



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

Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe Year C 24th November 2019

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: 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 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
Moira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell	0401 927 502
Emilio Scalzo	5366 5800
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 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 : 25th Nov-1st Dec

Monday:	7.45am	FFS
Tuesday am:	9.15am	FAA
Tuesday pm:	6.30pm	FLM
Wednesday:	7.45am	FAA
	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	7.45am	FLM
	9.15am	FAA
Friday:	9.15am	FFS
Saturday: St Andrew	Feast	
Saturday Vigil:	5.30pm	FFS
Sunday:	8.30am	FFS
	10.30am	FFS

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and **before** and weekday Mass.

ROSARY:

Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

ADORATION:

No Adoration during the Church Renovations.

CRC MELTON CHAPEL: 8.00am

Mass held on Fridays during school term.



ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 25th Nov-1st Dec

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

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday:	5.30pm	FAA
Wednesday :	9.30am	FLM
Thursday :	9.30am	FFS
Friday:	9.30am	FAA
Saturday: St Andrew	Feast	
Saturday Vigil :	5.00pm	FAA
Sunday :	8:30am	FAA
	10.00am	FAA

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 6th December**

ADORATION: 30 minutes before every weekday Mass.

Adoration is held every first Friday 10.00am until 4.00pm

Next Date: **Friday 6th December**

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

Next Mass: **Friday 20th December (please note date)**

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 13th December—Christmas Mass (please note date)**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil:	6.30pm	FAA
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NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

FRIAR ALESSANDRO AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

You are invited to an evening of Christmas music & readings with internationally acclaimed Franciscan tenor Friar Alessandro. Friar is on his first ever tour to Australia and will be accompanied by Vivian Choi (Piano) and the Artes Christi Choir & Orchestra. ENTRY FREE or By Donation with all donations supporting the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. DETAILS: Sat 7 Dec (7.30pm), St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL at www.voicefrommassisi.org.au

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

JOSEPH'S CORNER GENERAL APPEAL-THIS WEEKEND

We will have a special collection this weekend for The Joseph's Corner service, the focus is on providing free individual, family and group psychological counselling to family and friends of people with drug and alcohol addictions. Please give generously. Thank you.

REFLECTION

Reflection on significant figures of the Old and New Testament, led by Fr Fabian held at St Anthony's at 5pm on Sundays 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd December

LECTIO DIVINA

Reflection on the Sunday Gospels of Advent and on the Christmas Gospel, led by Fr Alexander and Naim Chdid, held at St Bernard's Parish Centre 5pm on the 1st, 8th 15th & 22nd December.

ADVENT REFLECTION

Dates for Advent Reflection on the Sunday Readings:

Tuesday 26th November at 10.30am

Thursday 5th December at 10.30am

Thursday 19th December at 10.30am

Held at the Convent, 68 Lerderberg St, Bacchus Marsh, Contact Sr Mary 5367 2078.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

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.

PRIME TIMERS

Our next outing is Tuesday, 3rd. December 2019 for Christmas Lunch at the Wallace Hotel, 741 Bungaree-Wallace Rd. Wallace. Cost per person is \$27.00.

Please RSVP by Thursday 28th November. Enquiries call Ineke on 0400120401 or email ineke49@yahoo.com

ST BERNARD'S

PIETY STALL Christmas cards are available in the Piety Stall \$9 for a pack of 10. Also don't forget to purchase your Columban Calendar from the stall.

CATHOLIC DEAF APPEAL

Last weekend we had a special collection for the Catholic Deaf Appeal. We collected \$270.00. Thank you for your generosity.



SENIOR'S PARISHIONERS MASS GROUP

The Senior's final Mass for this year will be celebrated on the 2nd Friday of the month, 13th December at 11.30am in the Parish Centre. This will be the Senior's Christmas Mass and as usual will be followed by a Christmas luncheon. For catering purposes bookings for the luncheon are necessary and may be made by phoning Elizabeth Lummis 5310 6320 or Mary Flanagan 5367 3309. The cost of the luncheon is \$20 per head (traditional 3 course meal). Bookings will close Monday 9th December at 12 noon.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER

GIVING TREE

The St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree is in the Gathering Space and we are hoping you are able to make a donation towards the Christmas hampers that we will be providing to needy families in our community. (Last year we gave 35 hampers) The items needed are: Tinned Ham, Plum Pudding, Christmas Cake, Canned Fruit, Can of Potatoes, Can of Peas, Cordial 1Ltr, Coffee (small jar), Tea bags (25).

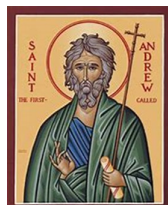
If you would prefer to make a cash donation, this can be placed in the St Vincent de Paul poor box located towards the back of the Church.

Can items be returned to the donation box by Sunday 8th December.



St Andrew's Feast Day

The feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle is celebrated on November 30. He is the patron saint of fishermen.



Quotes from St Andrew:

Love is acceptance. When you love someone . . . you take them into your heart, and that is surely why it hurts so much when we lose someone we love, because we lose a part of ourselves.

If we strive for goals, relishing in the pleasure of circumstance, nothing is enjoyable, and life becomes purposeless.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 30th Nov– 1st Dec
MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Kim Nguyen
10.30am: Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Lorraine Tellis (P) & Ann Tennakoon
8.30am: Villy Julita (P), Michael Higgins
& Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Elaine Lacey (P) & Sally Markulin

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Godwin Barton & Stephen Fernandes
8.30am: Godwin Barton & Lina Calleja
10.30am: Anthea Scerri & Josephine German

ALTAR SERVERS

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

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Martin Giordmaina, Leticia Mendes and baby Dylan,
Lorenz Sapulovic, Damina Sciberras & Peter Quinn

Please pray for the Sick:

Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana,
Mary Caruana, 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: 30th Nov– 1st Dec
MINISTERS OF THE WORD

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

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Stuart Robertson
8.30am: Brendan Harrison
10.00am: James Waters

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

December: Diane Corro

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

ST BERNARD'S YOUTH GROUP

Growing in the Spirit of Faith, Friendship and Fun
Age group: 11-30yrs Where: St Bernard's Church chapel and
Parish Centre
61 Lerderberg Street, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340
When: Fortnightly, Thursday's 7:15pm - 9:15pm
Next Youth Group meet up: **5th December**
Email contact: saintbernardsyouthgroup@gmail.com

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 **5th December**

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

William Delahey, Jean McGregor, Carmel Moore, Marie
O'Connor, Sheila Rice, Jean Tobin, and Kevin Unthank.

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 John-
son 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)

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND: 30th Nov-1st Dec

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Marthese Mercieca

8.30am: Pat Chiles

10.30am: John Scerri

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: 14th & 15th December

5.30pm: Visna & Oshadie

8.30am: Geoff Sutton & Sky James

10.30am: Charlie & Lina Vasallo



CHURCH FLOWERS—Nov

No fresh flowers during renovation



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 : 30th Nov-1st Dec

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: **1st December**

Host: Parish Pastoral Council



CHURCH FLOWERS—December

Melinda Martin



COUNTING TEAM # 7

Denise Everard

Bernard Coburn

Mary Flanagan

Patrick Flanagan

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (December)

Front Garden: **Volunteer Please**

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 Nov**

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

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

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

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



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 24th November**

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

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 Alexander, Fr Lucas or the Parish Office for queries.

COORDINATORS : Steve and 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

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 5:1-3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel.'" So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : 121

Comm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

All: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgment
of the house of David.

All: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS –

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Is 2:1-5;

Second Reading: Rom 13:11-14;

Gospel: Mt 24:37-44

SECOND READING Colossians 1:12-20

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation;
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominions, Sovereignities, Powers -
all things were created through him and for him.
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.

As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he should be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection
to be found in him
and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace
by his death on the cross.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 23:35-43

The people stayed before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said, 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world LI

A forgotten virtue: Modesty in dress

Dress for both men and women has changed dramatically over the last 50 years. Much of what is worn today is meant to expose rather than conceal the human body. For centuries, Christians have looked to the virtue of modesty as it applies to vesture in order to judge what is appropriate.

The Catholic tradition has given us a valuable definition of modesty, which is the virtue that regulates one's actions and exterior customs concerning sexual matters. It controls one's behaviour so as to avoid unlawful sexual arousal in oneself or in others.

Modesty is one of the Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as "the first fruits of eternal glory": charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity.

One who dresses modestly shuns clothes that are known or reasonably expected to effect sexual arousal in oneself or others. Modesty pertains to both genders.

Pope Pius XII addressed the necessity of cultivating modesty: "How many young girls there are who see nothing wrong in following certain shameless styles like so many sheep. They would certainly blush with shame if they could know the impression they make, and the feelings they evoke, in those who see them.

"The good of our soul is more important than the good of our body; and we have to prefer the spiritual welfare of our neighbour to our bodily comforts ... If a certain kind of dress constitutes a grave and proximate occasion of sin, and endangers the salvation of your soul and others, it is your duty to give it up ...

"Christian girls, think also of this: the more elegant you will be, and the more pleasing, if you dress with simplicity and discreet modesty."

Pope Pius also presented the principles of modesty in dress. Clothing fulfils three necessary requirements: hygiene, decency and adornment. These are "so deeply rooted in nature that they cannot be disregarded or contradicted without provoking hostility and prejudice".

Hygiene pertains mostly to "the climate, its variations, and other external factors" (for example, discomfort, illness). Decency involves the "proper consideration for the sensitivity of others to objects that are unsightly or, above all, as a defence of moral honesty and a shield against disordered sensuality". Adornment is legitimate and "responds to the innate need, more greatly felt by woman, to enhance the beauty and dignity of the person with the same means that are suitable to satisfy the other two purposes".

The Pontiff spoke of fashion: "The problem of fashion consists in the harmonious reconciliation of a person's exterior ornamentation with the interior of a quiet and modest spirit." The Church, he added, "does not censure or condemn styles when they are meant for the proper decorum and ornamentation of the body, but she never fails to warn the faithful against being easily led astray by them".

By Monsignor Charles Mangan, www.catholic.rog

The human body is "God's masterpiece in the visible world"; Jesus elevated the human body "to the rank of a temple and an instrument of the Holy Spirit, and as such it must be respected".

Some fashions "create confusion in well-ordered minds and can even be an incentive to evil". It is possible to declare when the limits of normal decency have been violated. This sense of decency sounds an alarm when immodesty, luxury or "idolatry of matter" exists.

The Holy Father continued: "No matter how broad and changeable the relative morals of styles may be, there is always an absolute norm to be kept after having heard the admonition of conscience warning against approaching danger; style must never be a proximate occasion of sin."

How is immodesty to be judged? "The garment must not be evaluated according to the estimation of a decadent or already corrupt society, but according to the aspirations of a society which prizes the dignity and seriousness of its public attire."

Let us contemplate well the following three points concerning modesty in dress.

1. The influence of styles. There is a "language of clothing" that communicates certain messages, even destructive ones. One who with knowledge and deliberation routinely dresses provocatively so as to entice another to impurity commits a mortal sin. The souls of both are wounded.

Jesus demanded purity in glances, thoughts, desires and actions and warned against giving scandal. Isaiah (3:16-24) prophesied that the city of Sion would be dirtied by its daughters' impurity.

Pope Pius XII declared: "It might be said that society speaks through the clothing it wears. Through its clothing it reveals its secret aspirations and uses it, at least in part, to build or destroy the future."

2. The importance of control. Fashion designers and consumers are to recall "that style should be directed and controlled instead of being abandoned to caprice and reduced to abject service". Those who make style, cannot allow the "craze" to dictate when a trend goes against right reason and morality. Consumers must remember that their "dignity demands of them that they should liberate themselves with free and enlightened conscience from the imposition of predetermined tastes, especially tastes debatable on moral grounds".

3. Moderation is necessary. The respect for a standard measure is "moderation". Pope Pius urged: "Stylists, and especially designers, must let themselves be guided by moderation in designing the cut or line of a garment and in the selection of its ornaments, convinced that sobriety is the finest quality of art".

When Christian decency is present, then one's dress is "the worthy ornament of the person with whose beauty it blends as in a single triumph of admirable dignity". God has made the human body beautiful. Immodest attire neither contributes to the promotion of the human person nor to the establishing of the Kingdom.