



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 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B

19th September 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:

Closed during lockdown

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:

Closed during restrictions

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

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE 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 20/9-26/9 MELTON SOUTH

ST BERNARD'S 20/9-26/9 BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES:

MASS TIMES:

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

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MASS TIMES AND MASS BOOKINGS

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

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

Mass will be live streamed 10.30am Sunday

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

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

MASS TIME

6.30pm

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 ACCEPTING THE TRUTH

We have all at some time, found it difficult to face the truth – maybe the prospect of illness, the loss of someone we love, the chance of a disability, loss of our sight or losing our independence. Often, we avoid talking about it and distract ourselves from what might happen.

It seems the disciples of Jesus were much the same. Jesus has been telling them of his future death, knowing the kind of death he would receive at the hands of the Romans, as the Jewish people were not allowed to condemn to death. Mark writes “but they did not understand”. Maybe they could not face the loss of Jesus, and were afraid to ask him. Surely, if he is the Messiah he would reign as the Head Man! So, they started arguing about their place in his kingdom. Who would get top job!

BUT the Kingdom of Jesus was very different. To be in the top job you had to be the servant of all. You had to come last! This was not the normal way of things!

Let us pray for the courage to always face the truth knowing we are held in the palm of God's hand, our good God, who walks beside us and carries us, even when we think we are forgotten.

Mary Fermio rsj



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

SOUL FOOD-CHRISTMAS SPONSORS NEEDED

Soul Food provides a free Community meal in a respectful and supportive environment for anyone who would like to join us. Soul Food is held every Wednesday at the Uniting Church in Bacchus Marsh. Our numbers of guests attending have doubled throughout COVID. We are planning this year's Christmas function, and Soul Food is looking for people to sponsor the children of our Soul Food families for Christmas. You will be given a child's name & age, and asked to buy them a few presents for Christmas. These will be collected on the last week of November, and distributed through Soul Food at our Christmas function. **If you would like to be a Christmas Sponsor for a local child who needs a helping hand, please call Jenny on 0408104155.**



ARE YOU CALLED TO BE A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR? A PASTORAL SUPERVISOR? OR A COMPASSIONATE LISTENER TO OTHERS?

We invite you to a **Taster Session (via Zoom), on Saturday 2 October 2021 at 9.30am-11am AEST** to explore whether one of these ministries may be for you. Come and experience in a facilitated group via Zoom: a) the Siloam Program for the Formation of Spiritual Directors, b) the Emmaus Supervision Program, or c) Let the Heart Listen. Each of these courses is available in 2022 in-person (Covid-permitting) or via Zoom. To register for the free Taster event, please click the link on our home page at www.heartoflife.melbourne, or contact us at secretary@heartoflife.melbourne or tel (03) 9890 1101.

ST ANTHONY'S

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Phone is currently being diverted due to the phone system in the office not working. If you need to contact the Parish Office please call 0456 718 965.
This will get you through to Lesley Morffew. Thank you

ST BERNARD'S

PARISH OFFICE

If you need to contact our Parish Secretary Dolores on the Parish Office mobile please call 0432 055 992
Tuesday-Thursday 9am-1pm. Thank you.

FR BRIAN GLASHEEN-VISIT

Fr Brian Glasheen's visit scheduled for last Saturday was cancelled due to the current COVID restrictions.
When we are able to reschedule the Mass to celebrate Fr Brian Glasheen's 50th Anniversary of Priesthood, we will confirm and advertise the details.

KSC RACING GAME

Progress Update at Week 12 of the 26 week game.

It's a close contest!!

Hugh Miller 43 points

Bill Shea 42 points

Lucille Wheelahan 41 points

John Tung 39 points

Thank you for your support.

Knights of the Southern Cross - Bacchus Marsh



SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY- 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021

On 19 September 2021, we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we invite all to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 43 member organisations, the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond.

We call to mind the recent 2021/22 Social Justice Statement – Cry of the Earth Cry of the Poor – released by the Australian Catholic bishops, which reminds us of the social mission of the Church and which urges us to reflect on 'the bigger picture' and to act together on social, economic and ecological issues. Together, we all have a role to play in building a just and equitable society, where all have equal opportunities to flourish and prosper.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 25th & 26th September
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:
8.30am: Lockdown
10.30am:
5.00pm:

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil:
8.30am: Lockdown
10.30am:
5.00pm

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact Lesley at the Parish Office Thank you

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm Vigil:
8.30am: Lockdown
10.30am:
5.00pm:

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Christopher Burge, Emmanuel Caruana, Mavis Ferreira & John Galea

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: 25th & 26th September

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra
8.30am: Michael Baddeley
10.30am: Lindorff Family

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Geraldine Vereker
8.30am: Colm Carragher
10.30am: Jenny Kearney

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

September: Sr Mary Fermio

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Patricia Readman

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

Elaine Brook, Francis McGlinchey, Joe O'Brien, Leslie Scott, Gwen Tottle, & Jack Walta.

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: 25th & 26th September

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil:

8.30am: Lockdown

10.30am:

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil:

8.30am: Lockdown

10.30am:

CHURCH FLOWERS

September: Ropeta



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 : 25th & 26th September

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Sean Giani

CHURCH FLOWERS

September: Francis McDaid



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

September: Colm Carragher

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**

Next preparation meeting :**Thursday 23rd September**

Location: **To be advised (Lockdown and Restrictions)**

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: **To be advised** 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: Anna Samy 0435 258 230

Group 2: Tunya & Jason Sant 0422 178 260

Group 3: Louise Sciberras 0401 413 439

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

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

FIRST READING Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

The godless say to themselves,
'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us
and opposes our way of life,
reproaches us for our breaches of the law
and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.
Let us see if what he says is true,
let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.
If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.
Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,
and thus explore this gentleness of his
and put his endurance to the proof.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death
since he will be looked after - we have his word for it.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 53

Commentator: The Lord upholds my life.

All: The Lord upholds my life.

O God, save me by your name;
by your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of my mouth.

For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God.

But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good.

The Lord upholds my life.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

First Reading: Num 11:25-29;
Second Reading: James 5:1-6;
Gospel: Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48



SECOND READING James 3:16 - 4:3

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 9:30-37

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Saint Anthony of Padua IV

St Anthony, the Cathars and the fishes

The Manicheism of the fourth century, so bravely opposed by St Augustine (who had been a Manichee before becoming a Catholic) but never utterly crushed, was, under other names, and in a slightly different form, in the 13th century, rampant in Central Europe, France, and Italy.

This peculiarly deadly heresy was a simultaneous attack on the Catholic Church and the existing state. The Church was directly assailed in its doctrine and hierarchy; the denial of the value of oaths and the suppression of the right to punish undermined the state.

But the worst social danger in the heretical principle was that its triumph meant the ultimate extinction of the human race. For the Cathar, no salvation was possible without previous renunciation of marriage, lawful or unlawful; and suicide (the *endura*) by starvation was held not only to be permissible, but highly commendable.

Known in France (where the heresy was secretly introduced in 1015 and whence it spread to Italy) as *Albigenses*, its followers were called in Italy *Cathari*. The North of Italy, Lombardy, the Veneto, and particularly the Adriatic coast, were saturated with the heresy, its chief strongholds being Rimini and Milan.

Its creed was dualistic. It taught that there were two principles, Good and Evil, of which the former created the invisible and the latter the visible universe. The Absolutist sect (a sect within a sect) declared that the Good principle was eternally equal with the Bad; those less severe urged that the Evil principle was inferior to, and a mere creation of, the Good.

In Italy, where the Absolutists prevailed, John of Bergamo (1230) declared that there were two contending Gods, each of whom limited the other's liberty. Infinite perfection, he said, was no attribute even of the Good principle, as owing to the Evil principle it could only produce imperfect creatures.

Another party maintained that human souls had been created and had sinned before the foundation of the world; while a third declared, unashamed, that Satan had infused into the body of the first man (in the place of a soul), an angel who had been guilty of a "slight transgression", and that this was the origin of all human souls.

Catherine Mary Antony Woodcock, Saint Anthony of Padua: The Miracle Worker (1195-1231)

All this, as is clearly evident, is a hideous travesty and caricature of the Catholic doctrines of original sin, free will, and mortification. And, on the face of it, it is difficult to understand how a heresy that enforced as its chief tenet an unnatural asceticism, should have laid hold so rapidly, so completely, of the hot-blooded races of southern Europe.

But the explanation is simple: (1) Whoever joined the sect was assured from that moment of eternal happiness; (2) there were various grades among the *Cathari*. The Perfect, or Absolutists, of whom there were 4,000 in the world in the middle of the 13th century (of which 2,400 were in Lombardy), were indeed bound to every Catharist doctrine; but beyond them was the great mass of "Believers", who were allowed to marry and live the common life. Of these it was written that they "give themselves up to usury, theft, murder, perjury, and all the sins of the flesh, with all the more security because they have no need either of confession or penitence. It suffices that at the hour of death they recite the Paternoster and receive the Spirit."

Perhaps the most subtle danger of Catharism from a religious standpoint was that its followers masqueraded as Catholics. They were regular at Mass, and some even frequented the Sacraments. It was a secret society, and the sacrilegious acts of its members made it difficult outwardly to distinguish them from the faithful. Popes and Emperors had striven again and again to crush Catharism, but in vain. These were the men who murdered St Peter Parenti in 1199; St Dominic's companion, Peter of Castelnau, the Papal Legate, in 1208; and St Peter Martyr in 1252.

Their existence was the gravest menace to Church and nation, for they were numerous and well organised, and, by their caricature of Catholic discipline and austerities, had earned for themselves among the ignorant a certain reputation for sanctity.

One thing only, they said, was necessary to salvation: to receive the *Consolamentum* or laying on of hands. No sin could be forgiven, after this, to the Perfect; but the mere Believers were allowed to evade the difficulty by receiving the *Consolamentum* at death.

To be continued