



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 24th Sunday In Ordinary Time-Year A

13th September 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.

[A INVITATION TO ALL OUR ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S PARISHIONERS](#)



LOUIS DE MONTFORT 'TOTAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY'.

As Fr Fabian has consecrated our parishes, a group of us are also doing the Louis de Montfort '**Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary**' to consecrate ourselves and our families with him. In these uncertain and difficult times when most people seems to struggle to find something to depend on, we should cling all the more to our God Who gives us strength.

St Louis de Montfort wrote "*We ought to belong to Jesus Christ, and to serve Him not only as mercenary servants, but as loving slaves who, as a result of their great love, give themselves up to serve Him in the quality of slaves simply for the honor of belonging to Him*". He also wrote that "*Our Blessed Lady is the means Our Lord made use of to come to us*" and "*The strongest inclination of Mary is to unite us to Jesus Christ, her Son*". So it is fitting that we "*call ourselves and make ourselves the loving slaves of the most holy Virgin, in order to be, by that very means, the more perfectly the slaves of Jesus Christ.*"

The consecration consists of **33 days of preparation** including daily prayer, readings and spiritual exercises to prepare us for the consecration. We will be **starting on the 19th of October**, for **our consecration day to be the 21st of November, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lady.**

We will be having a **briefing session on Wednesday the 30th of September at 8pm on Zoom** to talk more about the details of the consecration. If you are interested, please send an email to stanthonypayergroup@gmail.com or send a text to [0403751343](tel:0403751343) and we will send you the link to get onto the Zoom briefing session.

God bless,
St Anthony's prayer group

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.



ST ANTHONY'S RENOVATION



St Anthony's
Parish

After many months of preparation and works, our renovations are complete!
A huge congratulations to Fr Fabian and all who worked so hard on the project. Click on this link to watch a video tour and to get a taste of what awaits you when Masses resume!
<https://stanthonyofpadua.com.au/>



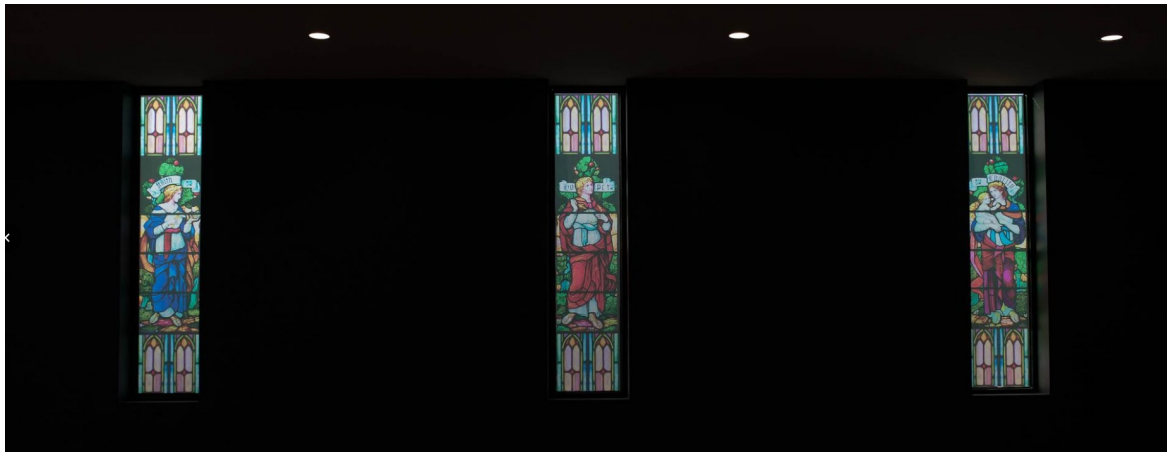
CHAPEL WINDOWS

These beautiful windows are in our new chapel. The windows cost \$8,000, if you are able to donate towards the cost, it would be greatly appreciated.

Bank details.
Acc Name **ST ANTHONYS CHURCH**
BSB **083 347**
Account No **641915964**.

Please put in your Full Name for record keeping purposes.

Thank you.





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 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**

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

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.

Many blessings,

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

THE SWAG

Your copy of the SWAG can be collected from the Convent, 68 Lerderberg St.
Ring Sr Mary. 5367 2078 to organise a time.



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 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**

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!

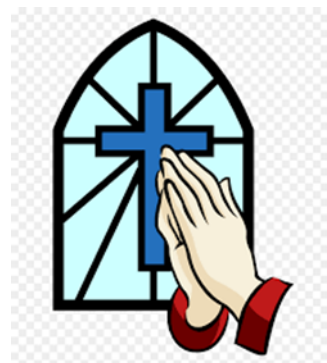
| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Sue Alexander | 0400 171 843 | Lillian Christian | 0400 441 257 |
| Stephen Fernandes | 0439 743 533 | Amy Honrade | 03 9747 0078 |
| Natalie Howard | 0410 478 046 | Villy Julita | 0403 751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

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

WE CRY OUT TO YOU

*God of all,
we cry out to you for help.
In your mercy, hear our prayer.
Protect us, Lord, and be with us
especially those of us most vulnerable
during this coronavirus crisis.*



*Move us to reach out in love
to our neighbours near and far.
So that the humble may be exalted,
the hungry filled with good things.*

*Grant us the courage
not to rush back to our old ways,
but to rebuild our world together,
creating foundations of justice,
with equality and peace for all.
Amen.*

Prayer: Catherine Gorman/CAFOD

Source: Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea

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:

Christopher Burge, Sam Bonello, Edith Carag, Joseph Chacko, Frances Cochrane, Gerard Cochrane, David Consiglio, Campbell Dodemaide, Cyril D'Silva & Rita Pereira

Please pray for the Sick:

Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Chinnamma Joseph, 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: **John & Rose Ma'ae** **0431 386 473**

Group 2: **Margaret Williams**

Group 3: **John & Pauline Osborne** **9743 1437**



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:

Nellie Hosemans, Kathleen Martin, Hannah Maureen McGeady, Joe O'Brien, Fr Peter Sinnema & Michael Williams.

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

Kindness

I have experienced only two bushfires and that was too many. They both came so quickly and without warning but they lingered for days. The second one was worse, perhaps because by then I was old enough to help fight it. The men of the district gathered with all sorts of primitive equipment. There were no fire trucks on hand then. It was terrifying. The smoke and the roar of the flames didn't quite manage to drown the sounds of the frightened stock that were running all over the place in panic. It was my job to muster them, to gather them together in the middle of this chaos and get them out the gate. It was so difficult to see or breathe at times and they certainly didn't want to follow the directions of a fourteen year old.

Then out of this inferno, through the smoke and chaos emerged an extraordinary apparition – four elderly ladies carrying teapots, a basket full of cups and sandwiches. These local Red Cross/CWA volunteers seemed quite oblivious to the danger around them. “Anyone for a cuppa?” We stopped for a welcome relief, I think more out of amazement than thirst. The fire would have to wait.

That incident happened over sixty years ago and I still remember it. Simple acts of kindness go unseen, unnoticed and unrecognised so many times. We tend to remember acts of unkindness - memories of other children's taunts perhaps, those who laughed or made fun of us, moments of scorn or rejection making us feeling isolated, or just rudeness, someone being ungrateful. We call that being ungracious. Sometimes it is only on those occasions that we come to understand that the signs of kindness, compassion, understanding, acceptance, generosity are also the signs of the power of grace. Kindness finds its roots in God who is, after all, Love.

The media is a powerful teacher. A number of recent award winning films have been singled out because they are about the goodness of people, the daily kindness of those around us. Some filmmakers are reconsidering the types of stories they want to tell in this time of division and rancour. Kindness, they say, is a powerful antidote. Some films depict how simple acts of

kindness have changed lives. Sometimes, even in the worst of places like the concentration camps or the refugee camps that seem to be so characteristic of our age, simple acts of generosity and empathy have made life bearable. Mother Teresa and her sisters' acts of kindness each day bring aid and comfort in what is for many, a hopeless situation. A simple act of kindness, a smile, a word of encouragement, a thank you can make a world of difference. And mostly, if we have been the bearer of such a gift, we may have no idea what difference such acts might have made.

Kindness has few common characteristics. It shows itself in the most unlikely of places at times, these women emerging from the smoke at the bushfire, for example. We have to be on the lookout for it. We can be ungracious in our response or just ignore it, even take it as our right. That's ungracious in that such a response doesn't recognise God's grace in this act as the spark of God's grace which urges us to respond.

Kindness grows stronger the more we employ it. Like any skills, it gets better with use and the fact that we know that the spark, the impetus for it comes from God saves us from being smug or self righteous about it.

It is infectious, an engaging experience that involves others, inspires others. Be kind to yourself doesn't ring true. 'Kindfulness' is the new buzz word but it's just about caring for oneself. Kindness by its nature is outgoing, it is about the other.

The reign of God is about those small acts. Remember Jesus' story about the mustard seed, the smallest of seeds that grows to a great tree. Small acts of kindness leave their mark. We remember them. Hopefully we share them with others. No act of kindness, no matter how big or small, is ever wasted.

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING Sirach 27:30 - 28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the
Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the
commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour
ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the
offence.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:102

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we
live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that
alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both
died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the
dead and of the living.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35
Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my
brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered,
'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.
'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who
decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning
began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but
he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he
should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his
possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself
down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the
whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let
him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he
happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred
denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him.
"Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet
and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the
other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into
prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply
distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to
their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master
sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt
of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to
have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his
anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay
all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you
unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9;
Second Reading: Phil 1:20-24.27;
Gospel: Matt 20:1-16



The life of Catholic worship and piety XXXIV

Why priests wear black

Over the centuries Church clerics were required to wear distinctive garb to identify them as ordained clergy. Particular dioceses or national bishops' conferences in various countries have established the norms for such clerical attire.

In the early Church, no distinctive garb seems to have been worn, except, of course, liturgical vestments, which in some cases were also worn outside the celebration of the sacraments. For instance, sometimes bishops and priests wore the chasuble like regular clothing, as did the deacons with the dalmatic.

In the sixth century, clerics and nobility retained the traditional Roman style of clothing of a long tunic and cloak. The male laity began wearing a short tunic, breeches, and mantle — clothing introduced by the barbarian tribes. Also at this time, the cassock as we know it originated in France and was given the Latin name *pillicia* (*pelisse* in early French), meaning skin or hide. The name signifies that the long tunic was lined with fur to provide warmth, sorely needed in the unheated stone churches, especially during the winter season. However, others besides clerics wore these garments.

The use of the long tunic from neck to feet also reflected a stress on modesty. From the sixth century onward, many local synods passed regulations forbidding clerics from wearing richly styled clothing, light or skimpy clothing, bright colours, and extravagant ornaments and jewellery.

The Council of Braga in Portugal (572) was one of the first such synods to mandate that clergy wear a tunic reaching to the feet. Responding to reports of laxity in Britain, Pope John VIII (c 875) admonished the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to insure their clergy wore proper attire, particularly long tunics.

In the Middle Ages, the dress of clergy began to be regulated by canon law with other specific regulations passed by local synods. The Fourth Lateran Council (1215) decreed that clerics must wear garments closed in front and free from extravagance. Around this time, the cassock became the distinct garb of the clergy alone. It was given the French name *soutane* (from Medieval Latin/Early Italian, *sottana*, which means beneath, referring to the fur linings). The English speaking people adopted the word "cassock", derived from early French *casaque*.

By Fr William Saunders, catholiceducation.org/en/

Eventually, the Church passed more stringent regulations. Pope Sixtus V in 1589 proscribed penalties for those clerics who did not wear the cassock (officially called in Latin *vestis talaris*). Pope Urban VIII in 1624 mandated that a cincture be worn with the cassock and the cloak worn over the cassock be of the same length.

Pope Clement XI, in 1708, allowed the wearing of a shorter cassock (technically the frock coat, sort of a Nehru jacket) for travel purposes, especially riding horses. In 1725, Pope Benedict XIII forbade clerics to wear civilian attire.

In recent times, the regulations have become more relaxed. While many priests wear the traditional cassock for Mass, the distribution of Holy Communion or in performing other priestly duties around the parish, a regular suit with clerical collar or a clerical shirt have become common place, especially in activities beyond the physical confines of the parish or in daily duties.

The colour of the ordinary Roman cassock and clerical attire in general is black. For the regular parish priest, the cassock is totally black. For cardinals, the buttons, trim, and inside hem are scarlet silk; for patriarchs, archbishops, bishops, protonotaries apostolic and prelates of honour, the buttons, trim and inside hem are amaranth red; and for chaplains to the Holy Father, purple.

For liturgical and public ceremonies of the Church, cassocks are of one colour; white for the Holy Father; scarlet for Cardinals; purple for patriarchs, archbishops, bishops, protonotaries apostolic, and prelates of honour; and black for priests. In some dioceses, especially in the tropics, permission is granted for cassocks to be white, and then trimmed in the colour designating the status of the cleric.

The symbolism of the cassock is as follows. The Roman collar symbolises obedience; the Sash or cincture around the waist, chastity; and the colour black, poverty. Moreover, black is a colour of mourning and death. For the priest, the symbolism is of dying to oneself to rise and serve the Lord as well as giving witness of the Kingdom yet to come.

The Code of Canon Law still requires that "clerics are to wear suitable ecclesiastical garb in accord with the norms issued by the conference of bishops and in accord with legitimate local custom" (No. 284). In our very secular world, the wearing of clerical garb continues to be a visible sign of belief and of the consecration of one's life to the service of the Lord and His Church.