



# THE TIDINGS

SERVING THE AREAS OF MELTON, MELTON WEST, AINTREE, BONNIE BROOK,  
GRANGEFIELDS, HARKNESS, KURUNJANG, PLUMPTON, ROCKBANK & TOOLERN VALE



The Catholic  
Parish of Melton  
is committed  
to the safety,  
wellbeing and  
dignity of all  
children and  
vulnerable  
adults

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — Year B | 21 January 2024

## CLERGY

**Parish Priest:** REV. FR MICHAEL MOODY

**Parish Deacon:** REV. DCN CHRIS CREO

**Email:** Christopher.Creo@cam.org.au

## STAFF & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

**Parish Secretary:** VIVIEN LEMALU

**Finance Manager:** LORRAINE STAFFORD (Thurs & Fri)

**Email:** Finance.Melton@cam.org.au

**Safeguarding Coordinator:** LIZ COUSTLEY

**Mobile:** 0490 885 515 | **Email:** cso.melton@gmail.com

## POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 96, MELTON, VIC 3337, Australia

## PRESBYTERY & OFFICE

20 Unitt Street, MELTON, VIC 3337

**Contact:** 03 9743 6515 | **Email:** melton@cam.org.au

**Website:** <http://www.melbcatholic.org/melton>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/parishmelton>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishmelton>

## OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 9.00am–3.00pm

(The parish office is CLOSED on weekends and public holidays)

## MASS CENTRES & MASS TIMES

**St Catherine of Siena Church, Melton West**

108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

- Saturday 6pm (Vigil Mass)
- Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm

**St Dominic's Church, Melton**

Church St, Melton, VIC 3337

- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.15am

## CONFESSIONS

St Catherine of Siena Church

Saturday: 5.45 pm | Sunday: 4.45pm

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

### SACRAMENT & ROSARY

St Dominic's Church

- Thursday following the 9.15am Mass

## SCHOOLS IN OUR PARISH

**ST DOMINIC'S PRIMARY SCHOOL** (Prep-Year 6)

**Principal:** Mr Jeffrey Parker

**Address:** Church Street, Melton, VIC 3337

**Phone:** +61 3 9743 6225

**Email:** [enquiries@sdmelton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@sdmelton.catholic.edu.au)

**ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC**

**PRIMARY SCHOOL** (Prep-Year 6)

**Principal:** Ms Carmel Marantelli

**Address:** 108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

**Phone:** +61 3 9743 2166

**Email:** [info@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au)

**SAINT FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

**Melton West** (Year 7-12) | **Cobblebank** (Year 7)

formerly Catholic Regional College Melton

**Principal:** Ms Marlene Jorgensen

**Address:** 109-141 Bulmans Rd, Melton West, VIC 3337

**Phone:** +61 3 8099 6000

**Email:** [info@sfcc.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@sfcc.vic.edu.au)

## Living the Gospel

## The Good News is here!

THIS week's gospel marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in the Gospel of Mark.

The gospel writer has Jesus clearly announcing his message in plain, simple language: 'The kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' That message is as true for us today as it was when those words were first spoken.

The kingdom is still close at hand if we would only recognise it in our midst rather than pinning our hopes on some future reward. The call to repent and believe the Good News is as relevant for us as it was for the first believers.



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The kingdom of God is near: believe the Good News!*

*Alleluia!*

## Today's Scripture Readings

Jon 3:1-5,10; Ps 24 (25); 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

## Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

Deut -18:15-20; Ps 94 (95); 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

## Prayer Requests

**Recently deceased:** Beth Rowley, Enrique Navarro and Salvatore Mazzarella

## NOTICE TO PARISHIONERS

There will be no mass next Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th of January as Fr Michael will be attending school planning days.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need for volunteers to take Communion to the sick at Willowbrae Melton Aged Care. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to be involved in ministering to the elderly and sick.



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.



## WHY WE DO THINGS IN THE MASS

### When do we bow our heads at Mass?

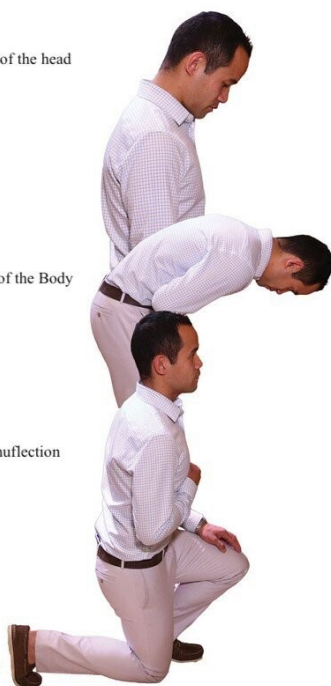
The faithful are asked to make this simple gesture several times during Mass.

**AMONG** the lesser known gestures at Mass is the action of bowing the head. It is a simple movement used in many different cultures as a sign of respect and has its own place within the Catholic liturgy.

Bow of the head

Bow of the Body

Genuflection



The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) explains, “A bow signifies reverence and honor shown to the persons themselves or to the signs that represent them. There are two kinds of bows: a bow of the head and a bow of the body [also known as a profound bow].”

The GIRM then lays out several moments

during the Mass when those present should bow.

1. **During the Creed** – “The Creed is sung or recited by the priest together with the people (cf. no. 68) with everyone standing. At the words *et incarnatus est (by the power of the Holy Spirit . . . and became man)* all make a profound bow; but on the solemnities of the Annunciation and of the Nativity of the Lord, all genuflect” (GIRM 137).
2. **After the consecration (if you are not kneeling)** – “In the dioceses of the United States of America, [the faithful] should kneel beginning after the singing or recitation of the *Sanctus* until after the Amen of the Eucharistic Prayer, except when prevented on occasion by reasons of health, lack of space, the large number of people present, or some other good reason. Those who do not kneel ought to make a profound bow when the priest genuflects after the consecration” (GIRM 43).
3. **Before receiving the Holy Eucharist at Communion** – “When receiving Holy Communion, the communicant bows his or her head before the Sacrament as a gesture of reverence and receives the Body of the Lord from the minister” (GIRM 160).

## THE SACRAMENTS OF PENANCE, EUCHARIST & CONFIRMATION 2024

You are invited to join our Catholic Parish of Melton's after hours Sacramental Program:

### *St Luke's Program*

**For young people who do not attend a Catholic School, or attend a Catholic Secondary School and have not received any of the above Sacraments.**

Each program provided to families is coordinated and thorough, and we expect that parents/caregivers are committed to the preparation of their child.

We will begin with an **Information Night on Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 7pm sharp in St Dominic's Parish Hall** - entry via the gate on Smith St, Melton.

Information and application form for these programs is available online on our Parish website: [www.melbcatholic.org/melton](http://www.melbcatholic.org/melton) or in hard copy form the Gathering Area of the church.

Please complete the application form and either email to the parish office at:

[melton@cam.org.au](mailto:melton@cam.org.au), drop it in personally at the office between 9am and 3pm or place in the return box in the Gathering Area of the church.

The Sacrament of Penance program begins on February 8, 2024.

### *Growing Together In Faith*

4. **During a solemn blessing at the end of Mass** – “If a prayer over the people or a solemn formula for the blessing is used, the deacon says, *Inclinate vos ad benedictionem (Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing)*” (GIRM 185).
5. **When hearing the name of God or specific saints** – “A bow of the head is made when the three Divine Persons are named together and at the names of Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the Saint in whose honor Mass is being celebrated” (GIRM 275).



*The article originally published in ALETEIA (10 August 2017 and updated 28 August 2023) by Philip Kosloski*

# Clarity in Confusion: An Approach to "Fiducia Supplicans"

By Dr. Richard DeClue

PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY AT THE WORD ON FIRE INSTITUTE

## PART 1

**THERE** is sad irony to the fact that a declaration which repeatedly calls for its directives to be implemented in a way that avoids "scandal and confusion" has, itself, been surrounded by much confusion and—at least in the eyes of some—the visage of scandal. Part of the confusion lies in the inherent ambiguity of words that bear a variety of connotations. When people read a news article headline declaring that "Pope Francis approves the blessing of same-sex couples," it is rather easy to get a false impression about what has actually happened.

The word "blessing" can mean different things. What the document describes as "ascending" blessings are when humans give praise to God. But we certainly do not bless God in the same way that God blesses us. The latter is a "descending" blessing, wherein God gives us his grace. Additionally, there is the colloquial use of the term blessing, which means to give one's approval. This is the sense of blessing used when parents give their blessing for their child to marry. Sometimes sense two and sense three can be combined.

In the Rite of Holy Matrimony, for example, the priest or deacon may bless the union of the husband and wife by both giving the Church's approval of their marriage bond and asking God to send forth his grace upon them to help them live out their commitments.

*"There is no intention to legitimize anything."*

The present confusion stems from people thinking that the third meaning of blessing (approval) is either the primary meaning or is at least concomitantly implied alongside the "descending" meaning of the blessing of same-sex couples.

This would amount to Pope Francis approving of romantic same-sex relationships and/or offering a descending blessing because such relationships are now condoned. That would, in fact, be contrary to the Catholic faith and therefore scandalous. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, "Scandal is an attitude or behaviour which leads another to do evil" (§2284) and often involves giving others the impression that something that is sinful is not sinful.

As already mentioned, the DDF declaration "On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings," *Fiducia Supplicans*, is aware of the possibility of scandal if blessings are given to same-sex couples in an improper way and explicitly says such scandal must be avoided.

As one example, it insists, "*precisely to avoid any form of confusion or scandal, when the prayer of blessing is requested by a couple in an irregular situation, even though it is expressed outside the rites prescribed by the liturgical books, this blessing should never be imparted in concurrence with the ceremonies of a civil union, and not even in connection with them. Nor can it be performed with any clothing,*

*gestures, or words that are proper to a wedding. The same applies when the blessing is requested by a same-sex couple.*"

Relatedly, the declaration is clear that the third meaning of blessing mentioned above—blessing of approval—is **excluded from consideration**.

It states that when a "descending" blessing is requested by same-sex couples, the scenario where a blessing could be given is a situation in which those requesting it "do not claim a legitimation of their own status," "recognizing themselves to be destitute and in need of his help."

Similarly, it says that such a blessing "does not claim to sanction or legitimize anything." Reiterating this point further on, the document proclaims that "there is no intention to legitimize anything."

The document, then, is not approving of romantic same-sex relationships. In fact, the document states early on that "the Church does not have the power to impart blessings on unions of persons of the same sex."

Here, I think, is another reason for the confusion: a distinction between blessing a same-sex couple and blessing their union. What does it mean to bless same-sex couples but not bless their unions? If you are blessing a couple, are you not blessing their union? **In this case, no!** And this is what is understandably difficult for people to immediately comprehend. It is not intuitively obvious that you can bless a couple without blessing or condoning their union.

*To be continued...*

This article was taken from the Word on Fire Website, <https://www.wordonfire.org/articles/clarity-in-confusion-an-approach-to-fiducia-supplicans/>



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.

| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time |                                        | Saturday & Sunday January 20 & 21, 2024 |                    |                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| MINISTERS OF:                        | 6 PM                                   | 9 AM                                    | 11 AM              | 5 PM                 |
| Welcome                              | Tania Walters                          | Maureen Mohr                            | Liz Coustley       | Frank Unferdorben    |
| The Word                             | Daniel Walters                         | Jennifer Peters                         | Cira Cleary        | Michael Higgins      |
| Responder                            | Daniel Walters                         | Vickie Cassar                           | Lea Jacuta         | Josephine Krajina    |
| Presentation of Gifts                | Leny Obtinalla                         | Mario Cassar                            | Bruna Tomassi      | Brian Dean           |
| Holy Communion                       | Sally Grero                            | Asther Creo                             | Liz Coustley       | Ismael Sosa -Sanchez |
| PowerPoint Operator                  |                                        | Sanyata Creo                            | <b>Help needed</b> | Daniella Ahmet       |
| Gift Shop                            | Margaret Richards                      | Anne Stokie                             | Lea Jacuta         | Josephine Krajina    |
| Choir                                | Divine Mercy Choir                     | Samoan Choir                            | Veritas Choir      | Tongan Choir         |
| Counters                             | Elizabeth Marshall, Jennifer Peters    |                                         |                    |                      |
|                                      |                                        |                                         |                    |                      |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time |                                        | Saturday & Sunday January 27 & 28, 2024 |                    |                      |
| MINISTERS OF:                        | 6 PM                                   | 9 AM                                    | 11 AM              | 5 PM                 |
| Welcomer                             | Kate Mulhaland                         | Karl Metha                              | Liz Coustley       | Josephine Krajina    |
| The Word                             | Tetchie Hadfield                       | Alzira Mascarenhas                      | Lea Jacuta         | Lesley Sosa-Ritchie  |
| Responder                            | Daniel Walters                         | Anne Stokie                             | Cira Cleary        | Frank Unferdorben    |
| Presentation of Gifts                | Robert Obtinalla                       | Karl Metha                              | Bruna Tomassi      |                      |
| Holy Communion                       | Kate Mulholland                        | Richard Kealy                           | Bruna Tomassi      | Josephine Krajina    |
| PowerPoint Operator                  | Tania Walters                          | Sanyata Creo                            | Theo Balebanga     |                      |
| Gift Shop                            | Margaret Richards                      | Graham Dempsey                          | Liz Coustley       | Frank Unferdorben    |
| Choir                                |                                        | Veneration Choir                        | St Anuarite Choir  | Filipino Choir       |
| Counters                             | Leslie Gordon, Elaine Neely, John Woof |                                         |                    |                      |
| NEW ROSTER WILL BE EMAILED SHORTLY   |                                        |                                         |                    |                      |



**Parish Stewardship Update**

December Pledged: \$6,205.93  
Actual: \$4,770.62

| PLEASE RING THE MASS MANAGERS IF UNABLE TO ATTEND: |                   |              |               |              |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 6 pm                                               | Tania Walters     | 0492 952 478 |               |              |
| 9 am                                               | Theo Franken      | 0411 040 897 | Vickie Cassar | 0418 348 946 |
| 11 am                                              | Bruna Tomassi     | 9743 0341    |               |              |
| 5 pm                                               | Josephine Krajina | 0407 042 133 |               |              |

**TAP & GIVE SMART TERMINAL COMING SOON**

We will soon have a Smart Terminal located at the front desk as you enter and leave that will allow you to tap & give with your debit or credit card to support the work of the Parish.



**Prime Timers first meeting for 2024**

**Tuesday 30th January at 11.30am**

**Leisure Centre, Lifestyle Village**  
Coburns Rd, Melton South

BYO lunch—tea and coffee provided.

Enquiries: Ineke 0400120401 or ineke49@yahoo.com

**NEW TO OUR PARISH?**  
*Welcome!*

Please collect a Welcome Pack from the Gathering Area of the church. Once census form is completed place it in the white return box in the Gathering Area.

**MISSED OUT ON THE TIDINGS?**

Back issues of the parish Tidings are available on our parish website: [www.melbcatholic.org/melton](http://www.melbcatholic.org/melton)



CLICK to VIEW PREVIOUS BULLETINS

**Would you like to receive The Tidings prior to the weekend Masses?**

**Mailing List**

Send an email to [melton@cam.org.au](mailto:melton@cam.org.au) requesting The Tidings or subscribe on our website.



**2023 SACRAMENTAL SATATISTICS**

Last year the parish conducted:

- 248** Baptisms
- 130** First Communions
- 117** Confirmations
- 2** Weddings
- 13** Funerals

We pray for every child, individual and couple who have been given the many graces of these sacraments that we as a parish can continue to nurture them in their spiritual life and that we can be a safe place where their faith can flourish. We pray also for the repose of all the souls who have passed!

**HOME VISITATION & BLESSING REQUESTS**

For Home Visitation & Blessing requests, please speak to Deacon Chris safter Mass or fill out the online request form:

<https://tinyurl.com/HBlessing>

**PARISH BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS**

**Announcements & Notices:** Please submit your announcement or notices not later than 5pm every Wednesday. Bulletin notices are normally retained in **The Tidings** for two weekends. Notices and announcements submitted after the deadline will be considered for publication on the following weekend.



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