



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 26th Sunday In Ordinary Time-Year A

27th September 2020

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith

ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint /Father Marcus Goulding

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew Mon Tue Wed & Fri 9am-4pm

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson Tue-Thu 10am-2pm

Parish Office Hours: phone/email contact only

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

Email: meltonsouth@cam.org.au

Website: www.stanthonyofpadua.com.au

St Anthony's School Principal: Damien Schuster

Wilson Road, Melton South 3338

Phone: 8099 7800

Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan Wed-Fri 9am-1pm

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson Tue-Thu 10am-2pm

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Tue & Fri 10am-1pm

Parish Office Hours: phone/email contact only

Father Fabian 0403 435 471

Fr Lucas 0478 768 141/Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

St Bernard's School Principal: Emilio Scalzo

19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Phone: (03) 5366 5800

Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

Ex-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding
and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

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: [CDFpay for St Anthony's Parish, Melton South](#)

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh](#)

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

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anointing of the sick can be organised with the Priests directly, please call them.
Father Fabian 0403 435 471/Fr Lucas 0478 768 141 /Fr Marcus 0468 367 893

MASS TIMES—LIVE STREAMING FROM ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH

Monday-Saturday: 5.30pm Adoration/Rosary/Benediction
6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

MASSES AVAILABLE ON LIVE STREAMING— FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

St Anthony's Parish are live streaming Masses on YouTube.

The Masses are also being live streamed on Facebook. You can watch Masses by going to the website: stanthonypadua.com.au. Click the link for Live Masses.

The Masses are coming through the St Anthony's Facebook page—St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Melton South (you will need to have a Facebook account to be able to view the Masses).

MASS AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

The 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral will be televised every week during the COVID-19 restrictions, on Channel 31 (often listed as Channel 44 on digital TVs). Also 'Mass for you at Home' is televised on channel 10 every Sunday at 6am. Please share this news with friends and family who might be limited to TV viewing. Please check your TV guides for changes.

PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION OR PARISH APPEALS

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, if they wish to donate, are now able to go to the link below and make their payments online.

Parishioners are able to make quick and easy recurring thanksgiving payments or can choose a one-off offering from the comfort of their own home.

When making an offertory online, parishioners have the option to choose which collection they would like to partake in, as they usually would during Sunday Mass - first collection, second collection or a parish appeal.

The link to the St Anthony's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Anthony's Parish, Melton South](#)

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: [CDFpay for St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh](#)

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

God bless,
St Anthony's prayer group

MORE INFORMATION ON PAGES: 10 & 11

ST ANTHONY'S FACEBOOK

Please visit our Facebook page.:

[St Anthony of Padua](#)

[Catholic Church Melton South Live](#)

Masses streaming from St
Anthony's daily.



ST ANTHONY'S RENOVATION



St Anthony's
Parish

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



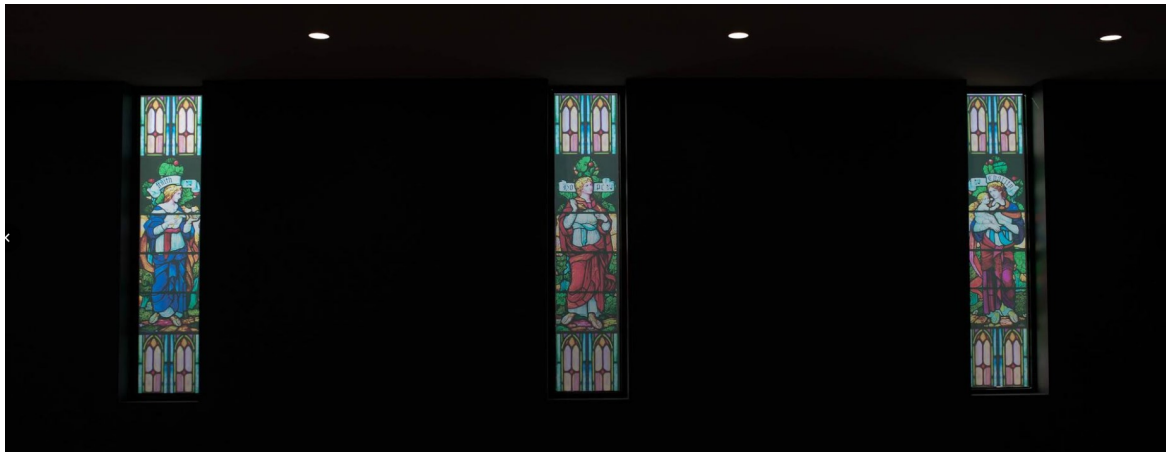
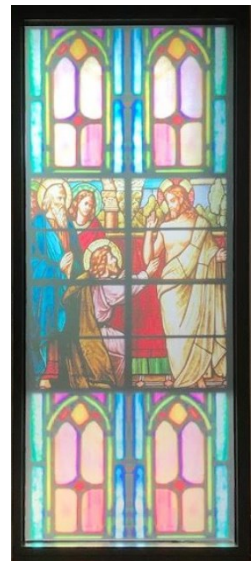
CHAPEL WINDOWS

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

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.



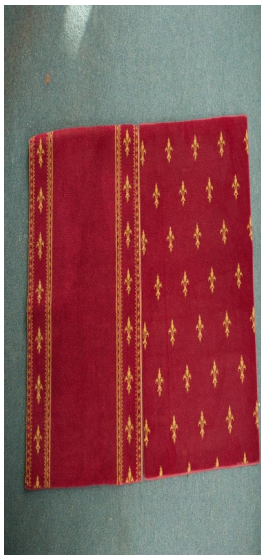
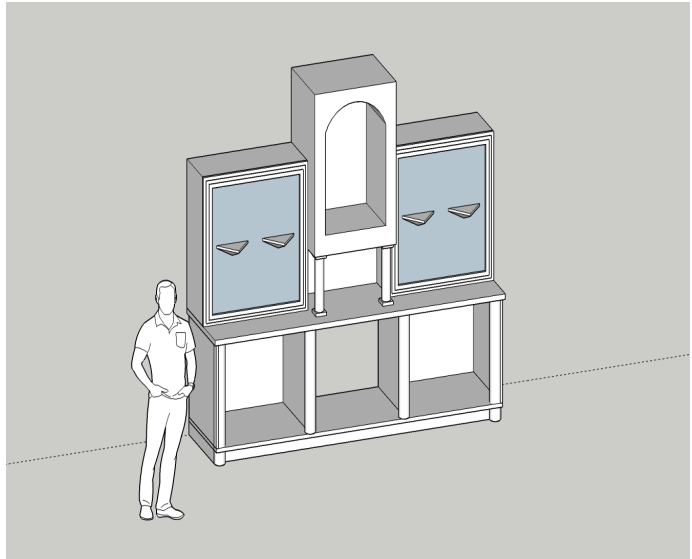


St Anthony's Parish

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**



St Anthony's
Parish

Dear Parishioners of St Anthony's

It is with great joy I announce to you on behalf of the panel, consisting of Damien Schuster, Rosa Wilkinson, Laurie Plummer and Karina Dunne, that we have appointed Mr William Hill as the Founding Principle of our New School St Lawrence of Brindisi. Archbishop Comesoli has ratified this appointment. Mr Hill will take up his appointment in Jan 2021 and make all necessary preparation for the commencement of the new school for 2022. On your behalf I would like to thank the panel members for all their work in making this happen.

Many blessings

Fr Fabian

Dear Parishioners

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Bill Hill and I have been appointed as the new Foundation Principal for St Lawrence Primary School, Melton South. I am really excited about taking on such an amazing opportunity and I am looking forward to getting to know everyone in your parish community.

Fr Fabian has asked me to tell you a little about myself. I am currently Principal of St Mary's Parish Primary School in Ararat; a great Catholic school community and one I am going to dearly miss. I live in Ballarat and I am a parishioner at Our Lady Help of Christians in Wendouree. My wife is a teaching assistant at a local primary school and my daughter attends Loreto College.

I was born in the UK and grew up in a little town on the south coast but moved to northern England at the age of ten. I reflect that I have been involved in Catholic Education almost my entire life having attended Catholic schools, Catholic universities and having worked in Catholic schools throughout my career.

I started working in the UK but moved to Australia in 1995 and spent fifteen years working in various Catholic schools in Perth which is where my wife is from. In 2011, I moved to Victoria to take on the position of Principal of St Columba's School, Ballarat North, again, a great school community that provides amazing educational opportunities for its children.



My great passion is developing Catholic school communities that set our children up for success in the challenging world in which they live, and which provide them with an outstanding Catholic education. I am particularly passionate about the involvement of the community in the life of the school - written on the wall of our staff room is the mantra, *'It takes a village to raise a child.'* My hope is that those in the community of St Anthony's will become part of our new school and together, we will build a school community that will have a life-long impact on the children who attend St Lawrence's.

God bless. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Bill Hill

Est. 1874



St Bernard's Catholic Parish

BACCHUS MARSH

Dear parishioners of St Bernard's,

Masses available for households. At 11.59pm on Wednesday, 16th September 2020, regional Victoria moved to 'Step 2' 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 non-ceremonial 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 2' plan is unclear. The Archbishop is attempting to clarify these regulations and have them amended.

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**

AGM

The Parish held its annual AGM in September 2020. Due to Covid-19 it was run later than originally scheduled, but we were pleased to be able to hold an AGM via Zoom. This was the first time a St Bernard's AGM has been held remotely via meeting technology.

The meeting was as well attended as a normal AGM and the technology didn't really impact the way the meeting is usually conducted.

One of the important items that came out of the meeting was the decision (endorsed by all in attendance) to form a sub-committee to investigate the use of land owned by St Bernard's. Please let the Parish office know if you are interested in joining this subcommittee.

This year we farewelled Cathy Belcher and John Thorne from Parish Council. Cathy has been a long standing member of our council with 14 years' service, retiring as Vice-Chair. On behalf of the entire Parish, I would like to thank Cathy for such long service. Cathy always had a friendly smile and level-headed judgement even with the most sensitive of matters. John would have liked to have continued with Parish Council but unfortunately was unable to; he too will be missed. John was an excellent secretary and his concise minute taking and contribution to Parish council will also be missed.

With these retirements, please consider nominating for Parish Council; it is an important role for the development and continuation of activities for St Bernard's.

We all look forward to returning to masses at our Parish and the resumption of normal parish life.

James Waters
Chair of Parish Council

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

Fr Marcus Goulding: Premier 'I' for Inconsistent

By Fr Marcus Goulding- September 24, 2020

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/fr-marcus-goulding-premier-i-for-inconsistent/>

Victorian churches are being unjustly discriminated against by our government's 'Roadmap' out of lockdown.

Whilst restaurants can have 20 people indoors and 50 outdoors, churches are inexplicably restricted to non-ceremonial outdoor gatherings of 10 people.

Premier Daniel Andrews explained on Monday that the 'reason' churches are not able to open in the same way as restaurants is because churches 'are not licensed or formally registered like restaurants'.

This has nothing to do with the best scientific health advice and is an egregious affront to people of faith.

The Church is interested not in partisan commentary but in advancing and defending the truth of the Gospel.

That mission includes advancing and defending all that is genuinely human and staunchly opposing and decrying every threat to the human person.

Victoria's social and political response to COVID – a virus that is undoubtedly real and requires proportionate risk management – has come at a great cost, a cost that history cautions us against paying.

Our inalienable dignity and rights, together with our cultural values, are only worth as much as we are prepared to sacrifice in their defence.

We have jettisoned our most fundamental freedoms – of employment, education, association, movement, speech, protest, worship – out of sheer fear of the possibility of death and loss of physical health, the one inevitable certain reality we all face.

We watch with listless apathy as our civic leaders abandon the centuries-old and hard-fought-for institution which was established as a check on executive over-reach, namely, the parliament.

Our social and cultural response to this pandemic will stand as a shameful lesson to our children for centuries to come.

The Church, her clergy, and all her faithful have a duty before God to hold our civic leaders to account for every unnecessary and incautious threat to our freedoms.

Christ chooses us for our times and our sanctification lies, in part, in rising to the challenges of those times.

He alone makes life worth living.

The inequitable and unjust discrimination against Victoria's churches and people of faith must end.

CDFpay PAYMENTS-ST ANTHONY'S

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our parishioners who have embraced, paid Thanksgiving and donated through our CDFpay portal! I would like to clarify a couple of things though.

If you wish to contribute to the priests which is the 1st Collection you need to click on the Presbytery icon.

If you wish to contribute to Thanksgiving which is the 2nd Collection you need to click on the Parish icon. You also need to type in either your name or Your Thanksgiving number or both.

If you need your Thanksgiving number, please ring Lesley at the Parish Office on 9747 9692.

If you wish to contribute towards another collection, e.g. Resurrection Chapel, you need to click on the Parish icon and clearly state your intention for the money in the reference as we need to move your money to the appropriate bank account.

If you have any other questions, please call me on the number above.

Thank you in advance from Lesley Morffew, Parish Secretary.



St Anthony's
Parish

VIETNAMESE CATHOLIC YOUTH, ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE (VCYAM) presents



An evening of faith-filled discussion and reflection on God and suffering. A very appropriate topic for our current times! Please **contact 0403751343** for more information if you are interested in attending this Zoom session. It's free!

PRAYER FOR THE END OF THE VIRUS

SECAM, the Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences in Africa and Madagascar, has suggested the following prayer for all those affected by the coronavirus:

Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation.

We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world.

Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world.

Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families.

We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found.

We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people.

Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.

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



Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary

Mary wishes to assist us, through her Immaculate Heart, in bringing the world back to God. This is why I am encouraging people to join me in consecrating themselves, and their families to her Immaculate Heart.

Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary is an absolutely beautiful exercise to increase your spirituality and ability to truly serve our Lord Jesus Christ. The basic premise set forth by St. Louis Marie de Montfort is simply that Jesus came into the world through Mary and that for us to always be assured of being close to Jesus, even closer than ever before, we should go through Mary.

Mary's life was set aside for the sole purpose of serving our Lord. By following her example, we, too, can completely give ourselves to Christ in a fundamental way that consecrates us to Him. We give our lives to Him in service and love.

When we consecrate ourselves to Jesus through Mary, his Mother and ours, we are accepting her help to offer ourselves completely to Jesus.

Our consecration helps us grow in holiness and increase our faith, hope, and love and aids us to respond faithfully to God's grace at work in our lives.

The total consecration to Jesus through Mary is a prayerful and focused method of drawing closer to Jesus than ever before. The preparation is intended to prepare our hearts and minds by praying and meditating.

The 33-day preparation includes a preliminary period of twelve days during which we Endeavor "to free ourselves from the spirit of the world." This initial 12 days is followed by a second period of three weeks. The first of these three weeks is devoted to the knowledge of ourselves, the second to that of the Blessed Virgin and the third to that of Jesus Christ.

The daily prayers and meditations takes approximately 10-15 minutes which will begin on 19 October and ends on 21 November Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple By Joachim and Anne.

A thousand times happy is the generous soul that consecrates itself entirely to Jesus through Mary.

What's a consecration?

Consecration means “to make holy.” When one makes an act of consecration, it is made ultimately to God with the understanding that our consecration is a serious commitment on our part to respond faithfully to God’s grace at work in our lives.

When consecrating ourselves to Our Lady, we are consecrating ourselves to Jesus through Mary. As Pope John Paul II explained, “Consecrating ourselves to Mary means accepting her help to offer ourselves and the whole of mankind to him who is holy, infinitely holy; it means accepting her help—by having recourse to her motherly heart, which beneath the cross was opened to love for every human being, for the whole world—in order to offer the world, the individual human being, mankind as a whole, and all the nations to him who is infinitely holy” (May 13, 1982).

“Consecration to the Mother of God,” says Pope Pius XII, “is a total gift of self, for the whole of life and for all eternity; and a gift which is not a mere formality or sentimentality, but effectual, comprising the full intensity of the Christian life – Marian life.” This consecration, the Pope explained, “tends essentially to union with Jesus, under the guidance of Mary.”

Pope Pius XII consecrated the Church and the entire world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Oct. 31, 1942, as World War II continued to rage on. “To you, to your Immaculate Heart, in this tragic hour of human history, we confide our fortunes, putting ourselves in your hands,” the Pope prayed.

John Paul II did the same on May 13, 1982, and again on March 25, 1984, at the conclusion of the Extraordinary Holy Year of the Redemption, in union with many of the bishops around the world. On Oct. 8, 2000, he made an act of entrustment of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the new millennium.

Between them, Pius XII and John Paul II consecrated the Church and the entire world to Mary a total of eight times. On Oct. 13, 2013, Pope Francis renewed the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and dedicated his pontificate to Our Lady of Fatima.

The act of consecration to Mary “establishes a relationship of love with her in which we dedicate to her all that we have and are,” says Saint John Paul II. “This consecration is practiced essentially by a life of grace, of purity, of prayer, of penance that is joined to the fulfillment of all the duties of a Christian, and of reparation for our sins and the sins of the world” (Sept. 26, 1986).

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

Along the track

Doing Something Worthwhile

How many times have we been told or have we counselled others: "Don't waste your time, do something worthwhile with it." That is good, well-meaning advice, no matter what age we may be but what does it mean? What do we mean by 'worthwhile' anyway?

If we are to do something worthwhile, a good place to start, in the words of Pope Francis, is a daily routine "of reminding ourselves of our Creator who allows us to live, who loves us, who accompanies us on our journey." Our life journey has a purpose all of its own. God has given us gifts and talents to use along the way. And time too. Regularly reminding ourselves of this can contribute to making us more genuine, more true to ourselves, not trying to be someone else or being dissatisfied with who we are, not letting ourselves be threatened by and jealous of others' gifts. God loves us as we are. After all, God made us that way. In the words of the psalm:

For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made Ps 139 13-14

Doing something worthwhile requires a bit of dreaming. In Pope Francis' words, "Today we want to keep dreaming. We celebrate all the opportunities which enable [us] not to lose the hope of a better world with greater possibilities." Jesus presented us with a dream, a way of seeing what the Reign of God might look like. The Sermon on the Mount is one of the great speeches of all time. But it will remain just that if we each don't have a vision, a dream of how we might put it into action. That begins at home – justice, fairness, peace come when individuals are ready to forgive, to reach out to others, to be fair and generous, to forgive, to work to build up and encourage those around us. A better world comes when we are not judgemental but generous in our welcome and in the way we see and feel about others. We need to have to have a vision of what all that might look like and work towards it, in our homes, our places of work, our community. Hope is not some vague wish that things will get better – it is rather a call to action to make it so. Hope gives us a sense of purpose, a direction to follow. Hope also requires a bit of

celebration, to acknowledge and celebrate what is good, what is positive in our lives. When we celebrate what is right, we get the energy to tackle what may be wrong.

But everyone faces obstacles in one way or another. No life, no project, no journey, no dream is without its hardships, surprises and disappointments, twists and turns. They can break us or make us. Again, in the words of Pope Francis, in life's journey "gratitude and appreciation should prevail over concerns and complaints." That is not always easy – sometimes we have good cause to complain, to be concerned and worry, to feel aggrieved. It is sometimes hard to be positive, to see a way forward. Taking some time to appreciate what we have, taking time to be mindful of gifts received, being aware that God is present in good times and bad can help us to refocus and get back on track. That is always worthwhile time spent.

Gratitude is an extraordinary virtue. One of my elderly relatives was always very ungracious if she received a gift, bordering on being rude. 'I don't need that! You can't afford that...' She was herself a very generous person but receiving can be as important as giving. Appreciation and gratitude come from within a person and tells us a lot about how they look at life. But sometimes gratitude is drowned out in a sea of complaints about what is wrong with the world. Gratitude helps us to appreciate the joys and opportunities, large and small, placed in our path each day, the people who support us, who love us, those who call us to service and greater commitment, the daily challenges that help us to grow. Taking things for granted can stifle growth and work against generosity of spirit.

So how would we answer the question: Am I doing something worthwhile with the time I have been given, with my life? What difference am I making? What am grateful for? What is the hope that motivates what I do?

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 24

Response: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

NEXT WEEK'S READING

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7;

Second Reading: Philip 4:6-9;

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43



SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,
by which you have given me hope.
This is my comfort when I am brought low.

The life of Catholic worship and piety XXXVI

The Church's gift of time (2)

The Week — Sunday

In the secular world, the week is viewed as Monday, terrible, challenging, anxiety-provoking; Wednesday, hump day; Thank God It's Friday; Saturday, the day for Taking Care of It All, although we may just sleep late ; and Sunday, Another Day for Taking Care of It All.

But here is a Christian way of looking at the week. Monday through Saturday, we work with varying degrees of intensity, because God has given us the whole of creation to sanctify, giving matter its nobility. Pope John Paul II speaks of how "work is a good thing for man — a good thing for his humanity — because through work man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but he also achieves fulfilment as a human being and indeed, in a sense, becomes 'more a human being'" (*Laborem Exercens* 9).

The Holy Father then warns about man losing his dignity if work is used against him. That can take place in two ways, it seems. One is by outside force, when man works not out of freedom but in slavery; the other comes from within, through his own inability to rest.

Sunday is the remedy for this loss of dignity. Even the poorest person can rest on Sunday and can become a philosopher — that is, one who loves wisdom and the good! He rises above his day-to-day needs and simply enjoys what the Creator has freely given to him.

The source of this enjoyment and even celebration is worship. Therefore, who would not put Sunday worship, the Mass, in the very first place in his life? If you put Sunday worship and Sunday rest first, all will be added unto you. You will finally understand life and your place in it. You will see your way clear to solutions to problems that have seemed intractable, or you will be content with the way things are, depending on what God's will for you is — which you will grasp.

When a person orients himself to Sunday and is determined to make it a different day (not another day of achieving things or getting things done), he finds that he is at peace. As our faith grows, we see that we need more than an hour in church on Sunday. Not that we need to spend more time in the building, but that somehow the Sunday reality must permeate our daily life. A prayer table in the home is a way to bring the Sunday worship with its deep connection to the eternal into the home, extending it throughout the week, anchoring family life in the Eucharistic celebration. It is the physical connection between the altar in the church and the altar of the heart.

The Liturgical Seasons

Every year is the same, yet every year brings us closer to our home in heaven. The Church has divided the year into liturgical seasons, each with its own flavour, so to speak. The little home oratory helps us live the liturgical year with the Church.

Many parents today search for meaningful ways to convey the richness of the Faith to their children, not

By David Clayton and Lelia M. Lawler, catholiceducation.org/en/

realising that the celebration of the liturgical year, plain and simple, with the Church, is the best way to teach them. And it requires little more than just living along with her. The core of liturgical living, as practised for two millennia now, is what we ought to be after.

In this way we start thinking with the mind of the Church, because her mind is in the seasons. You will find this out as you implement this "seasonal" way of thinking — you will notice a change in the readings and the prayers at Mass, and your prayer table will often reflect that change in a natural, almost effortless, way.

Advent

The Church calendar begins with Advent, the time to prepare for the moment when heaven and earth reunite in the Incarnation. Immediately you will notice how differently the Church enters this season from everyone else. If you can quiet your soul and turn away from the "holiday hype" of the world, you will acquire the education in beauty and wonder that this season inaugurates.

The Church building is quite bare. The songs sung at Mass are full of longing; they are not the fulfilled, triumphant Christmas carols but the expectant chants of waiting. We are waiting for the birth of the Lord of Creation, and creation is waiting as well.

A Nativity may be set up, but the Infant is not there yet. The trees may be placed before the sanctuary as the season progresses, but they are not decorated, and their plainness emphasises the darkness. There is a penitential side to these preparations. It is the penance of expectation — the willingness to forego celebration until the moment, prepared from the beginning, arrives. One's mind turns to the poor and the help they need to stay warm and to celebrate as well. Extra good deeds are done to ready the heart to receive its Saviour.

You note the Advent wreath with its four candles, lit week by week. You follow the readings as they lead from darkness into light.

At home, too, the prayer table can be made simple. Usually families put the wreath on the dining room table (or suspend it above the table from a chandelier with ribbons, as we do). Each Sunday another candle is lit, with the children taking turns. The candles can be lit every evening at dinner. A wonderful chant to sing while lighting is "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", with its many verses. On December 17, one week before Christmas, it is traditional to sing a one of the O Antiphons (verses) each day leading up to the vigil (Christmas Eve).

Near the Nativity scene, you can place a small bowl or cup containing bits of straw. Encourage your children to do little acts of service for family members and little acts of self-denial to prepare for the Lord's coming. Explain to them that these deeds make Jesus' bed softer and that they can place a piece of straw in the manger (quietly and secretly, on their honour) for each such deed they perform. On Christmas Eve, after they have gone to bed, you can place the Infant Jesus on the bed of straws, made soft by the good deeds of your family.

To be continued