



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

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

6th October 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
Emilio 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 : 7th-13th October

Monday:	Our Lady of the Rosary Memorial	7.45am	FFS
Tuesday:			
morning:		9.15am	FLM
evening:		6.30pm	FFS
Wednesday:		7.45am	FLM
		9.15am	FFS
Thursday:		7.45am	FPB
		9.15am	FLM
Friday:		9.15am	FLM
Saturday Vigil:		5.30pm	FPB
Sunday:		8.30am	FPB
		10.30am	FPB

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.



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIME:

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm FFS

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES : 7th-13th October

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

Monday :	Our Lady of the Rosary Memorial	No Mass
Tuesday:	5.30pm	FPB
Wednesday :	9.30am	FPB
Thursday :	9.30am	FFS
Friday:	9.30am	FPB
Saturday Vigil :	5.00pm	FFS
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 1st November**

ADORATION: 30 minutes before every weekday Mass.

Adoration is held every first Friday 10.00am until 4.00pm

Next Date: **Friday 1st November**

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

Next Mass: **Friday 11th October**

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 18th October**

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

CONCERT OF FRENCH SACRED MUSIC: 'CONTEMPLATION AND HARMONIE'

Saturday 12 October, 2.30pm & Sun 20 October, 2.30pm

St Mary's Church, 123 St Leonards Rd, Ascot Vale

4 upcoming classical singers and musicians present music written in contemplation of the Divine. Featuring religious works of quintessential French composers Saint-Saëns, Fauré, Berlioz and Rameau.

Door tickets: \$30/\$25 concession. Prepaid online: \$25/\$20 concession

(go to eventbrite.com.au, search 'Contemplation and Harmonie').

Enquiries: Phoebe, 0401 351 342

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

27th ANNUAL TWO HEARTS FEAST– SATURDAY 12th October

Time: Rosary 10.30am, Holy Mass 11.00am Celebrant: Fr Fabian Smith Venue: 274 La cote Road, Greendale.

FATHER PATRICK BRADFORD

Father Patrick has been appointed as an Assistant Priest St Peter's Clayton. He will be taking up his appointment on Wednesday 6th November. We wish him every blessing for his next appointment. We will have the opportunity to wish him well at St Anthony's next weekend the 12th & 13th October after all Masses. And his last weekend at St Bernard's will be on the 2nd & 3rd November.

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.

FATHER PATRICK'S FAREWELL(see notice above)

Please bring a plate to share next weekend. Thank you.

CHURCH EXTENSION APPROVED

After 4 years of planning and anticipation. The Diocesan Board has finally approved our internal renovation and extension to the Church. The normal length of a Church loan is 10-15 years. We have been granted a term of 20 years for the loan. Tenders have gone out for the extension of the Church and we will keep you informed as we get updates. This weekend will be the last weekend for Masses in the Church, from next weekend Masses will be celebrated in Padua Hall. We will need volunteers to help set-up chairs on Saturdays at 4.30pm and volunteers to pack up after the Sunday 10.30am Masses. All weekday Masses will be celebrated at the back of the Presbytery. Please enter via the carpark. They will be no adoration before or after Mass until we return to the Church. Rosary and confession as usual before Mass. Please note any funeral services during this time will be celebrated at St Bernard's, Bacchus Marsh.

2019 PARISH STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL PROGRAM

Our Renewal Program commences next week with our **Program Launch Weekend**. The Program will focus on the themes of Faith, Engagement, and Commitment and will challenge us to reflect on what it means to be a member of the community of St Anthony's Parish, Melton South. We encourage you to be actively involved – read the materials, listen to the speakers and follow the Program on our website: stanthonysmeltonsouth.wordpress.com. The website will be the home for all Program information and will be updated weekly — so please visit it regularly! Reflect, pray and discuss the themes and topics with your family, friends and fellow parishioners.

PARISHIONER FORUM

As part of the Program, all parishioners are warmly invited to a special forum to be held in **Padua Hall on Sunday 20th October after the 10.30am Mass**. This is a great opportunity to make your contribution to the discussion. You will hear about the values we hold dear, our recent achievements and the priorities we have for the future. Please mark this date in your calendar.

Together we pray for the success of the Program:

ST BERNARD'S

MORNING TEA– 6TH OCTOBER CANCELLED

Parishioners please note the morning tea scheduled for the 6th Oct has been cancelled due to a power outage by Powercor. Apologies for the inconvenience.

ST BERNARD'S HOPETOUN CATHOLIC CEMETERY WORKING BEE

The small cemetery preservation group would love some help at a weeding working bee on Saturday, 12th October from 9.30am until about 11.30 am.

If you can help please bring your own tools, gardening gloves and drinking water. Our volunteer caretaker, Brendan Griffith, cuts the open areas but late winter rain has caused prolific weed growth along the fence lines, within some graves and around our rose bushes. These areas require hand weeding.

2019 PARISH STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL PROGRAM

Our Renewal Program commences next week with our **Program Launch Weekend**. The Program will focus on the themes of Faith, Engagement, and Commitment and will challenge us to reflect on what it means to be a member of the communities of St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh & Our Lady Help of Christians, Korobeit. We encourage you to be actively involved – read the materials, listen to the speakers and follow the Program on our website: <http://pol.org.au/bacchusmarsh/Home.aspx>. The website will be the home for all Program information and will be updated weekly — so please visit it regularly! Reflect, pray and discuss the themes and topics with your family, friends and fellow parishioners.

PARISHIONER FORUM

As part of the Program, all parishioners are warmly invited to a special forum to be held in the **Parish Centre on Wednesday 16th October at 7.30pm**. This is a great opportunity to make your contribution to the discussion. You will hear about the values we hold dear, our recent achievements and the priorities we have for the future. Please mark this date in your calendar.

Together we pray for the success of the Program:

Stewardship Renewal Program Prayer

Lord, we thank you for calling us to be your Church. Through our Baptism we are called to service and to witness. In the Eucharist we sustain and strengthen that call. By serving others we follow your example and proclaim our beliefs. By our Christian generosity we demonstrate our love and care. Lord, help us always to worship you as you deserve, to grow in faith and service and to give without counting the cost. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



FAITH

ENGAGEMENT

COMMITMENT

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 12th & 13th October MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.30pm : Pat Fernandes
8.30am: Anastasia Mavaega
10.30am: Romeo Sacris

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm: Lorraine Tellis (P) & Aloysious Dacunha
8.30am: Michael Higgins (P), Villy Julita
& Edwina La Rose
10.30am: George Bonello (P) & Doris Bonello

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: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Josephine German

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Josh Djie-Spiteri & Jonathan Dacunha
8.30am: Rhys Tuala & Andre Oqueli
10.30am: Anakin Anderson & 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:

Francisco Alatrasta, Avelino Asube Jr, Rick Galanti, Madeline Giordmaina, Father Peter James, William Kelly, Marcelino Pardinan, Michael Portelli, Mladen Soldo & Keith Harry Williams

Please pray for the Sick:

Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen 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: 12th & 13th October MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Trish Davine
8.30am: Peter Lafranci & Margaret Love
10.00am: Diane Corro & James Waters

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Colin Remedios
8.30am: Theo Franken
10.00am: Anne Daly

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

October: Sr Ellie Taffe

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: **10th October**

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 **10th October**.

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Domenica Amato, Mark Densley, Brian Dobson, Carmen Farrugia, William Lang, Frank McMahon, Patricia Pidoto, Ida Suban & Ted Wilkinson.

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, 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: 12th & 13th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Imalsha Silva

CUPPA ROSTER

Cuppa Weekend: **26th & 27th October**

5.30pm: Josephine Sultana & Carol Fonua
8.30am: Joyce Stelline & Lina Calleja
10.30am: Anne Nappi & Doris Bonello



CHURCH FLOWERS—Sept/Oct

Anna Taunuu & Roperta Mavaega



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 : 12th & 13th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Jan Farmelo
Sunday: Carmel Shea

MORNING TEA ROSTER

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

Next Morning Tea: **3rd November**

Host: Parents & Friends



CHURCH FLOWERS—October

Katie Lindorff



COUNTING TEAM # 10

Kath Connell
Val Dickson
Michael Duffy
Mary Delahey

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (October)

Front Garden: Colm Carragher
Back/Side Garden: John Tung
Parish Centre: **Volunteer Please**
Carpark/Pines: **Volunteer Please**
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@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 24th Oct**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **3rd & 17th Nov**

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 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 Patrick 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: **Shane & Dolly Barrow** 0439 386 130

Group 2: **Carmen Vella** 9743 4378

Group 3: **Josephine German** 0478 288 761



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 27th October**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month: **3rd & 17th November**

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 Lucas 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 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

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

FIRST READING Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help
while you will not listen;
to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear
and you will not save?
Why do you set injustice before me,
why do you look on where there is tyranny?
Outrage and violence, this is all I see,
all is contention, and discord flourishes.
Then the Lord answered and said,
'Write the vision down,
inscribe it on tablets
to be easily read,
since this vision is for its own time only:
eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive;
if it comes slowly, wait,
for come it will, without fail.
See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights,
but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 94

Comm: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

All: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

All: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave
you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit
of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control.
So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or
ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the
hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the
power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard
from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You
have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it
with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever;
it is the word given to you, the Good News.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 17:5-9

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord
replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could
say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the
sea," and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep,
would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come
and have your meal immediately?" Would he not be more
likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait
on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself
afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing
what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you
have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have
done no more than our duty."'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS –

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2Kg 5: 14-17;

Second Reading: 2 Tim 2:8-13;

Gospel: Lk17:11-19



The Catholic family: Raising children in a secular world XLIV

Seven spiritual mistakes of “good Catholic parents”

Prayerful, engaged parents understand their children better than anybody else does, except God. Moreover, each child is different. With children, while parents must be fair, one size does not fit all, and it never will.

Neither the state nor the child-care system nor the schools can raise your children nearly as well as you can—if only you will avoid the very first spiritual mistake listed below. But check yourself against the other six mistakes as well. My purpose here is to help you avoid the seven biggest spiritual pitfalls for those who try hard to be good Catholic parents.

1. Failure to pray: The very first principle of good parenting is that parents are flawed creatures who, even with the best of intentions, make significant and even serious mistakes. Yet you would be amazed at how many Catholics do not recognise the inescapable corollary: parents must pray daily both for their children and for themselves, to understand their children rightly, to raise them well, and to secure divine protection.

You and your children have guardian angels, too, so call on them! The point is that grace is available for parents as parents and for children as children. Fostering the reception of grace in your whole family must be even more constant than your natural human love.

2. Over-engagement: Call it an emphasis on *doing over being*, or a lopsided preference for the active over the contemplative life. We live in a hyperactive and hyper-distracted culture. One symptom of this is constant overwork in our paying jobs, but it can also manifest itself in chronic over-engagement.

For “good Catholics”, this often includes justifying too much time taken from family life for apostolic work. But even apostolate does not trump vocation. Over-engagement communicates to children that the culture of the family must take second or third or fourth place. A lack of presence of parents to their children, when it is not absolutely demanded

by the survival of the family itself, teaches that the loving formation of children is not the high priority parents claim it to be.

3. Transcendental restriction: Consider the three transcendentals: truth, goodness, and beauty. Interest in and attraction to these transcendentals mark three different paths to God, and each person is more attuned to one of these paths than to the others.

In many counter-cultural Catholic families today, parents find themselves in conflict with a world which rejects nearly every specific teaching of the Church. In consequence, it is not uncommon for them to emphasise doctrine, doctrine and more doctrine. But these same parents are likely to have children who (whether generally or at certain stages) are far more attracted to saints than to catechists, or far more attracted to the beauty of God as manifested in nature and art than in the mastery of moral principles. Parental attention and approval must recognise and encourage all of the transcendentals, that is, all of these three ways to God.

4. Spiritual smothering: When I was growing up, I knew neighbourhood kids with over-protective parents who would never permit anything that involved even the slightest risk. The same problem can occur spiritually, especially in the midst of a culture hostile to faith and morals. But children who are too isolated from the larger culture, with all its benefits and dangers, can be easily overwhelmed when finally released into the world.

Kids are not best served by what we might call the formation of theoretical virtues in the complete absence of temptation. Just as children need physical exercise, they need moral exercise. This requires judicious exposure to the life they will one day be called to live as mature Christians in the world.

The same applies to a form of spiritual smothering which prevents children from awakening to all the gifts of God which manifest themselves outside the realm of specifically “Catholic” and “spiritual” activities.

To be continued