



St Anthony's Parish



St Bernard's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL: 5367 2069
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

The 18th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Year A

2nd August 2020

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint /Father Marcus Goulding

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew Mon Tue Wed & Fri 9am-4pm

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson Tue-Thu 10am-2pm

Parish Office Hours: phone/email contact only

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au

Website: www.stanthonyofpadua.com.au

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: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan Wed-Fri 9am-1pm

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson Tue-Thu 10am-2pm

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Tue & Fri 10am-1pm

Parish Office Hours: phone/email contact only

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141/Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

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
Kim Nguyen	0431 035 980

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding
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
Moir Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell	0401 927 502
John Thorne - Secretary	5310 6692
James Waters - Chair	0403 822 795

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding
and Emilio Scalzo

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)

Officers: Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

[PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION](#)

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, if they wish to donate, are now able to go to the link below and make their payments online.

The link to the St Anthony's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Anthony's Parish, Melton South](#)

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh](#)

Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference. Thank you.

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anointing of the sick can be organised with the Priests directly, please call them.

Phone numbers for the Priests are listed on the front page of the newsletter.

MASS TIMES—LIVE STREAMING FROM ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH

Monday-Saturday: 5.30pm Adoration/Rosary/Benediction
6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

MASSES AVAILABLE ON LIVE STREAMING— FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

St Anthony's Parish are live streaming Masses on YouTube.

The Masses are also being live streamed on Facebook. You can watch Masses by going to the website: stanthonypadua.com.au. Click the link for Live Masses.

The Masses are coming through the St Anthony's Facebook page—St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Melton South (you will need to have a Facebook account to be able to view the Masses).

MASS AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

The 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral will be televised every week during the COVID-19 restrictions, on Channel 31 (often listed as Channel 44 on digital TVs). Also 'Mass for you at Home' is televised on channel 10 every Sunday at 6am. Please share this news with friends and family who might be limited to TV viewing. Please check your TV guides for changes.

PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION OR PARISH APPEALS

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, if they wish to donate, are now able to go to the link below and make their payments online.

Parishioners are able to make quick and easy recurring thanksgiving payments or can choose a one-off offering from the comfort of their own home.

When making an offertory online, parishioners have the option to choose which collection they would like to partake in, as they usually would during Sunday Mass - first collection, second collection or a parish appeal.

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The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh](#)

Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference. Thank you.

ST ANTHONY'S FACEBOOK

Please visit our Facebook page.:

[St Anthony of Padua](#)

[Catholic Church Melton South Live](#)

Masses streaming from St Anthony's daily.



POPE'S PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM CORONAVIRUS

An English-language translation of the Pope's prayer is below:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.
You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin.

- Prayer originated from <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-03/pope-francis-prayer-our-lady-protection-coronavirus.html>





St Anthony's Parish

Dear Parishioners,

We are living through extraordinary times. Each day is a changing reality, and your continued patience and strength in these difficult times is greatly appreciated. Care of our people is of utmost importance as we enter into a six-week lockdown. Please know that I am praying for each of you at this time. You are remembered at the altar every day when I am offering mass. I am here for you, so please do not hesitate to contact me on 0403 435 471 when you need to speak to me. Please remember me in your prayers.

With our church closed again for a period of six weeks we will continue to live stream masses seven days a week. Monday – Saturday. We will be having exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.30pm while praying the Rosary which will be followed with Benediction and Mass at 6pm. Sunday mass will be at 10.30am.

Despite these challenges, we cannot lose heart. We must continue to bring to the Lord in prayer all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God may grant health to the sick, strength to those who care for them, comfort to families and salvation to all the victims who have died.

I will be available in the Parish office at St Anthony's Tuesday – Saturday from 9.30am to 1pm. St Anthony's parish staff will be working their usual hours from home.

Bacchus Marsh is not part of metropolitan Melbourne and therefore not currently subject to the lock down. Masses will therefore continue to be celebrated at St Bernard's and the parish of St Bernard's will continue to operate as it has been to date.

Fr Marcus is now residing at St Bernard's with Fr Lucas. From Tuesday 14th July 2020, two Masses will be offered from Tuesday to Friday.

To ensure we comply with Archdiocesan and Government safety measures, Mass attendees will be required to produce their license or other document indicating their place of residence to be admitted entrance to the Church. **People from locked-down suburbs cannot be admitted entrance and should not attempt to book for Mass.**

May the Peace of Christ be with you

Fr Fabian

Parish Priest

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners please be advised that the St Anthony's Parish Office will be closed during the COVID-19 Stage 3 lockdown. The Parish Staff will be working from home. Please contact us for any assistance you need.

Lesley Morffew Parish Secretary **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am-4.00pm**

Email Lesley: meltonsouth@cam.org.au or call **9747 9692**

Judy Johnson Admin Assistant **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am-2.00pm**

Email Judy: judyparishnews@gmail.com or call **0414 007 009**

St Bernard's
Parish



Dear Parishioners of St Bernard's

Trust you are all keeping well and staying safe. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic many things have been put on hold or delayed this year. Our parish AGM that was scheduled to be held on 7th June 2020 will now be held at a new time and in a different way because of the various restrictions in place and for the safety and wellbeing of all. After much discussion the parish pastoral council have agreed that this year's AGM take place with the following changes:

- 1 AGM will be held via ZOOM
- 2 Thursday 10th September 2020 at 7.30pm
- 3 Parishioners who would like to zoom in for the AGM need to email Dolores bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au , who will be collating all emails for the AGM. A link will be sent out to you prior to the AGM with instructions of how to zoom.
- 4 This year papers for the AGM will be sent via email to everyone receiving the news bulletin via email on 26th August 2020, two weeks prior to the AGM. Hard copies will be left outside the parish office on the same date for anyone who would like a hard copy.
- 5 Anyone wishing to present matters for the agenda to be discussed at the AGM need to email Dolores bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au no later than Friday 14th August 2020 so that the report can be published on time.
- 6 Anyone who is unable to participate in the AGM via ZOOM and have matters arising as a result of the published report, queries/comments/commendations that wish to be discussed at the AGM on Thursday 10th September can email Dolores bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au or drop it in writing at the parish office. Responses to any queries will be brought to you by members of the council after the AGM.

Many blessings
Fr Fabian

MASSES AT ST BERNARD'S, BACCHUS MARSH

Sunday	8.30am & 10.00am
Tuesday	7.30am & 6.00pm
Wednesday	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday	7.30am & 6.00pm
Friday	7.30am & 9.30am
Saturday	5.00pm (Vigil of Sunday)

Registration for Mass is required and can be done at www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au or on 0432 055 992 for those who cannot access the internet. Parishioners are welcome to attend Mass once per day. Confessions will be heard half an hour before Mass. To ensure we comply with Archdiocesan and Government safety measures, Mass attendees may be required to produce their license or other document indicating their place of residence to be admitted entrance to the Church.

ST BERNARD'S PARISH OFFICE

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The Parish Staff will be working from home. Please contact us for any assistance you need.

Dolores Turcsan Parish Secretary **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9.00am-1.00pm**

Email Dolores: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au or call **0432 055 992**.

Naim Chdid Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper **Tuesday & Friday 10.00am-1.00pm**

Email Naim: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Judy Johnson Admin Assistant **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am-2.00pm**

Email Judy: judyparishnews@gmail.com or call **0414 007 009**

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

ST ANTHONY'S

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Veronica Butler, Maria Cilia, Ralph Cinel, Maria Debrincat, Domenica Dimartino, Michael Turcsan & Carmen Zarb

Please pray for the Sick:

Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Kevin Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Dolores Turcsan, 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)

ST BERNARD'S

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

FAITH ON FIRE PRAYER GROUP

Every fortnight on Thursday at 7.00pm. We pray the Rosary, Stations of the cross, Divine Mercy chaplet and do a Bible reading and discussion.

Next meeting **To be advised**

We pray for those recently deceased:

Sr Cathy Dean rsj & Vince Jacob

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Mary Evans, David Fava, William (Bill) Griffith), John McMahon, Audrey Peasley, Mary Shea, Nadia Vescovi, Gerard Wheelahan.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Brian Marshall, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Mary 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, Dolores Turcsan, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, & Betty Young.

(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)

FATIMA STATUE

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1: **Ben & Joan Antony** **9743 8154**

Group 2: **Naim Chdid** **0437 004 790**

Group 3: **Amy & Ronald Honrade** **9747 0078**



NEO-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

Along the track

Who Are We? and Why Are We?

When we have children, whether as a parent, or a teacher or a carer, much of our time and energy is spent showing our children that they are loved, helping them to discover what they are good at, where their talents lie. Much of our time and energy goes into passing on beliefs and attitudes and values, providing positive and life-giving experiences. We want them to know that each of them is unique, each is gifted and talented in their own way. If we have faith, we want them to know that each one of them has an innate dignity, that they have been created by God who loves them, that in God's plan, each person is unique and irreplaceable. Our human dignity also comes from the fact that somehow we are an image of our Creator – in some way each of us is an image of the God who gave us life.

We want them to know that they belong to the human family, that we are interconnected and that our actions affect others. We want them to know that we share responsibility for our world and those who live in it. Each of us has a purpose in life and our actions go beyond today – we have an eternal destiny.

Our importance or dignity or worth then, does not simply come from what we do. It does not rely on achievement and success in order to feel good about ourselves. Yes, we do have gifts and talents and the parable (Mt 25: 14-30) reminds us of our need to use them but our best work ought not be motivated by our need to amass possessions and wealth or by our need to prove something (ourselves, our talents, our goodness) but also by our concern for others and for the world in which we live.

Most children are born into families or communities that socialise them, that teach them their basic values and beliefs, that assist them to understand who they are and what they are called to become.

But today the 'society' they enter has a very different message. Rather than having an innate dignity because of who we are, many governments today, especially in Western countries, regard us as Economic Units. Our worth comes from what we produce, from being competitive, self-reliant and economically productive individuals. We are producers and consumers. We contribute to the economy and, to put it bluntly, we are valued largely on the basis of our economic contribution. For example, it is not uncommon to hear that, as the population of elderly grow, the younger people have to carry them!! Nothing about what they may have contributed or what they may still be contributing to society in so many other ways!!!

Pope Francis, in his 2014 speech to the EU reiterated long held Catholic Social Teaching. Today there is too much emphasis on 'personal rights' rather than recognizing that 'we are beings in relation', he said. This emphasis on 'all about me' also brings about the most common disease today – loneliness. That can result in 'certain rather selfish lifestyles, marked by an opulence which is no longer sustainable and frequently indifferent to the world around

us, and especially to the poorest of the poor'. This loneliness also comes from a growing 'privatised mindset', the idea of people being isolated units, consumers, cogs in a production wheel, as items of consumption to be exploited.

In my view, one of the most common diseases in Europe today is the *loneliness* typical of those who have no connection with others. This is especially true of the elderly, who are often abandoned to their fate, and also in the young who lack clear points of reference and opportunities for the future. It is also seen in the many poor who dwell in our cities and in the disorientation of immigrants who came here seeking a better future.

We live in a "throwaway culture". More wealth, more possessions mean more success and often they are used as a transient cure for being disconnected, being lonely. Sadly that throwaway mentality is sometimes applied to people, especially those in need. Those who are no longer regarded as productive are often left behind.

The Pope reminded us that, what is needed from individuals and from governments is an attitude of generosity and tenderness (perhaps not a word much in use today), compassion and determination. In a culture that focuses on individual rights and freedoms, on being individual productive units, it is easy to demonise those who do not fit in, those who for whatever reason may not be self-reliant. They may be sick or, for a whole variety of reasons, cannot find employment, or those who seek asylum in our country. In today's privatised culture, it is not 'the done thing' to reach out and care for them, to take them on board. It takes a change of mindset.

When you look at it, Catholic Social Teaching is pretty much in accord with the UN Declaration of Human Rights. There are those who argue that this resource was used as the basis for it. The Declaration says that all in the human family have some essential needs if they are to flourish and grow and fulfil their destiny, they have a right to them - food and shelter, the right to feel safe and secure, to ongoing love and nurturing, to education, freedom of movement, speech and religion, protection by the rule of law. Our dignity as humans also includes the right to work so that we can raise our families and contribute to society and the world in which we live.

It is time that we joined Pope Francis and spoke up about this extraordinary treasure, this fundamental teaching that goes right back to the Gospels. We will all be the better for it.

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord:
Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 144

Comm: The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.

All: The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts.

All: The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs

SECOND READING Romans 8:35, 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.
For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.
When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1 Kg 19:9, 11-13;

Second Reading: Rom 9:1-5;

Gospel: Mt 14:22-33



The life of Catholic worship and piety XXVIII

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration (1)

“The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to meet Him in adoration in contemplation full of faith and open to making amends for serious offenses ... of the world.

“To visit the Blessed Sacrament is ... a proof of gratitude, an expression of love and a duty of adoration to Christ our Lord.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 1418, from Pope Paul VI, *Mysterium Fidei*).

“The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to meet Him in adoration in contemplation full of faith and open to making amends for serious offenses ... of the world. Let our adoration never cease.” (CCC, No. 1380, from Pope John Paul II, *Dominicae Cena*)

If you have read the section on the Sacrament of the Eucharist in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, you most certainly have been struck by the passage that says the Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life”, “the sum and summary of our Faith” (CCC, Nos.1324, 1327). While it all sounds great, keeping it the source of our Christian life is another story; by midweek the lesson of the Sunday liturgy is ancient history, and even if you are fortunate enough to attend a morning Mass on weekdays, the remembrance of the daily bread is often a distant memory by nightfall.

So, to keep “our way of thinking attuned to the Eucharist” (CCC, No. 1327), more and more parishes are offering a booster dose of what St Irenaeus called “the medicine of immortality” by keeping the Sacred species exposed in the sacred spaces known as Perpetual Adoration Chapels.

While the Eucharist has always been the constant source of our strength in Christ through the context of His Church, two recent developments have greatly aided accessibility to its Presence in the life of the laity. The first occurred when Pope St Pius X, “The Pope of the Eucharist”, in his decree of December 20, 1905, urged the frequent reception of the Eucharist.

St Pius X expressed it as only he could: “Holy Communion is the shortest and the safest way to Heaven. There are others: Innocence, for instance, but that is for little children. Penance, but we are afraid of it. Generous endurance of the trials of life, but when they come we weep and ask to be spared. The surest, easiest, shortest way is by the Eucharist.”

Ironically, while Pius X decried Modernism, which was the virtual worship of science and technology,

By Tom O'Toole, catholiceducation.org/en/

transportation advances also made the reception of daily Communion more convenient. For example, where we live, there are several daily Masses at Catholic churches within 10 minutes of our house, ranging in times from morning to noon to seven pm. So, in my suburban situation, barring sickness or car problems, there is no reason (excuse) to miss a daily Mass.

But if daily Mass can be seen, at least in our country, as the spiritual anecdote to the increase in mechanisation that occurred at the dawn of the 20th century, Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration must be viewed as the Sacramental weapon to combat the excess of computerisation in the 21st.

Although Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration has long been a part of the worship of many Religious orders and communities, it emerged on the parish level only in the mid-1980s. There was no history of Perpetual Adoration among the laity.

Apologist Fr John Hardon states: “Prayers before the Blessed Sacrament should be seen as an extension of Holy Communion.” In other words, it should never take people away from the Mass, but lead them to it.

It also tends to increase participation in the other Sacraments. A priest in St John Vianney's parish in Chicago in the United States, which has Perpetual Adoration, reported that he hears between 50 and 60 confessions a week, and his associates hear similar numbers. By comparison, the pastor of a nearby Catholic church (without Perpetual Adoration), when asked about confessions, replied sadly: “This week I heard two.”

St John Vianney's also attracts many missionary priests who visit the chapel and then are invited to say Mass, and their comments are illuminating. For example, a visiting missionary priest from Spain who had visited many parishes both in Europe and the United States, was asked if he noticed anything different about St John Vianney's. He nodded yes. “Do the men and women act differently?” he was asked.

“No, no, it's not the adults,” the missionary exclaimed. “It's the children! I've never seen so many children in the congregation as you have. That is a good thing for your parish.”

Not to mention that this is a sign that the Sacrament of marriage is flourishing here too.

Moreover, at confession at St John Vianney's, sometimes the penance, or a possible solution to a sinful condition, is a trip to the Adoration Chapel. So, one complements the other, and the graces all work together.

More and more parishes are adopting Perpetual Adoration to enable parishioners to deepen their communion with Christ and each other.

To be continued