



The Monica June 2016

St Monica's Parish Moonee Ponds

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Leadlight Photo by Mr. Dave Tacon



Greetings from the Editorial Team

Welcome to our second edition for 2016.

In this most Holy Year of Mercy, we have been reflecting on what it means to be part of the Church. Pope Francis asked us to contemplate the concept of Mercy and presented it as a 'mystery' for us to ponder.

There have been many expressions of what Mercy means and we might particularly connect to this one:

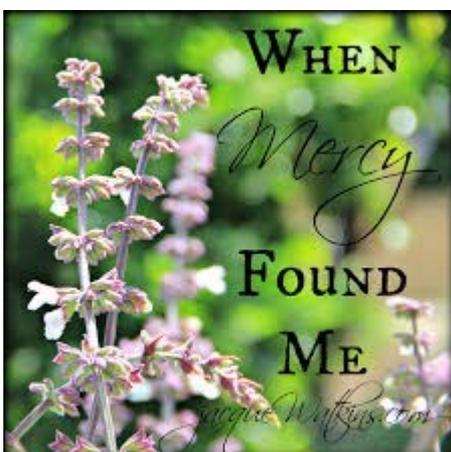
"Mercy... as the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness."

Building a bridge is a wonderful metaphor and is applicable to the promises we make in the sacraments and in the way we should aspire to interact with each other as ambassadors of the Catholic Faith.

In this edition of the Monica we celebrate the contribution of women in the evolution of our Church and their continuing vital role in strengthening our community in innumerable ways.

Our Parish owes the tireless, often unseen and less than glamorous work of women a great debt. Women are the vital cogs in the engine of St Monica's Parish, from teaching staff, committees members, elected representatives, sporting club members, fundraisers, volunteers and all 'round busy mums. We thank you all.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this edition. We hope you enjoy it.



A Pastoral Letter

In May we celebrated 'Mother's Day' in July we will celebrate 'Grand parents' Day'.

Recently I received a note telling me how we, as Church, are being invited to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene in a new way, and I quote:

The Church, both in the East and in the West has always regarded Saint Mary Magdalene the first witness of the Lord's resurrection and the first evangelist, and with the greatest reverence has always honoured her although in diverse ways.

Given that in our time the Church is called to reflect in a more profound way on the dignity of Woman, on the New Evangelisation and on the greatness of the Mystery of Divine Mercy, it seemed right that the example of Saint Mary Magdalene might also fittingly be proposed to the faithful. In fact this woman, known as the one who loved Christ and who was greatly loved by Christ, and was called a "witness of Divine Mercy" by Saint Gregory the Great and an "apostle of the apostles" by Saint Thomas Aquinas, can now rightly be taken by the faithful as a model of women's role in the Church.

The thing that appealed to me on receiving this note was, that through Mary Magdalene we are being, yet again, called to reflect in a profound way on the dignity of woman, as we are invited to do each year when we celebrate our own Parish Saint, St. Monica every August 27th

For a bit more about St. Monica, you might read Deacon Justin's article in this latest edition of The Monica.



Fr. Tony Feeney



Parish Profile : Maria Stricki, Administration Officer St Monica's Primary School



Fr Tony and Deacon Justin have touched upon the important role of women in the evolution of our faith and our Parish community.

It's no coincidence that in this edition we profile Maria Stricki. Maria is an administrative assistant at St Monica's Primary School. She provides an invaluable link to the Secretary of the Parish Office Lesley-Ann Wilson and in essence, Maria is the quintessential 'doer' and it is always a pleasure to see her or know that you need to interact with her as she does do a superb job of anything asked of her.

No task or ask is too difficult for Maria and she sees herself as a conduit between the Parish and the School, ensuring the message of the Church reaches into the school community and that we are all 'on the same page'.

Practically speaking, Maria provides vital administrative and technical support to the Parish Office to help share the load and ensure processes run smoothly and efficiently. Given, the exceptional busyness of the Parish Office any external support is gratefully received.

As a school class representative, I myself can rely on Maria to quickly distribute information to class families when requested and she can handle any tricky situation with a smile.

For many school families, Maria is the first face that greets them in the office. Of her role, Maria says: "I can't believe I've been at St Monica's for just over 5 years, the time has flown by really quickly. As with all jobs you can have good days and bad days but I can honestly say I love my job and the good certainly outweighs the bad.

In my role I get to meet all the families that attend St Monica's, from the first enquiry about enrolment to starting school in Foundation and beyond. I love getting to know the families and their children and watching them grow".

I asked Maria to give us an insight into her life outside St Monica's. It certainly is busy! She writes: "I live in Keilor with my husband Carl and 4 young adult children - Paul, David, Amy and Zoe. I barrack for the Bombers and hope they can do better next year than what they have this year. I enjoy reading, knitting and going out to dinner with friends and family. We have a beach house at Phillip Island which I enjoy going to and taking walks along the beach in summer and winter. My family enjoy car racing and we have a couple of race cars they like to drive around the track at Phillip Island. I haven't driven one and have no intention too, but have been a passenger on a number of occasions."

Well if you'll pardon the pun, while Maria isn't a race car driver, she's most certainly a great 'driver' of our Parish community and we thank her for her dedication.

Joanne Barrett



World Youth Day (WYD) is an event for young people organized every three years by the Catholic Church. The next occasion, World Youth Day 2016, will be held 25–31 July 2016 in Kraków, Poland.

World Youth Day was initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1985. For the first celebration of WYD in 1986, bishops all over the world were invited to schedule an annual youth event to be held every Palm Sunday in their dioceses. It is celebrated at the diocesan level annually, and at the international level every two to three years at different locations. The 1995 World Youth Day closing Mass in the Philippines set a world record for the largest number of people gathered for a single religious event (with 5 million attendees)— a record surpassed when 6 million attended a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in the Philippines 20 years later in 2015.



ST MONICA BY DEACON JUSTIN

St Monica might be said to be a saint of the margins of our time. In a time when people from the Middle East and North Africa are increasingly viewed with suspicion and treated with distrust when they try to flee horrors beyond our imagining, St Monica should make us look again. She was from Tagaste in what is now Algeria in North Africa. It seems from her name that she was a Berber (Ama-Zigh in the Berber language), one of the semi-nomadic people who still inhabit large parts of the region today. While we don't know the exact date, she was born in the early part of the 4th century CE.

She married a Roman called Patricius. Like many marriages today, hers was not a happy one. Patricius was an alcoholic and a violent man. While traditional biographies claim that he respected her virtue, these are not generally written from a woman's point of view and we do not know what she had to suffer to maintain what was clearly an abusive relationship. Their differences were worsened by the fact that, while Monica was a Christian, Patricius was not and he refused to allow their children to be baptised. It seems that, despite living in a desperately unhappy relationship, she was herself

able to harness that unhappiness and minister to other abused women in Tagaste. Eventually, as a result of her prayers and interventions (which must have taken considerable courage, especially in a time when Roman law allowed men to beat or kill their wives without reason), Patricius was converted to Christianity and baptised.

Monica's name would become known to the world through one of those children who was refused baptism. Augustine, later bishop of Hippo and one of the most influential writers in the Church's history, was a bright but very difficult young man. While he was a teenager, Patricius died. Augustine took a common law wife (with whom he had a son) and experimented with the then popular Manichaean religion – a hybrid between Christianity and Zoroastrianism. As a result, she expelled him and his wife from her house. While this causes us some unease today, it is a reminder that saints are people of their time as well. As a result of a vision in a dream, she later took him (but not his wife) back and prayed ceaselessly for his conversion. When he travelled to Italy to study philosophy she followed him in secret. Finally, as a result of his own interior journey and the preaching of the great St Ambrose of Milan, Augustine was converted and baptised in her presence in Milan. She died soon after and was buried in the Italian coastal town of Ostia in 387.



Congratulations DEACON GEOFF MCILROY

Our heartfelt congratulations to Deacon Geoff McIlroy on his ordination at St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday 25th June. Deacon Geoff

was a much loved and welcomed addition to our Parish last year. Deacon Geoff will celebrate Mass at St Monica's on Sunday July 3 at 10.30am. This will be followed by a Morning Tea in the Symons Centre.



Reflections of a Confirmed Girl

BY ANGELINA MACLEOD AND JENNY RAPA

On Friday 13 May 2016, St Monica's Primary School Year 6's made their Confirmation. Angelina MacLeod writes about this special occasion.

The saint I chose was "Saint Regina", because "Saint Regina" is the female version of Reg, which happens to be my Great-Grandfather's name, and my dad loved and admired him very much. Saint Regina was a good role model to Catholics and stood up for what she believed in, so what better name to choose as my confirmation name. Eileen was my Great-Grandmother's name, and Eileen is my middle name. So by choosing Regina, I not only honour Saint Regina's memory, but my great grandfathers as well.

Before Confirmation mass I waited for my sponsor Danica. I chose Danica because she is very friendly, extremely fun, and most of all because I know that I can call her when I have had a tough day.

At Mass I saw Father Tony, Father Minh, Deacon Justin and Bishop Terry walking up to the altar. It was unusual because it is normally Father Tony or Father Minh leading mass, but of course this was a very special mass.

I saw lots of my friends being confirmed as well, and that made me feel like part of a community not just a group. When I was confirmed the bishop smiled at me and said "**Regina be sealed with the gifts and fruits of the holy spirit**", and I replied "**Amen**". Then he said "**Peace be with you**", and I said "**And with your spirit**". Even though that was what he said to everyone on the night, it made me still feel special. I made my confirmation so that I can make my own choices as a full member of the Catholic community.



Confirmation

Saint Profile: John the Baptist **BY LOAN TRAN**

As we are celebrating the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist on 24 June 2016, it is a timely opportunity to look at the story of Saint John the Baptist.

The life of John was a preparation for the coming of the Messiah Jesus Christ and had many parallels to that of Jesus. John's mother Elizabeth and Jesus's mother Mary both had the angel Gabriel appear before them announcing of their miraculous conception. For Elizabeth, it was a miracle as she was beyond her childbearing years. John was born six months before Christ was born. In the early first century, John was an itinerant preacher, travelling to many places to reach different groups of people and was revered by many. Although his popularity and fame spread to Jerusalem, John's humility remained incorruptible. He corrected people who believed that he was the long awaited Messiah by saying that his existence was only to prepare the way and that he was not worthy to unloose the Master's sandals. John proclaimed to the people that unlike his baptism with water, the Messiah who was to come would baptise with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus came to John to receive baptism, John at first excused himself as unworthy but in obedience, he baptised Jesus in the river Jordan.

John's ministry soon came to an end after Herod Antipas's second wife Herodias plotted to have John beheaded. Whilst Herod feared and revered John for his righteousness and principles, he fell into Herodias's plot and had to commit to beheading John. There was great sadness among the people. They laid his body reverently in a tomb and Jesus together with his disciples retired to a desert to mourn.





GET READY

1

'TASTE & SEE' YEAR OF MERCY PLANNING DAY

17 OCTOBER 2015 · CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE
A workshop day aimed at introducing the Year of Mercy and equipping parishes and schools with resources/ideas for how to enter into this Jubilee Year. Come and learn about diocesan initiatives/events, listen to speakers including internationally-acclaimed author Margaret Slif (UK), and map out your own journey during the Year of Mercy. This day is especially useful for parish priests, pastoral associates, parish councils, liturgy/RCIA groups, RE teams, social justice groups, and music ministers.

IT STARTS

2

'WALKING INTO MERCY' PILGRIMAGE TO ST PATRICK'S

13 DECEMBER 2015
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Pilgrimage to the Cathedral where like churches around the world, a holy door of mercy will be opened to officially mark the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Archbishop Denis Hart will lead a prayer service followed by a picnic in the Cathedral grounds. Each 'pilgrim' is invited to bring a photo of someone who has been merciful to them or someone they wish to pray for during the Year, and place it on a 'wall of mercy' along the outside of the Cathedral.

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF Mercy

8 DECEMBER 2015 - 20 NOVEMBER 2016

A 'roadmap' to some key moments on our journey through the Year of Mercy in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. For up-to-date information on each event, keep visiting www.cam.org.au/evangelisation.

4

'24 HOURS FOR THE LORD'

4-5 MARCH 2016 · VARIOUS VENUES

In response to Pope Francis' invitation to spend time in prayer and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, parishes are encouraged to host a prayer vigil locally or come along to a central gathering at the Carmelite Monastery in Kaw. There will be moments of prayer, music, and reflections provided by a variety of bishops, priests and lay people.

'KYRIE ELEISON' PENITENTIAL SERVICE

10 FEBRUARY 2016
ST MONICA'S · MOONEE PONDS

An Ash Wednesday repentance service led by Auxiliary Bishop Terry Curtin and hosted by the parishes of the Northern region. The service is open to all and will be a simple and beautiful gathering to engage local parishioners, schools, migrant groups and the community.

3

5

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

3 APRIL 2016
VARIOUS VENUES

There will be various celebrations across the Archdiocese to mark Divine Mercy Sunday. Visit the AOFÉ website for more details.

6

TIME OUT! WHERE IS THIS JOURNEY LEADING US?

WORKSHOPS FOR REFLECTION & ACTION

APRIL 2016
"The Medicine of Mercy"
with Baroness Sheila Hollins (UK)

JUNE 2016
"Creating a Culture of Mercy in Public Life"
with Nathan Schneider (USA)

JULY 2016
"Mercy and Truth: Healing Alienation in our Church and World"
with Msgr. Prof. Tomáš Halík (PRAGUE)

SEPTEMBER 2016
"A Spirituality of Mercy: Living the Joy of the Gospel in Parish Life"
with Suzanne Timoney (USA)

7

PENTECOST

15 MAY 2016
EASTERN REGION

A gathering to especially engage the youth in the Year of Mercy! Join us for a special Mass and prayer rally with live music. A collaboration with the ONE worship team (a charismatic-based group of the MGLs and CCR). Includes reflections from Auxiliary Bishop Mark Edwards.

8

'MARY AS A MODEL OF MERCY'

15 AUGUST 2016 · ST MARY'S DANDENONG

We look to Our Lady the mother of Jesus as a model of mercy. Parishes, schools, and groups in the Southern region of the Archdiocese are invited for a gathering and walking rosary on the weekend of the Feast of the Assumption. Led by Auxiliary Bishop Peter Elliott.

9

'THE PARISH AS A CENTRE OF MERCY' ... WHERE TO NOW?

OCTOBER 2016
WESTERN REGION

As we approach the conclusion of the Year of Mercy we reflect on its impact and plan the way forward. This session is of particular interest to parish pastoral councils as it will include parish 'stories of practice' and input from Auxiliary Bishop Vincent Long OFMconv.

10

'COME AS YOU ARE' YEAR OF MERCY CLOSING EVENT

20 NOVEMBER 2016
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

We gather once again as an Archdiocese to conclude the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, with a special focus on our community's 'mercy makers', e.g. those working in aged care, prison ministry, Vinnies, refugee support and many more. Celebrations to be led by Archbishop Denis Hart.

GO FORTH

We are here

The Biggest Morning Tea

BY ELISE RIZZO



Cancer Council's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a chance for Australians to get together and raise money for a great cause. 1 in 2 Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85. Community efforts to raise money are making real difference in helping fund Cancer Council's vital research, prevention and support services.

St Monica's Primary School Parents Association, thanks to the amazing work of Cathy McNeil and Ange Horton hosted a morning tea in the Symon's Centre and invited those from the school and parish to attend. Unfortunately, cancer has touched many of us at St Monica's and 2016 has been a year of grief and sadness. This event was a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to come together to celebrate life and friendships while raising money for this incredible cause. Nicola Quinn from the Cancer Council attended to tell us a little about the great work of the Cancer Council and the morning was a great success due to the support of many who donated time, money and food. I am always astounded and pleased to hear of the generosity of our parish and this was just another example of this. I am so pleased that we are part of a community who will come together to help others while taking the time to enjoy and celebrate life while also remembering to be thankful for the lives with which we have been blessed.

The goal this year was to raise \$1500 and with the support of the school, the Parish and Teachers who held their own event, an amazing total of \$2400 was raised. Thanks to Nicola Quinn from the Cancer Council and all the



Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.



The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit:

Grade 6 students : Angelina MacLeod, Emma McEniery, Quinton Nguyen and Isaac Abdilla.



On Friday the 13 of May, Mr. Moore clearly stated that the slide show failing the assembly was a good thing because we were able to work on the Gift of Patience. All the grade sixes should have recognised his mistake, patience is not a gift but a fruit and hoping that no more people make the mistake we are going to state all the Gifts and Fruits of the holy spirit.

Gifts:



Wisdom: if you have the gift of wisdom, you may not know how to do something but you have experienced the feeling of it, and learned from that experience. Eg: would you ask your father on tips for your school test or your younger brother?

Understanding: if you have the gift of understanding it means you can put yourself in another person's shoes and know how they feel, how hard it is for them and what it is to make them feel comforted and loved. Eg: would you comfort someone and ask what was wrong if they were sitting on a bench by themselves crying , or walk on by have nothing to do with it?

Counsel: if you have the gift of counsel you make better decisions in life helping you become a stronger, more faithful Christian. Eg: all the grade sixes at their Confirmation heard in the gospel scriptures crucifying all self-indulgences is a way to follow the Holy Spirit.

Fortitude: if you have the Gift of Fortitude you stand up for your church, your faith and what is right. You do not just have courage for when you are standing up for your faith, you get it all the way through. Eg: lots of Saints have stood up for their faith including, Saint Agatha, Saint Agnes and Saint Joan of Arc.

Knowledge: if you have the Gift of Knowledge you know how to complete something, and you understand how you completed it. eg you are in a test, you got the correct answer but you don't know how you got the answer, that is not Knowledge. Getting the correct answer and knowing how you got the answer is knowledge.

Piety: if you have the Gift of Piety you are completely respectful anywhere and in front of anyone. Being respectful means not sitting in ways that disrespect others and talk and fidget during talks or lectures. Eg: if you go to church every weekend but you slouch and talk it is not pious in any way. If you only go to church once a month but, you sit up straight and listen to the minister directing the mass you have Piety.

Fear of the Lord: if you have the Gift of Fear of the Lord you never try and harm any of God's creations, whenever you talk about Him you talk in a kind way and you NEVER say disrespectful words like "OMG" Eg if someone is always talking about God in a good way but cares nothing about nature they do not show Fear of the Lord. If someone does not talk much but still shows respect to the Lord and his creations the do show Fear of the Lord.

Fruits:

Love is a fruit that means showing compassion in everything that you do and to everyone that you meet. It also means you demonstrate a love of God no matter what you do.

Joy is a fruit that expresses great happiness and excitement in all that you do. It also means that when you are in God's presence you are showing great happiness and excitement.

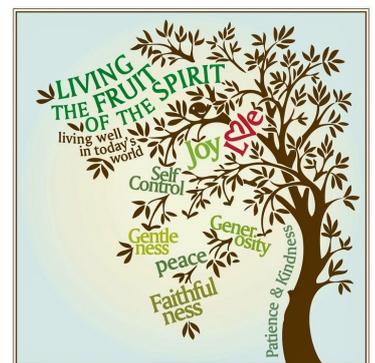
Peace is a fruit that displays infinite calm and means you are able to help people get along harmoniously.

Patience is a fruit that means not complaining about things and not getting angry at others when unnecessary.

Kindness is a fruit that expresses a great amount of love to another person even when they are considered unworthy companions. To show kindness it is as simple as asking how someone's day was.

Faithfulness is a fruit that shows belief in the Catholic faith and allegiance to the Church and maintaining that belief throughout your entire life. Eg: praying for others, not following other religions, praying for the conversion of others, participating in holy actions, etc.

Self Control is a fruit that means not lashing out with your emotions if something goes wrong, this is also one of the hardest fruits because it also means to stay in control if something does or doesn't go your way.





Anzac Reflections: 2016

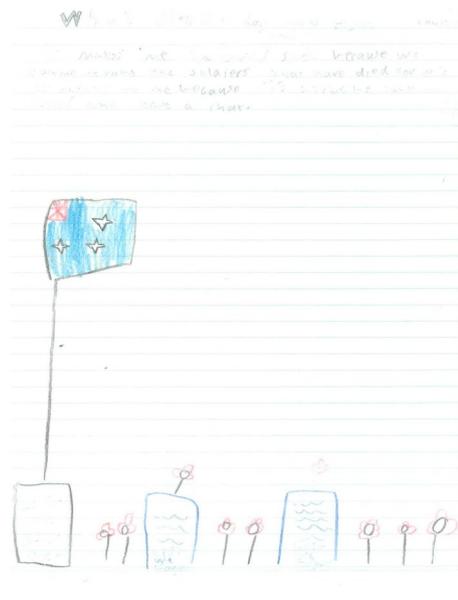
Earlier this term, the students of Year 3 reflected on the spirit of ANZAC and its significance in Australian History. The sacrifices of the fallen and those who survived war, have led to the free society in which we live today.

There are great tensions between the act of commemorating war and the practice of worshipping God. Living our lives through Christ can be viewed as the very antithesis of War. However in our culture we choose to honour the lives lost during war. And we reflect that peoples belief in God provided huge comfort to those in horrific circumstances, faced with the dreadful realities of conflict and all that it entails.

One of the most solemn ceremonies associated with Anzac Day is the recitation of the Ode, the fourth stanza of the poem 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon (1869-1943). The Ode was first published in the *London Times* in 1914 then later used for Commonwealth ceremonies including the laying of the Inauguration Stone at the Australian War Memorial in 1929. The most famous lines are:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
 Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
 At the going down of the sun and in the morning
 We will remember them.

Lest we forget.



Golden Oldies BY MARGARET MOGG

On the first Wednesday of the month there is a Mass for The Golden Oldies at 11am, in the Symon's Centre. Everyone is most welcome. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Tony Feeney, helped by Deacon Justin Glyn who is now moving on towards his Ordination in New Zealand. Fr. Tony recently celebrated his 42nd year of Ordination.



St Monica's Tennis Club BY MARGARET MOGG



Moira Ambrosia, Jennifer Gleeson, Maree Foley, Leonie Sandry, Evy Coghlan, Liz Bergin, Margaret Mogg

The St. Monica's Thursday Ladies Tennis Teams finished the Spring Season well. Renae McElligott's came 2nd, Lynn Garvey's Team 2nd, Bernie Lew's Team 5th, and Liz Bergin's Team 5th. No Flags this Season but 40 Ladies enjoyed the wonderful exercise and Friendships that tennis brings. Our 4 teams will again do battle in the Autumn Season. Each team had their celebration and the photo is of the. Section 6 team enjoying a Champers to celebrate.



THE POWER TO CHANGE A LIFE
IS IN YOUR HANDS.
DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
Please donate to the Vinnies Winter Appeal.



Thank you to those who have contributed to this edition of *The Monica*

Fr Tony, Jacqueline Le-Grand- Condello, Elise Rizzo, Loan Tran, Margaret Mogg, Deacon Justin, Angela Horton, Andrea Medic, Jenny Rapa, Angelina MacLeod, Emma McEniery, Quinton Nguyen and Isaac Abdilla, Lesley-ann Wilson, Maria Stricki and Joanne Barrett.



St Monica's Tennis Club Trivia Night

BY MARGARET MOGG

On a very cold bleak evening in June the Tennis Club held their only Fund Raiser for the year. The Trivia Night was a great success due to the wonderful teamwork of a very active enthusiastic Committee.

100 adults and 50 children attended the fun night taking home lots of excellent prizes. We had a Magic lot of Sponsors who generously supported the Club. Needless to say that gave us a healthy financial result on the

Night as we still have a large debt to pay on our new Clubhouse.

Well done Members.



Giving



Holy Eucharist



- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Adoration | Holy Communion | Sacerdotal Power |
| Altar | Holy Eucharist | Sacred Host |
| Benediction | Host | Sacrifice |
| Blessed Sacrament | Jesus Christ | Sin |
| Blood | Last Supper | Tabernacle |
| Body | Mass | Transubstantiation |
| Bread | Monstrance | Viaticum |
| Bread of Life | Mystery | Victim |
| Calvary | Passion | Wine |
| Ciborium | Priest | Worship |
| Consecration | Priesthood | |
| Faith | Propitiatory | |
| Grace | Real Presence | |

