



# 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

**The Most Holy Trinity**

**Year C**

**16th June 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:** 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 –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
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 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
Moira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell	0401 927 502
Emillio Scalzo	5366 5800
John Thorne	5310 6692
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 appointments with Father Fabian please call Judy on 0414 007 009

For urgent matters only please call Fr Fabian on 0403 435 471

## MASS AND DEVOTIONS

**ST ANTHONY'S** MELTON SOUTH

**MASS TIMES : 17th—23rd June**

<b>Monday:</b>	7.45am	FFS
<b>Tuesday morning:</b>	9.15am	FJP
<b>Tuesday evening:</b>	6.30pm	FJP
<b>Wednesday:</b>	7.45am	FJP
	9.15am	FJP
<b>Thursday:</b>	7.45am	FPB
	9.15am	FJP
<b>Friday:</b>	9.15am	FJP
<b>Saturday Vigil:</b>	5.30pm	FFS
<b>Sunday:</b>	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**

Friday— During School Term

**ST BERNARD'S** BACCHUS MARSH

**MASS TIMES : 17th—23rd June**

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

<b>Monday :</b>	No Mass	
<b>Tuesday</b>	5.30pm	FPB
<b>Wednesday :</b>	9.30am	FPB
<b>Thursday :</b>	9.30am	FFS
<b>Friday:</b>	9.30am	FFS
Senior Parishioner's Mass	10.30am	FPB
<b>Saturday Vigil :</b>	5.00pm	FPB
<b>Sunday :</b>	8:30am	FPB
	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 5th July**



**ADORATION:**

30 minutes before every weekday Mass.

Adoration is held every first Friday

10.00am until 4.00pm

Next Date: **Friday 5th July**

**PROVIDENCE MASS**

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

The Village 5-7 Griffith St, Maddingley.

Next Mass: **Friday 12th July**

**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 21st June**

**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS** KOROBET

**MASS TIME:**

<b>Saturday Vigil:</b>	6.30pm	FJP
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## NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

**WE CARE – RESPONDING TO THE VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING ACT.**

From the earliest times, Christ's followers have set themselves apart by their care of the vulnerable (Acts 4:34). On 19 June 2019, the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act* (VAD) comes into effect. It legalises euthanasia and assisted suicide. Despite what the law may say, our Christian tradition affirms that every life, including those of the sick and suffering, is sacred. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are never part of end of life care. Pope Francis has encouraged ordinary Catholics everywhere to resist euthanasia and to protect the old, the young and the vulnerable from being cast aside in a "throw-away culture." We are called to follow Christ by accompanying people with compassion, sharing hope not fear. The Bishops of the Catholic dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst, echoing Pope Francis, have published a pastoral letter including practical guidance on ways we can be conscientious objectors to euthanasia. Copies of the letter are available in our parish and online: [www.cam.org.au/euthanasia](http://www.cam.org.au/euthanasia) Please read and share it.

## PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

### **JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES MEETING**

The meeting will be held at the Josephite Convent, at 2pm on Sunday 7th July.  
For details please contact Christine Nicholls Van Order 0421 845 635.

### **RITEs OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)**

RCIA is a program for adults who are wishing to become Catholic or who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.  
Please see Father Fabian, Father Patrick or Father Joseph for more information regarding this program.

### **SAINT MALACHY'S CHURCH- SUNDAY EVENING MASS**

Bryer's Road, Blackwood. Sunday evening Mass at 4 pm. All Welcome

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

### **ST ANTHONY'S**

#### **PRIME TIMERS**

Our next outing will be for Movie Day at the Melton Library, Tuesday 25th June starting 11am. Movie will be The Greatest Showman starring Hugh Jackman. Light lunch following. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

Please reply for catering numbers.

Ineke 0400120401 or [ineke49@yahoo.com](mailto:ineke49@yahoo.com)

#### **MELTON JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES**

Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 10.30am St Dominic's Parish Meeting Room. Please bring newsletter. Any men or women interested are very welcome.

Further information Sr Mary Fermio 5367 2078

#### **ANGLICARE VICTORIA- FOSTER CARE**

Anglicare Victoria invite you to an information session on Thursday 11th July 2019 in Melton South at 6.30pm. Respite, Emergency, Short-Term & Long-Term Care available. Full training & 24 hour support provided. Please RSVP by calling 9396 7400 or email [carer.info@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:carer.info@anglicarevic.org.au)

#### **FILIPINO COMMUNITY DANCE ALL NIGHT - SAT 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

The Filipino Community will be organising 'Christmas in July Dance All Night', to raise funds for the extension of the Church. Tickets are now available and can be purchased at the rear of the Church after all Masses. Thank you for your support.

#### **WINTER APPEAL - ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

This weekend we will have a special collection for St Vincent De Paul Society- Winter Appeal. You can also donate online at [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au) and envelopes are also available. Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. Please give generously.

#### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS**

If you have recently celebrated a Wedding Anniversary and would like a blessing you will be invited to stand and receive one at all Masses next weekend.

#### **INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL**

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Social Committee and all the various Community groups for their time and donations towards the International Food Festival. Special thanks to all who attended. The amount raised was \$2756.00 and this will go towards the heating and cooling of the Church.

#### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes dated the 11th April 2019 are on display at the back of the church and are available for collection.

### **ST BERNARD'S**

#### **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS - FAMILY BONFIRE NIGHT**

Save the date - Saturday 29th June 2019.  
It's on again - a fun night at Mark Farrell's Farm.

4099 Bacchus Marsh-Geelong Road, Parwan.

3 course dinner, guest speaker and bonfire.

Tickets are on sale this weekend and next weekend in the church after all Masses.

Also tickets are available in the parish office and in St Bernard's school.

Ticket prices are \$15 adult and \$5 child.

To help with catering ticket must be purchased prior to the event.

For any queries, please contact either Mark Farrell 0416 251 025, or Paul Miesen 0419 834 991.

#### **WINTER APPEAL - ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

How to donate:

Fill out an envelope and return to your Vinnies member.

Return your envelope and enclosed donation by post.

Donate online at [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au) or by phone 13 18 12.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Members are available to answer questions after Mass.

#### **TWO HEARTS PRAYER GROUP**

Every fortnight on Thursday evenings 7.15pm - 9.15pm.

Prayers in Church followed by fellowship in the Parish

Centre. Next date: 20th June.



*Lord God, grant me the grace to  
humble myself to reach out in love to  
you, so that I can know you truly, and  
know myself in you.*



# WORSHIP NEWS

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

## ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 22nd & 23rd June**  
**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

5.30pm : Pat Fernandez  
8.30am: Villy Julita  
10.30am: Elaine Lacey

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Lorraine Tellis (P) & Philip Anyayahan  
8.30am: Ron Howard (P), Geoff Sutton  
& Ineke Allen  
10.30am: Doris Bonello (P) & Elaine Lacey

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

### MASS COORDINATORS

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

### ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Johnathan 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 the death anniversary at this time of:

Marya Assunta Borg, John Church, Frank Consiglio, Phyllis Gilder, Margherita Grech, Salvina Pace & Sergio Pin

### Please pray for the Sick:

Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Margaret Hall, 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



## ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 22nd & 23rd June**  
**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

5.00pm: Vikki Benson  
8.30am: Moira Ross & Marj Tung  
10.00am: Sr Mary Fermio

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

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

### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

June: Sister Ellie Taffe

### ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm: Roster Pending  
8.30am: **Volunteers Please**  
10.00am: Thank you

## ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

### SPIRIT OF THE TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

Experience faith, friendship and fun.

Age group: 11-30years When: Every Thursday fortnight, 7:15pm - 9:15pm Where: St. Bernard's

Chapel and Parish Hall 61 Lerderderg Street, Bacchus Marsh  
Next Youth Group: **20th June**

Contact: Sister Clare 0415 806 217 or

Email : [twoheartscentre@bigpond.com](mailto:twoheartscentre@bigpond.com)

Website: [www.missionariesofloveandpeace.com](http://www.missionariesofloveandpeace.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:

Peter Mullins

### We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Kathleen Cox, Bill Dudley & Sophia Parsons

### Please pray for the Sick:

Terry Sims, 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, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Maryo, Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Danny McRae, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Marian Smith, Frank & Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist, Hayden Tung, Mitchell Tung, Stephen Van Eede, 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:** 22nd & 23rd June

#### **PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS**

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



#### **CUPPA ROSTER**

Cuppa Weekend: **22nd & 23rd June**

**5.30pm:** Mary Drew & Laura Espinosa  
**8.30am:** Lily Offer & Joe Spiteri  
**10.30am:** Rose Ma'ae & Family

#### **CHURCH FLOWERS—June**

Doris Bonello & Josephine German



#### **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	0410 478 046,
Amy Honrade	0457 042 695
Lillian Christian	0400 441 257

#### **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
School Holidays :	10.00am—12.30pm

### ST BERNARD'S

**VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND :** 22nd & 23rd June

#### **PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS**

**Saturday:** Jan Farmelo  
**Sunday:** Carmel Shea

#### **MORNING TEA ROSTER**

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

Next Morning Tea: **7th July**

Host: Knights of the Southern Cross



#### **CHURCH FLOWERS**

Deborah Hosking



#### **COUNTING TEAM # 4**

Gerard Harrington  
Chris Eggleston  
Dianne Shelly

#### **PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (June)**

Front Garden:	<b>Volunteer Please</b>
Back/Side Garden:	<b>Volunteer Please</b>
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 27th June**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **7th & 21st July**

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:

Group 1: **Allen & Ellen Johnson**                      **0418 200 144**

Group 2: **Andrew & Lorelle Porter**                      **0409 939 002**

Group 3: **John & Anthea Scerri**                      **0467 564 601**



## ST BERNARD'S

### BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 23rd June**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **7th & 21st July**

Registration forms can be downloaded from our website [www.pol.cam.org.au/bacchusmarsh](http://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 : 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 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 PROCESSION

Blest be God the Father,  
and the Only Begotten Son of God,  
and also the Holy Spirit,  
for he has shown us his merciful love.

### FIRST READING Proverbs 8:22-31

The Wisdom of God cries aloud:  
The Lord created me when his purpose first unfolded,  
before the oldest of his works.  
From everlasting I was firmly set,  
from the beginning, before earth came into being.  
The deep was not, when I was born,  
there were no springs to gush with water.  
Before the mountains were settled,  
before the hills, I came to birth;  
before he made the earth, the countryside,  
or the first grains of the world's dust.  
When he fixed the heavens firm, I was there,  
when he drew a ring on the surface of the deep,  
when he thickened the clouds above,  
when he fixed fast the springs of the deep,  
when he assigned the sea its boundaries  
- and the waters will not invade the shore -  
when he laid down the foundations of the earth,  
I was by his side, a master craftsman,  
delighting him day after day,  
ever at play in his presence,  
at play everywhere in his world,  
delighting to be with the sons of men.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 8

**Comm:** O Lord, our God,  
how wonderful your name in all the earth!

**All:** O Lord, our God,  
how wonderful your name in all the earth!

When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,  
the moon and the stars which you arranged,  
what is man that you should keep him in mind,  
mortal man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him little less than a god;  
with glory and honour you crowned him,  
gave him power over the works of your hand,  
put all things under his feet.

All of them, sheep and cattle,  
yes, even the savage beasts,  
birds of the air, and fish  
that make their way through the waters.

**All:** O Lord, our God,  
how wonderful your name in all the earth!

### SECOND READING Romans 5:1-5

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous  
and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that  
we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about  
looking forward to God's glory. But that is not all we can boast  
about; we can boast about our sufferings. These sufferings bring  
patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and  
perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive,  
because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the  
Holy Spirit which has been given us.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL John 16:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I still have many things to say to you  
but they would be too much for you now.

But when the Spirit of truth comes

he will lead you to the complete truth,

since he will not be speaking as from himself

but will say only what he has learnt;

and he will tell you of the things to come.

He will glorify me

since all he tells you

will be taken from what is mine.

Everything the Father has is mine;

that is why I said:

All he tells you

will be taken from what is mine.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Since you are children of God,

God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,

the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS – THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

**First Reading:** Gen 14:18-20

**Second Reading:** 1Cor 11:23-26

**Gospel:** Lk 9:11-17



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

## The influence of the child

The child is the sign and the promise of human liberty, because he is a new act of freedom added to the world. The increase of marital introversion through the prevention of buds on the tree of life goes hand in hand with the increase of totalitarianism and suffocation of personal liberty.

The furnace of Dachau was only one of the scientific ways modern man has found to snuff out the candles of freedom. There are other ways, too, all performed to “benefit” humanity. Herod said: “Go, and inquire carefully for the child, and when you have found him, bring me back word, so that I, too, may come and worship him.” (Matthew 2:8) But the gift he gave was the sword, meant to bleed infant freedom white.

The frontiers of freedom today are not on the political and economic front, but in the home. Not they who prattle about freedom, but they who create new areas of freedom through birth, are the true defenders of real democracy. Children are conceived despite the exact calculations of man. Their sex cannot be absolutely determined, nor the exact time of their coming. There is something beautifully undetermined, something free about their advent. Like the love from which they issued, they are as free at creation as a poem.

All things else are slavery compared to this new act of freedom and the promise of a better world. It is, indeed, curious that those who would shirk the responsibility of life defend their egotism, on the ground that they want to be “free”. If freedom is egotism, the plea is justified. Freedom belongs to pioneers who bring new choices and revolutions and decisions into a weary and old world. Here is novelty at its best; thanks to the child, all covenants with death are abrogated.

Love exists only where there is freedom. To be forced to love is hell; to be free in love is heaven. Where love is, there is freedom. Since the child is the flower of love, it is earth’s sacrament of freedom. As the cradles come back into the world, freedom will come back. This freedom will consist not in throwing off restraint, which is licence, but in the increase of new centres of freedom. In each child God

whispers a new secret to the world; adds a new dimension of immortality to creation; and makes the clinging hearts of husband and wife feel a little freer, as they look into that mutual hope which has come to them from God.

Children also beget humility. Before an infant, the big feel little, and the proud so insignificant. As an elephant before a mouse, so is the egotist before the child. There is something about a baby that disarms and attracts. Everyone unconsciously puts himself on the level of a child; even the scholars descend to baby-talk. It may be that all love makes us little; or perhaps it is our littleness that makes us love.

There was something staggering to the Wise Men about that Child Whose Hands could not quite reach the huge heads of the cattle. Somehow they felt that they were Hands that steered the sun, moon, and stars in their courses. Before that Infant, the Wise Men discovered Wisdom and the shepherds discovered their Shepherd. Every child in taking us back to the source of life, takes us back to God Who is the Fount of Life. Only two classes of people found that Littleness Who is Greatness: the shepherds and the Wise Men; those who knew they knew nothing, and those who knew they did not know everything, not the man with one book, or the man who thinks that he knows.

The intelligentsia, who are educated beyond their intelligence, stay away from children for the same reason that they stay away from God. They cannot bear the vision of the source of life. But the humble, who live in communion with life, like to get as close to it as possible, and from this flows the family.

The child makes men humble as the thought of God makes men humble. There is little difference between the two, for the child is, in a certain sense, “Emmanuel”, or God with us. Great depths of wisdom are hidden in the heart of those parents who always say their night prayers before the crib of the last-born child. In that as yet wordless Word they see the very image and likeness of God. With the crib seen as a tabernacle and the child as a kind of host, then the home becomes a living Temple of God. The sacristan of that sanctuary is the mother, who never permits the tabernacle lamp of faith to go out.