



# 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 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B**

**25th July 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 9.00-1.00pm Tuesday 9.00am-4.00pm

Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm Thu-Friday 9.00am-4.00pm

**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-Thursday 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 26/7-1/8 MELTON SOUTH

#### MASS TIMES:

Our Current lockdown restrictions include:  
'No in-person gatherings permitted for prayer and religious ceremonies.'

The 10.30am Sunday 25th July Mass will be live streamed  
Please visit our website for the link

[St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish | Melton South](#)

With the possibility of the current restrictions easing at 11.59pm Tuesday 27th July please check our website for updated information regarding Masses. Thank you.

### ST BERNARD'S 26/7-1/8 BACCHUS MARSH

#### MASS TIMES:

Our Current lockdown restrictions include:  
'No in-person gatherings permitted for prayer and religious ceremonies.'

The 10.30am Sunday 25th July Mass will be live streamed  
Please visit our website for the link

[St Bernard's Catholic Parish | Bacchus Marsh](#)  
([stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au](http://stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au))

With the possibility of the current restrictions easing at 11.59pm Tuesday 27th July please check our website for updated information regarding Masses. Thank you.

### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBEIT

#### MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil

**If you need a Priest in the case of an emergency please call 0403 435 471**

#### 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.

#### REFLECTION ON BREAD     Seventeenth Sunday

Probably the most common food Westerners eat daily is bread – bread in all forms: rolls, toast, sandwich, sourdough, whole meal... It has been named as a staple food and its content provides energy and nourishment and unites people as they share.

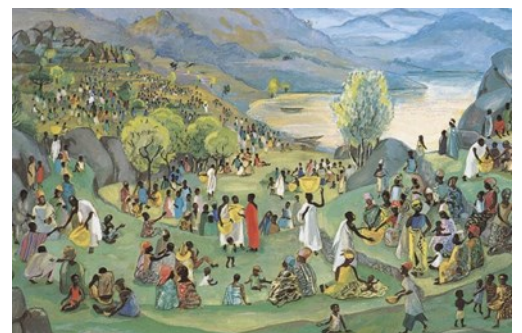
Today's Gospel describes a picnic of many people who have been following Jesus, soaking up his words. Jesus again has compassion, because by now they would be hungry. Where would they get something to eat? A small boy gives up his bread and fish and Jesus feeds the thousands with as "much as was wanted". **NO ONE** went hungry and no one would have been refused bread.

Jesus never excluded those who were needy or came to him for help, for either physical or spiritual healing. Whether sinner or perceived outcast, they were always welcome. Even the Lawgivers, who excluded and condemned those who needed compassion and healing, presuming them sinners, were welcomed by Jesus, who shared meals with them, inviting them to change their attitude.

Let us beware of being like the lawgivers, judging others, even refusing to welcome them to our Eucharistic table, because of perceived sinfulness and being absent from our Church.

As Pope Francis said: Who am I to judge!

Mary Fermio rsj



## PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

### NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

#### ST ANTHONY'S

#### ST BERNARD'S

#### **JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS**

The Regional meeting will be held on the 7th August at 9.30am for 10.00am start. It will be held at St Bernard's Parish Centre. Please BYO lunch, the Bacchus Marsh group will supply morning tea. We will have 3 sessions and then lunch. Core group leaders will meet early afternoon. All welcome.

#### **NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM MELTON - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! JOB NO: SVDP1415**

Location: **Melton**

**Who:** Volunteers to support children in our Brand New Education Program in Melton. Students who attend the program have the opportunity to develop social, emotional and academic skills as part of a positive learning experience.

**When & Where:** Wednesday 3.30-5.30 during school terms. Melton Community Centre, 239 Station Street, Melton

**The Good Works you will be involved in:** Our Education Program volunteers are passionate about learning and seek to motivate the young participants on our programs with this enthusiasm. They use a growth mindset, strength based approach to student driven learning. You may work with a small group of students to develop a love of reading and discussing of books. It will be incredibly motivating seeing the students develop in their education thanks to your support.

**Requirements:** No experience required. St Vincent de Paul will assist you in acquiring all checks. No cost is involved

**How do I apply?** Please go to <https://svdpvolunteers.applynow.net.au/jobs/SVDP1325-education-program-volunteering>

**Contacts:** Dr. Linette Etheredge

St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria (SVDPV)

P 03 9895 5926 | M 0437 168 366

email [linette.etheredge@svdp-vic.org.au](mailto:linette.etheredge@svdp-vic.org.au) or [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au) or Ineke Allen 0400 120 401

#### **INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE -DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE BEING CALLED TO SERVE?**

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers.

COME & SEE! An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on 14 August, Saturday 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), East Melbourne.

For more information: Watch: Melbourne's Deacons <https://youtu.be/q2RhNDbtTS0> Watch: Pope Francis' 2020 Prayer Intention for Deacons <https://youtu.be/NuG99HD1LaY> Read More: [Brochure] <https://www.cam1.org.au/permanent-diaconate>

Contact: Office of the Permanent Diaconate (Phone) 03 9412 335 (Email) [diaconate@cam.org.au](mailto:diaconate@cam.org.au)

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We have an elderly Parishioner living at Sutton Park who would like to attend Mass on weekends. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to share the job of picking her up and dropping her off. If you able to help please call

Lesley 9747 9692 or email [judyparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:judyparishnews@gmail.com)

Thank you.

#### **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DURING LOCKDOWN**

Parishioners please note the Parish Office is closed during the current lockdown. All staff are working from home.

If you need to contact the Office please call **9747 9692**

email [meltonsouth@cam.org.au](mailto:meltonsouth@cam.org.au) or

[judyparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:judyparishnews@gmail.com) or **0414 007 009**

#### **FR. BRIAN GLASHEEN GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**

**CELEBRATION** Fr Brian Glasheen will be at St Bernard's for the Vigil 5.00pm Mass on Saturday 11th September 2021.

#### **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DURING LOCKDOWN**

Parishioners please note the Parish Office is closed during the current lockdown. All staff are working from home.

If you need to contact the Office

email [bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au](mailto:bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au) or

[judyparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:judyparishnews@gmail.com) or **0414 007 009**

a message can be left on **5367 2069**

**If you need a priest in the case of an emergency please call Fr Lucas 0478 768 141**

#### **Sts Anne & Joachim –Feast Day 26<sup>th</sup> July**

*'Most Holy St's Anne and Joachim, come close to us and guide our hand and our hearts in the way of virtue.*

*Help us to parent our children and grandchildren with a gentle heart as you did.*

*Show us how to raise our children in faith and bring our families into the Light of Jesus.*

*Remain close to us and help us on our journey to salvation.'*

Source: <https://www.daily-prayers.org/novenas/st-anne-and-st-joachim>



## WORSHIP NEWS

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

### ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER:** 31st July & 1st August  
**Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator 15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement will be found. Thank you.**

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

**5.00pm Vigil:** Gavin Pereira  
**8.30am:** Mercy Seufatu  
**10.30am:** Karina Dunne  
**5.00pm:** Dolores Turcsan

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**5.00pm Vigil:** Lorraine Tellis & Aloysious Dacunha  
**8.30am:** Lois Brewis & Lillian Christian  
**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:** To be advised  
**10.30am:** To be advised  
**5.00pm:** To be advised

### ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Angela Aquilina, Joseph Aquilina, Marjorie Barker, Angelo Camilleri, Maria Camilleri, Rose DeBono, Marie Dove, Wayne Dunn, Michelle Ivey, Coral Mary Manuel, Fortunato Portelli, Patrick Portelli, Joseph Saliba, Michael Turcsan & Charlie Zammit

**Please pray for the Sick:** Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Melanie Fue Bruce Hynes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, 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 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:** 31st July & 1st August

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

**5.00pm:** Miesen Family  
**8.30am:** Peter Lafranchi  
**10.30am:** Volunteer needed

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

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

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

**August:** John Wilson

### ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Zvonko & Mary Benac, Josephine Borg, Sr Cathy Dean rsj, Tony Dickinson, Bill Griffith & Bronwyn Kays.

**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:** 31st July & 1st August

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera

8.30am: Ineke Allen

10.30am: Joanne Zerafa

#### CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 28th & 29th August

5.00pm Vigil: Melissa Va'a & Technica

8.30am: Ineke Allen & Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Doris & Emily Bonello

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Gloria



#### 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.

We cannot accept re-packaged food. 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 :** 31st July & 1st August

#### PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Jan Farmelo

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

August: Deborah Hosking



#### PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

August: Ron Geurts

#### 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](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: **5.30pm**

Next preparation meeting : **29th July (rescheduled due to lockdown)**

Location: **MacKillop Room, St Anthony's Church, Melton South**



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.**

**Visit our website for detailed information and application forms.**

Please contact the Parish Office if you have any queries.

**BAPTISM TEAM:** St Anthony's: **Judy Johnson** 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: Mark & Edwina La Rose

Group 2: Agata & Inri Kubala 0405 470 372

Group 3: Angela Saliba 0431 095 885

### 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**

God is in his holy place,  
God who unites those who dwell in his house;  
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

### **FIRST READING** 2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some over." He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 144**

**Commentator:** The hand of the Lord feeds us;  
he answers all our needs.

**All:** The hand of the Lord feeds us;  
he answers all our needs.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God.

The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time.  
You open wide your hand,  
grant the desires of all who live.

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts.

**All:** The hand of the Lord feeds us;  
he answers all our needs.

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

#### **18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**First Reading:** Ex 16:2-4, 12-15;  
**Second Reading:** Eph 4:17, 20-24;  
**Gospel:** Jn 6:24-35



### **SECOND READING** Ephesians 4:1-6

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

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** John 6:1-15

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee - or of Tiberias - and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and never forget all his benefits.

# Year of Saint Joseph XX

## Theological reflections

### on Saint Joseph (9)

#### The fatherhood of Saint Joseph

Naturally the most cherished title possessed by the holy Patriarch is father of Jesus, which comes to him as Mary's husband. When this holy couple contracted marriage they had no idea it would be blessed with such fruitfulness, being ordained by the gracious providence of God to receive the Son of God, the Redeemer and Saviour of the world.

Mary and Joseph were both parents of the Child, but in different ways. Mary by the miraculous intervention of the Holy Spirit became His mother in the full sense of the word. Truly she was the Mother of God, the Redeemer, because she clothed Him with flesh from her own maternal substance. Because of her physical motherhood a metaphysical relationship was established between Mary and Christ in virtue of which she could say that He was her child and, in turn, He could say of Mary: truly this is My Mother. Of all the creatures of God no one is more intimately related to Christ than His Mother.

The fatherhood of Joseph and the motherhood of Mary are both due to the miraculous intervention of God. The Divine Motherhood is unique in all of history. What is unique and distinctive about Joseph's fatherhood will become clear after we consider these points: (a) the general concept of fatherhood; (b) false kinds of fatherhood attributed to Joseph; (c) the description of his fatherhood that best accords with the teaching of Revelation.

#### a) The general concept of fatherhood

Fatherhood in the *proper* sense is brought about by physical generation whereby life is vitally transmitted by the father to his child. This type of fatherhood is fatherhood in the ordinary sense and can be described as *physical* and *natural* fatherhood. The relationship arising between the father who transmits life and the child who receives that life is a permanent and indissoluble one. Once established, this relationship endures into eternity.

Paternity establishes two different bonds. The first, produced by the generative act, can be called *physical*, since the father communicates something of his own physical substance to form the body of his son. But paternity establishes a relationship of a higher and more elevated nature, which is the most noble aspect of human fatherhood: namely, the *spiritual* bond of human affection. Monsignor Sinibaldi writes:

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

“Paternity would not be worthy of esteem, except for the excellence of the moral bond, of which it is the natural principle, just as it is of the physical bond. If the physical bond could exist of itself separate from the moral bond, human paternity would not be above that of the brute animal. On the other hand, if the moral bond could exist without the physical, it alone would suffice for true paternity, because it is more beautiful, more perfect, and more sublime. The heart can supply for the physical bond and establish another closer tie, like to that which proceeds from the natural order of fatherhood.”

We call a man father in the *improper* sense when he adopts a child that is not the fruit of his own marriage and bestows upon that child all the love, affection and privileges that he would accord to the child if it were his natural son. In these cases a strong, personal bond of affection arises that can be spoken of as a *true*, but *improper*, type of fatherhood.

#### b) False kinds of fatherhood attributed to Saint Joseph

It would be contrary to the teachings of the deposit of faith to claim that Saint Joseph was the *physical* father of Jesus Christ in the *natural* and *proper* sense of the word. This is the clear belief of the Church expressed in the words of the Apostles Creed: “I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary.”

Those who deny the supernatural order hold the opinion that Joseph was the natural father of Christ. Nevertheless there have not been wanting pious authors, moved not by malice but rather by an excessive and exaggerated love of Saint Joseph, who have speculated on the possibility of the Holy Spirit miraculously and without prejudicing the virginity of Mary or Joseph, taking a bit of the virile semen of Joseph to bring about the conception of Christ. This would make Joseph the father of Christ in a *physical* but *virginal* manner. The Church has proscribed such speculation as being destitute of any real foundation; and, in addition, of being contrary to the constant teaching of the faith.

Since he did not cooperate in any physical sense, Joseph's fatherhood could only be in the *moral* order. This implies positively that he was moved by love and generosity to care for Christ and negatively it excludes the possibility of corporal generation.

To be continued