



St Anthony's Parish

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



St Bernard's Parish

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT -YEAR C

13th March 2022

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint /Father Marcus Goulding

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Parish Office Hours: Monday 9.00am-12noon
Tue 9am-4pm Wed 9am-5.30pm Thu /Fri 9am-4pm
Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au
Website: www.stanthonyof padua.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

St Lawrence of Brindisi School **Principal:** Bill Hill
31 Waterway Boulevard, Weir Views, 3338
Phone: 0477 155 210
Email: principal@slweirviews.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)
Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000
109-141 Bulmans Rd, West Melton, 3337 **Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:
Naim Chdid
Parish Office Hours:
Tue-Thu 9am-1pm
Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au
Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

St Bernard's School **Principal:**
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

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Naim Chid | 0437 004 790 |
| Lillian Christian - Vice Chair | 0400 441 257 |
| Stephen Fernandes | 0439 743 533 |
| Amy Honrade | 9747 0078 |
| Natalie Howard - Chair | 0492 947 201 |
| Rose Ma'ae | 0460 672 571 |

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint,
Fr Marcus Goulding, Damien Schuster and Bill Hill
Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Shane Cook -School Advisory Board | 0419 999 052 |
| Peter Farren | 0418 594 501 |
| Peter Kennedy | 0407 778 119 |
| Maira Ross | 0400 675 056 |
| Aaron Russell - Chair | 0401 927 502 |

EX-OFFICIO:
Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Marcus Goulding

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's -Karina Dunne, Lorraine Tellis & Geetha Vincent
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779)

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 14/2/22-20/2/22

MASS TIMES:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Monday 14/3 | 6.30pm |
| Tuesday 15/3 | 9.30am |
| Holy Hour | 5.30pm |
| Week 1 of the St Antony's Novena followed by Mass at | 6.15pm 6.30pm |
| Wednesday 16/3 | 7.30am & 9.30am |
| Thursday 17/3 | 9.30am |
| Friday 18/3 | 7.30am & 9.30am |
| Stations of the Cross | 10.00am & 7.00pm |

Sunday Masses

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Saturday 19/3 | 5.00pm |
| Sunday 20/3 | 8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm |

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.
No Confession on Monday

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 14/2/22-20/2/22

MASS TIMES:

| | | |
|--|----------|--------|
| Monday 14/3- No Mass | *Rosary | 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 15/3 | | 7.30am |
| Holy Hour | | 7.30pm |
| Wednesday 16/3 | | 9.30am |
| Thursday 17/3 | | 7.30am |
| Friday 18/3 | | 9.30am |
| Station of the Cross (Soup & Stations) | | |
| Soup 6.30pm | Stations | 7.30pm |
| Saturday 19/3 | | 9.00am |
| *Rosary - Prayed every Monday at 7:30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour. | | |

Sunday Masses

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Saturday 19/3 | 5.00pm |
| Sunday 20/3 | 8.30am & 10.30am |

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS

6.30pm

If you need a Priest in the case of an emergency please call 0403 435 471

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.

REFLECTION ON THE 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT -Mary Fermio rsj

One of my favourite retreat places was Tarrawarra Abbey, Yarra Glen. There, during these quiet times, God was very present and I experienced some "close encounters" of the spiritual kind. At the end of the retreat, my director would say: Well Mary, time to go down the mountain to the ordinary world. How true!

The Transfiguration was, for Jesus, an encounter with God of a deep spiritual kind, one also shared by the three disciples. The light, the voice from heaven, the presence of Moses and Elijah, would have been a deep experience for Jesus, and such a beautiful encounter, that the apostles wanted to stay there.

But the reality of our humanity demands that we move from such moments back to the dailiness of life. They could not stay on the mountain forever and the ordinariness of life hits them when they return below, to the disciples arguing about healing a young man. Jesus has to step in, take charge, and back to normality.

God is present each day, in our prayer, in each event, each person we encounter, but we also encounter the nitty-gritty of life. Lent is a good time to reflect on this.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

SPECIAL COLLECTION-SACRED HEART CHURCH- MADURAI-INDIA

Dear Parishioners, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generous contribution towards the appeal to repair my hometown Church, the Sacred Heart Church, Madurai, India. St Anthony's raised \$6730.00 and St Bernard's \$1270.00. I want to especially thank the generous St Anthony's Parishioner who matched dollar for dollar in this appeal. Many blessings-Fr Fabian.

ST ANTHONY'S

ST VINCENT DE PAUL – MELTON SOUTH CONFERENCE RECRUITMENT DRIVE

The Melton South Conference of St Vincent de Paul are looking for new members to continue its good work in the area. The Society helps people experiencing poverty and injustice, and helps to create a more compassionate community.

Members of the Society will be speaking at each Mass on the 26th/27th March 2022. This will be a chance for everyone to hear about what is involved in volunteering for the Melton South conference. A Come & See event will also be held at 7pm on the 30th of March in the Meeting Room at St Anthony's Church, 67-75 Exford Road Melton South. This will be a chance to ask any questions you have.

SAVE THE DATE- BLESSING OF THE CHURCH

Archbishop Peter Comensoli will be celebrating Mass and blessing our renovated Church extension and Chapel on Sunday 24th April 10.30am.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Dear Parishioners, this weekend we will be having a leaving collection for World Day of Prayer. This year's host country is Wales and all the money raised will fund a 'Mums and Bubs' program which will enable each child to receive a card, then on their 5th birthday they will receive a bible. Thank you for your support.

PRIME TIMERS

Prime Timer's March outing will be at Back to Bacchus Restaurant, 178 Main St. Bacchus Marsh. Tuesday 22nd March at 12 o'clock. Seniors menu available for \$12. Please RSVP by Friday 18th to confirm numbers. Email ineke49@yahoo.com Or call 0400 120 401.

ST ANTHONY'S NOVENA

The St Anthony's Novena begins on Tuesday 15th March and ends on our Parish Feast Day 13th June. Please see our Mass timetable for details.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED- PUBLIC HOLIDAY

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 14th March for the Labour Day Public Holiday.

ST BERNARD'S

TREE REMOVAL

The large tree behind the seat in our church yard had an extensive split in the trunk. An arborist confirmed its dangerous state and it was removed immediately. Margaret Love

HELP NEEDED

Finances are challenging for the parish at the moment so help in the basic handyperson/maintenance areas would be appreciated. At times, cleaning in addition to that already budgeted for is needed. If you would be prepared to lead or be part of a casual call-up cleaning group or a parish maintenance team, could you please leave your details at the Parish Office 5367 2069. Thank you.

TRANSPORT NEEDED – CAN YOU HELP?

Do you live in Darley and frequently attend the 5:00pm Vigil Mass on Saturdays? If so, and you are willing to drive an elderly parishioner to this Mass on a regular basis, please contact the parish office on 5367 2069 to advise your availability. Thank you.

MORNING TEA –THIS SUNDAY

Please join us for morning tea in the foyer after the 8.30 Mass on the second Sunday of each month at St Bernard's parish. The next morning tea will be held this Sunday March 13th. Enquires: Meg Kennedy, 0403 696 645

SING WITH ST BERNARD'S 10.30am CHOIR

Parishioners are welcome to join the choir at St Bernard's 10.30am Mass each Sunday. Musical experience helpful but not required. Interested parishioners should contact Fr Marcus for an informal audition. You will also need to be prepared to attend rehearsals at 9.30am each Sunday.

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

The Neighbours Place (emergency foodbank in Bacchus Marsh) is currently looking for volunteers, who will be able to assist in mowing our lawns (just a small area). To help in providing basic garden maintenance. Lawn mower/whipper snipper provided. We are also looking for a volunteer to assist with stock intake just 2 hours twice a month. Some heavy lifting is required. If you are able to assist, please contact Jackie on 5367 6222.



Second Sunday of Lent 12 & 13 March



As a person with a disability living in remote India, Biru faced the prospect of a life of poverty and discrimination. With your support, he participated in entrepreneurship training and gained the skills to become financially independent. Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help people living with disabilities in India gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to build a better future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 19th & 20th March

Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator

15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement will be found. Thank you.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm Vigil: Aloysious Dacunha
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Anastasia Mavaega
5.00pm: Rosabella Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Lillian Christian
10.30am: Doris Bonello
5.00pm: Not rostered

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact Lesley at the Parish Office Thank you

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm Vigil: Coleen & Godwin
8.30am: Julie & Lillian
10.30am: Godwin & Deepa
5.00pm: Annonica & Olen

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Charlie Calleja, Caesar Daby, Charles Depares, Charles Giordamaina, Joseph Micallef & Bill Ryan.

Please pray for the Sick: Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Maiava Kuno Nickol, Paul Nowak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Uatoa Tuigamala, Clint Abela Wadge, and Wai Walsh and all those who have requested our prayers.

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

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father we lift up all those who are facing illness. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love. Amen



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD : THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra
8.30am: Gerard O'Shea
10.30am: Samantha Butler

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: NEXT WEEKEND 19/20

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Dominican Sisters
10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

March: Cheryl Stevens

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Bob Carr, Frederick Goehler-Dockter and Christina Kingcott

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Chris, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Leonie Kervin, 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, Bill Shea, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Catherine Time, Susan Trist, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, & Betty Young.

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

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

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

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 19th & 20th March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Geetha Vincent

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:



CHURCH FLOWERS

March: Lent –no flowers

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330
The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Meeting Room 10.30am.
New members most welcome, training provided. Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' in the Church foyer.
We cannot accept re-packaged food. Thank you.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

We're here to support City of Melton residents get ahead through access to our foodbank and other community programs. It's never just about the food or the budget help, it's about recognising the beauty that is in the person and bringing it out so they can be their best.
Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our Churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow with Jesus Christ offering to you their gifts and talents.

Amen



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 19th & 20th March

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Sean Giani

CHURCH FLOWERS

March: Lent –no flowers



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

March: Colm Carragher, Ron Geurts & Stuart Robertson

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.
The Vinnies Store is located at 8 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh. The store is open 7 days a week. If you are able to volunteer and would like some more information, please contact the Store Manager on 8199 4205.

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

The Neighbours' Place is a Christian not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to serve people of the **Moorabool Shire**, west of Melbourne Australia, who are disadvantaged, at risk or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family and who are in need of emergency food relief.

NILS is a **No Interest Loans Scheme** for assistance of up \$1500 for things like white goods, furniture and minor car repairs to keep life going.

We are located at [77 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh](#)

Phone: 03 5367 6222

Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Closed on public holidays.

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food provides a free community meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays), in the Uniting Church Hall, Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh. Meals are served up at 12noon. All are welcome and this is a free event. No need to book, just come along.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427 Mon—Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm

Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM— ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

Dear Parishioners

Keeping in line with the Archbishop's vision for Mission, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's have put together a new Baptism Preparation Program, for any parents who wish to have their child Baptised.



Preparations for Baptisms will take place on Saturdays alternating between both Parishes. A welcome Mass must be attended prior to the Baptism. Baptisms will be held on Saturday mornings at 11.00am.

Parents must attend two sessions. Sessions will run from 12..30pm-4.30pm. Godparents must attend the 2nd session. Bookings must be made to attend these sessions. Please visit our website for a detailed description of the new program. Contact the Parish Office to book your Baptism Preparation and Baptism.

ADULT PREPARATION Adult preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Fabian, Fr Marcus or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

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



| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Group 1: Richard & Rosabella Tuala | 0422 390 617 |
| Group 2: Elaine & Edward Rodrigues | 0405 956 724 |
| Group 3: Tony & Stella Cochrane | 9743 6340 |

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the Month-3.00pm

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 26

Commentator: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'. And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Ex 3:1-8,13-15;

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12;

Gospel: Lk 13:1-9



Lent 2022

Why do we cover crucifixes and Statues during Lent?

It seems strange that during the most sacred time of year we cover all the beautiful images in our churches, even the crucifix. Shouldn't we be looking at the painful scene at Calvary while we listen to the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday?

While it may appear counterintuitive to veil statues and images during the final weeks of Lent, the Church recommends this practice to heighten our senses and build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. It is a tradition that should not only be carried out in our local parish, but can also be a fruitful activity for the "domestic church" to practice.

Usually crosses and images are veiled throughout the church from the fifth Sunday of Lent. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

The statue of St Joseph, if outside the sanctuary, may remain uncovered during the month of March, when his feast occurs and he is specially honoured.

This is the current practice of the Church, but veiling from the Fifth Sunday of Lent onward is minuscule compared with what was once practised. For example, in Germany there was a tradition to veil the altar from view throughout all of Lent. This cloth, known as the "*Hungertuch*" (hunger cloth), hid the altar from the view of the people until the reading of the Passion on Wednesday of Holy Week at the words "the veil of the temple was rent in two".

The veil in the temple of Jerusalem separated the Holy of Holies from the main body of the temple.

Families are also encouraged to imitate this practice and veil prominent religious images in their homes. It helps us to participate in the liturgical season, especially if we are prevented from going to Mass during the week. Otherwise we only see the veiled images in church once or twice before Easter and it has a minor effect on us. It is also a beautiful tradition to pass down to our children, who will be intrigued by it

and it will make this time of year truly special for them.

But why cover up images that are designed to raise our hearts and minds toward heaven?

First of all, we use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.

Second, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.

Third, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further actualised when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day.

Further, the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered.

The great 19th-century Benedictine liturgist Dom Prosper Gueranger gives a mystical interpretation of the veiling, based on the Gospel of St John, which was formerly read on Passion Sunday.

Just as Jesus hid himself from the Jews who wanted to stone him (cf. John 8:59), so by the veils he is now hidden from the world in preparation for the mysteries of his passion.

The statues of the saints are covered too since, if the Master himself is covered, so should be his servants.

Another spiritual interpretation of the veiling is based on the fact that in Christ's passion, not only was his divinity obscured but so was, in a certain sense, his humanity. He was so disfigured by the blows and scourges that he was hardly recognisable as a man.

The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.