



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 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

4th 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 5/7-11/7 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES: No pre-booking for weekday Masses

Monday 5th July	6.30pm
Tuesday 6th July	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 7th July	9.30am
Thursday 8th July	9.30am
Friday 9th July	9.30am

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION
REGARDING MASS BOOKINGS**

St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish | Melton South

Saturday Vigil 10th July:	5.00pm
Sunday 11th July:	8.30am 10.30am 5.00pm

Attendees at all Masses must wear masks and check-in with the QR code upon arrival.

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

ST BERNARD'S 5/7-11/7 BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 5th July*	No Mass
Tuesday 6th July **	7.30am
Wednesday 7th July	9.30am
Thursday 8th July	7.30am
Friday 9th July Providence Aged Care Mass	9.30am 11.00am
Saturday Vigil 10th July	5.00pm
Sunday 11th July	8.30am 10.30am

* Rosary and Adoration every Monday evening 7.30pm

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

Attendees at all Masses must wear masks and check-in with the QR code upon arrival.

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

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 ORDINARY

Most of those I grew up with were very ordinary people, who worked hard and lived ordinary lives in a country town. Few became famous. One was an Australian Cricketer and a Squash Champion, both with the same name.

As Jesus grew up, the people of Nazareth saw an ordinary man, working as they did, supporting his mother. They listened to him in the synagogue, but could not accept he was different, that he had greater knowledge and wisdom and worked miracles. So, they missed out.

Sometimes we too can miss God's presence in the ordinary – too simple, too ordinary, no bells and whistles! We need to watch out for God in the ordinary people in our lives, people who say "Hello", "Thank You" "Sorry", "How are you?" "Can I help you?"

There may even be a prophet in your family!

"Sometimes I wonder you'll all realise I'm ordinary", said the boy. "Love doesn't need you to be extraordinary" said the mole.

So, let us have faith that Jesus comes to us in many ordinary ways, through ordinary people.

Keep your eyes open!

Mary Fermio rsj (quote from: *The Boy, the Mole, the fox and the Horse* Charlie Mackesy)

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

ST BERNARD'S

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre– Open Day– Celebrating St Mary MacKillop Feast Day

Saturday 7th August 10.00am-4.00pm

Mass at 12.30pm in the Chapel -celebrant Fr Peter Malone

Morning tea and light lunch options available for purchase

362 Albert St, East Melbourne

Please check website for updates including links to virtual tours mmhc.org.au

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS-UPDATED

Our new Parish Office hours are:

Monday : 9.00am-1.00pm

Tuesday : 9.00am-4.00pm

Wednesday: 9.00am-5.30pm

Thursday and Friday: 9.00am-12.30pm
1.15pm-4.00pm

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.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ON PRE BOOKING

ARCHBISHOP PETER'S VISIT

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

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Last weekend we had a special collection for Peter's Pence. We collected \$801.40. Thank you for your generosity.

WWCC

Those parishioners who have applied for a **Working With Children's Check** also need to be in our Census. If this applies to you can you, please get a Census Card from the rear of the church, fill it in and then give it to the Mass Co-ordinator to be given to the Parish Office. Thank you.

WINTER YOUTH CONFERENCE

"To love is to suffer and make reparation"

- Bl. Alexandria De Costis

Join us for sacraments, talks and testimonies!

Free entry and food provided.

When: July 9 & 10 (9am - 5pm)

Where: St Anthony's Parish Melton South, Parish Hall

Ages 16+

Register via Trybooking.com: search "AHFI Winter Youth Conference"

For more information, contact:

Dominic 0439 395 776 Marc Louie 0425 141 660

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS-UPDATED

Our new Parish Office hours are:

Tuesday-Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm

LATIN MASS

Latin Mass will not be held on 3rd, 10th and 17th July. Latin Mass will resume on 24th July.

OPEN HOUSE PARISH LUNCH—THIS SUNDAY

All parishioners are warmly invited to our Open House Lunch immediately following the 10.30am Mass. NO RSVP required.



MASS AT PROVIDENCE AGED CARE

An invitation is extended to all Parishioners to attend the monthly Mass at Providence Aged Care which is held on the second Friday of each month.

The next Mass will be on **Friday 9th July at 11am**. Anointing of the sick will also be given followed by morning tea.

Please bring a plate.

Anyone who requires transport to Providence can contact the Parish Office or Margot Short 0419 507 438.

PIETY STALL

The Piety Stall will open on Sundays 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after 10.30am Mass.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY

Sunday 4 July 2021

Today is the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time and the day that the Australian Bishops and our National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council have invited us to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday.

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics number over 130,000 and are growing strongly. Today we acknowledge that God has been walking with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, making His Presence known through a continuous living culture over many thousands of years.

We pray in thanksgiving for these ancient peoples who have enriched and sustained our continent over all that time. We praise God for the people who nurtured the land here in our Parish that we call home.

Visit www.natsicc.org.au to access a variety of resources



WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 10th & 11th July
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: Marian Muller
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Romeo Sacris
5.00pm: Rebecca Comini

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira & Lorraine Tellis
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: Carmen & Olen
8.30am: Lina & Julie
10.30am: Deepa & Godwin
5.00pm: Leonia & Annonica

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

William Austin Ainsworth, John Debrincat, Allan McBain, Bianca McCurry, Chantelle Medhurst, Clarrie Rietschel & Bridie Ryan.

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: 10th & 11th July

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Kratochvil Family
8.30am: Michael Baddeley
10.30am: Lindorff Family

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Colm Carragher
10.30am: Jenny Kearney

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Josephite Associates
c/- Carmel Shea

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Berta Kranjec

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

Spiro Abela, Thomas Blood, Damian Condon, Frank Condon, Lorna Condon, Alice Cook, Mary Glenane, Hector Papworth, Jack Papworth, Sophie Papworth, Ivy (Pat) Ragan, Edward Skinner & Patricia Wittick.

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: 10th & 11th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 24th & 25th July

5.00pm Vigil: To be advised
8.30am: Archbishop Peter's visit is
10.30am: scheduled for this weekend

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Rosabella



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 : 10th & 11th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Margot Short

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Tup Shea



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-

Front Garden:
Back/Side Garden:
Parish Centre: Roster Pending
Carpark/Pines:
Back Paddock:

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

The Vinnies Store is located at 8 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh. The store is open 7 days a week. If you are able to volunteer and would like some more information, please contact the Store Manager on 8199 4205.

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

The Neighbours' Place is a Christian not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to serve people of the **Moorabool Shire**, west of Melbourne Australia, who are disadvantaged, at risk or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family and who are in need of emergency food relief.

NILS is a **No Interest Loans Scheme** for assistance of up \$1500 for things like white goods, furniture and minor car repairs to keep life going.

We are located at [77 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh](#)

Phone: 03 5367 6222

Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Closed on public holidays.

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food provides a free community meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays), in the Uniting Church Hall, Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh. Meals are served up at 12noon. All are welcome and this is a free event. No need to book, just come along.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427 Mon—Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm

Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our Churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow with Jesus Christ offering to you their gifts and talents.

Amen



FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM– ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

The Baptism Preparation Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Time: **6.30pm-7.45pm.**

Next preparation meeting : **Thursday 22nd July 2021**

Location: **The MacKillop Room, St Anthony's Church**

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: Stephen & Liza Fernandes 0439 743 533

Group 2: Anna Taunnu 0406 503 363

Group 3: Nirmala Meegama 0452 200 344



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

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 2:2-5

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 122

Commentator: Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,
pleading for his mercy.

All: Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,
pleading for his mercy.

To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens:
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords.

Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of his mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he shows us his mercy.

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain.

Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,
pleading for his mercy.

SECOND READING Corinthians 12:7-10

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 6:1-6

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Amos 7:12-15;

Second Reading: Eph 1:3-14;

Gospel: Mk 6:7-13



Year of Saint Joseph XVII

Theological reflections on Saint Joseph (6) Devotion to Saint Joseph is highly recommended

In encouraging us to be more attentive in our devotion to Saint Joseph, the Church is, in the first place, concerned with the fulfillment of a debt of gratitude towards God. For the exalted dignity and the innumerable graces conferred on Saint Joseph are a splendid manifestation of the good and gracious God.

They were not, if we may use the phrase, private graces bestowed on Joseph for his personal benefit alone — they were given that he might be worthy of the office that he exercised towards our Saviour and towards Mary. Hence, ultimately, those graces and blessings are of advantage for all of us. Showing Joseph honour and respect and veneration are means of rendering glory and gratitude to almighty God for the merciful graces he poured out upon this saint.

The second reason why the Church encourages us to be devoted to Joseph is that he was a model in the heroic practice of all the virtues. The example of virtuous living that he gave in the exact fulfillment of the duties of his state of life is worthy of our reflection.

Read the gospel and you will see his faith, hope and charity practised under trying circumstances. He was prudent in caring for his wife and the child; he showed great leadership in protecting them and assisting them. He was religious in every sense, with that delicacy and sincerity of conscience that is proper to the saints of God. He was just in his dealings with God and man. He was conspicuous for his fortitude and courage. He was truly outstanding in the practice of virginal chastity.

More: he *protected* and *defended* Mary's virtue in the time of courtship and all during their life together. They had made a promise of chastity, and because they were resolved to live it for God they were blessed above all others. While Mary *inspired* him to practise this

virtue perfectly, he, as a real man, understood the profound meaning of her inspiration and how it came from a heart that was steeped in the love of God. In protecting and defending Mary's honour and virtue, he proved himself to be more and more worthy of her love.

It is often said that true love must be built on sacrifice and a spirit of unselfishness. Never was this realised as well as in the case of Mary and Joseph. Consequently, their love and affection was more chaste and more pure and more human even if virginal — and precisely because it was virginal it was the more sublime! It is the greatest example to the world that love between a man and a woman built on the love of God, and concerned primarily about the laws of God, is the most ennobling and the most rewarding type of love. It is the highest, truest, deepest understanding of the word love.

Time and again the Church has made it clear that Joseph is not a saint for only a certain number of souls, but that he can help *all* men. Joseph is the patron of the universal Church and his patronage or fatherly protection is extended towards all who seek it.

If devotion to Joseph is so important, it may be asked, why did it not flourish in the Church until recently? In the providence of God it was necessary for Joseph to remain in obscurity in order to protect the mystery of the Incarnation and the virginity of Mary. We are becoming increasingly aware that God's providence always brings to full flowering in the Church the devotions relevant to a particular time.

Thus with devotion to Saint Joseph: it is a powerful antidote to many of the moral dangers of this age. The Holy Spirit has granted the people of God the inspiration and enlightenment necessary to discover in the person of Joseph a cure for the problems that afflict them. Among these problems can be mentioned: failure of men to accept the role of leadership in their homes; neglect of spirituality in marriage; lack of sanctification of labour by the working man; a general weakening of esteem for the practice of religion and virtue, especially purity.

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