



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

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

5th Sunday of Lent-Year B

21st March 2021

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/Wednesday/Friday 9.00am-4.00pm
Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm Thursday 9.00am-5.30pm
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

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid
Parish Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 9.00am-1.00pm
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

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)
Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000
Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Sue Alexander	0400 171 843
Naim Chdid	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	0431 386 473
Sally Markulin	0405 814 490

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
Maira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

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: St Anthony's -Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis
St Bernard's -Dolores Turcsan

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.

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

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S 22/3-28/3 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 22nd March:	6.30pm
Tuesday 23rd March:	9.15am
Holy Hour	5.30pm
Week 2 Novena to St Anthony	6.15pm
Mass	6.30pm
Wednesday 24th March:	7.30am & 9.15am
Thursday 25th March:	9.15am
Friday 26th March:	7.30am & 9.15am
Holy hour and Confession	6.00pm Stations of the Cross 7.00pm
Saturday Vigil 27th March:	5.00pm
Sunday 28th March:	8.30am
	10.30am
	5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

ST BERNARD'S 22/3-28/3 BACCHUSMARSH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 22nd March:	No Mass
Tuesday 23rd March:	7.30am
Wednesday 24th March:	9.30am
Thursday 25th March:	7.30am
Friday 26th March:	9.30am
Stations of the Cross	7.00pm
Saturday 27th March: (EF Latin 1962)	9.00am
Saturday Vigil 27th March:	5.00pm
Sunday 28th March:	8.30am
	10.00am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

Holy Hour will be held each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm

LENTEN REFLECTION ON OUR FACE What a difficulty it was to recognise faces when we had to wear masks! One felt so cut off unable to see a smile or be seen to smile. What a wonderful thing is a smile. It makes babies smile, it shows a friendly face, a greeting to even a stranger one meets when walking.

Pope Francis in the document Joy of the Gospel, wrote: *There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter.* A smile reveals the inner joy and peace we have knowing we are loved by God, whose Son died to reveal that love. So we need to look like we have been saved and our faces reveal our inner selves. Why would anyone wish to join a parish where everyone coming out of the church has a grumpy, unhappy face! Watch the faces and see!

So use your smile this Lent: For the stranger at Mass, for the girl at the checkout, the person you meet when out walking, for the children going to school, for the cashier at the café, the chemist etc. etc.

And you will notice that you will also feel happier, more at peace. Let our face be an Alleluia this Lent and Easter.

Mary Fermio rsj



Fifth Sunday of Lent 21st March 2021



Halima is raising two children in a Bangladeshi refugee camp while caring for her mother, who has a disability. A Caritas Australia-supported program helped her with a shelter, cooking equipment and hygiene training. Halima now earns a small income as a trainer, helping to maintain the health and cleanliness of her community. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.**

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

ST BERNARD'S

WOMEN'S RETREAT DAY – THE STRENGTH OF VIRTUE – SATURDAY 27th MARCH The Strength of Virtue Retreat for Women: **Saturday 27th March 9:30 – 4PM, St Bernard Parish Hall.** Father Paul Rowse, O.P., Anna Krohn, and the Dominican Sisters will speak on what it means to be a woman of strength, a woman of virtue. Lunch is provided. Babies are welcome. Cost is free. RSVP requested for catering purposes. Please go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/BPHFD> or contact: melbourne@op-tn.org.

MEN'S RETREAT DAY – HEROIC HOLINESS IN HARD TIMES – SATURDAY 27th MARCH The men's retreat will begin with Mass in St Anthony's Church, Melton South at 9.30am on Saturday 27th March and will conclude with Evening Prayer at 4pm. Lunch is provided. Cost is free. RSVP for catering purposes at <https://www.trybooking.com/BPWZU> or by emailing meltonsouth@cam.org.au.

CHILDREN'S RETREAT 27th MARCH

The Children's Retreat will be held at St Anthony's Church on Saturday 27th March 9.30am-4.00pm. Lunch provided.

REMINDER - WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK SHOULD BE VALID

All new and current volunteers, please call 1300 652 879 or go online at <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> if you need to apply or renew or associate your card with St Anthony's or St Bernards. Any queries, please speak to any of the Child Safety Team members, Lesley at the St Anthony's Parish Office or Dolores at St Bernard's Parish Office.

SUNDAY EVENING MASSES

Parishioners please note after a reassessment of the Sunday 5pm Mass timetable we are pleased to inform Parishioners that there will be Masses at 5.00pm on Palm Sunday (28/3), Easter Sunday (4/4) and Divine Mercy Sunday (11/4).

EASTER FLOWERS

Parishioners can donate money for the Easter Flowers. A donation box has been placed on the Sanctuary. Thank you.

CUPPA WEEKEND-NEXT WEEKEND- ROSTER

5.00pm Vigil: Marthese Merceica & Anne Nappi
8.30am: Joyce Stellini & Mary Saliba
10.30am: Doris & Emily Bonello

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-TRIDUUM SERVICES

Extraordinary Ministers, we have a clipboard in foyer of the Church, if you are available to volunteer for any of these services it would be appreciated. Lesley will contact you, thank you.

ST BERNARD'S AGM & DINNER (20/3/21) Our parish AGM will be held this Saturday (20/3) at 6pm in the Parish Centre. A BBQ dinner will follow at around 7pm. BYO drinks.

ST BERNARD'S MASS TIME SURVEY 21/3/21

This Sunday (21/3) a survey will be collected during the 8.30am & 10am Mass regarding the proposed change of times. Please see the letter included (next page) in the bulletin for more information.

VEILING OF STATUES & CRUCIFIXES

From the Fifth Sunday of Lent the crucifixes, statues and images of saints at St Bernard's will be covered with purple cloth. The cloths are removed on Holy Saturday, before the Easter Vigil. This practice, which is commended by the Church and dates to the ninth century, culminates in the stripping of the altars and removal of the Blessed Sacrament on Holy Thursday. The veiling is a form of visual fasting. It sharpens our focus upon Christ's act of salvation and deepens our spiritual hunger for the Risen Lord.

EASTER TRIDUUM 2021– St Anthony's

First Rite Reconciliation
7.00pm Monday 29th March 2021
(Confession also available before Mass on Tuesday & Wednesday)

Holy Thursday 1st April 2021

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
followed by adoration until
10.30pm Night Prayer

Good Friday 2nd April 2021

9.00am Confessions
10.00am Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7.00pm Veneration of the Cross
7.30pm Evening Prayer

Holy Saturday 3rd April 2021

8.00pm Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Easter Sunday 4th April 2021

8.30am Mass of Easter Sunday
10.30am Mass of Easter Sunday
5.00pm Mass of Easter Sunday



EASTER TRIDUUM 2021-St Bernard's

Holy Thursday 1st April 2021

6.30pm Confessions
7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
followed by adoration until
10.30pm Night Prayer

Good Friday 2nd April 2021

9.00am Confessions
10.00am Stations of the Cross
followed by Hot Cross Buns
2.00pm Confessions
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7.00pm Service of Tenebrae
Featuring Vox Choir of Ballarat

Holy Saturday 3rd April 2021

7.30pm Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Easter Sunday 4th April 2021

8.30am Mass of Easter Sunday (Korobeit)
8.30am Mass of Easter Sunday (St Bernard's)
10.00am Mass of Easter Sunday (St Bernard's)





Catholic Parish of Bacchus Marsh

St Bernard's, Bacchus Marsh

Our Lady Help of Christians, Korobeit

Presbytery & Parish Office: 61 Lerderberg Street, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

T: (03) 5367 2069

E: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

W: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

6th & 7th March 2021

Letter Regarding Sunday Mass Times at St Bernard's

Dear parishioners of St Bernard's,

As our parish has returned to a regular routine, the three of us priests have been discussing the pastoral challenges created by the short 30-minute window between the two Sunday morning Masses. We have discussed our concerns with the Parish Pastoral Council who support us bringing these concerns to the parish at large.

The Issue

Our concerns regarding the short timeframe between the two Sunday morning Masses are as follows:

1. We are not able to devote enough time to talking with parishioners following the 8.30am Mass. The opportunity for priests and parishioners to talk after Mass is of great pastoral value.
2. We are not able to be consistently available for confessions before the 10.00am Sunday Mass. Making confession available to parishioners when it is most convenient to them – namely, on Sunday – is a key pastoral priority for us.
3. We are not able to adequately prepare for the 10.00am Sunday Mass. Before Mass we often need to prepare the sacred vessels and consult readers, extraordinary ministers, musicians, collectors, families presenting children for baptism, and school families attending sacrament enrolment Masses.

Possible Solutions

We would ideally like to adjust the Sunday morning Mass times to create a 60-minute window between the two Masses. A 60-minute window would resolve the concerns listed above and would enable us to be more available to you. This outcome is, in principle, supported by the Parish Pastoral Council. Three possible ways of achieving this outcome seem feasible:

Solution 1 | 8.00am & 10.00am

Solution 2 | 8.15am & 10.15am

Solution 3 | 8.30am & 10.30am

Opportunities for Feedback

We understand that Mass times are reference points for our day and our week and changing them can be a disruptive experience. This is why we want your feedback. We will be taking the following steps to seek your input regarding adjusting the Mass times:

- This letter will run in the bulletin until 20/21 March inclusive;
- Over the next two weeks, we invite you to share your perspective in person with our priests;
- There will be an opportunity to discuss the issue during General Business at the AGM;
- On Sunday 21st March we will ask parishioners at the 8.30am & 10.00am Masses to complete a brief feedback form.

We will discuss the results of this process with the Parish Pastoral Council and come to a decision about how to proceed. It is our hope that you will appreciate our concerns, which have your pastoral and spiritual interests at heart, and support an adjustment to the Mass times.

Sincerely,

Father Fabian Smith PP, Fr Marcus Goulding & Fr Lucas Myint

Upgrade to St Bernard's AV Equipment

Over the last twelve months, our priests, Parish Pastoral Council, and Parish Finance Committee have been planning an upgrade to St Bernard's AV equipment. This upgrade originated with a request from our musicians to move the organ to the choir loft and a request from the school to upgrade the projector. The works have now been finalised and will be carried out in the next couple of weeks. The works include: (i) moving the AV box to the sacristy corridor and upgrading its casing; (ii) installing a new fixed projector; (iii) installing laptop inputs for the projector in the choir loft and in the sacristy corridor; (iv) installing new keyboard/mic inputs downstairs and in the choir loft; (v) upgrading the two front speakers. Our original plan was to move the organ to the choir loft as requested by several of our musicians. Subsequently, Mary Boratto asked that we leave the organ downstairs because she would like to resume playing at Mass. Consequently, we have decided to leave the organ downstairs until the end of the year with the proviso that if it is not used regularly in that time, it will be moved to the choir loft. In the interim, we are hiring an organ for the choir loft at minimal cost.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 27th & 28th 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: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Mercy Seifatu
10.30am: Anastasia Mavaega
5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis & Aloysious Dacunha
8.30am: Ron Howard & Lillian Christian
10.30am: Doris Bonello & George 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: Carmen & Godwin
8.30am: Natalie & Ron
10.30am: Annonika & Lillian
5.00pm: Leonia & Godwin

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Marya Dolores Borg, Josephine Buttigieg, Anglo DeBrincat, Teresa D'Silva, Lila Morrison, Dennis Offer & Charlie Pirotta

Please pray for the Sick:

Martha Baice, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Chinnamma Joseph, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, Kevin Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Clint Abela Wadge, Wai Walsh & John Xuereb and all those who have requested our prayers. (PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)

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

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 27th & 28th March

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Kratchovil Family
8.30am: Michael Baddeley
10.00am: Lindorff Family

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Peter McPhan
8.30am: Carol Jones
10.00am: Volunteer needed

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Wendy Diacono, Leigh Gray, Annie (Nancy) Holloway, Christopher Mugavin, Frank Shanahan and Joan Shanahan.

Please pray for the Sick:

Daniel Andrews, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Baby Jack Gibson, 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, 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)

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

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

The Baptism Preparation Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Time: **6.30pm-7.45pm.**

Next preparation meeting : **Thursday 25th March**

Location: **St Anthony's Church– Meeting Room**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Both parents are required to attend these meetings. **We kindly request adults only** and a copy of the birth certificate.

Please be advised that Baptism applications must be submitted 2 months in advance.

Please contact the Parish Office if you have any queries.

BAPTISM TEAM: Roster Pending



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: **Lillian Christian**

0400 441 257

Group 2: **Gerard & Anakin Anderson**

0433 690 902

Group 3: **Josephine German**

0478 288 761

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

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 50

Commentator: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

All: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

Create a clean heart in me, O God

NEXT WEEK'S READING

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD -YEAR B

First Reading: Is 50:4-7;
Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11;
Gospel: Mk 14:1-15:47



SECOND READING Hebrews 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 12:20-30

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come

for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you, most solemnly,

unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,

it remains only a single grain;

but if it dies,

it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;

anyone who hates his life in this world

will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me,

wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.'

Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;

now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth,

I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

Year of Saint Joseph II

With a Father's Heart (*Patris Corde*) (2)

A tender and loving father

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily “in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour”. As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. Hosea 11:3-4).

In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: “As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him” (Psalm 103:13).

In the synagogue, during the praying of the Psalms, Joseph would surely have heard again and again that the God of Israel is a God of tender love, who is good to all, whose “compassion is over all that he has made” (Psalm 145:9).

The history of salvation is worked out “in hope against hope” (Romans 4:18), through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realised in and despite our frailty. Thus Saint Paul could say: “To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me: ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness’” (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).

Since this is part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy.

The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser. That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God's truth does not condemn but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus' parable (cf. Luke 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: “This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found” (v. 24).

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

By Pope Francis, www.vatican.va

An obedient father

As he had done with Mary, God revealed his saving plan to Joseph. He did so by using dreams, which in the Bible and among all ancient peoples, were considered a way for him to make his will known.

Joseph was deeply troubled by Mary's mysterious pregnancy. He did not want to “expose her to public disgrace”, so he decided to “dismiss her quietly”.

In the first dream, an angel helps him resolve his grave dilemma: “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Joseph's response was immediate: “When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Matthew 1:24). Obedience made it possible for him to surmount his difficulties and spare Mary.

In the second dream, the angel tells Joseph: “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Joseph did not hesitate to obey, regardless of the hardship involved: “He got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod” (Matthew 2:13-15).

In Egypt, Joseph awaited with patient trust the angel's notice that he could safely return home. In a third dream, the angel told him that those who sought to kill the child were dead and ordered him to rise, take the child and his mother, and return to the land of Israel. Once again, Joseph promptly obeyed. “He got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel” (Matthew 2:21).

During the return journey, “when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. After being warned in a dream” — now for the fourth time — “he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth” (Matthew 2:22-23).

In every situation, Joseph declared his own “*fiat*”, like those of Mary at the Annunciation and of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. In his role as the head of a family, Joseph taught Jesus to be obedient to his parents, in accordance with God's command.

During the hidden years in Nazareth, Jesus learned at the school of Joseph to do the will of the Father. Even at the most difficult moment of his life, in Gethsemane, Jesus chose to do the Father's will rather than his own, becoming “obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8).

All this makes it clear that Saint Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood and that in this way, he cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation and is truly a minister of salvation.

Excerpt from Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, (“With a Father's Heart”) announcing the Year of Saint Joseph.