



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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

25th August 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 : 26th Aug– 1st Sept

| | | |
|--|---------|-----|
| Monday: | 7.45am | FFS |
| Tuesday: St Monica Memorial | | |
| morning: | 9.15am | FLM |
| evening: | 6.30pm | FLM |
| Wednesday: St Augustine Memorial | | |
| | 7.45am | FLM |
| | 9.15am | FFS |
| Thursday: The Passion of St John the Baptist Memorial | | |
| | 7.45am | FPB |
| | 9.15am | FLM |
| Friday: | 9.15am | FLM |
| Saturday : | | |
| Saturday Vigil: | 5.30pm | FFS |
| Sunday: | 8.30am | FFS |
| | 10.30am | FFS |

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and before and after weekday Mass.

ROSARY:

Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

ADORATION:

30 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 : 26th Aug– 1st Sept

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

| | | |
|---|---------|----------|
| Monday : St Monica Memorial | | |
| No Mass | | |
| Tuesday: | 5.30pm | FPB |
| Wednesday : St Augustine Memorial | | |
| | 9.30am | FPB |
| Thursday : The Passion of St John the Baptist Memorial | | |
| | 9.30am | FFS |
| Friday: | 9.30am | FPB |
| Saturday : | | |
| Saturday Vigil : | 5.00pm | FLM/ FPB |
| Sunday : | 8:30am | FLM /FPB |
| | 10.00am | FLM/ 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 6th September**

ADORATION: 30 minutes before every weekday Mass.

Adoration is held every first Friday 10.00am until 4.00pm

Next Date: **Friday 6th September**

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 KOROBET

MASS TIME:

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|---------|
| Saturday Vigil: | 6.30pm | FLM/FPB |
|------------------------|--------|---------|

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

ALIGHT FAMILY FIESTA

Saturday 21 September, 8.30am–4pm

St Bede's College, 2 Mentone Parade, Mentone

At a time when living Christian family life can feel like swimming against the tide, Alight is an event that will strengthen everyone, especially parents-to-be, to feel renewed in their mission. Fr Leo Patalinghug, a priest and chef, will serve up a creative presentation of faith and food that will have the whole family wanting more. Rides, food and live music will help to make this a joyful celebration for the whole family!

Details and registrations: early bird registrations close Saturday 31 August; look for the Alight flyers in your parish or visit www.cam.org.au/alight19

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

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 NEXT 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.

CATHOLIC CARE SUNDAY APPEAL– WEEKEND 10th & 11th AUGUST

We raised \$563.30 at St Anthony's and \$397.65 at St Bernard's for the CatholicCare Appeal. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

The Thanksgiving envelopes for 13 weeks are available for collection at the back of the Church.

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 will be for Games Day at the Lifestyle Village, Coburns Road, Brookfield. Tuesday 27th August. Proceedings to start at 11 am. BYO lunch, tea/coffee provided.

Enquiries ring Ineke 0400120401

THANK YOU – CRAFT GROUP

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Craft Group for raising \$201.10 by selling their craft items. Special thanks to all who supported this. The proceeds will go towards the Heating and Cooling system for the Church.

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 Anthony's. Please bring a plate to share for a gathering after Mass.

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: **29th August**

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

Contact Jacqui 0428 678 686.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Main points:

- Constitution Committee set up and has met. Review of constitution continues.
- Liturgy Committee set up and has met; members names and responsibilities on the noticeboard.
- Social Committee formation: a work in progress.
- Father's Day Breakfast replaced by a Parish Picnic (possibly Sunday 6th Oct) Trial for 2019.
- Thanksgiving Campaign in October; arrangements in hand.
- Rising Damp in the Church-problem considerably worsened in Winter. To be rectified in Summer.
- Plans are complete to prepare the Presbytery for residence; two bedrooms each with ensuite, sitting room and dining room, all upstairs. No commencement date for work yet.
- Flowers: we now have an account with "Melinda Blooms".
- Reader and Extraordinary Ministers Workshops, Sat 24th August.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 31st Aug & 1 Sept MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Kim Nguyen
10.30am: Susan Malinov

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Lorraine Tellis (P) & Aloysious Dacunha
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 & Dolores Turcsan
8.30am: Godwin Barton & Lina Calleja
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Josephine German

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Jedi Anyayahan & 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: 31st Aug & 1st Sept MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra
8.30am: Gerard Harrington & Jenny Hooper
10.00am: Cathy Belcher

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Mary Beaton
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi
10.00am: **Volunteer Please**

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 Lerderberg Street, Bacchus Marsh

Next Youth Group: **29th August**

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'



ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Sandra Doorbar.

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



We pray for the recently deceased:

John Patrick Thorneycroft

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Maurice Clancy, Alice Doolan, Roy Magill, Antonio Schembri, Jack Shelley, Norma Stevens & Brian Ward.

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, Frank & 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, Niels 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: 31st Aug & 1st Sept

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Marthese Merceica

8.30am: Pat Chiles

10.30am: John Scerri

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: **This Weekend**

5.30pm: Marian Muller & Margaret Coghlan

8.30am: Edwina La Rose & Carol De Rocha

10.30am: Charlie & Lina Vassallo



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 : 31st Aug & 1st Sept

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Sean Gianì

Sunday: Marj Tung

MORNING TEA ROSTER

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

Next Morning Tea: **1st September**

Host: Parish Pastoral Council



CHURCH FLOWERS—September

Francis McDaid



COUNTING TEAM # 4

Gerard Harrington

Chris Eggleston

Dianne Shelly

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 & 20 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: **Paul & Sonia Zarb** 0477 813 272

Group 2: **Sr Therese Dagge** 0418 480 880

Group 3: **Indika & Mangala** 0410 677 692



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 25th August**

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

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 : Kate & Danny

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

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day
long.

FIRST READING Isaiah 66:18-21

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 116

Comm: Go out to all the world
and tell the Good News.

All: Go out to all the world
and tell the Good News.

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever.

All: Go out to all the world
and tell the Good News.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS –

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29

Second Reading: Heb 12:18-19, 22-24;

Gospel: Lk 14:1, 7-14



SECOND READING Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 13:22-30

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from the east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.

The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world XXXIII

How to Keep Your Kids Catholic 1

What are the key “ingredients” in making the Faith fresh and palatable for kids?

Do not underestimate the importance of parental good example when considering what Catholic parents can and should do to help foster a lively faith in God and love for the Church in the hearts of their children. There is a great and powerful effect when mum and dad themselves live out as best they can their own love for God, in a visible but not ostentatious way, through their prayer, piety, and sacramental life.

An analogy I often use is that of growing tomatoes. Southern California, where I was born and raised, had vast tracts of tomato farms which are immediately recognisable because of the thousands of upright stakes the tomato plants are tied to. If left to grow naturally, the tomato vine will simply grow along the ground and produce inferior, and often diseased, tomatoes due to the worms, caterpillars, fungi, etc. However, if the plant is fastened to a stake and forced to grow upright, it produces healthy fruit. True, caterpillars and fungi are still dangers that need to be counteracted, but they can do far less damage to the tomato vine that has been tied firmly to the stake.

The analogy is clear. As Scripture says, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Children, need firm guidance and good example from their youngest years so that they will grow straight and “upright” in their knowledge of and love for God. So, the combined benefit of good example from mum and dad, as well as clear and purposeful handing on of the truths of the faith is essential.

Let me be very clear, I do not hold myself up as a paragon of fatherly perfection. We all make mistakes, we all lose direction at times, and I am sure my wife and children can tell you where I have gone wrong at times.

What I am talking about is a diligent effort that a father must make to impart a basic knowledge of the Catholic faith, and a purposeful effort to teach his children how to really live out that faith. You don't need a theology degree to do this. You do need a conscious awareness of God's will for you as a father, an abiding love for him, and at least a basic knowledge of your Catholic beliefs coupled with a desire to learn more as you go along in life (the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a handy, helpful tool for accomplishing that task).

You wouldn't expect your children to take you seriously if all you had was a grade-school knowledge of money or budgeting or any of the other duties fathers must handle in raising a family. In the same way, if you never try to learn and grow in your own knowledge of and love for the Catholic faith, they could easily get the message that living the Catholic

faith is not really very important to you. When they get a little older, they may well go elsewhere with their questions about God and the meaning of life. You don't want that to happen.

First, you have to let your children know that the Catholic faith is more than an hour a week on Sunday. Sunday Mass should be the highlight and absolute obligation of the week, but it doesn't end there.

A Catholic home is a sort of “domestic church”, as Pope St John Paul II and others have noted. This does not mean Gregorian chant and incense at the dinner table. But it does mean that faith must inform the daily routine and decisions in the home. Children must see their mum and dad as truly prayerful, again not in a showy way, but in a way where they know — because they can see — that their parents look to almighty God trustingly throughout the day and are not too proud to ask for help from above.

I strongly encourage praying the family Rosary. If you, the father of the family, trustingly invoke the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary each day (she knows quite a bit about parenting, after all) on behalf of your family, especially your children, you can rest assured that, no matter how bumpy the road of life may become, she will be there helping you.

It may be a challenge at times to gather the whole family together, but the spiritual benefits of praying the Rosary are enormous, especially if each child is allowed to take part in reciting part of this beautiful prayer. Other acts of piety are things such as prayer before and after meals (every meal), night prayers, which include devotions such as the Act of Contrition, and the Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel.

In our home, when our kids get to be about 12, Nancy and I give them their own personal Bible with a loving inscription from us inside the cover. And we strongly encourage them to read Scripture often, starting with the Gospels. This has two goals: First, our children learn that the Bible is not a “Protestant thing”, that in fact Scripture is Catholic and is (or should be) cherished by all Catholics everywhere. Second, they learn to discover the biblical basis for a wide range of Catholic teachings and practices, found there either explicitly or implicitly.

Beyond the externals of prayer and piety in the home, the children have to see that mum and dad are imbued with the results of prayer — that they actually live out the gifts of faith, mercy and forgiveness. Having kids in the home is really a constant source for examination of conscience. A father does well to tell his kids not to gossip or speak critically about others, but does he talk about the neighbours uncharitably? If dad tells his children to practise moderation but he eats or drinks to excess, that sends the strong signal, which says: “Do as I say, not as I do.” Telling children not to talk back is a good thing but, if the father sets a bad example by shouting at his wife or ignoring her, his words to the children are empty.