



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

6th Sunday of Easter

Year C

26th May 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: 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 –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
Moira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell	
Emillio Scalzo	5366 5800
John Thorne	5310 6692
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 appointments with Father Fabian please call Judy on 0414 007 009

For urgent matters only please call Fr Fabian on 0403 435 471

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES : 27th May– 2nd June

Monday:	7.45am	FFS
Tuesday morning:	9.15am	FPB
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm	FJP
Week 11 Novena to St. Anthony		
Wednesday:	7.45am	FJP
	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	7.45am	FPB
	9.15am	FJP
Friday:	9.15am	FJP
1st Saturday Devotions	9.15am	FPB
Saturday Vigil:	5.30pm	FPB
Sunday:	8.30am	FPB
	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 min. before and 30 min. after every weekday Mass.

CRC MELTON CHAPEL: 8.00am

Friday– During School Term

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 27th May– 2nd June

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	FFS
Friday:	9.30am	FFS
Saturday Vigil :	5.00pm	FJP
Sunday :	8:30am	FFS
	10.00am	FFS

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.30pm and before and after weekday Mass.

ROSARY:

Prayed every Monday at 7.30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour.

Rosary is also held on the first Friday of the month following morning mass.

Next Date : **Friday 7th June**



ADORATION:

30 minutes before every weekday Mass.

Adoration is held every first Friday 10.00am until 4.00pm

Next Date: **Friday 7th June**

PROVIDENCE MASS

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

Next Mass: **Friday 14th June**

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 21st June**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIME:

Saturday Vigil:	6.30pm	FJP
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NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

A FORUM FOR PARISHES: A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Saturday 8 June, 9.30am–1pm (Registrations from 9am)

Cathedral Room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne

With winter approaching, across Victoria around 1,100 homeless people, children, young and older people and people with disabilities will be sleeping in city parks, carparks, bushland areas and coastal reserves, without the comforts we take for granted. Come and hear what the Australian Bishops have to say about making a home for everyone in our land, what the Christian community is already doing to assist, and how you and your parish can help.

Cost: \$20 (concession available)

Enquiries: Lucia Brick on 9287 5566 or lucia.brick@css.org.au **Bookings:** <https://bit.ly/2UXSDi2>

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

THE MALTESE GHARB CLUB OF MELBOURNE

The Maltese Gharb Club of Melbourne invites you and your family to celebrate The Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St Elizabeth, Sunday 2nd June 2019, St Bernadette's Catholic Community Centre, Cooke Avenue, North Sunshine Mass at 2:30pm celebrated by Rev Fr John Taliana MSSP. Followed by a social function in the foyer.

CHAPLAINCY SUNDAY COLLECTION

Last weekend we had a special collection for the 2019 Melbourne Catholic Archbishop's appeal for health care chaplaincy work. St Anthony's collection total was \$614.00 and St Bernard's collection total was \$421.75. Thank you for your generosity.

EXTRAORDINARY MONTH OF MISSION-SONG CONTEST 2019

Catholic Mission invites budding musicians to compose a song to celebrate Pope Francis' Extraordinary Month of Mission. Songwriters will use the medium of music and lyrics to give expression to our mission to make a difference in this world – by celebrating our baptismal call which centres our faith on the needs of the poor and oppressed. Please see noticeboard for details.

ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE-MASS COUNTS

Parishioners and visitors to our Parishes please note, to maintain an up-to-date picture of Mass attendance in the Archdiocese a mass count will be held at all weekend Masses in May.



NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

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 \$327.00 with their sale of the Mothers' Day Raffle tickets. Special thanks to all those who supported this. The proceeds will go towards the extension of the Church. The lucky prize winners are:

1st Prize- Lillian Christian & 2nd Prize- Frances Spagnol

PRIME TIMERS

Our next social gathering will be held on Tuesday 28th May.

Venue: Clyde Park Winery, 2490 Midland Hwy, Bannockburn

Time: 12noon

Cost: \$20.00 Two course meal. Four choices are available for the main meal and selection is necessary prior to the lunch, please call Ineke for meal options and further information

0400 120 401.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD DAY- SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 9th June 2019, (Pentecost Sunday) after 10.30am Mass.

Details to follow.

FROM LESLEY MORFFEY - PARISH SECRETARY

Please be advised that all members of our Thanksgiving Program will receive a statement this year in July. Please make sure your details are up to date. If you receive a statement you are a member. Cancellations must be done in writing. Anyone wishing to join our program can ring the Parish Office. 9747 9692

ST BERNARD'S

THANKSGIVING WORKING BEE

DATE: Friday 31st May 2019

TIME: 10:00am

PLACE: St Bernard's Presbytery

A team of volunteers is needed to prepare new envelopes and statements for distribution.

It would be greatly appreciated if you can spare some time to help.

Lunch will be provided.

Please contact the Parish Office, or place your name and contact details on the clipboard in the church foyer.

Thank you.

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS – FAMILY BONFIRE NIGHT

Save the date – Saturday 29th June 2019.

It's on again – a fun night at Mark Farrell's Farm.

4099 Bacchus Marsh-Geelong Road, Parwan.

3 course dinner, guest speaker and bonfire.

Tickets on sale soon.



Father, teach me to follow the example of the holy family of your Son, living in love and respect with those around me.



WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 1st & 2nd June MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Stephen Fernandes
8.30am: Kim Nguyen
10.30am: Faustina Ma'ae

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Gavin Pereira (P) & **Volunteer Please**
8.30am: Ineke Allen & Edwina La Rose
& **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: Lina Calleja & Godwin Barton
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Josephine German

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 ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Vincent Barton, Raymond Borg, John DeBrincat, Sam DeBrincat, Mary Giordmaina & Joseph Portelli

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



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 1st & 2nd June MINISTERS OF THE WORD

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

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Stuart Robertson
8.30am: **Volunteer Please**
10.00am: James Waters

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

June: Sister Ellie Taffe

ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm: Roster Pending
8.30am: **Volunteers Please**
10.00am: Thank you

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: **6th June**

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:

John Carr, Kay Cowman, John Deveny, Isabel Fitzpatrick, Thomas Monaghan, Ray Stevens, Aldo Vescovi, & Elaine Wooller.

Please pray for the Sick:

Terry Sims, 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, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Maryo, Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Danny McRae, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, 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, 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: 1st & 2nd June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Judy Van Hoos

8.30am: Pat Chiles

10.30am: John Scerri



CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: **22nd & 23rd June**

5.30pm: Mary Drew & Laura Espinosa

8.30am: Lily Offer & Joe Spiteri

10.30am: Rose Ma'ae & Family

CHURCH FLOWERS—June

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 0410 478 046,

Amy Honrade 0457 042 695

Lillian Christian 0400 441 257

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 : 1st & 2nd June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Trish Davine

Sunday: Margot Short

MORNING TEA ROSTER

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

Next Morning Tea: **2nd June 2019**

Host: Museum Committee and
Josephite Associates



CHURCH FLOWERS

Bernadette Kearney



COUNTING TEAM # 1

Allan Comrie

Jim Scott

Peter Mooney

Margot Short

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (June)

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 27th June**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **7th & 21st July**

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: **Gerard & Anakin Anderson** 0433 690 902

Group 2: **Anna Taunnu & Family** 0406 503 363

Group 3: **John & Joyce Sultana** 9747 9925



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 26th May**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **2nd & 16th June**

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 PROCESSION

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders. Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them: 'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly, we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 66

Comm: O God, let all the nations praise you!

All: O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

All: O God, let all the nations praise you!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11;
Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23;
Gospel: Lk 24:46-53



SECOND READING : Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel or crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my words.
And my word is not my own;
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.
Peace I bequeath to you,
my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say:

I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father,

for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now, before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world XXV

How a father protects his family

The fatherly protection that we mentioned last Sunday works in several different important ways.

First of all, a family man devotes his manly powers to protect his wife from anyone who would threaten her. It seems to be a natural instinct among males, to protect the women in their lives – wife, mother, sisters, daughters – from outsiders' aggression.

For instance, if a man is standing next to his wife in a crowd and some male stranger turns to speak loudly and angrily at her, the husband will instantly rise in rage to her defence. Adrenaline would rush through his blood, his muscles would tighten, and his first impulse would be to rearrange the aggressor's face. No self-respecting man would stand by and let anyone treat his wife with disrespect. He would take swift action to defend her.

Peace, it is said, is the condition we enjoy when other people just leave us alone. Throughout history, the father of a family would protectively stand in the doorway of his home and say, as it were, to the whole world: "Leave us alone. Leave my family alone."

Related to this physical protection, here is another aspect of a man's protectiveness, one that fathers today often fail to understand. A man permits no one to threaten or upset his wife – and *this includes their own children*.

A hugely important part of a father's job is to defend his wife against their children's rudeness, insolent disobedience, and impulsive aggression. This protection counts most to his wife when the kids are small (under seven years old) and later when they enter adolescence. A man will permit no one to disrespect his wife, including – and even especially – at home.

A man also defends his family through what he earns in his work. That is, he doesn't just provide for his family; he protects them from poverty. He shelters them, takes care of their needs for a roof, food, and clothing. While Dad has a job, the family feels secure. Even in a two-income home, it seems, children sense that Dad is the main provider, and therefore the family's main protector.

Moreover, he protects his children from forces that threaten them here and now: drugs, bullies, criminals, unjust aggressors of all types, and potential disasters arising from their inexperience and impulsive mistakes (such as dashing out without looking into traffic or playing with matches).

For instance, if a father glanced out his living room window and spotted a male stranger chatting with his small daughter, coyly beckoning to her, he would swiftly lunge into defensive action. He would race out the door, stride aggressively towards the stranger, then confront the man and demand to know what he wanted.

With muscles taut, he would stand between his daughter and this potential aggressor, physically shielding her from harm.

Another example: When his teenage daughter is being picked up for a date, a father goes out of his way to size up the young man she is going out with. He wants to meet him – insists on meeting him – to look him in the eye and intuitively size up his intentions and his worth.

A father senses a duty to assess any young male who approaches his daughter. An unspoken message seems to pass between them: "She's my daughter. Treat her nicely, kid, or else"

But most of all – and this is crucial – a father protects his children by *strengthening them so they can later protect themselves*. In the lives of his children, he asserts loving leadership towards responsible, competent adulthood.

It is a father's mission, the challenge that brings out the best in him, to form in his children the powers and attitudes that they will need to succeed in life, to strengthen them so they in turn can later protect themselves and their own loved ones.

So, in his children's eyes, a great father is a lifelong leader and teacher. His protective, empowering lessons about right and wrong live on in the inner lives of his children, long after they have left home and, indeed, long after he has passed to his eternal reward. A great father never stops being a father, for he lives on as a great man in the hearts of his children.