



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 BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST—YEAR B

6th 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/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
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 7/6- 13/6 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES:

During the metropolitan lockdown we will live stream Masses on YouTube:

Saturday 8.30am (5/6)

Sunday 10.30am

Monday-Friday 7.00pm

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

Friday 11th June: 7.30am & 9.30am

Saturday Vigil 12th June: 5.00pm

Sunday 13th June: 8.30am
10.30am
5.00pm

Pre bookings may be needed to attend Masses as we come out of lockdown. Please see our website for updates.

ST BERNARD'S 7/6-6/13/6 BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES:

No pre-booking for weekday Masses

Posted 10.00am Friday 4th June 2021

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.**

This week, weekday Masses will be celebrated at the following times:

This week, weekday Masses will be celebrated at the following times:

7.30am	Tue	8th	June	2021
9.30am	Wed	9th	June	2021
7.30am	Thu	10th	June	2021
9.30am	Fri	11th	June	2021

No Saturday morning Mass yet.

Pre-booking essential for Sunday Masses

Posted 10.00am Friday 4th June 2021

Please book through the parish

website www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au <<http://www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au>> or ask someone with internet access to book on your behalf.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBEIT

MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil

6.30pm

REFLECTION FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

This feast continues the fact, of God looking to deepen the relationship with us, by sharing a meal with all who come, where we receive the nourishment we need to survive.

The Eucharist is essentially a prayer of Thanksgiving- thanks and giving. If we look at the letter M we can see the structure of the Mass: We speak to God, God speaks to us, we give our gifts to God, God returns the gift of the Son, Jesus, as food for our growth as Christians.

The words of Pope Francis in THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL #41 is a wonderful guide:

"The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak...the Church is not a tollhouse; it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems."

If there are people excluded from this Sacrament, why?

They are the ones who need the Eucharist more than any of us.

They are the ones who struggle with divorce, homelessness, poverty, their past, their sexuality differences, their feelings of non-acceptance.

Can the People of God, like Jesus, welcome them and say:

Give them to eat!

Mary Fermio rsj



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

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. 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.

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.

ST ANTHONY'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATION EVENT

Due to the Victorian Government restrictions this social event will be cancelled. We will celebrate the completion of the Church's extension and renovation on a date to be advised.

PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners please note the Parish Office will be closed during the metropolitan lockdown. If you would like to contact the Office please email judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009.

ST BERNARD'S

Pre-booking essential for Sunday Masses

Posted 10.00am Friday 4th June 2021

We are glad to be able to resume the public celebration of Mass from this weekend. **Masses are limited to 50 attendees with masks** as per current government regulations. This means that **pre-booking is essential for the Vigil and Sunday morning Masses**. Upon arrival at the church for Mass, you must still check in with your QR code. If you are unable to use the QR code service, an alternate check-in method will be available. A special Holy Hour of Adoration with Solemn Vespers will be celebrated at 4.00pm this Sunday for the feast of Corpus Christi. Booking essential.

No pre-booking for weekday Masses

Posted 10.00am Friday 4th June 2021

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.**

This week, weekday Masses will be celebrated at the following times:

This week, weekday Masses will be celebrated at the following times:

7.30am	Tue	8th	June	2021
9.30am	Wed	9th	June	2021
7.30am	Thu	10th	June	2021
9.30am	Fri	11th	June	2021

No Saturday morning Mass yet.

Please book through the parish

website www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au <[http://](http://www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au)

www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au> or ask someone with internet access to book on your behalf.

FR BRIAN GLASHEEN GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Fr Brian Glasheen will be at St Bernard's for the Vigil 5.00pm Mass on Saturday 24th July.

PARISH OFFICE

This week the Parish Office will be open Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm.

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!

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

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 12th & 13th 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: Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Kim Nguyen

10.30am: Elaine Lacey

5.00pm: Rebecca Comini

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira & To be advised

8.30am: Ron Howard & Naim Chdid

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: Annonica & Godwin

8.30am: Godwin & 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:

Seloti Alainuuese, Felicity Galea, Emmanuel & Jane De Brincat & Losa McAlpine Tuala

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: 12th & 13th June

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Miesen Family

8.30am: Peter Lafanchi

10.30am: Cheryl Stevens

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Stuart Robinson

8.30am: Peter Lafranchi

10.30am: Cheryl Stevens

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Margaret Love

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Kathleen Corrigan, Bill Dudley, Kevin Monagle, Peter Mullins, Norma Nichol, Frank O'Malley & Georgina Simic.

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

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

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 12th & 13th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Fernandez
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 26th/27th June

5.00pm Vigil: Tunya, Jason Sant & Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Roa & Julie Seifatu
10.30am: Olina Moore & Kathleen McCurry

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 : 12th & 13th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Jan & Colm

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 to \$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: Allen & Ellen Johnson 0418 200 144

Group 2: Maria & Juan Dumanden 0402 177 623

Group 3: Kristina Scerri 0458 857 479

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

He fed them with the finest wheat
and satisfied them with honey from the rock

FIRST READING Exodus 24:3-8

Moses went and told the people all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances. In answer, all the people said with one voice, 'We will observe all the commands that the Lord has decreed.' Moses put all the commands of the Lord into writing, and early next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he directed certain young Israelites to offer holocausts and to immolate bullocks to the Lord as communion sacrifices. Half of the blood Moses took up and put into basins, the other half he cast on the altar. And taking the Book of the Covenant he read it to the listening people, and they said, 'We will observe all that the Lord has decreed; we will obey.' then Moses took the blood and cast it towards the people. 'This' he said 'is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you, containing all these rules.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 115

Commentator: I will take the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the Lord.

All: I will take the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the Lord.

How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people.

All: I will take the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the Lord.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ezek 17:22-24;
Second Reading: 2 Cor 5:6-10;
Gospel: Mk 4:26-34



SECOND READING Hebrews 9:11-15

Now Christ has come, as the high priest of all the blessings which were to come. He has passed through the greater, the more perfect tent, which is better than one made by men's hands because it is not of this created order; and he has entered the sanctuary once and for all, taking with him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but his own blood, having won an eternal redemption for us. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer are sprinkled on those who have incurred defilement and they restore the holiness of their outward lives; how much more effectively the blood of Christ, who offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to God through the eternal Spirit, can purify our inner self from dead actions so that we do our service to the living God.

He brings a new covenant, as the mediator, only so that the people who were called to an eternal inheritance may actually receive what was promised: his death took place to cancel the sins that infringed the earlier covenant.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.'

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

Year of Saint Joseph XIII

Theological reflections on Saint Joseph (2)

The divine call of Saint Joseph

When it was eternally decreed that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity was to become man, not only the substantial factors of the Incarnation were determined by God, but likewise all those persons, places, and things that would bring about this mystery. After Mary, Saint Joseph was the most important personage among these.

God chose the one who was to be His Mother and He also chose the one who was to be her husband and consequently His father. It was not by chance that he received these honours, but by the express Will of God.

The immaculate conception or prenatal sanctification of St. Joseph?

The question has often been raised whether or not Saint Joseph, like Mary, was privileged by God to have been free from original sin from the first moment of his existence. Surely if there is reason to suspect that God bestowed this favour on any soul besides the Blessed Mother, the most logical one — and the only one — who comes to mind is Saint Joseph. This is prompted by the fact that he was truly married to the Mother of God and that he had a singular paternal relationship towards Christ. A strong logical case could be built up to show how fitting it would be for Saint Joseph to have been accorded such a privilege.

Nevertheless, reason no matter how compelling, is not sufficient to prove that God actually granted this or that favour to a particular saint. We can only have certitude when it is guaranteed by Scripture or the Magisterium of the Church. Scripture says nothing of such a privilege and more important still is the fact that the Magisterium of the Church seems clearly to rule out the possibility.

In 1953 Pope Pius XII in his encyclical letter *Fulgens Corona* had this to say about the Immaculate Conception of Mary: “Mary obtained this *most singular privilege*, never

granted to anyone else, because she was raised to the dignity of the Mother of God.”

There is agreement among theologians that the words of Pius XII are to be taken literally; in fact, they teach that it would be rash or temerarious to hold that any other person, no matter how exalted, has been favoured with this privilege. The devotion to Saint Joseph would not be helped, but immeasurably damaged, if it departed from this clear statement of the Magisterium: devotion to Joseph, like all other devotions, must be based on truth and not empty sentimentality.

Saint John the Baptist was sanctified in his mother’s womb. Is there not reason to believe that Saint Joseph must have been accorded a similar privilege? Some have not hesitated to reply in the affirmative, but the majority of theologians see no reason that justifies the claim. Once again, the only way in which we can be sure of the prenatal sanctification of Saint Joseph would be through an explicit affirmation of Sacred Scripture or the teaching of the Church. Since we would look in vain for such approval in either of those sources, the only prudent conclusion we come to is that Joseph was not sanctified until after his birth.

In simple terms it comes to this: Saint Joseph was born with original sin on his soul and was not cleansed from its stain until the time of his circumcision, as was the case with every other Jewish boy of his time.

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



Although pure and holy, as represented by the lily he is often shown holding, St Joseph is not accorded by the Church freedom from original sin from the first