



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 FAX: 5367 4863
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

17TH FEBRUARY 2019

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Patrick Bradford & Fr Joseph Panackal IV Dei

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

Mon 9.00am-4.00pm Tue 1.00pm-5.00pm

Wed—Thurs 9.00am-5.00pm Friday 9.00am-4.00pm

Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au

Website: stanthonysmeltonsouth.wordpress.com

St Anthony's School Principal: Damien Schuster

Wilson Road, Melton South 3338

Phone: 9743 1401

Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Mr Mark Sheehan **Phone:** 8099 6000

Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:

Naim Chdid Fri 10.00am—3.00pm

Parish Office Hours: Tue –Thurs 9.00am-1.00pm

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website: http://pol.org.au/bacchusmarsh/Home.aspx

St Bernard's School Principal: Emilio Scalzo

19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Phone: (03) 5366 5800

Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Sue Alexander	0400 171 843
Lillian Christian	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	03 9747 0078
Natalie Howard	0410 478 046
Rose Ma'ae	0431 386 473
Marthese Mercieca	0421 378 691

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
David Loxley	0459 974 960
Moira Ross	0400 675 056
Emillio Scalzo	5366 5800
James Waters	0403 822 795

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Patrick Bradford, Fr Joseph Panackal and Emilio Scalzo

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)

Officers: Aloysious Dacunha, Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

Please contact Judy Johnson for any Parish news you would like published in the Newsletter

Articles must be received by midday Tuesdays. Email: judyparishnews@gmail.com

For urgent matters only please call on 0414 007 009

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S **MELTON SOUTH**

MASS TIMES : 18/02/2019-24/02/2019

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday morning:	9.15am	FJP
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm	FJP
Wednesday:	9.15am	FJP
Thursday:	9.15am	FJP
Friday:	9.15am	FJP
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 minutes before and 30 minutes after every weekday Mass.

CRC MELTON CHAPEL: 8.00am

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS **KOROBET**

MASS TIMES :

Saturday: 6.30pm Mass FPB

ST BERNARD'S **BACCHUS MARSH**

MASS TIMES : 18/02/2019-24/02/2019

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

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday	5.30pm	FPB
Wednesday :	9.30am	FPB
Thursday :	9.30am	FPB
Friday :	9.30am	FPB
Saturday Vigil :	5:00pm	FJP
Sunday :	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 1st March**



ADORATION:

30 minutes before every weekday Mass.

PROVIDENCE MASS

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

Next Mass: **Friday 8th March**

SENIOR PARISHIONER'S MASS

Is held on the third Friday of the month in the Parish Centre at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome not just the seniors. Next Senior's Mass: **Friday 15th March 2019**

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

CLOSE AND CONCRETE: POPE FRANCIS EVANGELISING IN A WORLD OF FLUX

Thursday 21 March, 5-6.30pm

The Oratory, Newman College, 887 Swanston Street, Parkville

A lecture hosted by Dr Austen Ivereigh (noted UK Catholic writer and biographer of Pope Francis) with a response by Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez SDB of Honduras, Coordinator of Pope Francis' C9 group for the Reform of the Church.

Enquiries: Br Mark O'Connor at mark.oconnor@marists.org.au

JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

Saturday 16 March, 7pm

Members Dining Room, MCG

Please join Jesuit Social Services for an evening of entertainment and celebration of a shared desire to build a just society. **Cost:** \$195pp, tables of 10 available

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BADGX>

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

BACCHUS MARSH DEMENTIA ALLIANCE

The Bacchus Marsh Dementia Alliance would like to invite you to attend the launch of their Action Plan and the social support program provided by Moorabool Shire council. The Bacchus Marsh Dementia Alliance was established in June 2018 with the purpose of enhancing awareness and reducing stigma associated with dementia and enabling people living with dementia to remain actively involved in the community. The alliance members comprise of people from local organisations, businesses and the community. The alliance has developed an action plan which has been endorsed by Dementia Australia. More information can be found on the Dementia Australia website <https://www.dementiafriendly.org.au/> and the Moorabool Shire web page <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/residents/family-services/active-ageing-and-community-access/creating-dementia-friendly-bacchus>

Date: 28th February 10am – 12 noon Place: Andy Arnold centre 10 Bennett Street, Bacchus Marsh.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER- COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER—ECUMENICAL SERVICE

An Ecumenical service is being held on Friday 1st March at 10.00am at St Mark's Lutheran Church, 100 Coburns Road, Melton. Posters at the side entrances of the Church. Please bring a plate to share.

PRIME TIMERS

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

VALENTINE'S DAY RAFFLE

A big thank you to all who supported the Valentine's Raffle. Your support is greatly appreciated. Congratulations to all the winners, Enjoy...

1. Shirley Higgins Purple Ticket No. A037
2. Al Freda Green Ticket No. D045
3. Viv Purple Ticket No. A061
4. Rey Green Ticket No. D042

NEW PARISHIONER'S BLESSING

All new Parishioners will be invited to stand and receive a Blessing at all Masses next weekend. It is also cuppa weekend so we warmly invite you to stay and have a cuppa and chat and meet your fellow Parishioners.

ST BERNARD'S

ST. BERNARD'S PARISH FETE

Rides/Stalls/Food/Live Music/Show bags/Mystery Jars/ Plant Stall/Afternoon Tea/Lions Train/ Raffle/Cake Stall/and lots more.

Friday 15th March 2019 from 3.30pm
Free Admission.

Follow us on Facebook for updates
@ St Bernard's Parish Fete



DEVONSHIRE TEA DONATIONS—FETE

We are looking for donations of scones and jam for Devonshire Tea at the fete!

If you are able to assist, Please call Jac Cook
0428 678 686.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Join us for a brief ecumenical reflective service, including supper at the conclusion of the service.

Friday 1st March 2019 at 7.00pm, Bacchus March Uniting Church, 12 Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh.

The cross of Christ is our treasure

(From a prayer of St Anselm)

Dear Cross, in which is our salvation, life, and resurrection! Precious wood, through which we're saved and liberated! Worthy sign, with which we're marked for God! Glorious cross, in which we alone have the right to glory!



WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 23rd & 24th February

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Dolores Turcsan
8.30am: Volunteer Please
10.30am: Romeo Sacris

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Lorraine Tellis (P) & Gavin Pereira
8.30am : Michael Higgins (P), Villy Julita & Edwina La Rose
10.30am: George Bonello (P) & Doris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Carmen Vella & Stephen Fernandes
8.30am: Lina Calleja & Ken Dumandan
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Anthea Sceri

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: 23rd & 24th February

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: Sandra Ibrahim
8.30am: Moira Ross & Marj Tung
10.00am: Sr Mary Fermio

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Colin Remedios
8.30am: Brendan Harrison
10.00am: Carole Ryder

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

February: Mary Flanagan

ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm:
8.30am: To Be Advised
10.00am:

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Tamafuata Sefo Amoa, Gina Barker,
Francisca Emilia Barton & Falanou Aukuso Kelsall

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

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

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

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



ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITS OF THE TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

Experience faith, friendship and fun.

Age group: 11years+ **When:** Every 4th Thursday of the month 7.00pm-9.00pm **Where:** Two Hearts Centre, 274 La Cote Road, Greendale

Contact: Sister Clare 0415 806 217 or

Email : twoheartscentre@bigpond.com

'Coordinated by the Missionaries of Love and Peace of the Most Blessed Trinity of the Pilgrimage of the Two Hearts'



We pray for the recently deceased:

Sam Borg

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Joseph Camilleri, Josephine Camilleri, Nina Cassar, Thelma Crowley, Denis Lennox, Jane Reilly, Martin Vrbec, Noelene Wadey & Stanely Walsh.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Brian Harrison, Adam Hillier, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Loretta Kervin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Maryo, Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Danny McRae, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Kevin O'Gorman, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Arabella Periera, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Marian Smith, Frank & Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist, Hayden Tung, Mitchell Tung, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, Carol Wells, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Nils Wyren, Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young & Hannah Young.

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

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND: 23rd & 24th February

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Anne Peramuna

8.30am: Judy Johnson

10.30am: Kim Barton

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: **23rd & 24th February**

5.30pm: Marian Muller & Margaret Coghlan

8.30am: Pat & Sam Chiles

10.30am: Charlie & Lina Vassallo



CHURCH FLOWERS

Rosabella Tuala



CLEANING ROSTER: Thursday

Lorelle Porter

Volunteers would be appreciated as well.

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY QUADRANT

Volunteers are required for the following groups:

Piety Stall & Social Committee.

Contact:

Natalie Howard 0410478046,

Amy Honrade 0457042695

Lillian Christian 0400441257

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Holy Family Room 10.00am.

New members most welcome, training provided.

Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' at the back of the Church. Thank you.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

CCCM's aim is to supply free food to help people in our local community in need and walk alongside them to reduce dependency through friendship and education.

Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

Hours: Mon- Thurs: 10.00am-3.00pm

Friday : 10.00am-12.15pm

School Holidays : 10.00am-12.30pm

ST BERNARD'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND : 23rd & 24th February

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Margot Short

Sunday: Kay Lafranchi

MORNING TEA

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

Next Morning Tea: **3rd March 2019**

Host: Parents and Friends



CHURCH FLOWERS

Tup Shea



COUNTING TEAM # 8

Colm Carragher

Maggie Carragher

Jill Braithwaite

Marj Tung

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (February)

Front Garden: Stephen Millington

Back/Side Garden: Volunteer Please

Parish Centre: Volunteer Please

Carpark/Pines: Sean Gianì

Back Paddock: Henry Gasior

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

The Vinnies Store is located at 8 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh. The store is open 7 days a week. If you are able to volunteer and would like some more information, please contact the Store Manager on 8199 4205.

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

Emergency Foodbank and Hospitality centre

Address: 77 Main Street Bacchus Marsh

Open: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.30am-3.00pm

Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food provides a free community meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays), in the Uniting Church Hall, Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh. Meals are served up at 12noon. All are welcome and this is a free event. No need to book, just come along.

Contact: Jenny Kearney 0408 104 155

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427

Mon-Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm

Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Held on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Church 6.30pm-7.45pm.

Next preparation : **Thursday 28th Feb**

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

See details on Parish Homepage as listed on front page and download forms. Forms are also available from the Parish Office or from the Sacristy after Mass from Father. Both parents are required to attend these meetings. We kindly request adults only and a copy of the birth certificate.

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

BAPTISM TEAM: Karina Dunne & Judy Johnson

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Is held during Saturday evening Vigil Mass and Sunday 10.30am Mass.

DIVINE MERCY: 1st Sunday of the month at 3pm .

FATIMA STATUE

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1: **Wayne & Marian Muller 0400 007 286**

Group 2: **Kalolaine Foma 0432 295 121**

Group 3: **Anthony & Mary Saliba 9743 1469**



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 24th Feb**

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

Registration forms can be downloaded from our website www.pol.cam.org.au/bacchusmarsh. Bring completed Registration Form with a copy of Birth Certificate to the program.

Please note: Both parents are required to attend the program.

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

COORDINATORS : To Be Advised

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Is held every Sunday during 10.00am Mass in the meeting room in the Parish Centre.



PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil;
may God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.



NICENO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

[bow during the next line]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

WEEKLY PRAYERS & READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.

He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.

He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 1

Comm: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

All: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

All: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:
'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God.
Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.
Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you,
denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your
reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors
treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation
now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.
Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way
their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS- 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1 Sam 26:2, 7-9,12-13,22-23;

Second Reading: 1Cor 15:45-49;

Gospel: Lk 6:27-38



The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world XI

TEACHING THE FAITH: OFFENSE AND DEFENSE

The education of children in their faith is a constant challenge today. The world hammers its values into our homes and lives through peers, friends, and all aspects of the media. As Catholic parents, we do our best to lead a strong faith life and to minimise the world's influence. The most important way to teach children their faith is for the parent to live it. We try hard, but often fall short. We try to go to daily Mass and to have a regularly scheduled prayer life. When children see their parents put God first, they pay more attention to their words.

The second most important way to teach the faith is to limit the world's control. We severely limit TV viewing in our home. The children mainly watch approved DVDs only. We don't watch TV or the news. (One child's nightmare after an explicit murder scene on the news taught us that!) Sex, drugs, violence and Hollywood gossip is normal viewing fare on the news. We subscribe to certain moral magazines and newsletters for ourselves and the children. We also have monitored trips to the library. Parents must put forth considerable effort today, but they can pass on their faith.

MARIAN DEVOTION AND THE ROSARY

I home-school two of my five children, Peter, age 10, and Robert, age eight. For religion one year, I decided that the best thing I could do was to ground them in prayer. In addition to our meal prayers and evening prayers, we prayed the 15 prayers our Lord revealed to St Bridget of Sweden.

Since they knew the Our Father and Hail Mary, I would have each one pray one of those prayers and I would pray the prayer revealed to St Bridget. After a few months, when I would stop anywhere during my prayer, they would pick it up for a phrase or a sentence or two. Then I would pray it again. By the end a year, they could say most of the 15 prayers.

This year, I purchased a set of three audio cassette tapes by Fr Robert Fox, who is the director/spiritual chaplain for the Fatima Family Apostolate in the United States. On these tapes, he teaches many of the doctrines of the Catholic Church (sin, Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, Mary, Eucharist, Real Presence, Reconciliation, vocations, pope, angels).

He addresses himself to children and tells of his annual visits to Fatima and his visits to friends and relatives of the three children and even clergy who tried to discern what was and is going on as a result of Mary's apparitions at Fatima. He suggests starting neighbourhood cell groups for the children, to learn and to spread the Message of Fatima.

Extract from *Teaching the Catholic Faith Effectively*, edited by Father John Hardon SJ

I have transcribed most of the tapes so that I can teach my children and seven others from four other families.

I transcribed the tapes for two reasons. The first is that when I hear it and see it while typing, it helps me to learn it better. Also, knowing the children for some time, I was able to address them individually by name and to ask a question or draw out a certain point by asking them to share their experience in a particular area. This allows for a more active role on their part. It has been so good!

At first, one mum came each time. Mostly, she listened and nudged one child or another to pay attention. She has taken a more active part now. Now another mum comes too. I am thrilled.

We have a snack and a prayer together to start. Then the teaching or activity time before we play together. The activity time may include drawing a picture of some aspect of what we studied, watching the movie about Fatima, or playing a game to reinforce what we have learned.

For example, once I divided them into three groups and gave each group a card with one of the following written on it: "Joyful", "Sorrowful", or "Glorious". Then I let each group choose a card from 15 others that I had turned down. On each of those 15 cards was written one of the mysteries of the rosary. They would have to decide which kind of mystery it was: Joyful, Sorrowful or Glorious. If correct, they could place it under the proper heading. The group with the fewest cards left wins.

I had printed and cut out the Scriptures that go with *The Scriptural Rosary* (available online). I gave one group all of the Scriptures for the five Glorious Mysteries; one group the Scriptures for the Joyful Mysteries and one group had the Sorrowful Mystery Scriptures. Each group had to lay out their cards from the previous game in this manner. They were to go through their 50 Scriptures and decide which Scripture went with each Mystery. I had three copies of the book, *The Scriptural Rosary*, set around the room. They were allowed to look in the book under these conditions:

1. They had to go to the book.
2. Only one person from each group was allowed to go to the book at a time. They were allowed to take one piece of paper (one Scripture) with them. The first group to get all 50 correctly aligned under the appropriate mysteries was the winner.

Next, I plan to have three buzzers set up. One person from each group will have his hand on a buzzer. I will read a Scripture and the first to press his (her) buzzer and correctly identify which mystery the Scripture goes with will receive a point.