



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

The Second Sunday of Easter-Divine Mercy Sunday -Year B

11th April 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 12/4-18/4 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 12th April:	6.30pm
Tuesday 13th April:	9.15am
Holy Hour	5.30pm
Week 5 Novena to St Anthony	6.15pm
Mass	6.30pm
Wednesday 14th April:	9.15am
Thursday 15th April:	9.15am
Friday 16th April:	9.15am
Saturday Vigil 17th April:	5.00pm
Sunday 18th April:	8.30am
	10.30am
	5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

ST BERNARD'S 12/4-18/4 BACCHUSMARSH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 12th April:	No Mass
Tuesday 13th April:	9.30am
Wednesday 14h April:	9.30am
Thursday 15th April:	9.30am
Friday 16th April:	9.30am
Saturday 17th April: (EF Latin 1962)	9.00am
Saturday Vigil 17th April:	5.00pm
Sunday 18th April:	8.30am
	10.00am

A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held each

Tuesday evening at 7.30pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBEIT

MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm

EASTER REFLECTION ON TOUCH 2nd Sunday of Easter

Our body is so open to the sense of touch, to feel, to comfort, to test and to be loved.

Jesus was not afraid to touch those who came to him: to touch the blind man's eyes, the tongue of the deaf man, lifting the dead girl from her bed, the dead young man from the bier, the leper, an outcast from society; to allow a prostitute to wipe his feet with her tears, his friend Mary to anoint his feet at a meal. He delights in allowing our hands to touch him, as we receive the Eucharist for he said: TAKE and eat!.

Touch is one of the most important senses for a sick or dying person. To have a hand held comfortingly can bring assurance and peace; To soothe a feverish brow; To pick up a hurt child, kiss the knee better, hold firmly giving the child a feeling of safety and love is all part of the gift of touch.

As we reflect on the stories of Jesus appearing after Easter let us be aware of how often Jesus allows touch or touches others. He invited Thomas to touch his wounds to enable Thomas's faith to be affirmed. Can I use my gift of touch to bring the peace and comfort of Jesus to others? Let me be aware of how often my touch can do that.

Mary Fermio rsj



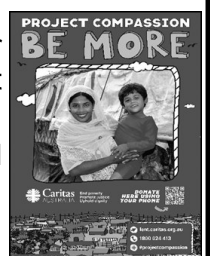
Thank you!
11th April 2021



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2021. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.

Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion
#projectcompassion 1800 024 413



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

ST BERNARD'S

SERIES OF FAITH FORMATION ON OUR LADY —COMMENCING 3rd MAY 2021

Lectio on Mary. **Venue:** St Anthony's Meeting Room **Time:** 7.00pm

Monday 3rd of May: The New Eve **Monday 10th of May:** The New Ark **Monday 17th of May:** Mother of Messiah.

Monday 24th of May: The Queen Mother **Monday 31st of May:** The Perpetual Virgin **Monday 7th of June:** Mother of Sorrows.

Please add your name to the 'expression of interest clipboard' in the Church foyer if you will be attending these talks. Thank you.

ARCHBISHOP PETER'S VISIT

Archbishop Peter will visit our Parish on **Sunday 25th July (10.30am Mass)** to bless our newly renovated Church.

MEAT TASTING FUNDRAISER

The Meat Tasting Fundraiser will be held **next Sunday 18th April**. There are 3 sessions requiring 20 people per session, timings are 11am, 12noon and 1pm. The meat will be lamb. There is a clipboard in the Church foyer for people to write their names, please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the session. Thank you for your support.

MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass will be held on **Friday 30th April 7.00pm** for families that have lost a loved one in **2020/21**. You are welcome to bring a photo of your loved one. We will have a light supper following the service. Please bring a plate to share.

WOMENS GROUP

A Women's Group will be formed, the group will get together weekly to discuss and reflect on the weekend's readings and share life experiences. Please call Lillian Christian 0400 441 257 for more information.

EASTER RAFFLE RESULTS

1st Prize— Isabella Dawn Jusayan

2nd Prize— Agnes Ah Ching

3rd Prize— Anne Nappi

Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to everyone that supported our Easter Raffle. The Social Committee Easter Raffle raised \$1200.00. The money raised will be used to buy supplies for Social Events in the Parish e.g. BBQs etc.

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 CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choir rehearsals held in the Church. New members welcome.

Wednesday 14th & 21st April 7.00pm

Sunday 18th April 9.30am

PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners please note the Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday 14th April. Staff will be in a training course.

*Eternal God,
in whom mercy is endless
and the treasury of compassion
- inexhaustible,
look kindly upon us
and increase Your mercy in us,
that in difficult moments
we might not despair
nor become despondent,
but with great confidence
submit ourselves to Your holy will,
which is Love and Mercy itself.
Amen.*

Source: Catholic Online

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY— St Anthony's Church

11th April 2021

Main Celebrant: Fr Fabian Smith

Commencement at 2.00pm with Confessions followed by:

Adoration, Rosary, Litany

Quiet Reflection

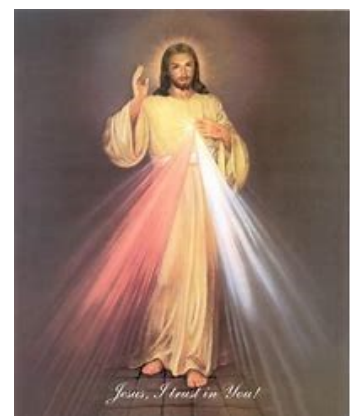
3.00pm Prayer

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Benediction

Holy Mass

Blessing of Divine Mercy Images



WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 17th & 18th 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: Marian Muller
8.30am: John Brewis
10.30am: Romeo Sacris
5.00pm: Pat Fernandez

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Phillip Anyayahan
& Aloysious Dacunha
8.30am: Lois Brewis & Naim Chdid
10.30am: Doris & 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: Lillian & Godwin
5.00pm: Leonia & Godwin

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Joseph Aquilina, Emmanuela Borg, Joseph Borg, Rita Fretwell, Carmelo Giordamaja, Charles Giordmaina, Frank Heine, Carlo Lloyd, John Merceica, Jane Spitei & Oli Oli Tomas Tuilau.

Please pray for the Sick:

Martha Baice, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Bruce Hynes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, Kevin 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: 17th & 18th April

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Margaret Love
10.00am: Martin Phillips

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Colm Carragher
10.00am: Jenny Kearney

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

April: John Thorne

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Franca Cinel, Irene & Br Brendan Gaynor, Myrna Jones, Ada Judge, George Maver, Daphne Pocock, John Reilly, Marie Sommerfeld & Doris Storey.

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, 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: 17th & 18th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Geeta Vincent
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 : 17th & 18th April

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Margot Short

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: St Anthony: **April & Gihan** St Bernard: **To be advised**



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: **Richard & Rosabella Tuala** **0422 390 617**

Group 2: **Richelle & Mike Lorenzo** **0475 887 149**

Group 3: **John & Pauline Osborn** **9743 1437**



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

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 117

Commentator: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

All: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;

his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live

and recount his deeds.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die.

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the corner stone,

This is the work of the Lord,

a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;

we rejoice and are glad.

All: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15,17-19;

Second Reading: 1Jn 2:1-5;

Gospel: Lk 24:35-48



SECOND READING 1 John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God;

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,

not with water only,

but with water and blood;

with the Spirit as another witness -

since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;

happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,

so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Year of Saint Joseph V

With a Father's Heart (*Patris Corde*) (5)

A working father

An aspect of Saint Joseph that has been emphasised since the first social Encyclical, Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum*, is his relation to work. Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour.

In our own day, when employment has once more become a burning social issue, and unemployment at times reaches record levels even in nations that for decades have enjoyed prosperity, there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron.

Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion. It becomes an opportunity for the fulfilment of that primary cell of society which is the family. A family without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties, tensions, estrangement and even break-up. How can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living?

Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us. The crisis of our time, which is economic, social, cultural and spiritual, can serve as a summons for all of us to rediscover the value, the importance and necessity of work for bringing about a new "normal" from which no one is excluded. Saint Joseph's work reminds us that God himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work. The loss of employment that affects so many of our brothers and sisters, should serve as a summons to review our priorities. Let us implore Saint Joseph the Worker to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!

A father in the shadows

Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński, in his book *The Shadow of the Father*, tells the story of Saint Joseph's life in the form of a novel. He uses the evocative image of a shadow to define Joseph. In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way. We can think of Moses' words to Israel: "In the wilderness ... you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as one carries a child, all the way that you travelled" (Deuteronomy 1:31). In a similar way, Joseph acted as a father for his whole life.

Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person.

By Pope Francis, www.vatican.va

The Church too needs fathers. Saint Paul's words to the Corinthians remain timely: "Though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers" (1 Corinthians 4:15). Every priest or bishop should be able to add, with the Apostle: "I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel." Paul likewise calls the Galatians: "My little children, with whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you!" (4:19)

Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves. Perhaps for this reason, Joseph is traditionally called a "most chaste" father. That title is not simply a sign of affection, but the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. Only when love is chaste, is it truly love. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constricts and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him. The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.

Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust. Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for domineering tyrants. It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, charity with a welfare mentality. Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this maturity. Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfilment if it stops at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration.

When fathers refuse to live the lives of their children for them, new and unexpected vistas open up. Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realises that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes "useless", when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care. In the end, this is what Jesus would have us understand when he says: "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven" (Matthew 23:9).

Fatherhood has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a "sign" pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45).

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