



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 Sixth Sunday of Easter-Year B

9th 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 10/5-16/5 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES:

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Monday 10th May: | 6.30pm |
| Tuesday 11th May: | 9.30am |
| Holy Hour | 5.30pm |
| Week 10 Novena to St Anthony | 6.15pm |
| Mass | 6.30pm |
| Wednesday 12th May: | 7.30am & 9.30am |
| Thursday 13th May: Our Lady of Fatima | 9.30am |
| Friday 14th May: St Matthias, Apostle | 7.30am & 9.30am |
| | |
| Saturday Vigil 15th May: | 5.00pm |
| Sunday 16th May: | 8.30am |
| | 10.30am |
| | 5.00pm |

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

ST BERNARD'S 10/5-16/5 BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Monday 10th May: * | No Mass |
| Tuesday 11th May: ** | 7.30am |
| Wednesday 12th May: | 9.30am |
| Thursday 13th May: Our Lady of Fatima | 7.30am |
| Friday 14th May: St Matthias, Apostle | 9.30am |
| Saturday 15th May: (EF Latin 1962) | 9.00am |
| | |
| Saturday Vigil 15th May: | 5.00pm |
| Sunday 16th May: | 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 FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Today we honour and remember our Mothers, both living and dead. Our lives are a gift from God through our Mothers, who carried us, washed, fed, clothed and loved us.

Jesus today speaks of the love of God, Father and Mother. All mothers' love are a reflection of the love of God. In Isaiah 49:15 God speaks: **Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb. even these may forget, yet I will never forget you (NRSV)**

Again, as a Mother, God speaks through Hosea 11: 3-4 (Insert your own name in the space)

"Yet it was I who taught _____ to walk. I took them up in my arms ...I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them." (NRSV)

Today as we remember and celebrate the mother who gave us life, let us look out for a mother who may be alone, or has recently lost a child. Let us pray to our heavenly Mother, her prayer, the Hail Mary asking her blessing on those we love.

Mary Fermio rsj



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 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, 14th May 2021. Servers who have registered for enrolment in the Guild will then need to attend the Guild Mass at 7.30pm on Friday, 28th May 2021 at St Patrick's Cathedral. Depending on how many servers register from our parish, we may be able to arrange transport.

CHAPLAINCY APPEAL 2021

Next weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Each year a special collection is conducted in all parishes for the purpose of supporting the vital work of our Catholic chaplains. The chaplains support thousands of Victorians every year in hospitals, prisons and youth justice centres, and those living with HIV/AIDS. Chaplains provide a listening ear, a compassionate presence, along with assistance to cope with emotional pain and loneliness. Please give generously. You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.ccam.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

CRC MELTON 40TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY

Sunday 23rd May 11.00am-2.00pm. Inviting former and current families and staff to celebrate four decades of Catholic secondary education in Melton. A unique opportunity to see how the College has developed and view displays of memorabilia from days gone past.

Register www.crcmelton.com.au/join-us/events

ARCHBISHOP PETER'S VISIT

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THURSDAY

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

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday 14th May.

PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, You chose to put yourself—tiny, needy and helpless—into the nurturing and watchful hands of a human mother. Since then, every act of mothering, both physical and spiritual, in every time and every corner of the world recollects Mary's. Inspired by this example, we, too, honour our mothers and mother figures today. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers and nurturers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, honour them always with a spirit of profound respect. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

Source: Catholic Diocese of Wollongong



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 (Corpus Christi) on Sunday 6th of June with the following activities: 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. Food can be dropped at the Parish Centre before Mass. Alcohol and soft drinks will be available for a donation. Join us for a day of faith and fellowship.

TWO SACRISTANS REQUIRED

We are seeking expressions of interest for two volunteer sacristans at St Bernard's - one for the Saturday night Vigil Mass and another for the 10.30am Sunday morning Mass. The sacristan assists the priest before and after Mass with various tasks such as opening and closing the church, turning lights and mics on/off, preparing and packing up the sacred vessels used at Mass, coordinating Altar Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Musicians, and Collectors. The role involves a weekly time commitment of approx 2 hours - arriving 45 minutes before Mass and finishing approx 15 minutes after Mass. Training will be provided to those appointed to the roles. Interested parishioners will need the following skills: good social and communication skills, a willingness to learn, punctuality and reliability, and the ability to commit to the role every week. For more information please see Fr Marcus. Expressions of interest should be submitted to St Bernard's Parish Office by email. Expressions of interest will close at 5pm on Friday 28th May 2021.

ROSARY AND ADORATION

Parishioners please note we will have Rosary and Adoration every Monday evening 7-30pm.

ST BERNARD'S CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choir rehearsals held in the Church. New members welcome.

Sunday rehearsals now start at 9:45 a.m. also, there will be rehearsals every Wednesday in May at the usual time.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 15th & 16th 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: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: John Brewis
10.30am: Rosabella Tuala
5.00pm: Rebecca Comini

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Philip Anyayahan & Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Lois Brewis & Naim Chdid
10.30am: Richard Tuala & Elaine Lacey
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 & Annonika

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Karen Austin, Annie Bowland, WM Campbell, Lance Finn, Evelyn Galea and Josephine Giodamanja.

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, 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



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 15th & 16th May

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Miesen Family
8.30am: Volunteer needed
10.30am: Erin Phillips

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Peter McPhan
8.30am: Carol Jones
10.30am: Volunteer needed

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

May: Maureen Zahra

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Frank Costa, Rosa Hill & John Tango

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

Joan Blood, Patricia Coates-Richardson, Ernest Cosgrove, Christina Dellios, George Freeman, Bill Grogan, Ted Holt, Dianne Sargent, Fr Herb Steele & Peter Wouters

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: 15 & 16th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Brad & Hayley Tellis
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 22nd & 23rd May

5.00pm Vigil: Oshadie & Vina
8.30am: Sam & Pat Chiles
10.30am: Olina Moore & Kathleen McCurry

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 : 15th & 16th May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Marj Tung

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

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: **Darian & Hoan Pertz**

0413 961 958

Group 2: **Gregory McCutcheon**

0455 457 645

Group 3: **John & Joyce Sultana**

9747 9925



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

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

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up', he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 97

Commentator: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

All: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy.

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11;

Second Reading: Eph 4:1-13;

Gospel: Mk 16:15-20



SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-10

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:

not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;

I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask in my name.

What I command you
is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Year of Saint Joseph IX

Saint Joseph exercised paternal rights over the child Jesus (Part 2)

From the exercise of authority over Jesus and Mary, it is an easy step to a further question: did Saint Joseph know that Christ was the second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity? A similar question is often raised by theologians concerning our Blessed Lady: did she know from the time of the Annunciation that her Child was the only begotten Son of God the Father? The gospels, it is true, are not as clear on these questions as we might like them to be. But they do give some indications that are extremely helpful.

First of all, there seems to be a growing consensus among exegetes that most likely Mary did not know, from the moment of the Incarnation, the true identity of her divine Son. Joseph, naturally, would have less knowledge

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

than that accorded to Mary. When Saint Luke, who must have been assisted by the information he received from Mary in composing his account of the early life of Christ, describes the scene of Our Lord in the temple when He was 12 years old, he relates the words of Christ to “His parents”: “Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” And in the next sentence he continues with the words: “And they [his parents] did not understand the word that He spoke unto them”. It seems that Saint Luke is telling us that Mary and Joseph did not understand the explanation given by Christ; and their lack of understanding would be difficult to account for had they already known that Christ was the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Furthermore, it hardly seems likely to assume that Saint Luke is here talking of a sudden shock that these words caused Mary and Joseph, as though they had *momentarily* forgotten his identity. Luke seems to be speaking of the fact that they did not as yet fully know of His divinity and therefore they were puzzled by his words to them. And, finally, Luke relates how “His mother preserved all these words in her heart”, as though she meditated on these words a long time before she came to see, in the growing light of her Son, the real meaning they contained.

True, there are still modern exegetes who maintain that Mary knew from the time of the Annunciation that her Son was truly the Son of God, but their arguments do not seem entirely convincing. The texts must be forced to yield such a meaning.

Supposing that Mary and Joseph did not know the divine nature of their Son, it is much easier to understand the early life of the Holy Family. Jesus, who “grew in wisdom, age and grace with God and men”, in due time must have revealed this mystery to them. At the time of the first miracle of Jesus at Cana of Galilee we notice the confident tone of Mary when she orders the chief steward: “Do whatever He tells you to do”. By this time she fully understood. Though the gospel does not tell us, we can presume Christ fully revealed Himself to Joseph before the latter’s death.



Mary’s action at the Marriage Feast at Cana is a good indication that she by then understood Jesus’ Divinity.