



# 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

**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Year C**

**1st 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 : 2nd—8th September

<b>Monday:</b>	7.45am	FFS
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St Gregory the Great Memorial	
<b>morning:</b>	9.15am	FLM
<b>evening:</b>	6.30pm	FFS
<b>Wednesday:</b>	7.45am	FLM
	9.15am	FLM
<b>Thursday:</b>	7.45am	FPB
	9.15am	FLM
<b>Friday:</b>	9.15am	FLM
1st Friday Devotions	7.30pm	FPB
	Midnight	FLM
<b>Saturday :</b>		
1st Saturday Devotions	9.15am	FFS
<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

Mass held on Fridays during school term.



### ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

#### MASS TIMES : 2nd—8th September

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

<b>Monday :</b>	No Mass	
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St Gregory the Great Memorial	
	5.30pm	FPB
<b>Wednesday :</b>	9.30am	FPB
<b>Thursday :</b>	9.30am	FFS
<b>Friday:</b>	9.30am	FFS
<b>Saturday Vigil :</b>	5.00pm	FPB
<b>Sunday :</b>	8:30am	FPB
	10.00am	FPB

#### 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 13th September**

#### 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:

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

### PROJECT COMPASSION 2019 - THANK YOU TO MELBOURNE

This year the Catholic community of Melbourne donated \$1,528,032 to Project Compassion to support Caritas Australia's work with the poorest of the poor. Thanks very much for your outstanding generosity - we are all doing the work of Christ.

## PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

### PARISH DATABASE UPDATE

A census will be held at all Masses over the next two weekends 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.

### A JOURNEY OF FAITH TO JERUSALEM WITH FR FABIAN SMITH

Dates : 20th Oct– 2 Nov 2019 Price: \$5690 per person. For further details contact Fr Fabian 0403 435 471.

### THE PRIEST RETIREMENT FUND – SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

The Priest Retirement Fund special collection offers a way for us to give back to our Catholic priests who have served us so faithfully. Your contribution will help archdiocesan priests live modestly and peacefully in retirement. Help us offer thanks for their years of devotion to God and our communities.

### 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.

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

### ST ANTHONY'S

#### MEAT TASTING FUNDRAISER

Easiest fundraiser ever! St Anthony's annual meat tasting fundraiser will take place on Sunday 8 September @ 1.45pm. Thank you to those who have participated and attended in previous years. We need your help again! Come and sample FREE Aussie roast lamb, give your feedback, and raise \$1000 for our parish. It is a fun and easy way to support our fundraising efforts for the church's extensions.

#### ROCK AND ROLL DINNER DANCE -7TH SEPTEMBER

The dance committee will be at the rear of the Church after all Masses to take your orders for tickets and to give you more information about the dance.

#### 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.

#### ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD– MICHAEL BUCK

Parishioners have been invited to Deacon Michael's ordination on the 7th September, 2019. Please see noticeboard for details. He will be celebrating the 5.30pm Mass on Saturday 14th September at St Anthonys. Please bring a plate to share for a gathering after Mass.

#### THANK YOU – MALAYSIAN COMMUNITY

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Malaysian Community for raising \$558.00 by selling their Take Away Food last weekend. Special thanks to all who supported this. The proceeds will go towards the Heating and Cooling System for the Church.

### ST BERNARD'S

#### 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: **12th September**

#### BREAST CANCER AWARENESS FOUNDATION

In loving support of Tracey Taylor.

Date: Friday 6th September

Venue: St Bernard's Parish Centre

Time: 6.30pm

Cost: \$40.00 per person

Health professionals speaking, grazing platters, pizza, live music, drinks at bar prices, raffles, door prizes, and other fundraisers. All funds will go with love to the Taylor family.

Tickets available at : [www.trybooking.com/BEQUZ](http://www.trybooking.com/BEQUZ)

Contact Jacqui 0428 678 686.

*Blessed is the father who cultivates a humble and listening heart and so is one who can be firm and compassionate, who treats his children with generosity of spirit and respect, who teaches by example the importance of forgiving and being forgiven.*

*Happy Father's Day*



# WORSHIP NEWS

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

## ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

### NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 7th & 8th September MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Patrick Ilustrisimo  
8.30am: Mercy Seifatu  
10.30am: Elaine Lacey

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Gavin Pereira (P) & Ann Tennakoon  
8.30am: Ineke Allen (P), Ron Howard  
& **Volunteer Please**  
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: Godwin Barton & Carmen Vella  
8.30am: Godwin Barton & Lina Calleja  
10.30am: Leonia Jessop & Anthea Scerri

### ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Josh Djie-Spiteri & Jonathan Dacunha  
8.30am: Rhys Tuala & Andre Oqueli  
10.30am: Anakin Anderson & Ethan Porter

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

## ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

### NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 7th & 8th September MINISTERS OF THE WORD

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

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vikki Benson  
8.30am: Colm Carragher  
10.00am: Jenny Kearney

### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

September: Sr Mary Fermio

## 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: **12th September**

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 death anniversary at this time of:**

Ashley Hine, Joan Kervin, Denis Leahy, Phillip Lennox,  
Kathleen Martin, Nathan Prince & Robert Taylor.

### **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 recently deceased:**

Gloria Ainsworth, Alvin John Bugeja, Segundo Cadiz,  
Malaga Niko Levi, Marie Rietschel, Nora Delos Reyes,  
Dorette Turcsan & Giovanni Viscosi

### **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



## SERVICE / COMMUNITY

### ST ANTHONY'S

**VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND:** 7th & 8th September

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Lorraine Tellis

8.30am: Ineke Allen

10.30am: Imalsha Silva

#### 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—September

Rosabella Tuala



#### 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

### ST BERNARD'S

**VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND :** 7th & 8th September

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

**Saturday:** Mandy Harrington

**Sunday:** Jan & Colm

#### 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 # 5

Pat O'Leary

Jo Cowan

Peter Lafranchi

Frank Pomeroy

Stuart Roberston

#### 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 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: **Dacunha Family** **0469 863 253**

Group 2: **Naim Chdid** **0437 004 790**

Group 3: **Rohini Selvanayagam** **0425 868 967**



## 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](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

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

### FIRST READING Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business, and you will be better loved than a lavish giver. The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble. There is no cure for the proud man's malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him. The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 67

**Comm:** God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

**All:** God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy. O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence.

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, such is God in his holy place. God gives the lonely a home to live in; he leads the prisoners forth into freedom.

You poured down, O God, a generous rain: when your people were starved you gave them new life. It was there that your people found a home, prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor.

**All:** God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS –

#### 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading:** Wis 9:13-18;

**Second Reading:** Philemon 9-10, 12-17;

**Gospel:** Lk 14:25-33



### SECOND READING Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Take my yoke upon you; learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL Luke 14:1, 7-14

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.' Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

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

## How to Keep Your Kids Catholic 2

There is no doubt that your children will pick up on every time you do not act according to the advice you give them. Of course, no father is perfect, and our children will understand this too, but I believe that they must see men who love God and are doing their very best to live the faith as best we can, by God's grace.

One more thing. Let your children see that you frequent the sacrament of Confession. That will help them see that you really do "walk the walk" as much as you "talk the talk".

Many dads worry about their kids losing their faith at university. As well they should be! Entering college is one of the most crucial crossroads for young Catholics, and fathers must be vigilant and diligent in helping their kids navigate this rite of passage so that they don't become casualties in the war against truth and against belief in God that is waged on campuses, even so-called Catholic ones.

So many Catholic parents are shattered when their kids go to university and are swayed by an atheist professor, or drawn out of the Church by aggressive evangelical Protestants who challenge their Catholic beliefs using the Bible. Or, if their children don't abandon the faith for some substitute ideology (atheism, scepticism, secularism), it sometimes happens that the kids just succumb to the wiles of the world, which the Bible speaks of as "the world, the flesh, and the devil".

We've all heard the more popular rendition of this as "sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll". However you describe it, the truth remains the same: there are lots of moral and spiritual dangers waiting for your children when they go to university. So, we fathers have to prepare our children to face the challenges not with fear but with heads held high, as Catholics who love Jesus Christ and who are not afraid to be a light shining in a dark place (Matthew 5:14-16). We must teach them how to lead others to Christ, not to be themselves led away from him.

I believe very much in the practice of "inoculation". Prepare your kids now for what they will face later. I tell my kids what atheists believe and what scepticism and relativism are, and I seek to give them the answers to these and similar challenges. I also tell them about the errors of Protestants and how to answer their challenges right from the Bible. Your kids may not immediately understand the importance of everything you tell them at the time, but believe me, when they do come against these challenges (and they will), your efforts to prepare them ahead of time will pay off.

They will remember what you said and this will only reinforce in their minds the fact that you, their dad, are someone who knows about the world and how to deal with it. They will be even more confident in coming to you about other important matters, such as sex, marriage, career and money, because they see you as credible and reliable, someone with knowledge and wisdom. And what dad wouldn't want that!

It may seem unlikely, but the average Catholic dad does have this wisdom and knowledge. Most dads who love the Lord and are serious about their Catholic identity do. But even for those who may not be fully prepared in this way, getting prepared is not difficult, if you know what to do.

We live in an information age, and there is a vast amount of good Catholic resources at your fingertips, far more than at any other time in history. God has put you on this earth at this time, and given you these children, and I am convinced that he expects you to make good use of these resources to help your children grow and become strong in the faith. When we die, at our individual judgements, God will ask each of us if we did our best to pass on the faith to our children.

So, become familiar with solid Catholic websites such as [catholicshome.org](http://catholicshome.org), [catholic.com](http://catholic.com), [ewtn.com](http://ewtn.com), [newadvent.org](http://newadvent.org), [fathersforgood.org](http://fathersforgood.org) and [envoyinstitute.net](http://envoyinstitute.net). Share the information with your kids. Just Google-search away. And of course, there is also the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the shortened *Compendium*, which, in addition to your Holy Bible, should be standard "tools of the trade" to lead your children towards heaven.

Invest in some CDs by great Catholic teachers like Peter Kreeft, Scott Hahn, Ken Hensley, Brant Pitre et al. Give them to your kids before they go off to university, make sure they listen to them. Upload those kinds of talks to their iPods so they can listen in their spare time. In other words, make sure they are inoculated! You won't regret it.

The bottom line: Fatherhood is a great joy and a great privilege, but we must never forget that it is also a great and awesome responsibility given to us by God the Father. As a Catholic father, ask yourself what greater joy could you possibly have than to pass on the riches of the Catholic faith as a permanent, priceless inheritance to your children.

If they have their Catholic faith and a true love for God, they have everything. And they will eventually rejoice with you in heaven, thanking God and thanking you for the ineffable fatherly gifts that you bestowed on them. That is your mission as a father. That and nothing less.