



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 MOST HOLY TRINITY—YEAR B

30th 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	0460 672 571

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 31/5- 6/6 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES:

31st May-3rd June

PRAYER and RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES:

No in-person gatherings permitted.

10.30am Mass Sunday 30th May

will be live streamed.

Please check the website for the link.

The following Masses are subject to the Victorian Government restrictions easing.

Friday 4th June:	7.30am & 9.30am
First Friday Mass:	7.30pm
	Midnight
First Saturday Mass:	8.30am
Saturday Vigil 5th June: St Boniface	5.00pm
Sunday 6th June:	8.30am
	10.30am
	5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

ST BERNARD'S 31/5-6/6 BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES:

31st May-3rd June

PRAYER and RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES:

No in-person gatherings permitted.

10.30am Mass Sunday 30th May

will be live streamed.

Please check the website for the link.

The following Masses are subject to the Victorian Government restrictions easing.

Friday 4th June:	9.30am
Saturday 5th June: (EF Latin 1962)	9.00am
Saturday Vigil 5th June: St Boniface	5.00pm
Sunday 6th June:	8.30am
	10.30am

*** Rosary and Adoration every Monday evening 7.30pm.**

****A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held every 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

REFLECTION ON BLESSED TRINITY

Some people will argue that the mystery of the Trinity is unable to be dealt with logically. The Trinity is not a mathematical problem to be solved, but a relationship to be drawn into, a relationship of love. A famous icon of the Blessed Trinity depicts them seated at a table, where there are four settings. The viewer is invited to take the seat at the fourth place and join them. The God who creates, redeems, and sustains the world, seeks us out and invites us into a loving relationship.

What a privilege! What an invitation! What a God!

This invitation to a relationship with God is meant to be our main work too. We are not meant to be private disciples or isolated believers. We are called to share this relationship wherever we are – social, intimate, professional, civic or other areas.

We profess our relationship with the Trinity every time we make the Sign of the Cross, say a Glory be to the Father, at the end of prayers at Mass. Let us be more conscious of God's love drawing us into this friendship of love with the Trinity.

(Ref: What are we hoping for? Richard Leonard sj)



Rublev

Mary Fermio rsj

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

ST BERNARD'S

#33 UPDATE: GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Information Updated: 27 May 2021, 12.00pm

As of 11.59pm, Thursday 27 May 2021, the following 'circuit-breaker lockdown' measures will apply across Victoria and will be in place until 11.59pm, Thursday 3 June, 2021 unless otherwise notified.

Face masks must be worn inside and outdoors: everywhere except your own home.

There will be 5 Reasons to leave home:

- shopping for necessary goods and services (one person per household, once per day, a support person can accompany if required; within 5km);
- caregiving or compassionate reasons;
- authorised work or permitted education, or work interstate (if you can work from home, you must work from home);
- exercise (up to two hours with one other person or members of your household; within 5km);
- receive a vaccination.

Private and public gatherings will not be permitted:

PRAYER and RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES: No in-person gatherings permitted. Livestreaming and Broadcast is permitted with a total of 5 people present including technicians.

FUNERALS: (indoor and outdoor): Permitted with no more than 10 people (and those necessary to conduct the funeral). Children under 12 months old are not counted towards this cap.

ARCHBISHOP PETER'S VISIT

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

INTERNATIONAL FOOD DAY

Thank you to everyone that supported our International Food Day last Sunday. It was a great success and a very enjoyable day. We raised \$ 5271.00 from the sale of the food and we received \$1860.00 in donations. The total raised for the Bay window-chapel is **\$7131.00**. The remaining funds needed will be taken from the Church Account.

CELEBRATION OF COMPLETION-subject to

restrictions To celebrate the completion of the Church's renovation and extension we have planned a special weekend on the 12th/13th June (St Anthony's Feast Day) We will have a dinner after 5.00pm Vigil Mass, a morning tea after 8.30am Mass and a BBQ lunch after the 10.30am Mass. If you are attending please record your attendance on the 'expression of interest' sheet in the Church Foyer, for catering purposes. *Please note this function will be subject to the Victorian Government easing restrictions.*

THE MEETING ROOM -(THE MACKILLOP ROOM)

The meeting room in the foyer of St Anthony's Church will now be called 'The MacKillop Room'. We will put a sign up shortly.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL—MINUTES

The Minutes dated 25th March 2021 of the Parish Council are available for collection in the Church foyer.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK CARD

Volunteers who need assistance in applying, renewing, updating their details or associating their card with St. Anthony's, please see Godwin or contact him on 0425 734 449.

MOVIE NIGHT

Movie night will be cancelled for the month of May due to the Victorian Government restrictions.

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION AND POT-LUCK LUNCH FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

St Bernard's will celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday 6th of June 10.30am Solemn Mass; 11.30am Eucharistic Procession & Benediction; 12.30pm 'Open House' Pot-Luck Lunch. Please bring a sweet or savoury dish to share at lunch. Alcohol and soft drinks will be available for a donation. Join us for a day of faith and fellowship.

Please note this event will be subject to the Victorian Government easing restrictions.

FATHER GLASHEEN GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Father Brian (Glash) will celebrate 50 years of Priesthood on 22nd May 2021. We give thanks and praise for his 50 years of devoted service to the priesthood especially for the 34 years he ministered to us here at St Bernard's and to the broader community. May he continue to receive many of God's blessings.

THE KSC RACING GAME ABOUT TO START.

The Bacchus Marsh branch of the Knights of the Southern Cross is holding its annual fund raiser towards our St Bernard's Primary School Scholarships. Every week for 26 weeks, each participant will get a horse starting with a consecutive letter of the alphabet. Winners accumulate points. No skill involved. OK.... explaining it is difficult, but the method is simple, so just take a chance; pay \$26 for each entry and leave the rest to us!! This year's game will finish before Christmas, with 1st receiving \$200, 2nd \$100 and 3rd \$50. Only 26 entries will be sold, so get in early for a June start. Call or leave a message with Hugh 53682796, John 53672025 or Mark 0416251025

CHAPLAINCY APPEAL 2021

St Bernard's Parish collected \$229.00 (15/5) and \$220 (23/5). A total of \$449.00. Thank you for your generosity.

LOST PROPERTY BOX

Parishioners we have a lost property box in the rear of the Church with an assortment of items in it. Including a single bi-focal lens. If you have lost something recently it may be in the box!

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 5th & 6th June
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: Stephen Fernandes

8.30am: Leonia Jessop

10.30am: Faustina Ma'ae

5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Philip Anyayahan & Ann Tennakoon

8.30am: Geoff Sutton & 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:

8.30am: To be advised

10.30am:

5.00pm:

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 5th & 6th June

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: John Thorne

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Volunteer needed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Colin Remedios

8.30am: Carol Jones

10.30am: Anne Daly

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Margaret Love

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Bill Dickson, Merv Dillon, Stan Douglas, Sandra McCann, Keith Selvidge, and Eileen Tung

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)

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Angela Aquilina, Raymond Borg, Emmanuel DeBrincat, Philip Giordamanya, Alfred Grech, Eugene Julien, Heather 'Rose' Marslew, Romeo Miranda & Joseph Portelli.

Please pray for the Sick: Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Melanie Fue Bruce Hynes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, Kevin Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Maiava Kuno Nickol, 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



SERVICE / COMMUNITY

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

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 5th & 6th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Kim Barton

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 26th/27th June

5.00pm Vigil: Tunya, Jason Sant & Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Roa & Julie Seifatu
10.30am: To be advised

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: Ana



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

ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 5th & 6th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Carmel Shea

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Francis McDaid



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

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



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 24th June 2021**

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's: **Michelle Parr** St Bernard's: **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: **Lorraine Tellis**

0437 658 423

Group 2: **Pat Fernandez**

0416 191 766

Group 3: **Aubrey & Doreen Smith**

0433 003 322



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

Blest be God the Father,
and the Only Begotten Son of God,
and also the Holy Spirit,
for he has shown us his merciful love.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

Moses said to the people: 'Put this question to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors - all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt? 'Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you for ever.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 32

Commentator: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

All: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

By his word the heavens were made,
by the breath of his mouth all the stars.
He spoke: and they came to be.
He commanded; they sprang into being.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

SECOND READING Romans 8:14-17

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Since you are children of God,
God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,
the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

First Reading: Ex 24:3-8;
Second Reading: Heb 9:11-15;
Gospel: Mk 14:12-16,22-26



Year of Saint Joseph XII

The death of Saint Joseph

After the episode of the Child Jesus in the temple, the gospels do not tell us any more about Saint Joseph. His name is mentioned, in passing, when we learn that Christ began His public ministry when he was about 30 years of age, being as it was supposed the "son of the carpenter"[19]. But there is no indication given that he was still alive.

In all probability Joseph died before Our Lord begins His public career; certainly before the wedding feast at Cana.

We know that Saint Joseph was a carpenter and it is extremely likely, according to tradition, that he taught his Son the same trade. Though born of the royal house of David, he was a man of modest circumstances and earned a living for his family by the sweat of his brow. We would be doing Joseph an injustice were we to imagine him being anything less than a good craftsman. While the Holy Family did not live in luxury, thanks to the diligence of Joseph it was properly provided for.

By teaching his Son his own trade, he made it possible for Our Lord to provide for Himself and for Mary till He began His public ministry. The work of Saint Joseph was completed.

Tradition has always believed that it was necessary for Joseph to disappear from the scene or he would have been an obstacle to the preaching of Christ. Think how confusing it would have been for Christ to be preaching about His heavenly Father if Joseph were close at hand! There is every reason to suspect that the multitudes would have thought He was speaking about Joseph. In order to obviate such difficulties, the early death of Joseph was convenient. Joseph had to decrease that the kingdom of God on earth could increase.

And so, some time before Christ began to preach publicly the good news of salvation, Joseph died, assisted and comforted by the loving presence of Jesus and Mary — a death that was later to become the cherished ideal of all Christians.

*The death of St Joseph,
comforted by Jesus and Mary:
The cherished ideal of all Christians.*

By Michael D. Griffin OCD, www.catholicculture.org

Theological Reflections on Saint Joseph

It is one of the tasks of theology to bring into sharper focus the portrait of Saint Joseph. Theology does this by showing his place of importance in the life of Christ and in the life of Mary.

In the case of Saint Joseph it would be possible to stop short after reading the biblical narrative of his place in the life of the Redeemer. But would there not follow from this a lack of appreciation, realisation, evaluation of the Saint's role in God's plan? Without serious reflection and consideration how can faith grow and develop beyond the conceptual grasp of a small child's appreciation? Study of the theology of Saint Joseph is necessary and legitimate because Sacred Scripture speaks of Joseph as a man specially called by God to perform a singular and meaningful task for our Redeemer and His Mother. It is important, therefore, that theology meditate in living faith on the place of this man in salvation history and the role he is called to fulfill in the life of the Church.

Leaving aside the technical questions that are dealt with by learned writers of Josephology, Next Sunday, we will look at some points that are important in a true theology of Saint Joseph.

