



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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

28th 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
Peter Kennedy	0407 778 119
Maira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

EX-OFFICIO:
Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, 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.

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

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S 29/3-4/4 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 29th March:	6.30pm
Tuesday 30th March:	9.15am
Holy Hour	5.30pm
Week 3 Novena to St Anthony	6.15pm
Mass	6.30pm

Wednesday 31st March: 7.30am & 9.15am

Thursday 1st April: Holy Thursday (See Timetable next Page)

Friday 2nd April: Good Friday (See Timetable next Page)

Saturday Vigil 3rd April: Easter Vigil in the Holy Night - 8.00pm

Sunday 4th April: Easter Sunday	8.30am
	10.30am
	5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

ST BERNARD'S 29/3-4/4 BACCHUSMARSH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 29th March: No Mass

Tuesday 30th March: 7.30am

Wednesday 31st March: 9.30am

Thursday 1st April: Holy Thursday (See Timetable next Page)

Friday 2nd April: Good Friday (See Timetable next Page)

Saturday Vigil 3rd April: Easter Vigil in the Holy Night - 7.30pm

Sunday 4th April: Easter Sunday 8.30am

10.00am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

No Holy Hour this Tuesday

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

MASS TIME—Sunday 4th April

Mass of Easter Sunday: 8.30am

PALM SUNDAY REFLECTION ON THE VOICE

If you have ever lost your voice through a cold or throat infection, then you know how important it is to communicate our thoughts and feelings vocally.

On Palm Sunday the crowd voiced their praise and welcome of Jesus. Yet the voices of Good Friday condemned and judged, proving how fickle we can be, especially when led by a mob or a group.

Pope Francis suggested we fast from "Harsh words" during Lent.

St Augustine wrote "When you sing, you pray twice!"

In this last week of Lent let us be aware of what we say, how we speak to and greet others, to use words of truth, forgiveness and compassion, to sing whole heartedly in our Holy Week Ceremonies and joyfully at Easter.

May we use our voices well always, as they are God's gift.

Mary Fermio rsj



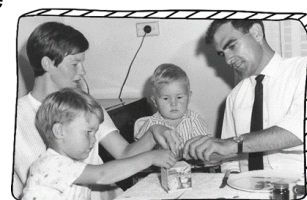
Palm Sunday 28th March 2021



For over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion, supporting vulnerable communities before, during and after natural disasters, conflicts and crises – making it one of the nation's longest running charity campaigns.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

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

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 Bernard's. 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. Thank you.

EASTER VIGIL -Saturday 3rd April 2021

Parishioners who are attending the Easter Vigil are invited to share in a light supper after the Service, please bring a plate to share. Thank you.

FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS -APRIL

Parishioners please note, there will be no First Friday or First Saturday Devotions on these dates-2nd April (Good Friday) and 3rd April (Easter Saturday). We will have **First Friday Devotions** on the **9th April**. There will be no 8.30am Mass on the Saturday 10th April.

TIME AND TALENT SHEETS

Thank you to everyone that responded to our call out for volunteers. Our group leaders have contacted everyone, however if you have not received a call from the group you wish to volunteer with please call Judy 0414 007 009 or email judyparishnews@gmail.com.

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



Sunday April 4, 2021 - Daylight Saving Time Ends

Clocks are turned backward 1 hour



ST BERNARD'S SUNDAY MASS TIMES CHANGING TO 8.30AM & 10.30AM on 1/2 May 2021

Thank you to all who participated in the Mass Times survey last Sunday. It will be no surprise that the survey was inclusive with regard to Mass times. Even so, it did clearly indicate that the vast majority of people would not be seriously inconvenienced by a change. Mindful of the benefit of creating an hour break between Masses in a way that impacts as few people as possible, Father Fabian and the Parish Council have decided that **Sunday Mass times will change to 8.30am and 10.30am beginning the weekend 1/2 May 2021**. The vigil Mass will remain at 5pm. Thank you for your understanding.

ST BERNARD'S AGM & DINNER THANKYOU

Thank you to all who attended our AGM last Saturday. We are particularly grateful to retiring Parish Pastoral Council members James Waters, John Thorne and Cathy Belcher for their dedicated service.

NO HOLY HOUR AT ST BERNARD'S ON TUES 30/3/21

There will be no holy hour on 30/3 because Father Marcus will be attending the Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. The next Holy Hour will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 6th April 2021.

ST BERNARD'S CHOIR REHEARSALS

7.00-8.30pm | Wednesday, 31st March 2021

6.45pm | Holy Thursday, 1st April 2021

2.15pm | Good Friday, 2nd April 2021

6.45pm | Holy Saturday, 3rd April 2021

No rehearsal on Wed 7th April 2021

9.30am | Divine Mercy Sunday, 11th April 2021

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)



WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 3rd & 4th April
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:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:
5.00pm:

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

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

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

MASS COORDINATORS

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

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Chinnama Joseph

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

Doreen Cruickshank, Ida Christina Enriquez, Vincent Hallsworth, Marina Marano, Catherine McLaren & Charlie Morrison.

Please pray for the Sick:

Martha Baice, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, Kevin Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Sherine Pereira, 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: 3rd & 4th April

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm:
8.30am: To be advised
10.00am:

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm:
8.30am: To be advised
10.00am:

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

George Hamm, Brendan Love & Brice Lummis.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, 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)

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 3rd & 4th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil:

8.30am:

10.30am: Roster Pending

5.00pm:

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS– 24th & 25th April

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin & Alison Pereira

8.30am: Geoff & Debra Sutton

10.30am: Gladys Clarke &
Judy Van Hoos

CHURCH FLOWERS

April: Easter Flowers



CHURCH CLEANING

Lorelle Porter and a Team of Volunteers.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Meeting Room 10.30am.

New members most welcome, training provided. Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' in the Church foyer. Thank you.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

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

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

Amen



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 3rd & 4th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Marg Tung

CHURCH FLOWERS

April: Easter Flowers



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-

Front Garden:

Back/Side Garden:

Parish Centre: Roster Pending

Carpark/Pines:

Back Paddock:

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

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

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

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

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

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

Phone: 03 5367 6222

Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

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

SOUL FOOD

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

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

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

Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

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

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

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

Next preparation meeting : **Thursday 22nd April**

Location: **St Bernard's Parish Centre**

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: **John & Rose Ma'ae** **0431 386 473**

Group 2: **Elaine & Edward Rodrigues** **0405 956 724**

Group 3: **Helen Calleja** **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

The children of the Hebrews, carrying olive branches, went to meet the Lord, crying out and saying:
Hosanna in the highest.

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 21

Commentator: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.'

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.'

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus 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

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death,
dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Act s 10:34,37-43

Second Reading: Col 3:1-4

Gospel: Jn 20:1-9



Year of Saint Joseph III

With a Father's Heart (*Patris Corde*) (3)

An accepting father

Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted in the angel's words. The nobility of Joseph's heart is such that what he learned from the law he made dependent on charity. Today, in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident, Joseph appears as the figure of a respectful and sensitive man. Even though he does not understand the bigger picture, he makes a decision to protect Mary's good name, her dignity and her life. In his hesitation about how best to act, God helped him by enlightening his judgement.

Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow.

The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that *explains*, but *accepts*. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning. We can almost hear an echo of the impassioned reply of Job to his wife, who had urged him to rebel against the evil he endured: "Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" (Job 2:10).

Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.

Jesus' appearance in our midst is a gift from the Father, which makes it possible for each of us to be reconciled to the flesh of our own

history, even when we fail to understand it completely.

Just as God told Joseph: "Son of David, do not be afraid!" (Matthew 1:20), so he seems to tell us: "Do not be afraid!" We need to set aside all anger and disappointment, and to embrace the way things are, even when they do not turn out as we wish. Not with mere resignation but with hope and courage. In this way, we become open to a deeper meaning. Our lives can be miraculously reborn if we find the courage to live them in accordance with the Gospel. It does not matter if everything seems to have gone wrong or some things can no longer be fixed. God can make flowers spring up from stony ground. Even if our heart condemns us, "God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything" (1 John 3:20).

Here, once again, we encounter that Christian realism which rejects nothing that exists. Reality, in its mysterious and irreducible complexity, is the bearer of existential meaning, with all its lights and shadows. Thus, the Apostle Paul can say: "We know that all things work together for good, for those who love God" (Romans 8:28). To which Saint Augustine adds: "Even that which is called evil [*etiam illud quod malum dicitur*]". In this greater perspective, faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad.

Nor should we ever think that believing means finding facile and comforting solutions. The faith Christ taught us is what we see in Saint Joseph. He did not look for shortcuts, but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.

Joseph's attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak. He is the "Father of orphans and protector of widows" (Psalm 68:6), who commands us to love the stranger in our midst. I like to think that it was from Saint Joseph that Jesus drew inspiration for the parable of the prodigal son and the merciful father.

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