



# 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 22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time**

**Year A**

**30th 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
Sally Markulin	0405 814 490
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.  
Father Fabian 0403 435 471/Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

### 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.

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.

### 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.



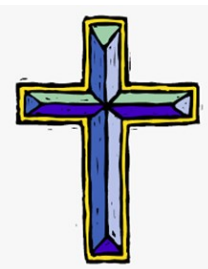
### A PRAYER FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS DURING THIS TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19 *From the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin*

Loving God,  
we place into your care all our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers.  
Give them courage of heart and strength of mind and body.  
Keep them safe from harm.  
May they know our deep gratitude for all they are doing  
to heal and help those affected by the coronavirus.

God of all consolation  
may they know your protection and peace.  
Bless them in these challenging days  
and bless their families.  
Amen

Source: [melbournecatholic.org.au](http://melbournecatholic.org.au)





St Anthony's  
Parish

## PHOTOS OF THE RENOVATION/EXTENSION



Above: Chapel Interior



Above: Chapel Entry—Wilson Rd



Above: Entry Foyer



Above: Church Interior



## St Anthony's Parish

Dear Parishioners of St Anthony's,

I wish to write to you about the progress with our church extension. Much work has been happening during these past six months. In the next three weeks our church extension will be completed. Thank you for all your creative ideas to raise money and for all your financial support. I know that you have gone out of your way to support the many fundraisers to make this happen. You have given very generously to make a ten-year dream come to reality.

Whilst we have run a tight ship and have diligently used all the money allocated for the project to complete the building, we have not exceeded much over the budget. The furnishings in the chapel are not included in the extension project. Whilst we are in lockdown we are unable to raise any money to furnish and complete the works in the new chapel.

Only if you are in a financial position to help make this happen and wish to contribute towards the furnishings, I am providing bank details. Ac Name **ST ANTHONYS CHURCH**, BSB **083 347** Account No **641915964**. Please put in your Full Name for record keeping.

Two White Angels, Two Painted Angels, St Anthony's Statue, Carpet, 10 Pews with upholstery for the seat and kneeler which will seat a total of 40 in the new chapel. I sincerely apologise for asking. If you need to talk to me please contact me on 0403 435 471. Donations can be made over some months.

Many Blessings  
Fr Fabian



### **ST ANTHONY'S PARISH OFFICE**

Parishioners please be advised that the St Anthony's Parish Office will be closed during the COVID-19 Stage 4 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](mailto:meltonsouth@cam.org.au) or call **9747 9692**

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

Email Judy: [judyparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:judyparishnews@gmail.com) or call **0414 007 009**

Est. 1874



# St Bernard's Catholic Parish

BACCHUS MARSH

Dear parishioners of St Bernard's,

**Masses Suspended.** Bacchus Marsh was placed under Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions at 11.59pm on Wednesday, 5th August. This necessitates the temporary suspension of public Masses until the lock-down is lifted. It has been wonderful to see so many of you taking the opportunity to attend Mass over the last few weeks. The suspension of public Masses is a great suffering for Catholics, but we are now well practiced at keeping our faith alive at home.

**Pray at Home.** We are working hard to help you keep close to the Lord throughout lock-down. Over the last couple of weeks, we have developed a new website which will be regularly updated with helpful links and resources to support your relationship with God at home. For more information, visit [StBernardsBacchusMarsh.com.au](http://StBernardsBacchusMarsh.com.au)

**Pastoral Care.** Fr Lucas and Fr Marcus continue to reside at St Bernard's presbytery. They will pray for you daily at their private Masses. If you have any pastoral or sacramental need, please do not hesitate to contact them.

**Parish Annual General Meeting.** Given the limitations we are currently experiencing, our parish AGM will be held via Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday, 10th September 2020. Parishioners who wish to attend the AGM via Zoom should email Dolores at [bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au](mailto:bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au). A link will be sent out to you prior to the AGM with instructions about how to connect to the meeting. If you are unable to participate in the AGM by Zoom and have questions or comments for the AGM, they should be emailed or submitted in writing to Dolores prior to the AGM. Responses to any queries will be brought to you by members of the Parish Council following the AGM.

Many blessings,

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

## DOT ATTWOOD RIP

Dorothy "Dot" Atwood passed away last week and was buried on Tuesday at Maddingley Cemetery. Over the years, Dot made a huge contribution to the life of St Bernard's. Amongst other things, she was instrumental in the building of the hall and ran the parish catering service for thirty-three years. We extend our condolences to Dot's family and encourage you to pray for Dot's eternal repose.

## ST BERNARD'S PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners please be advised that the St Bernard'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.

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

Email Dolores: [bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au)

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

Email Judy: [judyparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:judyparishnews@gmail.com) or call **0414 007 009**

## **ST ANTHONY'S CARE TEAM**

Dear St Anthony's Parishioners

The Care Team at St Anthony's would like to reach out to all our Parishioners during this difficult time.

Many of us are living in lockdown and isolation. Our Care Team, are available for a chat and to offer some support during these COVID-19 restrictions.

Please give one of our team members a call they would love to hear from you!

<b>Sue Alexander</b>	<b>0400 171 843</b>
<b>Lillian Christian</b>	<b>0400 441 257</b>
<b>Stephen Fernandes</b>	<b>0439 743 533</b>
<b>Amy Honrade</b>	<b>03 9747 0078</b>
<b>Natalie Howard</b>	<b>0410 478 046</b>
<b>Villy Julita</b>	<b>0403 751 343</b>
<b>Rose Ma'ae</b>	<b>0431 386 473</b>
<b>Sally Markulin</b>	<b>0405 814 490</b>
<b>Kim Nguyen</b>	<b>0431 035 980</b>

If you know of a fellow Parishioner that would benefit from contact from our Care Team, please give **Judy Johnson** a call on **0414 007 009**, who will be able to organise contact for the Parishioner.

God Bless



**CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE MELTON**

## **YEAR 7 2022 ENROLMENTS**

Enrolment applications for Year 7 2022 are due on Friday 9 October 2020. To obtain or submit an application form email: [enrolments@crcmelton.com.au](mailto:enrolments@crcmelton.com.au)

### **Virtual School Tours**

We invite you to take a Virtual Tour of the College led by our Year 12 student leaders, which includes a live Q&A session with our Principal, Mrs Marlene Jorgensen.

To reserve your place visit:

[www.crcmelton.com.au/join-us/college-tours](http://www.crcmelton.com.au/join-us/college-tours)



**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:**

Gloria Ainsworth, Alvin John Bugeja, Segundo Cadiz, Malaga Niko Levi, Marie Rietschel, Nora Delos Reyes, Dorette Turcsan & Giovanni Viscosi

**Please pray for the Sick:**

Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, 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)**

**FATIMA STATUE**

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

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Group 1: <b>Lillian Christian</b>          | <b>0400 441 257</b> |
| Group 2: <b>Gordon &amp; Gladys Clarke</b> | <b>0402 021 435</b> |
| Group 3: <b>Josephine German</b>           | <b>0478 288 761</b> |



**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 whose death anniversaries occur at this time:**

Maurice Clancy, Billy Gleeson, Ashley Hine, Joan Kervin, Denis Leahy, Phillip Lennox, Kathleen Martin, Nathan Prince & Robert Taylor.

**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, 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)**

**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

## Friendship

*A mirror reflects a person's face, but what they are really like is shown by the kind of friends they choose. Proverbs 27:19*

I lost a close friend in recent times. We first met almost sixty years ago. I admired him greatly, his sense of fun, his endless energy and tireless commitment. He was an extraordinary character, no pretensions, no false airs but his defining characteristic was his love of the underdog. He inherited that from his parents. He initiated in two areas of Melbourne two of the most effective services to the poor, the hungry, the homeless and those dispossessed of their rights. It was a privilege to know him and I often wondered why we were such friends, what we had in common. For the past decade or more, every six weeks or so, four of his long-standing friends met for lunch.

One of the richest experiences in life is the gift of friendship. It is rare. We have many acquaintances, but real, life-giving friendship is something to be treasured. We are different from each other and it is hard to know why someone becomes a close friend and others do not, why we choose to trust this person, why we choose to share thoughts and ideas, dreams and aspirations, why we seek advice and support. Sustaining and nurturing a friendship takes commitment. 'Friending' someone on social media doesn't really compare. Virtual friendships don't often translate into real friendships – they lack the essential ingredients that engender genuine, lasting relationships.

Do you remember your first friend at school, when you first ventured away from family into the wide, wide world? More than just a companion - a friend. Someone to trust, to talk to, to share ideas and dreams, to swap things with, to tell stories. Someone who didn't put you down, but stayed loyal when the chips were down. Someone you could get angry with but who forgave you, someone who overlooked your faults. Someone who stood by you, laughed and cried with you.

'Can I phone a friend?' they ask on quiz shows. Friends are there when we need them and when they need us. In tough times and in easy times, friends stay true.

Friendship is not something we deserve or earn. It happens and it is a gift. Friendship is a safe place, a comfortable place where you are accepted, you don't have to impress. Friends help us through life.

Even so, some friends disappear from our lives. Sometimes we move away, sometimes they move away, sometimes we just drift apart. Interests change and we can simply grow apart. Staying in some form of meaningful contact can be difficult – some work hard at staying in touch, for whatever reasons, others don't. But friends enrich our lives, even if that friendship doesn't last. It is worth reflecting on the friends we have made and what they have added to life.

Friendship is an expression of what it means to be truly human. It is a living expression, a tangible way we can experience God's loving grace. Through it, we come to understand something of what "God is love" means. Even if some friendships are passing and last only for the time we share common interests and endeavours, while others last a lifetime, they are more than just enjoying each other's company. Real friendships are filled with the things that are the ingredients of God's grace, the life of the Spirit within – not just honesty and loyalty, but kindness, understanding, empathy, compassion, comfort, and trust – the practical expressions of love.

It is good to give thanks for our friends, old and new, those who are still around and those who may have gone away. Life changes and moves on. We anger each other, we fail each other, we let each other down sometimes, but we share this short life together, this precious time. Friendship helps us discover that 'it is not all about me' but rather it acknowledges our need for others to sustain us, that it is in contact with others that we grow and mature and develop.

Why not phone a friend today?

Regards  
**Jim Quillinan**

Email: [jquillinan@dcsi.net.au](mailto:jquillinan@dcsi.net.au)



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **ENTRANCE PROCESSION**

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.  
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of mercy to all who call to you.

### **FIRST READING** Jeremiah 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;  
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,  
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl  
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me  
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him,  
I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,  
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,  
I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 62**

**Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you  
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

For you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

### **SECOND READING** Romans 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg  
you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your  
living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not  
model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you,  
but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind.  
This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what  
is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to  
do.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our heart,  
that we might see how great is the hope  
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL** Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to  
go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and  
chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on  
the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate  
with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not  
happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me,  
Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is  
not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of  
mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.  
For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who  
loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he  
wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in  
exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with  
his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to  
his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

How great is the goodness, Lord,  
that you keep for those who fear you.

### **NEXT WEEK'S READING**

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**First Reading:** Ezek 33:7-9

**Second Reading:** Rom 13:8-10

**Gospel:** Mt 18:15-20



# The life of Catholic worship and piety XXXII

## Music and Liturgy (No. 3 of 3 parts)

### Liturgical Dancing

Dancing is not a form of expression for the Christian liturgy. In about the third century, there was an attempt in certain Gnostic-Docetic circles to introduce it into the liturgy. For these people, the Crucifixion was only an appearance. Before the Passion, Christ had abandoned the body that in any case he had never really assumed, they believed. Dancing could take the place of the liturgy of the Cross, because, after all, the Cross was only an appearance.

The cultic dances of the different religions have different purposes — incantation, imitative magic, mystical ecstasy — none of which is compatible with the essential purpose of the liturgy of the “reasonable sacrifice”. It is totally absurd to try to make the liturgy “attractive” by introducing dancing pantomimes (wherever possible performed by professional dance troupes), which frequently (and rightly, from the professionals’ point of view) end with applause. Wherever applause breaks out in the liturgy because of some human achievement, it is a sure sign that the essence of liturgy has totally disappeared and been replaced by a kind of religious entertainment.

Such attractiveness fades quickly — it cannot compete in the market of leisure pursuits, incorporating as it increasingly does various forms of religious titillation. I myself have experienced the replacing of the penitential rite by a dance performance, which, needless to say, received a round of applause. Could there be anything farther removed from true penitence?

Liturgy can only attract people when it looks, not at itself, but at God, when it allows him to enter and act. Then something truly unique happens, beyond competition, and people have a sense that more has taken place than a recreational activity. None of the Christian rites includes dancing.

### On External Actions

Of course, external actions — reading, singing, the bringing up of the gifts — can be distributed in a sensible way. By the same token, participation in the Liturgy of the Word (reading, singing) is to be distinguished from the sacramental celebration proper. We should be clearly aware that external actions are quite secondary here. Doing really must stop when we come to the heart of the matter: the *oratio*. It must be plainly evident that the *oratio* is the heart of the matter, but that it is important precisely because it provides a space for the *actio* of God.

By Pope Benedict XVI, catholiceducation.org/en/

Anyone who grasps this will easily see that it is not now a matter of looking at or towards the priest, but of looking together towards the Lord and going out to meet him. The almost theatrical entrance of different players into the liturgy, which is so common today, especially during the Preparation of the Gifts, simply misses the point.

If the various external actions (as a matter of fact, there are not very many of them, though they are being artificially multiplied) become the essential in the liturgy, if the liturgy degenerates into general activity, then we have radically misunderstood the “theo-drama” of the liturgy and lapsed almost into parody.

True liturgical education cannot consist in learning and experimenting with external activities. Instead one must be led towards the essential *actio* that makes the liturgy what it is, towards the transforming power of God, who wants, through what happens in the liturgy, to transform us and the world.

In this respect, liturgical education today, of both priests and laity, is deficient to a deplorable extent. Much remains to be done here.

### Silence

We are realising more and more clearly that silence is part of the liturgy. We respond, by singing and praying, to the God who addresses us, but the greater mystery, surpassing all words, summons us to silence.

It must, of course, be a silence with content, not just the absence of speech and action. We should expect the liturgy to give us a positive stillness that will restore us. Such stillness will not be just a pause, in which a thousand thoughts and desires assault us, but a time of recollection, giving us an inward peace, allowing us to draw breath and rediscover the one thing necessary, which we have forgotten.

That is why silence cannot be simply “made”, organised as if it were one activity among many. It is no accident that on all sides people are seeking techniques of meditation, a spirituality for emptying the mind. One of man’s deepest needs is making its presence felt, a need that is manifestly not being met in our present form of the liturgy.

For silence to be fruitful, as we have already said, it must not be just a pause in the action of the liturgy. No, it must be an integral part of the liturgical event.

Acknowledgement

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. “Music and Liturgy”, from *The Spirit of the Liturgy* (Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 2000).