



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

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

24TH 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 : 25/02/2019-03/03/2019

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
1st Friday Devotions:	7.30pm	FJP
	Midnight	FPB
1st Saturday Devotions:	9.15am	FJP
Saturday Vigil :	5.30pm	FJP
Sunday :	8.30am	FJP
	10.30am	FJP

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
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ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 25/02/2019-03/03/2019

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	FPB
Sunday :	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 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

PALLOTTINE CAMINO Thursday 25 April to Saturday 27 April

Join this beautiful walk along Dandenong Creek, the Warburton Trail and O'Shannassy Aqueduct to Millgrove. A pilgrimage walk from St Christopher's Parish Syndal, to Pallotti College Millgrove and a time of sacred pilgrimage between two significant sites of Pallottine spirituality and mission. Meditate on your experience of God in nature while walking in fellowship and friendship with others. **Enquiries and bookings:** Denise on 0420 200 266 or denisejlyons@gmail.com

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 3 March 2019

As always, these notices are one week in advance.

This week on The Journey, our Gospel Luke: 6:39-45, is read by our radio sound editor, Julia Goonan, Sr Hilda shares her Wisdom from the Abbey, with her God Spot, "Give it a name", Pete Gilmore encourages us to think about "how do you want to start tomorrow". Our music this week is an amazing collection of Christian music from various artists that we are very lucky.

Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

SIENA NIGHT

Women ages 18-35 are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia for Siena Night (FREE event). Saturday 2nd March, 5:00pm - 8:30pm, at St Philip's Catholic Church, 60 Junction Road, Blackburn North. Dinner at 5:00pm, followed by a talk on 1 John 4:19: "We love because he first loved us". 7:00pm Vigil Mass. Coffee available afterwards. Please bring a dessert to share. For more information, see <https://www.facebook.com/dominicansistersaustralia/>

CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE – ENROLMENT PROCESS

The enrolment process for **Year 7 2021** is now open and will close on **23rd August 2019**. Enrolment packs will be delivered to all Year 5 students in our feeder Catholic primary schools and will be available on request to parents from Catholic parishes and other school settings.

1. Application forms will be available from the College from **Monday 18th February 2019**.
2. Applications for Year 7 2021 close on 23rd August 2019. The application must be returned with a photocopy of the child's Birth certificate, Baptism certificate and an application fee of \$50 (If born outside of Australia a copy of the VISA and/or Australian Citizenship Certificate is required).
3. Families who do not have a child attending the College will be required to attend a College Tour and will be interviewed by a senior staff member at a later date.
4. All families will be required to attend an interview with their Parish Priest. Families who belong to the Parish of Melton are required to contact the Parish office. Families from the Parishes of Bacchus Marsh and Melton South will be contacted by the Parish office.
5. Applicants are notified by mail of the result of their application by **Friday 18th October 2019**.
6. Families wishing to accept the offer are required to confirm their acceptance by completing the Enrolment form and returning it to the College with a \$100 deposit which is deducted from the first term fees. This deposit is non-refundable. The paperwork and deposit needs to be returned by **Friday 1st November 2019**.

College Tours.

Monday 4th March 9am, Tuesday 26th March 9am, Wednesday 1st May 9am, Wednesday 29th May 2pm, Friday 2nd August 9am, Tuesday 20th August 9am, Friday 13th September 9am, Monday 28th October 2pm

Tours depart from the **Performing Arts Centre** - enter via **Gate 6**.

Register your attendance for a tour on the College website www.crcmelton.com.au

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER-COLLECTION

The World Day of Prayer Committee would like to thank our Parish for donating \$575.60. Thank you for your generosity.

NEW PARISHIONER'S BLESSING

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

THANK YOU – SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Social Committee for raising \$383.00 with their sale of raffle tickets for Valentine's Day. Special thanks to all those who supported this. The proceeds will go towards the extension of the Church.

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

@ stbernardsparishfete



PARISH FETE RAFFLE BOOKS

Raffle books are available for collection from the gathering space.

All sold and unsold raffle books must be returned by **FRIDAY MARCH 8, 2019**

- BY PLACING ON COLLECTION PLATE
- RETURNING TO PARISH OFFICE
- RETURNING TO SCHOOL OFFICE

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.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 2nd & 3rd March

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: Stephen Fernandes
8.30am: Kim Nguyen
10.30am: Volunteer Please

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Mila Little (P) & Gavin Pereira
8.30am : Ineke Allen (P), Edwina La Rose & Volunteer Please
10.30am: Dolores Turcsan (P) & John Scerri

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 & Anthea Scerri

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Kieran Grech & Mason Azzopardi
8.30am: Nixon, Thytus & Aaron Ben
10.30am: Nick Taunuu & Ethan Porter

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 2nd & 3rd March

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

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

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Stuart Robertson
8.30am: Carole Ryder
10.00am: James Waters

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

February: Diane Corro

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:
Leo Cachia, Leslie Levett & Francis Xaviour Micalleff

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

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



PRAYER FOR THE SICK

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

SPIRIT OF THE TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

Experience faith, friendship and fun.

Age group: 11years+ When: Every Thursday fortnight (starting 28th Feb) 7.00pm-9.00pm Where: Two Hearts Centre, 274 La Cote Road, Greendale

Contact: Sister Clare 0415 806 217 or

Email : twoheartscentre@bigpond.com

Website: 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:

Freddie Borg, Rini Dominquez, Emmanuel (Lily) Freeman, Chris Heslington, Stanley McGonegal, Eileen Mullane, Carmela Pinti, & Nell Shelly

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: 2nd & 3rd March

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Judy Van Hoos

8.30am: Pat Chiles

10.30am: John Scerri

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: **This Weekend**

5.30pm: Marian Muller & Margaret Coghlan

8.30am: Pat & Sam Chiles

10.30am: Charlie & Lina Vassallo



CHURCH FLOWERS

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 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 : 2nd & 3rd March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Trish Davine

Sunday: Carol Ryder

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

Volunteer Please



COUNTING TEAM # 9

Roy Ryder

Carole Ryder

Henry Gasior

Chris Gasior

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (March)

Front Garden: Stuart Robertson

Back/Side Garden: Volunteer Please

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 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: **Anna Samy** **0435 258 230**

Group 2: **Iopu & Agnes Akalga** **0401 975 591**

Group 3: **Louise Sciberras** **9748 1376**



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 : 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 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

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel
The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 102

Comm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repays us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

All: The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.'

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS- 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7;
Second Reading: 1Cor 15:54-58;
Gospel: Lk 6:39-45



The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world XII

RELIGIOUS MATERIALS FOR CHILDREN

When I was a child, I liked the holy cards with saints; the nuns gave them to us. Maybe it was a reward for learning a prayer or because it was Christmas. I especially liked the small booklets on saints in the pamphlet rack in church. I could hardly wait until the next one was put in there. Each colourful booklet had a short story of the life of a man or woman saint.

I liked the little kit given to us before our First Communion. It contained a small white Mass prayerbook and a rosary that we took with us when we made our First Communion. I also had a scapular. I liked the religious pictures in our home. I really believe they affect children and grown-ups in some way.

My grandchildren like children's religious books and Jesus stories read to them. They are really interested. My grandson had been having nightmares and would no longer sleep in his bedroom. I told him to take the two books I had given to him (and read to him) about his guardian angel and on Jesus' birth, to bed with him. It wasn't long after that, that my son told me that my grandson wasn't having anymore nightmares and was staying in his own bed.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND PRAYER

In guiding young people on their prayer journey for the past 35 years, I've come to learn that they need to create their own prayer experiences according to their individual age and faith level. Since I do not know where they are on their faith journey, I've learned to let the children—with a little guidance from me—create prayer services meaningful to themselves and to their peers. I never cease to be amazed at God's presence in "His little ones". Though less formal, my children's home experience follows basically the same pattern as that in the Religious Education classroom.

There is always a prayer table easily recognisable in the room on which are placed a Bible, candle and picture or something to signify the meaning of a season, feast, etc. The prayer space is made more personal by a picture or personal item representing each child (and me) at the table. This is decided upon at our first group meeting as the youngsters design their prayer space.

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

Giving a general guideline, I conduct the first prayer service, which usually comes towards the end of our meeting time. At this point, we are relaxed and comfortable with each other: having shared thoughts and faith, we are now ready to share prayer, praise and petitions.

Prayer and reflection is somewhat the same for all ages and proceeds in this manner: The candle is lit; a thought or theme is presented—for younger children the focus may be the lesson of the day; for older teens it may be the readings for the next Sunday Mass or an upcoming project.

Then come the individual, creative portion of the service. The theme may be reflected in song, dance, reading, instrument, etc. I am always willing to offer suggestions and guidance for the teens and review it before their presentation. I plan most of the second-grade services, but always ask for suggestions and help. (songs, dances, readers, etc.) After a moment of quiet, the service ends with personal requests for prayer, thanksgivings, and so on, and a sign of peace.

Along with this somewhat formal prayer, I like to remind them that we pray in everything we do all the time, and to be aware of this. I especially like to remind the teens that a car is a great place to talk to God when you're driving by yourself. It's good time alone—but not really alone.

Children should be treated as individuals because each one is different and has his or her own personality and needs. Your children should be your top priority. Showering your children with gifts and toys is not giving them what they really need. They need you! They need your time, your love and your discipline. They shouldn't be running your lives by always running here and there.

Your children also need to be with people of all ages, especially with the elderly, so they are not afraid of them. They can communicate with them and learn from them, especially in the story-telling.

The family should be the primary unit sitting down to dinner together, reading stories together, praying together and doing things just as a family. Spending time together in front of the television is not family time. Television time should be supervised and limited.