



# 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 ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY -YEAR B**

**15th August 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 16/8-22/8 MELTON SOUTH

ST BERNARD'S 16/8-22/8 BACCHUS MARSH

### MASS TIMES:

### MASS TIMES:

Monday 16th August*	No Mass
Tuesday 17th August**	7.30am
Wednesday 18th August	9.30am
Thursday 19th August	7.30am
Friday 20th August St Bernard, Memorial	9.30am
Saturday 21st August –Latin Mass (Novus Ordo)	9.00am
Saturday Vigil 21st August	5.00pm
Sunday 22nd August	8.30am 10.30am

\*Rosary and Adoration every Monday evening 7.30pm

\*\* A Holy Hour of Eucharist Adoration will be held every  
Tues 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

KOROBEIT

MASS TIME Saturday Vigil

6.30pm

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR  
UPDATES ON THE CURRENT LOCKDOWN,  
RESTRICTIONS AND THE RETURN OF MASS  
BOOKINGS**

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

***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.

### **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

**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) [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)

or Ineke Allen 0400 120 401

## PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

### NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

ST BERNARD'S

#### THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Get to know the love of the Lord Jesus and the joy of His Gospel! Our parish will be starting the next cycle of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) soon! RCIA is the formation course for people who are thinking about becoming Catholic. Join us for an inquiry session: 7.30pm Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 St Anthony's Church Meeting Room Find out more and register at:

[www.stanthonyofpadua.com.au/rcia](http://www.stanthonyofpadua.com.au/rcia)

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

#### HEART OF LIFE

Position Vacant - Part-time General Office Assistant, Mondays 9am-3pm, with potential for Tuesdays also, at Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, located at Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern. To assist with social media, Zoom support, administrative and general duties. Job description and applications (by 28 August 2021): contact the Secretary, email [secretary@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:secretary@heartoflife.melbourne), or tel 9890 1101.

#### PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ON THE CURRENT LOCKDOWN, RESTRICTIONS AND THE RETURN OF MASS BOOKINGS

[St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish | Melton South](http://St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish | Melton South)

#### NEW VOLUNTEERS - EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS & READERS WORKSHOP

The workshop has been cancelled due to lockdown. A new date will be chosen when we come out of lockdown.

#### RESOURCE TO HELP CHILDREN PRAY AT MASS

Children's Mass books are now available in the back of the church for use during Mass. "When I Go to Mass" is a book that reads like a Children's Missal written by Melbourne mother Sarah Hlavcek. Borrow these books during Mass to help your little one engage and keep focused on the Mass and place them back after Mass so they will be where you found them next time. These books are designed to explain the Mass in a simple yet meaningful way. Helping your children follow along with the book in Mass is one great way to help children learn and engage with the Mass. If you would like a copy of this great resource for your home, "When I Go to Mass" is also available to purchase on Amazon and Book Depository in both paperback and hardcover.

#### REFLECTION ON MARY'S ASSUMPTION

On a spring afternoon in Rome on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1947, Bruno Cornacchiola, a Roman tram driver, 34 years old, was in a garden with his three children playing, preparing notes to attack all things Catholic, especially the Blessed Virgin and the Pope. After experiences in Spanish Civil War, he became an Adventist and had made this his mission.

The children lost their ball, and the father left his notes, never to be picked up again, to help the children, who saw "the Beautiful Lady" in a grotto. The Virgin Mary was clothed in a long white dress, with a pink band around her waist, and a green mantle over her dark hair.

Mary spoke to Bruno these words: **I am she who is in the Divine Trinity – I am the Virgin of Revelation – You are persecuting me. Now enough! Enter into the sheepfold, the holy court of heaven on earth. Submit yourself to the authority of the Pope"**

She spoke for a long time that afternoon and spoke of her Assumption into heaven.

**"My body could not undergo corruption, and did not."**

She helped to show how he could be reconciled to God and the Pope, whom he had wished to murder.

Like the water of Lourdes, Mary promised the earth of the Grotto of Tre Fontane would work wonders. May she work wonders in our troubled world today.

Mary Fermio rsj



## WORSHIP NEWS

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

### ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER:** 21st & 22nd 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:** Marian Muller  
**8.30am:** Leonia Jessop  
**10.30am:** Susan Malinov  
**5.00pm:** Rebecca Comini

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**5.00pm Vigil:** Lorraine Tellis & Aloysious Dacunha  
**8.30am:** Geoff Sutton & Ron Howard  
**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:** Godwin & Carmen  
**8.30am:** Godwin & Olen  
**10.30am:** Godwin & Lillian  
**5.00pm:** Ron & Annonica

### ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

#### **We pray for the recently deceased:**

Wilson Veloso

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

Frank Barker, Anthony Bughair, Emmanuel Calleja, Eva Cornelisz, Cynthia (Topsy) Daly & Duminku Mintoff

**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, 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:** 21st & 22nd August

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

**5.00pm:**  
**8.30am:** Roster Pending  
**10.30am:**

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**5.00pm:**  
**8.30am:** Roster Pending  
**10.30am:**

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

**August:** John Wilson

### ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

#### **We pray for the recently deceased:**

Margarete Johnson

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

Lena Carli, Leonard Condon, Patricia Cooper, Peter Fanning, Maureen Grogan, Moya McGonegal, Bill McGrath, Ketty Mifsud, Anton Mijic, Paddy O'Leary & James Symmons.

#### **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:** 21st & 22nd August

**PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS**

5.00pm Vigil: Tunya Sant  
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu  
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

**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**

August: 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 :** 21st & 22nd August

**PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS**

Sunday: Margot Short

**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 \$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**

Next preparation meeting :**Thursday 26th August**

Location: **Parish Centre, St Bernard's, Bacchus Marsh**

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: **Michelle & Shelley** 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: Uili & Lagi Maiava 0429 340 404

Group 2: Andrew & Lorelle Porter 0409 939 002

Group 3: Mary & Tony Galea 0401 169 224

### 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**

A great sign appeared in heaven:  
a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet,  
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

### **FIRST READING** Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 44**

**Commentator:** The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

**All:** The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.  
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.  
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:  
forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty:  
He is your lord, pay homage to him.  
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;  
they pass within the palace of the king.

**All:** The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

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

#### **21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B**

**First Reading:** Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18;

**Second Reading:** Eph 5:21-32;

**Gospel:** Jn 6:60-69



### **SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Mary is taken up to heaven,  
and the angels of God shout for joy.

Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL** Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;  
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.  
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Almighty has done great things for me.

Holy is his name,

and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.  
He has shown the power of his arm,  
he has routed the proud of heart.  
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy

- according to the promise he made to our ancestors -  
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary, she carried the Son of the eternal Father.

# Year of Saint Joseph XXIII

## The Special Character of St Joseph's Mission

This point is explained admirably by 17th-century French Bishop and theologian Jacques Benigne Bossuet in his first panegyric of the St Joseph: "Among the different vocations, I notice two in the Scriptures which seem directly opposed to each other: the first is that of the apostles, the second that of St Joseph.

"Jesus was revealed to the Apostles that they might announce Him throughout the world; He was revealed to St Joseph that he might remain silent and keep Him hidden. The apostles are lights to make the world see Jesus. Joseph is a veil to cover Him; and under that mysterious veil are hidden from us the virginity of Mary and the greatness of the Saviour of souls."

"He Who makes the Apostles glorious with the glory of preaching, glorifies Joseph by the humility of silence."

The hour for the manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation had not yet struck: it was to be preceded by the 30 years of the hidden life.

Perfection consists in doing God's will, each one according to his vocation; St Joseph's vocation of silence and obscurity surpassed that of the Apostles because it bordered more nearly on the redemptive Incarnation. After Mary, Joseph was nearest to the Author of grace; and in the silence of Bethlehem, during the exile in Egypt, and in the little home of Nazareth, he received more graces than any other saint.

In a discourse delivered in the Consistorial Hall on March 19, 1928, Pope Pius XI said, after having spoken on the missions of St John the Baptist and St Peter: "Between these two missions, there appears that of St Joseph: one of recollection and silence, one almost unnoticed and destined to be lit up only many centuries afterwards, a silence which would become a resounding hymn of glory, but only after many years.

"But where the mystery is deepest, it is there precisely that the mission is highest and that a

more brilliant cortege of virtues is required with their corresponding echo of merits. It was a unique and sublime mission, that of guarding the Son of God, the King of the world, that of protecting the virginity of Mary, that of entering into participation in the mystery hidden from the eyes of ages and so to cooperate in the Incarnation and the Redemption."

That is equivalent to stating that Divine Providence conferred on St Joseph all the graces he received in view of his special mission: in other words, St Joseph was predestined first of all to be as a father to the Saviour, and was then predestined to the glory and the grace which were becoming in one favoured with so exceptional a vocation.

## The Virtues and Gifts of St Joseph

St Joseph's virtues are those especially of the hidden life, in a degree proportioned to that of his sanctifying grace: virginity, humility, poverty, patience, prudence, fidelity, simplicity, faith enlightened by the gifts of the Holy Ghost, confidence in God and perfect charity. He preserved what had been confided to him with a fidelity proportioned to its inestimable value.

Bossuet makes this general observation about the virtues of the hidden life: "It is a common failing of men to give themselves entirely to what is outside and to neglect what is within; to work for mere appearances and to neglect what is solid and lasting; to think often of the impression they make and little of what they ought to be. That is why the most highly esteemed virtues are those which concern the conduct and direction of affairs.

The hidden virtues, on the contrary, which are practised away from public view and under the eye of God alone, are not only neglected but hardly even heard of. And yet this is the secret of true virtue ... a man must be built up interiorly before he deserves to be given rank among others; and if this foundation is lacking, all the other virtues, however brilliant, will be mere display ... Joseph sought God in simplicity; Joseph found God in detachment; Joseph enjoyed God's company in obscurity."

Fr Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, *The Predestination of St Joseph and His Eminent Sanctity*