



# 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 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR B**

**10th October 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 11/10-17/10 MELTON SOUTH

ST BERNARD'S 11/10-17/10 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 UPDATES ON THE CURRENT LOCKDOWN, RESTRICTIONS AND THE RETURN OF MASS BOOKINGS**

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

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

KOROBEIT

MASS TIME

***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 A CHALLENGE**

Have you ever been challenged to accept something that was difficult? Something new and strange? Something that threatened your comfort? Many challenges are being faced today at this time in the Church in Australia.

In the Gospel a young man approaches Jesus, anxious to ensure eternal life for himself. Obviously, a good person, doing all the right things, and Jesus looked on him with great love. He then issued the challenge – go, sell your possessions, give the money to the poor and follow me! What a choice – from security to insecurity – from the known to the unknown! The young man went off sad.

But did he think about it later? Did he rise to the challenge? Did he realise that possessions are not the key to eternal life?

We shall never know.

At present the Australian Church is facing a huge challenge – the challenge of leading the Church into the future.

The challenge is to cast aside what is leading us away from God and to take the risk of making changes that will lead to a healthier and holier Church – the People of God. We need to experience a new Pentecost.

So, our challenge is to listen, to open our hearts, to pray to the Holy Spirit that the Bishops, Priests, Religious and laity, members of the Plenary Council, will listen to each other, to the Holy Spirit and lead us forward. Can we accept the challenge?

To keep up with the news: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>  
or Daily Mass, prayers, updates.

Mary Fermio rsj



## PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

### NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

#### **Join us for a brand new youth program Share Plates**

A Youth Outreach Program designed to assist teenagers with the transition through high school, tertiary education, employment and adulthood.

**Please see page 4 (next page) for all the details**

#### **BENDIGO MARIAN FESTIVAL Sunday 10th October**

Join us live for the festival online this year <https://www.bendigofatima.com/> Mass:1.00pm Devotion 2.00pm.

#### **ST ANTHONY'S**

##### **PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Phone will continue to be closed during lockdown.

If you need to contact the Parish Office please call

Lesley 0456 718 965 Tuesday- Friday 9.00am-4.00pm.

Judy 0414 007 009 Monday -Wednesday

##### **PLENARY COUNCIL PRAYER**

**Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.**

**O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council**

**Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.**

**Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.**

**Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.**

**Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our Lord bread for the journey from age to age. Amen**

**Our Lady Help of Christians, Pray for Us**

**St Mary MacKillop, Pray for Us.**

#### **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 9.00am-1.00pm.

Or Judy 0414 007 009 Monday-Wednesday

##### **THANK-YOU**

The St Bernard's Hopetoun Cemetery Preservation Group wishes to thank Brendan and Pat Griffith and Kevin Cook for restoring and upgrading the cemetery paths and doing a general clean up. We thank them for their generosity with time, materials and expertise. Margaret Love

##### **CHURCH FLOWERS**

We are in need for a

volunteer for our flower roster.

If you are able to help in this role please give our Parish Secretary,

Dolores a call 0432 055 992. Thank you.



##### **KSC RACING GAME**

For those with entries in our 2021 KSC Racing Game, here's the **Progress Update** at Week 15 of our 26week game.

**John Tung** 61 points

**Pat Flanagan** 51 points

**Paul Miesen** 49.5 points

Don't worry if your name isn't here.... there's still plenty of time to go.

Knights of the Southern Cross - Bacchus Marsh branch.

## FORMED

#### **We now have a parish FORMED subscription**

FORMED is a Catholic streaming service. We have purchased a parish subscription that you can access for free at home.

Please limit yourselves to one account per household. To register under our subscription, follow these steps:

1. Visit <https://signup.formed.org/>
2. Input *St Anthony's & St Bernard's Catholic Parishes* in the "Find your Parish" box.
3. Input your name and email address.
4. Visit [formed.org](https://formed.org) on your preferred device to begin watching.

If you enjoy using FORMED, consider making a donation to our parish to help us keep providing this service.

*Join us for a brand new youth program*

# Share Plates

St Anthony's Parish proudly presents Share Plates: a six week, Youth Outreach Program designed to assist teenagers with the transition through high school, tertiary education, employment and adulthood.

This program is delivered in 90 minute sessions, one session per week. We will focus on one key topic each week:

**Physical and mental wellbeing:** share challenges - and solutions - whilst learning techniques on how to keep focus, balance and sustain positive momentum. Includes some light physical activity!

**Links and connections:** build a support network of people to assist you!

**Action in your community:** spend some time supporting worthy causes in your local community, while gaining valuable experience and connections.

**Talking in public:** develop and hone your ability to speak in a variety of situations and to a range of audiences.

**Employment support:** learn tailored ways to lift your job application game including resume and cover letters, plus interview techniques.

**Social and self-care:** build social skills and explore the value and importance of taking time for yourself and celebrating the positives!

This program is designed and supported by key figures in the local community and is offered at such an affordable price to provide opportunity for our youth! A must for all young people aged 14-19!

Location: St Anthony's Parish

Cost: \$10 per week

Dates: Wednesdays @ 5pm, from 10 November to 15 December

To register, contact Brad:

0491 009 889

stanthonysparishoutreach@outlook.com

*Come to the table of plenty!*

## WORSHIP NEWS

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

### ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER:** 16th & 17th October  
**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:**

Donald Abela, Anthony D'Cruz, Francis D'Cruz, Jorris D'Cruz, Philip D'Cruz, Wilfredo de Guzman, Rick Galanti, Bridget Gomez, Joseph Gomez, Rosa Gomez, Michael Portelli, and Dalcy Silva.

**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:** 16th & 17th October

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

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

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**5.00pm:** Mary Beaton  
**8.30am:** Colm Carragher  
**10.30am:** John Wilson

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

**October:** Greta/Grace Kratochvil

### ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

**We pray for the recent death of:**

Sr Margaret (Noelene) Daly rsj

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

Kevin Bridges, Sr Mary McArdle rsj, Dominic Morabita, Fr John Nagle, Tim Shea, John Trask, and Betty Williams.

**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)**

# 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 :**28th October 2021**

Location: **St Bernard's Parish Centre**



Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Both parents are required to attend these meetings. **We kindly request adults only** and a copy of the birth certificate. **Please be advised that Baptism applications must be submitted 2 months in advance.**

**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: Joe & Jacqueline Spiteri 0402 512 841

Group 2: George & Doris Bonello 0431 459 668

Group 3: Godwin & Kim Barton 0425 734 449

### 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**

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But with you is found forgiveness,  
O God of Israel.

### **FIRST READING** Wisdom 7:7-11

I prayed, and understanding was given me;  
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.  
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;  
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.  
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,  
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,  
and beside her silver ranks as mud.  
I loved her more than health or beauty,  
preferred her to the light,  
since her radiance never sleeps.  
In her company all good things came to me,  
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 89**

**Commentator:** Fill us with your love, O Lord,  
and we will sing for joy!

**All:** Fill us with your love, O Lord,  
and we will sing for joy!

Make us know the shortness of our life  
that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?  
Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Give us joy to balance our affliction  
for the years when we knew misfortune.

Show forth your works to your servants;  
let your glory shine on their children.  
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:  
give success to the work of our hands.

Fill us with your love, O Lord,  
and we will sing for joy!

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

#### **29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B**

**First Reading:** Is 53:10-11;  
**Second Reading:** Heb 4:14-16;  
**Gospel:** Mk 10:35-45



### **SECOND READING** Hebrews 4:12-13

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit;  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!  
Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL** Mark 10:17-30

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land - not without persecutions - now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The rich suffer want and go hungry,  
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

# Saint Anthony of Padua VII

## St Anthony and the first Franciscan martyrs

In the year 1217, St Francis' Friars Minor first came to Spain and Portugal. Brothers Zachary and Gauthier on their arrival in Portugal, immediately presented themselves to the Bishop of Coimbra and to the Court. Queen Urraca, and her sister-in-law, Princess Sancia, both devout Catholics, established the Friars, with the full consent of King Alfonso II, in the hamlet of St Antony-of-the-Olives, five kilometres from Coimbra, in 1218.

In 1219, Francis sent six friars — Fathers Vitalis, Berard, Peter and Otho, with two lay-brothers, Adjuto and Accursio — to Morocco. To reach their destination, they travelled through Portugal and Spain. Father Vitalis fell ill, and was obliged to remain behind, but the others pressed on, spending a few days at the Franciscan house at St Antony-of-the-Olives.

At that time, Fernando (Anthony) was Procurator of the Monastery of Holy Cross, where the friars were always welcomed when they came to beg for food. He had been deeply impressed by the holiness of one of them who was generally sent on this errand. He most likely actually saw the five heroic missionaries on their way to certain death, and it is therefore quite possible he heard them speak "of obtaining for the love of Christ who died for us the palm of martyrdom".

One thing is certain: from that time, the desire to win the same crown began to burn in the young Canon's heart. It was no ordinary restlessness and love of change, but the Voice of the Holy Spirit, which, though as yet he knew not how, called him to do and suffer greater things than he had so far.

The five Franciscans nearly met their death at Seville, where they preached as they passed through the beautiful Moorish city, but the Moslem Prince, instead of slaying them, sent them straight on to Morocco, the chief stronghold of Islam in North Africa. Its ruler, Abu Jacob, a sluggish, indolent man, was inclined to overlook at first the deeds of the five. Only weeks before, Pope Honorius III had written to him specially pleading for toleration for Christians.

Furthermore, Abu Jacob had at the head of his army Don Pedro, brother of the King of Portugal, who, having quitted his country on account of a political quarrel, was now Abu Jacob's commander-in-chief in Morocco. But when, in spite of all, Berard, not content with preaching openly in the

streets, actually cried again and again to Abu Jacob passing by in his state chariot, "Jesus Christ is the True God, Mohammed is nothing but an impostor", that potentate was roused to fury.

The friars were seized and dragged before him. The choice of abjuration or death was offered them, and with one voice they chose death. Abu Jacob, concluding that they were mad, and not wishing to offend either the Pope or (through Don Pedro) the King of Portugal, ordered them to leave the country immediately.

They were escorted to Ceuta, but escaped, returned to Morocco, and again began to preach.

Abu Jacob ordered them to be imprisoned 20 days without food or water. But at the end of that time they were found to be alive and well, and impatient to continue their mission.

Once more the Emir sought to spare them, but finding that even Don Pedro's arguments had no influence with them and that nothing would stop them from preaching and exciting tumults in the city, he ordered them to be put to death. They were tortured terribly and finally beheaded, the Emir himself striking the fatal blow.

The Christians later crept out secretly and took possession of the relics, and Don Pedro himself contrived with great difficulty and danger to convey them out of the country and back to Spain. He openly declared that to his certain knowledge many miracles had been wrought by them already.

The relics were brought to Coimbra, with much pomp and splendour, and deposited in the beautiful church of the monastery of Holy Cross.

What was the effect on Fernando of the sight of these relics — the bodies of men with whom he had spoken just weeks earlier, and who were already martyrs whose miracles were beginning to be noised abroad? At last, he understood the final development of his vocation. He was called, not to the ordered life of a Canon Regular, but to the hardships and the martyrdom of a poor friar.

"Oh, if Almighty God would grant me to share the death of these holy martyrs," he said to himself, "if He would grant me to die like them for the Holy Name of Jesus, dare I think that that day will come? Dare I believe that this joy will be granted to me?"

From that moment, he knew no rest till he had exchanged the white habit of St Augustine and his quiet life of study for the rough serge and cord of St Francis ... and the prospect of a martyr's crown.

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