



# 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 TWELVETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

20th June 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/Thu/Fri 9.00am-4.00pm

Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm Wednesday 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-12noon

**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
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



St Anthony's  
QR code

Location code E2B Y8D



St Bernard's  
QR code

Location code C7N T6M

## MASS AND DEVOTIONS

### ST ANTHONY'S 21/6-27/6 MELTON SOUTH

#### MASS TIMES:

#### No pre-booking for weekday Masses

Pre-booking will not be required for weekday Masses.

**Attendees at weekday Mass must wear masks and check-in with the QR code upon arrival.**

Our weekday timetable:

Monday 21st June	6.30pm
Tuesday 22nd June	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 23rd June	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 24th June	9.30am
Friday 25th June	7.30am & 9.30am

#### Pre-booking essential for Sunday Masses

Please go to our website for current information on our Weekend Services.

Please book through the Parish website or ask someone with internet access to book on your behalf.

[St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish | Melton South](https://www.stanthony.org.au)

**Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.**

### ST BERNARD'S 21/6-27/6 BACCHUS MARSH

#### MASS TIMES:

#### No pre-booking for weekday Masses

Pre-booking will not be required for weekday Masses.

**Attendees at weekday Mass must wear masks and check-in with the QR code upon arrival.**

Our weekday timetable:

Monday 21st June *	No Mass
Tuesday 22nd June**	7.30am
Wednesday 23rd June	9.30am
Thursday 24th June	7.30am
Friday 25th June	9.30am
Saturday 26th June (EF Latin 1962)	9.00am

\* Rosary and Adoration every Monday evening 7.30pm

\*\* A Holy Hour of Eucharist Adoration will be held every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

#### Pre-booking no longer required for weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 26th June	5.00pm
Sunday 27th June	8.30am 10.30am

### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

#### MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm

### 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***

### REFLECTION ON BEING AFRAID

While living in Maffra I remember one weekday, fires were raging in the hills north of the town, and smoke had been pouring over the town during the early afternoon. Fire always makes me fearful, so I went home, but needed the company of others. So, I rang a neighbour asking could I come over. I stayed there until about 9pm, when it had started to rain a little.

I can resonate with the fears of the disciples in the boat. Drowning seemed imminent,

Jesus slept and seemed unaware. They woke him accusing him of not caring.

He chided them for being of little faith. He was with them. So, no need to be afraid.

We can often find it easy to tell others "Jesus is with you, don't be afraid!".

But can we really live by this maxim ourselves. Fear is a good thing they say, as it can prevent us from injury. But unnecessary fear stunts our growth, limits our actions and prevents us from living to our potential.

Can we truthfully place ALL our trust in our good God, by believing the words Jesus said so often:

"Do not be afraid." Implying "I am here. I love you. I care for you". In 1874 Mary MacKillop wrote:

Do not give way to fears and anxieties. LET US TRY!

Mary Fermio rsj



Art: Uniting Church Traralgon used with permission

## PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

### NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

ST BERNARD'S

#### CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE MELTON- YEAR 7 2023 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

Enrolment applications for Year 7 2023 at our West Melton and Cobblebank campuses are due on Friday 20 August 2021. Apply online now at [www.crcmelton.com.au/join-us/enrolment](http://www.crcmelton.com.au/join-us/enrolment).

#### INFORMATION EVENING FOR COBBLEBANK CAMPUS

The information evening for the new Cobblebank Campus will be held on Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 7.00pm

Venue: Catholic Regional College Melton, 109-141 Bulmans Road, Melton West

To Register : <http://www.crcmelton.com.au/our-story/cobblebank-campus>

#### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Dear Parishioners and Parish Groups please note the new deadline for all newsletter items is 1.00pm on Wednesdays.

Thank you Judy.

#### PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR SUNDAY MASSES

**Mass numbers are limited.** This means that **pre-booking is essential for the Vigil and Sunday services.**

Please book through the parish website or ask someone with internet access to book on your behalf.

*Pre-booking will not be required for weekday Masses.*

**Attendees at all Masses must wear masks and check in with the QR code, if you are unable to use the QR code service, an alternate check-in method will be available.**

#### 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

Parishioners please note new office hours.

Monday 9.00am-4.00pm

Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm

Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm

Thursday 9.00am-4.00pm

Friday 9.00am-4.00pm

The Parish Office will be closed this Monday 21st June.

#### Pre-booking is no longer required to attend Mass

**Attendees at all Masses must wear masks and check in with the QR code, if you are unable to use the QR code service, an alternate check-in method will be available.**

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Parishioners please note new office hours  
Tuesday-Friday 9.00am-12noon

#### KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Knights of The Southern Cross Meeting this Monday 21st June at 8pm in the Parish Centre meeting room.

#### ST BERNARD'S PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

St Bernard's Parish Primary School Bacchus Marsh is seeking new members for its upcoming School Advisory Council. The council will be instigated at the School Advisory Board AGM, which will be held on 26th August at 7.00pm at the school. The new council will replace the board in line with the new terms of reference published by our new governing body. [Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools M.A.C.S.]

All current board positions will be vacated and nominations are called from interested parties. Vacancies exist for parents, parishioners and alumni. Applications close on Monday 9th August. For further information, the role of the advisory board is explained on the MACS Website. <https://governance.melbourne/>

Please contact Emilio [principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au) for further information or simply submit an application with your full contact details, the category that you meet, the skills and interests that underpin your application and the reasons you would like to be part of the council.

*Lord, enlighten me so that I can understand your life-giving and divine commands, and grant me through your grace and mercy to gather from them assurance of your love, and hope, and salvation.*

*Amen*

## WORSHIP NEWS

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

### ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER:** 26th & 27th 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:** Lorraine Tellis  
**8.30am:** Amy Honrade  
**10.30am:** Anastasia Mavaega  
**5.00pm:** Rebecca Comini

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**5.00pm Vigil:** Ann Tennakoon & Philip Anyayahan  
**8.30am:** Geoff Sutton & Ron Howard  
**10.30am:** Elaine Lacey & Naim Chdid  
**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:** Lina & Julie  
**10.30am:** Lillian & Godwin  
**5.00pm:** Leonia & Annonica

### ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Nellie Chiles, Mary Rose Gauci, Phyllis Gilder, Margherita Grech, Salvina Pace, Sergio Robert Pin, Antoinio Savona, Lucia Savona & Victor Vella.

**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



### ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER:** 26th & 27th June

#### **MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

**5.00pm:** Maureen Zahra  
**8.30am:** Volunteer needed  
**10.30am:** Sr Mary Fermio

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

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

#### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**June:** Margaret Love

### ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

**We pray for the recently deceased:**

Frances Farrugia

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

Fairy Bellman, John Cavka, Maria de Freitas, Henry Hocking, Anton Jakobovic, John Madigan, Dorothy Shelly, Jim Vallence, Magdalena Wasilewski, Noreen Wheelahan, Jean Young & John Cavka.

**Please pray for the Sick:**

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Chris, 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

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

### ST ANTHONY'S

**WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS:** 26th & 27th June

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Joanne Zerafa  
8.30am: Gilles Maitre  
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

#### CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 26th/27th June

5.00pm Vigil:  
8.30am: No Cuppa weekend this month  
10.30am:

#### 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 :** 26th & 27th June

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Marj Tung

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

June: 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](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

***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 visit our website for detailed information.**

Please contact the Parish Office if you have any queries.

**BAPTISM TEAM:** St Anthony's: **Michelle Parr** St Bernard's: **Dolores Turcsan**

### 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: Jojo & Wilma Chua 0423 953 843

Group 2: Carolyn Cruz 0401 875 410

Group 3: Vilma Pinto 0400 070 263



### DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the Month-3.00pm

### PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



### NEO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

**[bow during the next line]**

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **ENTRANCE PROCESSION**

The Lord is the strength of his people,  
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.  
Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage,  
and govern them for ever.

### **FIRST READING** Job 38:1, 8-11

From the heart of the tempest the Lord gave Job his answer.  
He said:

Who pent up the sea behind closed doors  
when it leapt tumultuous out of the womb,  
when I wrapped it in a robe of mist  
and made black clouds its swaddling bands;  
when I marked the bounds it was not to cross  
and made it fast with a bolted gate?  
Come thus far, I said, and no farther;  
here your proud waves shall break.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 106**

**Commentator:** Give thanks to the Lord,  
his love is everlasting.

**All:** Give thanks to the Lord,  
his love is everlasting.

Some sailed to the sea in ships  
to trade on the mighty waters.  
These men have seen the Lord's deeds,  
the wonders he does in the deep.

For he spoke; he summoned the gale,  
tossing the waves of the sea  
up to heaven and back into the deep;  
their soul melted away in their distress.

Then they cried to the Lord in their need  
and he rescued them from their distress.  
He stilled the storm to a whisper:  
all the waves of the sea were hushed.

They rejoiced because of the calm  
and he led them to the haven they desired.  
Let them thank the Lord for his love,  
the wonders he does for men.

Give thanks to the Lord,  
his love is everlasting.

### **SECOND READING** 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

The love of Christ overwhelms us when we reflect that if  
one man has died for all, then all men should be dead;  
and the reason he died for all was so that living men  
should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died  
and was raised to life for them.

From now onwards, therefore, we do not judge anyone by  
the standards of the flesh. Even if we did once know  
Christ in the flesh, that is not how we know him now. And  
for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the  
old creation has gone, and now the new one is here.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL** Mark 4:35-41

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples,  
'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the  
crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat;  
and there were other boats with him. Then it began to  
blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so  
that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his  
head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to  
him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And  
he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea,  
'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was  
calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so fright-  
ened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled  
with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even  
the wind and the sea obey him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The eyes of all look to you, Lord,  
and you give them their food in due  
season.



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

#### **13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**First Reading:** Wis 1:13-15, 2:23-24;  
**Second Reading:** 2 Cor 8:7,9,13-15;  
**Gospel:** Mk 5:21-43

# Year of Saint Joseph XV

## Theological reflections on Saint Joseph (4)

### Holiness and dignity of Saint Joseph

Since the 16th century there has been a growing consensus among theologians about the outstanding holiness of Saint Joseph. Today it can be affirmed that it is the common teaching of the Church that Joseph occupies a very special place in heaven, because of his exceptional holiness, that is second only to the place occupied by the Mother of God.

In his 1889 encyclical letter, *Quamquam pluries*, Pope Leo XIII wrote:

“Joseph ... indeed was the husband of Mary and the father, as was supposed, of Jesus Christ. From this arise all his dignity and grace, holiness and glory. ... There can be no doubt that more than any other person he approached that supereminent dignity by which the Mother of God is raised far above all created natures. ... Joseph alone stands out in august dignity because he was the guardian of the Son of God by divine appointment.”

Several things are worthy of note in this encyclical of Leo. First, he mentions the measure of the holiness of Saint Joseph. The norm that determined the amount of grace that Joseph received was the twofold office that he possessed: namely, that of being the husband of Mary and the father of Jesus Christ. The grace God bestowed upon his soul coincided with the supereminent dignity of those two offices.

Second, is Leo's insistence that Joseph *more than any other person* approached the holiness of Mary. Mary was raised far above *all created nature*. Does this mean that the Pope was teaching that Mary is holier than the angels themselves? It does, and this has been the common teaching of the Church for many centuries.

But, what is more pertinent to this study of ours, does this mean that Joseph is also higher in dignity and holiness than the angels? Leo does not explicitly say this, but he certainly

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

supplies the premise from which such a conclusion can legitimately be drawn. Pius XI in his characteristically incisive and clear language dispelled any doubt that might still linger when he wrote: “Between Joseph and God we do not see, and we can not see, anyone except Mary with her divine motherhood.” (Allocution of Pope Pius XI on April 21, 1926).

Because of the words of Christ that “of those born of women there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist”, some have wondered whether John the Baptist did not surpass Saint Joseph in holiness.

This objection is not as strong as it may first appear. Taking into account the parallel text of Luke 7:28 (“I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John: yet he who is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he”), exegetes assure us that Christ did not state that John the Baptist was the holiest person who ever lived, otherwise we would have to maintain that he was holier than the Mother of God!

Christ was here speaking of John the Baptist only as the greatest of the *prophets* of the Old Testament. He was saying that the other prophets were given the mission of foretelling the coming of the future Messiah, but John was the last of the prophets and the greatest of them all because he was given the mission of pointing out to the people of his own time the expected one of the hopes of Israel: “Behold, the Lamb of God!”

The dignity of a Saint is measured by the degree of grace and virtue he possessed. In this sense, not all saints had an equal amount of grace, but each one was given the amount of grace “according to the will of God” that would enable him to perform the mission assigned him.

In the case of Joseph, the fact that he was assigned the privilege of living in the intimate presence of Jesus and Mary is an indication of the rapid growth in grace and in virtue that must have occurred in his life.