



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:
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

The 28th Sunday In Ordinary Time-Year A

11th October 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	0492 947 201
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

Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
Moira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell	0401 927 502
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: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMeltonSouth>

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayBacchusMarsh>

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

Please note new PDFpay link. 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).

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.



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: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMeltonSouth>

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayBacchusMarsh>

Please note new PDFpay link. Thank you.

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

RCIA BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER— ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S PROGRAM

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Non-Catholics are prepared for reception into the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). RCIA involves weekly catechetical sessions and culminates with reception of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion) at Easter 2021. One RCIA cycle will be run for both St Anthony's and St Bernard's beginning the first week of November. Meetings will be conducted in person when possible or by Zoom if necessary.

Contact Fr Marcus on 0468 367 893 for more information.

YOUR LOVING CARE

Lord Jesus,

when you walked with us on earth

you spread your healing power.

We place in your loving care

all who are affected by Coronavirus.

Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.

Bring relief to our sick,

console our bereaved,

protect those who care for us.

We lift our prayer to you Lord,

and trust in your infinite mercy,

as we wait for the daybreak.

Amen.

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



Petition to the Premier of Victoria

EQUALITY FOR VICTORIA'S PEOPLE OF FAITH

Dear Premier Daniel Andrews,

We, people of Victoria's faith community, request that the 'Roadmap for Reopening' be amended so that people of faith and places of worship are treated equitably and fairly.

The 2016 national census indicates that approximately 60% of Victorians identify as religious. For people of faith, the ability to practise our beliefs – including through public worship – is essential to our wellbeing. As it stands, the 'Roadmap' suggests that our wellbeing has not been given due consideration.

We are particularly concerned about the inequitable treatment of people of faith under 'Step 3' of your 'Roadmap'. For example, 'Step 3' permits cafes and restaurants to seat up to 20 people indoors and 50 people outdoors yet restricts religious communities to outdoor gatherings of only 10 people and indoor private worship to household bubbles.

There is no logical reason for this discrepancy. People of faith are able to attend a service in a place of worship whilst wearing a face mask; physical distancing is not a challenge in what are often very large venues; services are time-limited and rigorous infection-control measures are able to be implemented. A place of worship can and should be accessible in a COVID-safe way.

Religious organisations should be afforded the same opportunity to open for indoor worship with density quotients equivalent to those seen in other parts of the community such as hospitality. We were afforded the opportunity as we emerged from the first lockdown; we deserve to be afforded the same opportunity again as we emerge from the second lockdown.

Premier Andrews, we, people of Victoria's faith community, request that you adjust the 'Roadmap for Reopening' in a way that secures the equitable treatment of religious communities and grants us the opportunity to practise our faith in a COVID-safe manner.

Signed,

People of all faiths, Victoria

Sign at

www.equalityforfaith.com.au

Dear people of faith, an online petition has been created to address the inequality towards places of worship and people of faith in the Victorian government's 'Roadmap for Reopening'.

The petition can be found on: <https://www.equalityforfaith.com.au/>

We are not asking for special treatment - just equal treatment. We ask you to please sign and distribute the petition to people you know and encourage them to do the same.

Thank you– Your support on this important issue is needed to make a change!



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/>



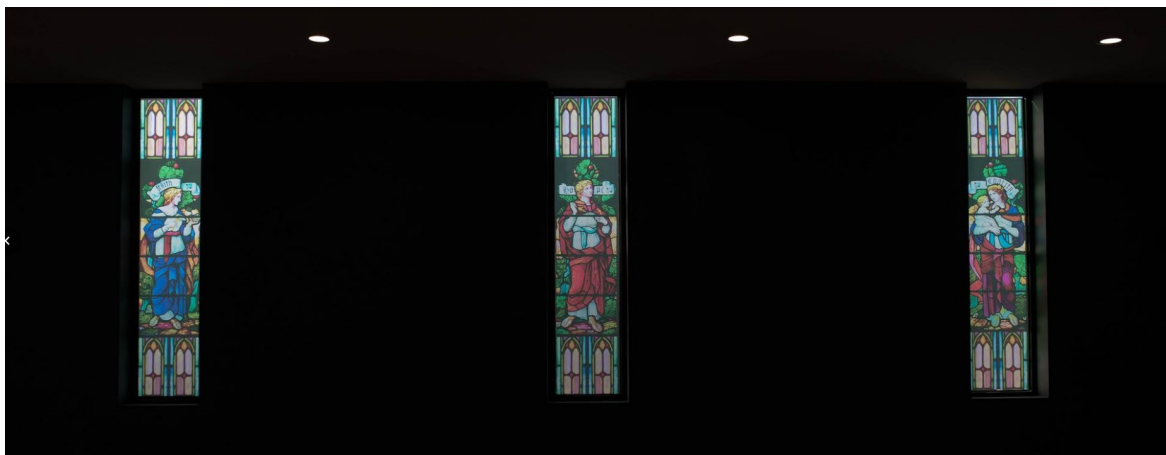
CHAPEL WINDOWS

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.

NAB 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.



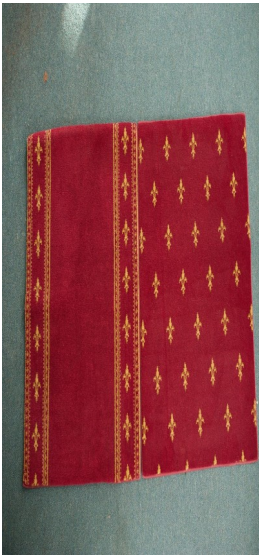
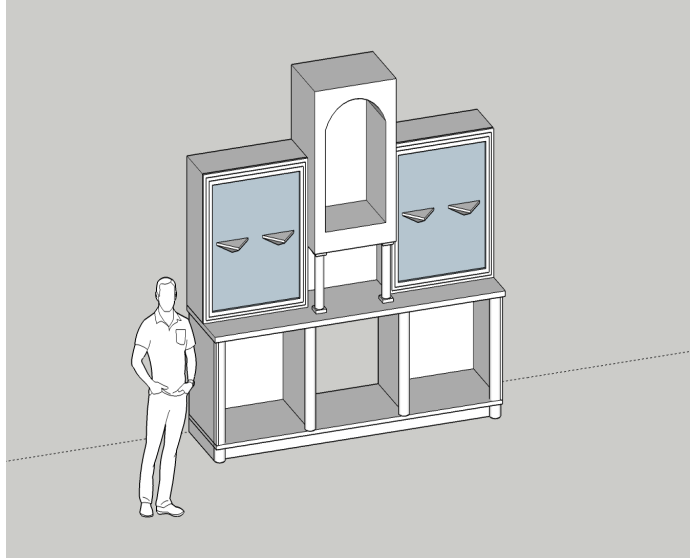


St Anthony's Parish

Dear Parishioners of St Anthony's,

Just an update on where we are at with the furnishings for the new chapel. The following items need you're your generous contribution; **High Altar**, Two White Angels, **St Anthony's Statue**, Carpet, **3 Pews** with upholstery for the seat and kneeler. **Only if you are in a financial position to help make this happen** and wish to contribute towards the furnishings, I am providing our **NAB** bank details. Ac Name **ST ANTHONYS CHURCH**, BSB **083 347** Account No **641915964**. Please put in your Full Name for record keeping. If you need to talk to me please contact me on 0403 435 471.

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 current COVID-19 restrictions . 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 remain suspended. At 11.59pm on Wednesday, 16th September 2020, regional Victoria moved to 'Step 3' in the State Government's reopening plan. Whilst this means that restaurants and other similar places of public gathering will be able to have 10 people indoors and 50 people outdoors, places of worship are limited to 10 people outdoors for gatherings, 20 people indoors for funerals, and 10 people indoors for weddings. The reason for the inequitable treatment of places of worship under the 'Step 3' plan is unclear. The Archbishop has attempted to have the situation rectified with little success. We encourage our parishioners to write to their member of Parliament requesting equitable treatment for churches under the Roadmap out of lockdown.

The open nature of St Bernard's property presents challenges in regard to controlling numbers at outdoor Masses so we have decided not to resume Masses at this point. We will do so as soon as possible.

Given these restrictions, Masses can only be celebrated for household groups. To request a time for Mass for you and your household please give Dolores a call on **53672069**. We will get back to you to confirm your request as soon as possible. Please check our website regularly for updated information. If you have any sacramental or spiritual need, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office. We look forward to reopening as soon as possible.

Pray at Home. We are working hard to help you keep close to the Lord throughout lock-down. Each week, a Liturgy of the Word is uploaded to our website to help you pray at home on Sundays. Fr Marcus is also recording a homily each week that you can access through that resource. For more information, visit www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au.

Many blessings, Fr Fabian **0403 435 471** Fr Lucas **0478 768 141** Fr Marcus **0468 367 893**

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food provides a free community meal in a respectful and supportive environment for anyone who would like to join us. If you know of anyone who needs a helping hand, especially in these difficult times, please send them along and they will be made very welcome. Soul Food is held every Wednesday at 12 noon at the Uniting Church in Bacchus Marsh.

We are planning this year's Christmas function, and Soul Food is looking for people to sponsor the children of some of our families for Xmas. You will be given a child's name & age, and asked to buy them a few presents for Xmas. These will be collected on the last week of November, and distributed through Soul Food at our Xmas function.

If you would like to be a Christmas Sponsor for a local child who needs a helping hand, please call Jenny on 0408104155.



ST BERNARD'S PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners please be advised that the St Bernard's Parish Office will be closed during the COVID-19 restrictions. 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**

Seeking Expressions of Interest
St Bernard's Property Development Advisory Committee

The COVID-related shutdown of parish activities has highlighted the importance of diversifying our parish's income streams. Previous generations of priests and parishioners have bequeathed to us a number of assets that remain under-utilised. Prudent redevelopment of some of these under-utilised assets could provide the parish with a reliable supplementary source of income.

At our Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, the decision was made to form a Property Development Advisory Committee. This Committee will have the task of canvassing options for the redevelopment of the parish's various properties with the aim of securing the parish's financial future. The first stage of the Property Development Advisory Committee's work will be to prepare a preliminary report that outlines different ways of generating income from the aforementioned properties. This report will be submitted to Father Fabian, the Parish Pastoral Council, and the Parish Finance Committee for review, before being shared with parishioners for their feedback. Following that feedback and the approval of the Finance Committee, the Property Development Advisory Committee may then be tasked to engage professional assistance in refining one or more of these options for further review and realisation. Membership of the Property Development Advisory Committee could, therefore, involve a two to three year commitment, with meetings held as required.

Parishioners are invited to express their interest in membership of the Development Advisory Committee. The Committee will consist of Father Marcus (chair) and between 4-6 parishioners, at least one of whom must also be a member of the Parish Finance Committee. We would particularly welcome expressions of interest from parishioners with experience in one or more of the following areas: project management, law, construction, finance, local government, planning. Expressions of interest should be submitted in writing by post or email to the Parish Office by close of business Friday, 9th October 2020. Expressions of interest should also identify how long you have been a parishioner, any other ways you have been involved in the parish, and any other relevant experience you have.

Many blessings on behalf of the Priest Team

Fr Fabian

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop

We invite you to order your free copy of
Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to **"take fresh courage..."** as Mary did so often.

These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book or call us on Ph.02 8912 2777

MARY MACKILLOP
today



Mary MacKillop Prayer

Ever generous God,

You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop

***To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and constant in bringing hope and encouragement
to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.***

***With confidence in your generous providence
and through the intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop***

We ask that you grant our request.....

***We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit
so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust and
openness.***

Ever generous God hear our prayer.

We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.



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

ST ANTHONY'S

ST BERNARD'S

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Donald Abela, Cachia Family, Anthony D'Cruz, Francis D'Cruz, Jorris D'Cruz, Philip D'Cruz, Wilfredo de Guzman, Rick Galanti, Bridgit Gomez, Joseph Gomez, Rosa Gomez, Giovanni Madafferi, Michelina Madafferi, Rio Manion, Dalcy Silva, Salvador Pereira & Tanti Family

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)

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 the recently deceased:

John William McDonald and Alma Trask.

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

Justin Callaway, Sr Mary McArdle rsj, Dominic Morabita, Fr John Nagle, Tim Shea, John Trask & Betty 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)

FATIMA STATUE

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

Group 1: **Allen & Ellen Johnson** **0418 200 144**

Group 2: **Agata & Inri Kubala** **0405 470 372**

Group 3: **Kristina Scerri**



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

A Lonely Time

"Illness can be a very lonely time," Michael Leunig wrote in a poignant article describing his diagnosis and treatment for an aggressive form of melanoma. What he wrote revealed much about his own courage and sensitivity, but also the surprises and the disappointments about how others reacted and what that meant to him:

And there are the neighbours, the ones you don't know well; some appear at your door bearing simple good wishes and gifts of food. Saintliness ... this is it! And then there are those surprising souls, the ones you thought were close, who pull away and seem indifferent. Not salt of the earth during these times of trouble, but salt in the wound; or so it seems to you. They have troubles of their own I guess, or they don't know what to say.

When sadness comes, when grief descends, when we have to grapple with another's sorrow or hardship, so often it is easier to stay away or just use social media to respond. It is hard to find the right words or the appropriate way to respond. It is easier to make excuses (they have their own friends, their family, best to stay away at this time, I'll call when everyone has gone, I'll leave a message etc etc).

When Jesus took his apostles with him to the Garden of Gethsemane, they all must have felt the apprehension, the fear, the sadness of the impending disaster. They had just finished a meal together where Jesus had spelt it out to them. He went aside to pray and 'threw himself on the ground', the Gospel says. He was afraid. And they went to sleep!

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. Mt 26:40

Couldn't you even be with me in this hour when I needed you? It is at once a rebuke and an expression of hurt, of disappointment. How let down Jesus must have felt at this very time when he needed friends, support, companionship. They couldn't do anything about changing what was to be – Peter tried that later when he impulsively cut off one of the guard's ears but, if at least some of them could have stayed awake, their presence might have eased the fear, the pain, the anxiety.

Most times when we fall short, we don't do out of malice or bad intent, but out of our feeling of inadequacy. We just don't know what to say, what to do. But not much is expected of us - we tend to build that up in our own minds, which only adds to the tension, the apprehension. In Leunig's words:

Every little smile or kindness that comes your way is uplifting; each good-humoured moment, every sweet meeting with another's eyes, every visit from a friend who has come to just be with you and share plain words or easy silences for a while – these things are divine.

We can make futile gestures, like Peter with his sword but most times we can do little about the cause of such suffering, or the loss. But we are not powerless. The smallest things, the simplest, the most ordinary are often the most needed and the most important, the most powerful. We can be the bearers of comfort just by our companionship, our friendship in these times when they are perhaps needed the most. We can help to bring hope in times when the feelings of isolation and despair are taking hold. Just by being there. The smallest gestures can relieve anxiety, so can a listening ear. No pretence or pretensions needed, no wise words needed. We can be bearers of comfort and hope in our prayer. After all, we share the same vulnerability, our life too is fragile. We too need love and friendship, comfort and companionship.

The busyness, the distractions and worries of daily life tend to so consume us that we take for granted what's most precious to us, the love and friendships that surround us, our health, the miracle of our senses, and the gift of life itself.

When we take the time to reach out to another, we come to a greater appreciation of what we have and what we share in common. We come to realise and appreciate more the extraordinary gifts of life, family and friendship.

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

FIRST READING Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.

On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 22

**R. I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name,
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**

SECOND READING Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere; full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

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 22:1-14

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited," he said, "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1.4-6;

Second Reading: Thess 1:1-5;

Gospel: Matt 22:15-21



The life of Catholic worship and piety XXXVIII

Disposing of Blessed Items

What should I do with my old blessed palm? I also have some broken statues and rosaries that have been blessed? Since they are blessed, I am sure that I should not just throw these out. Are there any guidelines?

As Catholics, we are accustomed to having religious objects “blessed”. Here a bishop or a priest imparts a blessing which signifies the permanent sanctification and dedication of an object for some sacred purpose.

This blessing is technically termed a “constitutive blessing”. For example when a bishop dedicates, or classically speaking, consecrates, an altar, that altar must only be used for sacred purposes, particularly the offering of the Mass. Or, when a chalice is blessed, it becomes a sacred vessel dedicated solely to sacred usage.

Once a religious object has been blessed and dedicated for divine worship or veneration, it must be treated with reverence and not be used in either an improper or a profane way (cf. Code of Canon Law, no. 1171).

However, blessed religious objects break or wear out from use. The basic rule for the disposition of these items is to burn or to bury them. During the 1800s, both the Sacred Congregation for the Rites and the Holy Office (now known respectively as the Sacred Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship and the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith) issued various determinations concerning this issue. Here are a few examples.

A chalice which becomes “unserviceable” is not to be sold, but must be used for some other sacred purpose or melted. Vestments, altar cloths and linens must be destroyed. Polluted or excess holy water must be poured into the ground. Palms are to be burned, and the ashes then used for distribution on Ash Wednesday or returned to the ground.

By Fr William Saunders, catholiceducation.org/en/

A broken rosary or religious statue normally would be buried. In all, the underlying idea is that what has been dedicated to God should be returned to God. Never should one just “throw out” what has been dedicated to God.

Interestingly, this same reasoning governs the disposition of the Holy Eucharist. In each sacristy, there is a sacrarium, which is a sink that does not drain into the sewer system, but directly into the ground. If, for some reason, the priest has to dispose of a Sacred Host, he would completely dissolve the host in water and then rinse it down the sacrarium with water.

For instance, once when I was distributing Holy Communion at a nursing home, one of the elderly patients wanted to receive Holy Communion as usual but for some reason on this occasion could not swallow. She proceeded to expectorate the Sacred Host onto a linen purificator. When I returned to the Church, I dissolved and rinsed the Sacred Host down the sacrarium with water.

Living in a society where things have become so disposable, we must not forget those religious objects that have been blessed and dedicated to God and for sacred use. My heart breaks every time I enter an antique store and I see a chalice, a reliquary (sometimes still containing a relic), vestments and other sacred objects that were one time used for the Holy Mass.

I have to wonder, “What was someone thinking to just dispose of these items in this way?”

They should have tried to find these religious objects a new home in a mission Church or have disposed of them in the proper way. Please be sure to always cherish the blessed religious objects at home, venerate them with piety, and when necessary, dispose of them properly.



A freestanding sacrarium.