a guarantee, during his recent visit, that St Bernard's would resume its status as a stand-alone parish sooner rather than later. The Finance Committee believes it would be wise to have the essential maintenance and upgrade works on the presbytery done in readiness for this move. The cost of the above works will be over and above day to day operating costs and will total approximately \$350,000.00. This will require significant parish borrowings which will need to be repaid over 15 years.

Current parish revenue will be insufficient to cover this commitment. A successful Stewardship Programme will be vital if we are to be proactive in seeking standalone status for our parish.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

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

5.30pm : Dolores Turcsan
8.30am: Michael Higgins
10.30am: Regina Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Aloysious Dacunha (P) & Loraine Tellis
8.30am: Ron Howard (P), Sue Alexander
& Geoff Sutton
10.30am: George Bonello (P) & Dorris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Pat Fernandez & Carmen Vella
8.30am: Lina Calleja & Godwin Barton
10.30am: Leonia Jessop & Godwin Barton

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 BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

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

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Jan Carragher
10.00am: Carmel Shea

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Stuart Roberston
8.30am: **Volunteer Please**
10.00am: James Waters

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

September: Sr Mary Fermio

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for recent deaths at this time:

Elaine Jamison & Noreen Matthews

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Nellie Hosemans, Kathleen Martin, Hannah Maureen McGeady, Fr Peter Sinnema & Michael Williams.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, Tina Bower, 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 Johnson David Kasprzak, Loretta Kervin, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Maryo, 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, 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)

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Christopher Burge, Sam Bonello, Edith Carag, Frances Cochrane, Gerard Cochrane, David Consiglio, Campbell Dodemaide, Cyril D'Silva & Rita Pereira

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, & 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



SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND: 21st & 22nd September

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Kristina Scerri
8.30am: Judy Johnson
10.30am: Sally Markulin

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: 28th & 29th September

5.30pm: Judy Van Hoos & Gladys Clarke
8.30am: Sam & Pat Chiles
10.30am: Rose Ma'ae & Family



CHURCH FLOWERS—Sept/Oct

Anna Taunuu



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 : 21st & 22nd September

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Trish Davine
Sunday: Margot Short

MORNING TEA ROSTER

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

Next Morning Tea: 6th October

Host: Parents & Friends



CHURCH FLOWERS—September

Francis McDaid



COUNTING TEAM # 7

Denis Everard
Bernard Coburn
Mary Flanagan
Patrick Flanagan

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (September)

Front Garden:	Volunteer Please
Back/Side Garden:	Volunteer Please
Parish Centre:	Volunteer Please
Carpark/Pines:	Sean Gianì
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 Sept**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **6th & 20th October**

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 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 Patrick 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: **Ben & Joan Antony** 9743 8154

Group 2: **Elaine & Edward Rodrigues** 0405 956 724

Group 3: **Amy & Ronald Honrade** 9747 0078



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 September**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **6th & 20th October**

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 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 Patrick 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

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.' But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.' So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 50

Comm: I will rise and go to my father.

All: I will rise and go to my father.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.
My sacrifice, a contrite spirit;
a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

All: I will rise and go to my father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS –

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7;

Second Reading: 1 Tim 2:1-8;

Gospel: Lk 16:1-13



GOSPEL Luke 15:1-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say, "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

He also said 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.'" So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property-he and his women-you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God!

The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world XLI

A mother isn't a father; and vice versa

Fathers and mothers each bring different qualities to parenting. Fathers can't mother, and mothers can't father. That is why both parents are so important to the healthy upbringing of their children.

Being a parent is all about working towards redundancy. In other words, there will come a time when your children will be able to stand on their own two feet. Eagles do it with the chicks that don't want to leave the nest.

I can still remember my dad telling me the story when I was a little boy. The parent eagle, trying to coax the younger eaglets to fly, finds that their precious darlings don't always like the idea of leaving the comfort of the nest.

Sometimes the parent has to push them out of the nest, letting them fall for up to 30 metres before swooping down and catching the little one on its back. It will do this over and over again until the eaglet learns how to fly on its own.

Dads help children explore the outside world, just like the eagle.

We say, "It's a man's world", To some, it may mean that men chauvinistically control all the power. But in terms of fathering, we say, "It's a man's world" because "out in the world" is where men traditionally operate.

I mean to take nothing away from at-home dads or from mothers who provide the primary income for their families. But, in general terms, it is commonly the father who "goes out into the world" every morning.

Think about what a child sees. Each morning, Dad showers, shaves and puts on official "going to work" clothes. Dad grabs his briefcase and/or lunch and gets in the car and ... he goes. He goes off into the strange, unknown world called "the plant" or "the office".

Humourist and newspaper columnist Erma Bombeck recalls playing "house" with her dolls as a little girl. She always knew what to do with the mother doll and the kid dolls, but the daddy doll was a puzzler.

By Warwick Marsh, www.fatherhood.org.au

She decided to handle her confusion by dressing him up and having him announce, "I'm off to work now". Then she would toss the daddy doll under the bed for the rest of the day.

A child's model for going off into the unknown world is largely the father. Even in families where the father works at home or cares for his children full time, a boy or girl looks to Dad to see how exploration of the world is done.

According to Yale University Child Study Centre psychiatrist Kyle Pruett: "It is through the father that the baby first learns about comings and goings, transitions, separations and non-mother nurturing."

An involved father initiates his children into "a world of objects, activities and people outside the mother's sphere ... [which] expands the child's horizons and stimulates his thinking processes".

Let's say you, Dad, see your kids staring out the window on a rainy Saturday. You announce: "Hey kids, let's go outside for a walk."

If your wife overhears this, she'll probably say "Are you crazy? They'll get wet."

Now, understand that she isn't being a spoil sport: she's simply responding to her natural comforting, sheltering instincts. Where Mum sees wet clothes and sniffles, Dad sees an adventure—the thrill of tasting raindrops, jumping in mud puddles and rescuing worms off the sidewalk.

So you compromise. You tell your wife: "Don't worry. We'll put on our raincoats and I'll make sure we come in before we get cold."

The kids hear that and, knowing that both Mum and Dad are alert to their needs, they can go forth in confidence. Isn't getting your kids to that point—when they can go forth confidently—the whole purpose in parenting?

Your children need you, Dad, to be a man and help them take risks. Your children need you to lead them on a journey of discovery to explore the outside world, just like the eagle does for its young.

So, take up the challenge and be a man; because that's what your children need.