



# 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter-Year B

## 2nd May 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:**

Mon/Wed/Thu/Fri 9.00am-4.00pm

Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm

**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 & Geetha Vincent  
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 3/5-9/5 MELTON SOUTH

#### MASS TIMES:

<b>Monday 3rd May:</b>	Sts Philip & James, Apostles	<b>6.30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 4th May:</b>		<b>9.30am</b>
Holy Hour		<b>5.30pm</b>
Week 8 Novena to St Anthony		<b>6.15pm</b>
Mass		<b>6.30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 5th May:</b>		<b>7.30am &amp; 9.30am</b>
<b>Thursday 6th May:</b>		<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Friday 7th May:</b>		<b>7.30am &amp; 9.30am</b>
First Friday Mass		<b>7.00pm</b>
		<b>Midnight</b>
<b>Saturday Vigil 8th May:</b>		<b>5.00pm</b>
<b>Sunday 9th May:</b>		<b>8.30am</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>
		<b>5.00pm</b>

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

### ST BERNARD'S 3/5-9/5 BACCHUSMARSH

#### MASS TIMES:

<b>Monday 3rd May:</b>	Sts Philip & James, Apostles	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday 4th May:</b>		<b>7.30am</b>
<b>Wednesday 5th May:</b>		<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Thursday 6th May:</b>		<b>7.30am</b>
<b>Friday 7th May:</b>		<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Saturday 8th May: (EF Latin 1962)</b>		<b>9.00am</b>
<b>Saturday Vigil 8th May:</b>		<b>5.00pm</b>
<b>Sunday 9th May:</b>		<b>8.30am</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>

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 'FEELING AT HOME'

I know the feeling of 'feeling at home' with someone or in my own home. How often I have felt "I am glad to be home!" It is there I feel friendship, a belonging, a welcome and acceptance.

In today's Gospel Jesus invites me to 'make your home in me'. This is an invitation to friendship, to feel I belong to him and with him, knowing he accepts me warts and all and that I am always welcome. An invitation to come, not because I feel I HAVE to, but because I WANT to.

I am invited to bear fruit in plenty. The Epistle to the Galatians lists these fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Are these fruits evident in my life? If I cut myself off from Jesus, I can produce nothing, as he is the Vine!

Mary Fermio rsj



k42821513 www.fotosearch.com

## PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

### NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

#### ST ANTHONY'S

#### ST BERNARD'S

#### SERIES OF FAITH FORMATION ON OUR LADY

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.

#### MASS COUNT

2021 National Count of Attendance (Mass Count) will take place over the first four weekends in May (starting 1 May 2021).

#### ALTAR SERVER GUILD OF ST STEPHEN ENROLMENT MASS

Altar servers in Year 7 and above are invited to enrol in the Guild of St Stephen. To register for enrolment, email either St Anthony's or St Bernard's Parish Office stating: (i) the full name of the server, (ii) the server's date of birth, (iii) length of time serving. Registration emails must be received at the Parish Office by 5pm, Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Servers who have registered for enrolment in the Guild will then need to attend the Guild Mass at 7.30pm on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at St Patrick's Cathedral. Depending on how many servers register from our parish, we may be able to arrange transport.

#### NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Dear Parishioners please note if you would like to have an item in the newsletter please email me the item by Wednesday 12noon. My email address is : judyparishnews@gmail.com. If you need to call me my mobile number is 0414 007 009. 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.

#### WEEKDAY MASS TIME CHANGE

Parishioners, please note, with the increase in school traffic during the mornings, we have consulted with many of our Parishioners who attend our 9.15am Mass and have decided from the **4th May 2021** our **9.15am Mass** will be held at **9.30am**.

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS THURSDAY

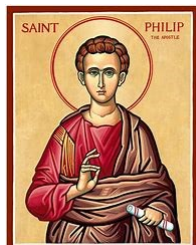
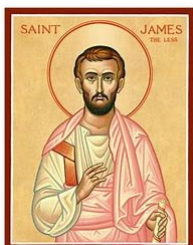
Parishioners please note our Thursday office hours for the month of May will be 9.00am-4.00pm.

**The feast day of St. James the Lesser and St. Philip is celebrated by the Church on the same day, May 3.**

They are both Apostles and martyrs.

St. Philip was also one of the original apostles. He was born in Bethsaida, Galilee and was a follower of John the Baptist. He was present at the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. He was also present at the Last Supper. During the Last Supper, it was Philip who asked Jesus to show them the Father. Jesus responded by teaching them about the unity of the Father and the Son. After the resurrection Philip preached in Greece and Syria. St. Philip died a martyr. He was crucified upside down at Hierapolis under the rule of Emperor Domitian.

Source: catholicfaithpatronsaints.com/prayers



#### OPEN HOUSE PARISH LUNCH

Prior to lockdown, morning tea was provided by different parish groups on a monthly basis.

We are pleased to resume this social occasion as 'Open House', a free lunch offered after the 10.30am Mass on the first Sunday of each month. The Open House will be held in the Hall from 11.30am – 1.30pm (lunch served at Midday) and will feature a variety of soups and delicious bread provided by the Van Der Linden and Brennan families. To help with catering, registration through the parish office or website contact page.



#### CHANGE OF TIME FOR INFANT BAPTISMS

With the change of our 10.00am Mass to 10.30am, Infant Baptisms will now be celebrated at Midday on the first and third Sundays of the month.

#### ST BERNARD'S CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choir rehearsals held in the Church. New members welcome.  
9.30am Sunday 2nd May  
7.00pm Wednesday 5th May  
9.30am Sunday 9th May

**PIETY STALL** Commencing May 2 the Piety Stall will now open **10am-10.30am** on Sundays.

**SENIOR'S FREE MORNING TEA** Wednesday 5th May 2021 Bacchus Marsh Public Town Hall from 10.00am. The morning tea will begin with a short presentation from an infection control expert from Djerriwarrh Health Service about COVID vaccinations, risk reduction and socialising safely. Limited numbers, please rsvp 5366 7100 or 0437 177 031.

## WORSHIP NEWS

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

### ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER:** 8th & 9th May  
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:** Kim Nguyen  
**10.30am:** Susan Malinov  
**5.00pm:** To be advised

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

**5.00pm Vigil:** Lorraine Tellis & Aloysious Dacunha  
**8.30am:** Geoff Sutton & Ron Howard  
**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:** Annonika & Godwin  
**8.30am:** Lina & Julie  
**10.30am:** Lillian & Godwin  
**5.00pm:** Leonia & Godwin

### ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Nina Bugeja, Tony Carberry, Annie Fernandes, Walter German, George Mercieca, Georgia Mercieca, Phyllis Michael, Noel Saunders, Ann Singleton, Alan Christopher John Tovio and Frankie Xiberras.

**Please pray for the Sick:**

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, Uatoa Tuigamala, Dolores Turcsan, 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:** 8th & 9th May

#### MINISTERS OF THE WORD

**5.00pm:** Maureen Zahra  
**8.30am:** Marj Tung  
**10.30am:** Sr Mary Fermio

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

**5.00pm:** Mary Beaton  
**8.30am:** Ben Kratochvil  
**10.30am:** Tup Shea

#### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**May:** Maureen Zahra

### ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

**We pray for the recently deceased:**

Margaret Moloney and Judy (O'Leary) Shepherd

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

Carmen Calvitto, Carmen Flores, Jeffrey Galea, Lee O'Hehir, Michael O'Keefe, Val Ratkowski, Mary Wadeson, Mary & Merv Howard, and all those who died in the Port Arthur massacre 25 years ago.

**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, Dolores Turcsan, 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:** 8th & 9th May

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Tunya Sant  
8.30am: Pat Chiles  
10.30am: Gilles Maitre

#### CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 22nd & 23rd May

5.00pm Vigil: Oshadie & Vina  
8.30am: Sam & Pat Chiles  
10.30am: Gilles & Monnet Maitre

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Ropeta



#### 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 :** 8th & 9th May

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Jan Farmelo

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Katie Lindorff



#### 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](mailto: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 27th May 2021**

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:** St Anthony's: **Agnes & Merla** St Bernard's: **Dolores**



### 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: **Carmen Vella**

**0429 435 724**

Group 2: **Gordon & Gladys Clarke**

**0402 021 435**

Group 3: **Tony & Stella Cochrane**

**9743 6340**



### 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**

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
for he has worked wonders;  
in the sight of the nations  
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

### **FIRST READING** Acts 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 21**

**Commentator:** I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

**All:** I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.  
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.  
May their hearts live for ever and ever!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,  
all families of the nations worship before him.  
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.  
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,  
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:  
'These things the Lord has done.'

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.  
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

### **NEXT WEEK'S READING**

#### **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**First Reading:** Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48;

**Second Reading:** 1 Jn 4:7-10;

**Gospel:** Jn 15:9-17



### **SECOND READING** 1 John 3:18-24

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk,  
but something real and active;  
only by this can we be certain  
that we are the children of the truth  
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,  
whatever accusations it may raise against us,  
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows  
everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,  
we need not be afraid in God's presence,  
and whatever we ask him, we shall receive,  
because we keep his commandments  
and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ  
and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments  
lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us

by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;  
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL** John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,

and my Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that bears no fruit

he cuts away,

and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes  
to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already,

by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,

but must remain part of the vine,

neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,

you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him,

bears fruit in plenty;

for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me

is like a branch that has been thrown away

- he withers;

these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,

and they are burnt.

If you remain in me

and my words remain in you,

you may ask what you will

and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,  
and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

# Year of Saint Joseph VIII

## Saint Joseph exercised paternal rights over the child Jesus (Part 1)

An Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and said: “Joseph, son of David, fear not to take Mary your wife, because what is born of her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bring forth a Son, and you will call His name Jesus. For He shall save His people from their sins”. Thus Joseph is assured that it is his right and duty to impose a name on the child born of his wife.

Naming the child was considered, according to the Jewish way, a special prerogative of the father: it was an exercise of paternal authority. And so, eight days after His birth, on the occasion of the circumcision, we find Joseph presiding over the ceremony (though in all likelihood he did not perform the circumcision), and as he directed, the child was named Jesus. This rite made Christ a member of the Chosen People, heir to all the promises that had been foretold by the prophets. At the same time, he also received his legal ancestry,

By Michael D. Griffin OCD, [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

becoming a member of the Davidic dynasty. True, both Mary and Joseph were descendants of the house of David, but it is through Joseph that Christ received the title, Son of David, according to which the Messiah was to be recognised.

In the gospels there are other indications of the leadership Saint Joseph gave to his family as he cared for his wife and the child. After the visit of the Magi, Herod was seeking the life of the Child, and an angel appeared to Joseph: “Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph, saying: Arise, and take the Child and His Mother, and flee into Egypt, and remain there until I tell thee”. Acting as a protective father to the Infant, he led Him safely to Egypt where He was safe from the devilish intent of Herod.

When king Herod was dead, an angel again appeared to Joseph as the head of the Holy Family and told him “to take the Child and His Mother into the land of Israel”.

Finally, an angel appeared to him and told him to return to Galilee and Joseph brought his family back to Nazareth. Jesus was obedient to Joseph as to a father: “And He went down with them and was subject to them.”

Joseph exercised authority over Jesus only because this was the will of God. Obviously, the right of authority can be exercised only over a person, and since Christ is a divine Person no one can have any authority over Him. The authority exercised by Joseph was given by God because Christ *chose* to be subject to His earthly father, who was the “shadow of His heavenly Father”. If Jesus’ humble subjection gives us an example of due submission to lawfully constituted authority, it also serves to emphasise the dignity of him whom He obeyed.

The matter of Joseph’s exercising authority over Jesus enables us to enter a little more deeply into the inner sanctuary of the soul of the earthly father of Christ and the husband of Mary. Was it not natural for him to be hesitant in the exercise of that same authority? Was he not timid about giving lawful commands? Is it not easy to imagine that he was reluctant to govern those who were his superiors in holiness and in goodness?

Actually, this did not cause any uneasiness in the soul of Joseph; he fully realised that he commanded in virtue of the authority granted by God and he only exercised that authority for the love of God and for the welfare of those placed under his charge.



Jesus obeyed Mary and Joseph as he had consented as Son of God to be under their authority.

To be continued