



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 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

19th January 2020

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint & Fr Alexander Athanas SAC

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

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

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

Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au

Website: stanthonysmeltonsouth.wordpress.com

St Anthony's School Principal: Damien Schuster

Wilson Road, Melton South 3338

Phone: 8099 7800

Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:

Naim Chdid **Fri** 10.00am—3.00pm

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

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

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

St Bernard's School Principal: Emilio Scalzo

19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Phone: (03) 5366 5800

Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Sue Alexander	0400 171 843
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	03 9747 0078
Natalie Howard - Chair	0410 478 046
Villy Julita	0403 751 343
Rose Ma'ae	0431 386 473
Marthese Mercieca	0421 378 691
Kim Nguyen	0431 035 980

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Alexander Athanas
and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Cathy Belcher - Vice Chair	0431 082 886
Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
Moirra Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell	0401 927 502
John Thorne - Secretary	5310 6692
James Waters - Chair	0403 822 795

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Alexander Athanas
and Emilio Scalzo

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)

Officers: Aloysious Dacunha, Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

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

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

For appointments with Father Fabian please call Judy on 0414 007 009

If you need a Priest in the case of an emergency please call 0403 435 471

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES : 20th-26th January

Monday:

Tuesday pm: St Agnes Memorial 6.30pm FAA

Wednesday: 9.15am FFS

Thursday: 9.15am FAA

Friday: St Francis de Sales Memorial 9.15am FFS

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm FAA

Sunday: 8.30am FAA
10.30am FAA

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and before and weekday Mass.

ROSARY:

Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

ADORATION:

Adoration resumes Tuesday 4th February

CRC MELTON CHAPEL: 8.00am

Next Mass will be held 31st January 2020



ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 20th-26th January

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

Monday : No Mass

Tuesday: St Agnes Memorial 5.30pm FAA

Wednesday : 9.30am FAA

Thursday : 9.30am FFS

Friday: St Francis de Sales Memorial 9.30am FAA

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 7th February**

ADORATION:

Adoration resumes Tuesday 4th February

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

Next Mass: **14th February**

SENIOR PARISHIONER'S MASS

Is held on the third Friday of the month in the Parish Centre at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome not just the seniors.

Next Senior's Mass: **21st February**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm FFS

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI

"For days now, our skies across Melbourne have been filled with the smell and haze of the fires – a steady reminder that our neighbours, so close to us particularly in the Gippsland areas, the bordering States of NSW and South Australia, are in dire need. We stand with all those affected by the devastation of these bushfires, as well as those working tirelessly to assist in the recovery efforts."

"There is something truly remarkable, and exceptionally humbling, about the spirit of our shared humanity that gives its all without question."

Help our neighbours by donating at www.vinnies.org.au

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

BUSH FIRE SPECIAL COLLECTION-

Last weekend had a special collection to help with the devastation the bush fires have caused in the East Gippsland area. Our collection will be sent to the Catholic Parish in Bairnsdale, to help them in this time of crisis. We collected \$2500.00 at St Anthony's & \$3160.00 at St Bernard's. Thank you.

BINGO

Every Tuesday evening we have 3 sessions per evening with a cost of \$3.00 a book. Eyes down at 7.00pm. Finish time is 9.45pm. Come and have a great social evening, have some fun and maybe get lucky too. Coffee and tea is provided and there are canteen services available. Remember you have to be in it to win it!
Venue: St Anthony's Padua Hall.



NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

ST ANTHONY'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Our Sacramental Program Catechesis commences Saturday 1st February for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist and it will be held at the St Anthony's Church.

Lessons for **Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist** are 2.00pm-6.30pm.

February: Saturdays 1st, 8th, 15th & 29th

March: Saturdays 14th, 21st & 28th

April: Saturday 4th

THESE SESSIONS ARE COMPULSORY FOR ANY CHILD ENROLLED IN OUR PROGRAM

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.

PIETY STALL

The Piety Stall will be closed during the renovations. We will be setting up a small Piety Stand with a few popular items while the renovations are underway. The Piety Stand will be set up shortly and Parishioners will be advised when it is open.

FROM THE PARISH OFFICE—ENVELOPE NO 4031

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

PRIME TIMERS AGM

Our first meeting will be Prime Timer's AGM. 11.30 am on 28th January 2020 at the Leisure Centre, Lifestyle Village, Brookfield. Please BYO lunch. Tea/coffee provided. Confirm attendance with Ineke on 0400120401 or email ineke49@yahoo.com.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS—THIS WEEK

The Parish Office will be open:
Tuesday-Thursday— 1.00pm-5.00pm
Friday— 9.00am-1.00pm

ST BERNARD'S

ST BERNARD'S SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Our Sacramental Program Catechesis commences Saturday 1st February for the Sacraments of 1st Eucharist & Confirmation and it will be held at the Parish Centre, St Bernard's

Lessons for **1st Eucharist and Confirmation** are 1.45pm-5.45pm.

February: Saturdays 1st, 8th, 15th & 29th

March: Saturdays 14th, 21st & 28th

April: Saturday 4th

THESE SESSIONS ARE COMPULSORY FOR ANY CHILD ENROLLED IN OUR PROGRAM

READERS

A new roster is being prepared for the next three months. If you are currently reading and would like a rest, or would like to come off the roster, or wish to join or who may have slipped off the list please contact Judy Johnson, Admin Assistant 0414 007 009 or judyparishnews@gmail.com Thank you.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPE NO. 150

Could the Parishioner who has envelope No.150 please contact the Parish Office or Judy Johnson 0414 007 009. Thank you.

TIM O'LEARY

The parish would like to congratulate former parishioner and St Bernard's student, Tim O'Leary, who was this week appointed by the Archbishop as Executive Director Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS— THIS WEEK

The Parish Office will be open:
Tuesday— Thursday 9.00am-12.00noon

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 25th & 26th January MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Stephen Fernandes
8.30am: Sally Markulin
10.30am: Faustina Ma'ae

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

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

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Carmen Vella & Dolores Turcsan
8.30am: Godwin Barton & Lina Calleja
10.30am: Leonia Jessop & 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 the recent death of :
Steven Barnes & Suzette Fox

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:
Romauld Correa

Please pray for the Sick:

Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Liza Fernandes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Brendan Michael, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, John Osborne, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Clint Abela Wadge, & John Xuereb and all those who have requested our prayers.

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

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father we lift up all those who are facing illness. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love.
Amen



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 25th & 26th January MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Trish Davine
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi & Margaret Love
10.00am: Diane Corro & James Waters

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Carol Jones
10.00am: Diane Corro

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

January: Parish Office Staff

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

FAITH ON FIRE PRAYER GROUP

Every fortnight on Thursday 7.15pm - 9.15pm. Prayers in the Church followed by fellowship in the Parish Centre.
Next meeting **To Be Advised**

We pray for the recent death of :
William Cole and John Milo Davine

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:
Coral Sharpe, Elka Timmins & Gerard Shanahan.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Brian Harrison, Adam Hillier, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Johnson David Kasprzak, Loretta Kervin, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis MaryPauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael 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)

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND: 25th & 26th January **PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS**

The Piety Stall will be closed during the renovations. We will be setting up a small Piety Stand with a few popular items while the renovations are underway. The Piety Stand will be set up shortly and Parishioners will be advised when it is open.

CUPPA ROSTER

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



CHURCH FLOWERS-January

Doris Bonello



CLEANING ROSTER: Thursday

Lorelle Porter

Volunteers would be appreciated as well.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Holy Family Room 10.30am.

New members most welcome, training provided.

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

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

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

Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

Hours: Mon- Thurs: 10.00am-3.00pm

Friday: 10.00am-12.15pm

School Holidays: 10.00am-12.30pm

God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our Churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow with Jesus Christ offering to you their gifts and talents.



Amen

ST BERNARD'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND : 25th & 26th January **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: **2nd February 2020**

Host: **Parish Pastoral Council**



CHURCH FLOWERS—January

Silk flowers only



COUNTING TEAM # 6

Jill & Ron Geurts

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (January)

Front Garden: Stuart Robertson

Back/Side Garden: Volunteer Please

Parish Centre: John Tung

Carpark/Pines: John Tung

Back Paddock: Ron Geurts

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

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

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

Emergency Foodbank and Hospitality centre

Address: 77 Main Street Bacchus Marsh

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

Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

SOUL FOOD

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

Contact: Jenny Kearney 0408 104 155

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427 Mon—Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm

Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next preparation : **Thursday 23rd Jan**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **1st & 15th March**

See details on Parish Homepage as listed on front page and download forms. Forms are also available from the Parish Office or from the Sacristy after Mass from Father. Both parents are required to attend these meetings. We kindly request adults only and a copy of the birth certificate. **Please be advised that Baptism applications must be submitted 2 months in advance.** Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Alexander, Fr Lucas or the Parish Office for queries.

BAPTISM TEAM: Karina Dunne & Judy Johnson

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

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

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

FATIMA STATUE

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

Group 1: **Robert & Angela Lacono** **0424 801 928**

Group 2: **Ben & Geetha** **0431 572 577**

Group 3: **Mark & Edwina La Rose**



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 26th January**

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

Registration forms can be downloaded from our website www.pol.cam.org.au/bacchusmarsh. Bring completed registration form with a copy of birth certificate to the program. Please note: Both parents are required to attend the program. **Please be advised that Baptism applications must be submitted 2 months in advance.** Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Alexander, Fr Lucas or the Parish Office for queries.

COORDINATORS : Steve & Geraldine

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

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



PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

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



NICENO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

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

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

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

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

[bow during the next line]

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEEKLY PRAYERS & READINGS

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

FIRST READING Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel,
in whom I shall be glorified';
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,
my God was my strength.
And now the Lord has spoken,
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
to gather Israel to him:
'It is not enough for you to be my servant,
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the
survivors of Israel;
I will make you the light of the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 39

Comm: Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.

All: Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.

All: Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with
brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in
Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to
take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to
our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours.
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you
grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who accepted him
to become the children of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:29-34

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is
the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is
the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me
who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not
know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I
came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the
Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and
resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent
me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom
you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is
going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I
am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS –

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

First Reading: Is 8:23-9:3;

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:10-13,17;

Gospel: Mt 4:12-23



The life of Catholic worship and piety VIII

Why the Bell Tolls

Some churches ring bells during the Mass while others do not. Is there a rule about the practice?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (1970; No.109) stipulates that a bell may be rung regularly at two places during the Mass. First, “a little before the consecration, the minister may ring a bell as a signal to the people”.

Here the bell is normally rung at the time of the epiclesis (from the ancient Greek, meaning “invocation”, or “calling down from on high”) in the Eucharistic Prayer. At this point, the priest joins his hands and places them over the bread and wine to be consecrated. He prays for the Holy Spirit to come down upon the gifts so that they may become the Body and Blood of our Lord. The ringing of the bell alerts the congregation to the calling down of the Holy Spirit and prepares them for the consecration that immediately follows.

Second, “according to local custom, [the server] also rings the bell at each elevation”. After the priest says the words of consecration, he elevates the Sacred Host or the chalice of Precious Blood. The ringing of the bell again alerts the faithful that transubstantiation has taken place and that the Body and Blood of our Lord is truly present on the altar.

It is left to the discretion of the parish priest whether a bell is to be used or not. Nevertheless, the use of a bell at Mass is a longstanding tradition in our Church and no one should ever think that their use has been suppressed.

Actually, the common practice in the basilicas of Rome is for the bell to be rung at each elevation and then in a prolonged way when the priest genuflects after the elevation of the chalice.

The tradition itself seems to have arisen in around the 13th century, when the common practice became to ring a bell at the consecration. Later, records at Chartres Cathedral (northern France) in 1399 indicate that a large bell suspended above the choir area was rung at the beginning of the Sanctus to call the people to attention for the coming consecration.

By Rev William Saunders, <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/>

Moreover, the sound of the bell was seen to give glory to God. (For this same reason, the Church bell may be rung continuously during the Gloria sung at the Easter Vigil Mass.)

Another reason for the ringing of the bell as well as the high elevation of both the Sacred Host and chalice of Precious Blood after the consecration was to affirm that transubstantiation had occurred. In the 1100s, some theologians had speculated that the transubstantiation of the bread did not occur until after the words over the chalice had also been pronounced.

To counter this notion, the following practice was instituted. After the words of consecration of the bread, the priest elevated the Sacred Host so that it could be seen by all, the bell was rung, and then the priest genuflected after placing the Sacred Host back on the paten on the altar. For example, Cardinal Guido, the papal legate to Germany, promulgated this practice at Cologne in 1201, a practice that was already in use in Rome (and throughout much of the Church). To highlight the solemnity of this miraculous moment, an incensation was also allowed at each elevation.

Moreover, during the Solemn Mass or High Mass, the great bell of the Church was rung to alert the townsfolk that the consecration had occurred, at which time they would piously kneel and make an act of adoration.

In the old Tridentine Mass, the Missale Romanum, promulgated in 1570 by Pope Pius V, prescribed the ringing of a bell at both the Sanctus and the consecration. When Pope Paul

VI revised the Mass, the practice of ringing a bell was retained as an option.

Since we are a people of senses, sounds are important in worship, whether in the quiet of the moment, the singing

of a congregation, or the sound of the organ. The sound of bells does add to the reverence and the solemnity of the Mass. They highlight in a sensible way the sacred action taking place on the altar. Thus, we have a tradition that is not only practical but also beautiful.

