



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

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

30th June 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
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 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	0401 927 502
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

If you need a Priest in the case of an emergency please call 0404 598 558

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES : 1st July– 7th July

Monday:	No Mass	
Tuesday morning:	9.15am	FPB
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm	FJP
Wednesday:	9.15am	FJP
Thursday:	9.15am	FJP
Friday:	9.15am	FJP
1st Friday Devotions	7.30pm	FJP
Midnight	12.00am	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 min. before and 30 min. after every weekday Mass.

CRC MELTON CHAPEL: 8.00am

No Mass this week. (School Holidays)

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 1st July– 7th July

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

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday	5.30pm	FJP
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 5th July**



ADORATION:

30 minutes before every weekday Mass.

Adoration is held every first Friday

10.00am until 4.00pm

Next Date: **Friday 5th July**

PROVIDENCE MASS

Is held on the second Friday of the month at 11.00am

The Village 5-7 Griffith St, Maddingley.

Next Mass: **Friday 12th July**

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 19th July**

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIME:

Saturday Vigil:	6.30pm	FPB
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NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY MASS

Sunday 28 July, 11am, St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne.

Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, or 60th–70th wedding anniversary this year? The Life, Marriage & Family Office invites you and your families to join us at the Annual Anniversary Mass. Couples who register will receive commemorative certificates and packs.

Registrations: www.cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily or contact the Life, Marriage & Family Office on 9287 5587 or lmf@cam.org.au. Registrations close Friday 12 July.

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

THE PETER PENCE COLLECTION—THIS WEEKEND 29th & 30th JUNE

We will be having a special collection this weekend for the Peter's Pence Collection.

The Peter's Pence Collection has ancient roots, linking back to New Testament times when people would provide material support to those preaching the Gospel for distribution to those in need (see Acts 4:34-35, 11:29). Today, the collection is the way we, as members of the Catholic Church, unite ourselves to the concerns of the Holy Father. Donations to this collection support the charitable works of Pope Francis for the relief of those most in need.

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

An RCIA program will commence on the Sunday 28th July. If you:

.. are interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith,

.. wish to become a Catholic,

.. didn't receive all your sacraments as a child and you would like to receive them, and,

.. are interested in deepening your faith, the way you worship, and want to understand the fruits for Christian life required of a Catholic, then join us on this journey. Venue, time and dates to be advised. Please register your interest with the Parish Office.

SAINT MALACHY'S CHURCH— SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Byres Road, Blackwood. Sunday evening Mass at 4 pm. All Welcome.

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES MEETING

The meeting will be held at the Josephite Convent, at 2pm on Sunday 7th July.

For details please contact Christine Nicholls Van Order 0421 845 635.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

FILIPINO COMMUNITY DANCE ALL NIGHT – 6th July

The Filipino Community will be organising 'Christmas in July Dance All Night', to raise funds for the extension of the Church. Tickets are now available and can be purchased at the rear of the Church after all Masses. Thank you for your support.

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION-2019

The amount raised for Project Compassion this year by St Anthony's Parish was \$1656.85. Thank you for your generosity.

THANK YOU – MALTESE COMMUNITY

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Maltese Community for raising \$680.05 with their food sale last weekend. Special thanks to all those who supported this. The proceeds will go towards the heating and cooling for the Church.

ST BERNARD'S

TWO HEARTS PRAYER GROUP

Every fortnight on Thursday evenings 7.15pm - 9.15pm. Prayers in Church followed by fellowship in the Parish Centre.

Next date: **4th July**

THE NEIGHBOUR'S PLACE (TNP)

Emergency food bank in Bacchus Marsh is looking for volunteers. If you are in a position to give up just a small amount of your time and skills to help us run TNP, we would love to hear from you. We are also looking for help for a Store Person if you have supermarket skills (not a requirement) and would like to assist us maybe once a week, have to be reasonably fit, some carrying and lifting will be required. Contact Jackie on 5367 6222 to discuss volunteering.

PROJECT COMPASSION-2019

The amount raised for Project Compassion this year by St Bernard's Parish was \$1352.00. Thank you for your generosity.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Angela Smith (nee Hornbuckle) will be held at St Bernard's Church on Friday 5th July at 11am. Angela passed away 1st March in the UK.



Lord, grant me the peace that is from above, and let me pray to you in tranquillity.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 6th & 7th July

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Volunteer Please

8.30am: Geoff Sutton

10.30am: Karina Dunne

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Philip Anyayahan (P) & Lorraine Tellis

8.30am: Edwina La Rose (P), Ann Tennakoon
& 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: Carmen Vella & Godwin Barton

8.30am: Lina Calleja & Godwin Barton

10.30am: Josephine German & Godwin Barton

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:

Cecil Fernandez, John Debrincat, Allan McBain,
Peter John Thomas & Josephine Zara.

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: 6th & 7th July

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

July Josephite Associates

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: 4th July

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 recently deceased:

Elaine Vigor

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Thomas Blood, Violet Borg, Leo Flanagan, Stan Mullane, Dor-
othy Shelly, Noreen Wheelahan, and Jean Young.

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: 6th & 7th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Judy Van Hoos

8.30am: Pat Chiles

10.30am: John Scerri



CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: **27th & 28th July**

5.30pm: Zarb Family

8.30am: Chris Fitzgerald & Graziella Corcoran

10.30am: Anne Nappi & Doris Bonello

CHURCH FLOWERS—July

Ana Taunuu & Roperta Mavaega



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 10.30am.

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 : 6th & 7th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Sean Giani

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: **7th July**

Host: Knights of the Southern Cross



CHURCH FLOWERS

Tap Shea

COUNTING TEAM # 6

Jill Geurts

Ron Geurts



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (July)

Front Garden: **Volunteer Please**

Back/Side Garden: **Volunteer Please**

Parish Centre: John Tung

Carpark/Pines: John Tung

Back Paddock: Ron Geurts

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@inet.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 25th July**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **4th & 18th August**

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: **Stephen & Liza Fernandes** 0439 743 533

Group 2: **Leonia Jessop** 0450 371 965

Group 3: **Josephine Vella** 0411 568 012



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 28th July**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **4th & 18th August**

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

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

FIRST READING 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21

The Lord said to Elijah: 'Go, you are to anoint Elisha son of Shaphat, of Abel Meholah, as prophet to succeed you.'

Leaving there, Elijah came to Elisha son of Shaphat as he was ploughing behind twelve yoke of oxen, he himself being with the twelfth. Elijah passed near to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother, then I will follow you' he said. Elijah answered, 'Go, go back; for have I done anything to you?' Elisha turned away, took the pair of oxen and slaughtered them. He used the plough for cooking the oxen, then gave to his men, who ate. He then rose, and followed Elijah and became his servant.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Comm: You are my inheritance, O Lord.

All: You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.'
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

All: You are my inheritance, O Lord.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS –

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Is 66:10-14;

Second Reading: Gal 6:14-18;

Gospel: Lk 10:1-12, 17-20



SECOND READING Galatians 5:1, 13-18

When Christ freed us, he meant us to remain free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

My brothers, you were called, as you know, to liberty; but be careful, or this liberty will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Serve one another, rather, in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summarised in a single command: Love your neighbour as yourself. If you go snapping at each other and tearing each other to pieces, you had better watch or you will destroy the whole community. Let me put it like this: if you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 9:51-62

As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village.

As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

Another to whom he said, 'Follow me,' replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.' But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury the dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say good-bye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.

The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world XXX

Advice to the newly single parent 2

3. Honour and respect your co-parent

In the case that the reason you are a single parent is that you have gone through a separation or divorce, there is the delicate fact that both parents need to continue to be in the lives of their children and to continue to love them and exert authority over them and teach them what they need to know at each stage of their growth.

This might be the crux of the challenge of separating and being co-parents: you have your own personal emotional journey, whether you split amicably or are the most hateful couple of all time. Separation and divorce hurt. They are a rejection from someone who knows you better than just about anyone else in the world. How can it not be incredibly difficult?

Unfortunately, that often comes out in judgement, criticism and outright hateful behaviour towards your co-parent. And, boy, is that a terrible thing for children to experience, whether it's a little one or a teen! They have their own incredibly difficult journey too and I highly encourage all parents to ensure that the children can have time away from both parents, time with an unbiased adult in whom they can confide.

A therapist is trained to do just this, or a pastor, friend's parent, or similar. The key: unbiased. Someone who can apply the two rules I've already shared without injecting subsequent criticism of the other parent.

The great challenge is to acknowledge and validate your children's complaints about your ex without actually agreeing with them. Remember, kids like to complain. It's how they push out those unpleasant emotions and sometimes those emotions are things like disappointment, hurt, sadness, or a sense of failure.

A lot more kids than you realise have an internal voice that tells them that, if they had been a better child, mummy and daddy would still be together. Oh, what a weight to bear! Makes you a bit more sympathetic to their journey too, doesn't it?

My advice to divorced or separated parents, therefore, is to be at least neutral towards the other parent, to bolster them in front of your

children and to accept that solo parenting is a very different task than having two parents in the house to work together. It took me years to learn how to be a parent rather than just a drill instructor, and I wish I had been better at learning how to be a fully rounded, sympathetic and (appropriately) strict single parent for my children's sake.

I've seen mums and dads who are also "Disney Dads", as they say; the children aren't with them very often, so it's always a fun, lolly-filled, shopping-filled, video game-playing adventure when they are together. Mostly you see this with single dads, however. That's because it's crazy hard to establish a real relationship with a child when you see them one night a month or every other weekend. But that's another discussion entirely.

I just encourage you to keep these three pieces of advice in mind as you go through your single parenting day, whether it's brand new to you or you've been doing it for years: shut up and listen to your children. Put down your phone, turn away from the TV, pay attention to them. Keep your sense of humour as they talk and share and live. Because, trust me, they definitely are keeping their sense of humour about you and what you're doing day by day!

And, finally, don't bad-mouth your ex to your children or even to your friends if your children might overhear you. Hold them in high esteem in your heart, accept their failings and that they might struggle as parents too, and things will inevitably move along a bit more smoothly.

By Dave Taylor, Dads4Kids Fatherhood Foundation

