



St Anthony's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692



St Bernard's Parish

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL: 5367 2069
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

13th FEBRUARY 2022

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: Monday 9.00am-12noon
Tue 9am-4pm Wed 9am-5.30pm Thu /Fri 9am-4pm
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 Lawrence of Brindisi School **Principal:** Bill Hill
31 Waterway Boulevard, Weir Views, 3338
Phone: 0477 155 210
Email: principal@slweirviews.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)
Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000
109-141 Bulmans Rd, West Melton, 3337 **Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:
Naim Chdid
Parish Office Hours:
Tue-Thu 9am-1pm
Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au
Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

St Bernard's School **Principal:**
19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340
Phone: (03) 5366 5800
Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	9747 0078
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding, Damien Schuster and Bill Hill
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
Moira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

EX-OFFICIO:
Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Marcus Goulding

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's -Karina Dunne, Lorraine Tellis & Geetha Vincent
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779)

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 14/2/22-20/2/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 14/2	6.30pm
Tuesday 15/2	9.30am
5.30pm Holy Hour followed by Mass at	6.30pm
Wednesday 16/2	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 17/2	9.30am
Friday 18/2	7.30am & 9.30am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 19/2	5.00pm
Sunday 20/2	8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.
No Confession on Monday

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 14/2/22-20/2/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 14/2 - No Mass	*Rosary	7.30pm
Tuesday 15/2		7.30am
Holy Hour		7.30pm
Wednesday 16/2		9.30am
Thursday 17/2		7.30am
Friday 18/2		9.30am

Saturday 19/2 9.00am
*Rosary - Prayed every Monday at 7:30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour.

Sunday Masses

Saturday 19/2	5.00pm
Sunday 20/2	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBEIT

VIGIL MASS

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 THE BEATITUDES

Gardeners realise that trees need deep watering, so that their roots go deep and are able to survive the dry times. In the first reading this image reflects our trust and hope in a God who will sustain us.

Jesus tells us we are blessed, if we don't rely on the shallowness of this world. That our happiness will not depend on riches, or food, or being popular and famous. If we depend on these, we have already had our reward. But we know poverty is soul and body destroying, so what is he talking about, as much is done to assist people who are poor, hungry and homeless. There is a difference in real poverty and in being satisfied with enough, to hunger for justice, to weep for those who are abused and mistreated. So how do we achieve this blessedness?

Like a tree we need to put down deep roots through prayer, the sacraments and good works and to educate ourselves as to what is happening in our world today. As Lent approaches, this is a good time to reflect on my attitudes, to change my way of living, to set down deep roots in good soil, so that when hard times come we have developed that trust in our good God.

St Mary MacKillop knew this well and spent hours in prayer, but she also was a practical woman, seeing the needs of those around her and doing all she could to alleviate their suffering.

Mary Fermio rsj

"We need to build up society in the light of the Beatitudes, walking towards the Kingdom with the least among us."
Pope Francis
M. Bernard

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

CHAPLAINCY APPEAL 2022-SPECIAL COLLECTION –THIS WEEKEND

This weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic Chaplains can continue to be the messengers of God's mercy, love and compassion. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and financial support to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing loneliness, illness, pain, grief and death.

You can also donate by using the envelopes available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

SEARCH PROGRAM

The St Anthony's and St Bernard's Parishes will be holding the SEARCH program during Lent. Please see the flyer for all the details.

PALMS FROM LAST PALM SUNDAY

Parishioners if you have Palms from last Palm Sunday and you would like to drop them off at the Church, please put them in the basket in the foyer. The Palms will be burnt and used on Ash Wednesday. Thank you,

ST ANTHONY'S

TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL focusses specifically on the realities of our local Church here in the Archdiocese of Melbourne at a pastoral, spiritual and practical level. It's about how we might work together co-operatively with the priests and people of the Archdiocese in strengthening and reinvigorating our parish communities as well as more effectively reaching out with missionary enthusiasm to the communities in which we live.

The information will be presented at our parish forums in the parish hall for discussion and discernment with our community in the month of February 2022 (the same information will be presented at both sessions): **St Anthony's Saturday 12th at 6pm & Sunday 20th at 11:30am.**

THANKSGIVING

Dear Parishioners, we are quickly moving towards a cashless Society and our bank is restricting the way we can deposit our collection monies and cheques. **With this in mind we would like you to consider changing your Thanksgiving cash donation to a direct debit.** Your details are entered via a very secure online platform so are very safe. If you would like to or have any questions please call Lesley at the Parish Office Tuesday thru Friday. Thank you.

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPER WORKING BEE

We will have a working bee for the Thanksgiving Envelopes on Thursday 24th February, after the 9.30am Mass. If you are able to help it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you Lesley.

ST BERNARD'S

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PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on the 15th, 16th & 17th February. The Office will be opened on Friday 18th February.

MORNING TEA—THIS SUNDAY

Please join us for morning tea after the 8.30am Mass on the second Sunday of each month at St Bernard's parish. The first morning tea will be held this Sunday February 13th.

Enquires: Meg Kennedy, 0403 696 645

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 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.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 19th & 20th February
Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator
15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement
will be found. Thank you.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: John Brewis
10.30am: Susan Malinov
5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Philip Anayayahan
8.30am: Lois Brewis
10.30am: Elaine Lacey
5.00pm: Not rostered

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm Vigil: Coleen & Godwin
8.30am: Julie & Lillian
10.30am: Deepa & Lillian
5.00pm: Olen & Annoika

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for those recently deceased:

Percy Fernandez

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

Tamafinata Sefo Amoa, Gina Barker, Arthur Chiles and Falanai Aukuso Kelsall.

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, Paul Nowak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Uatoa Tuigamala, Dolores Turcsan, Clint Abela Wadge, and 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: 19th & 20th February

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

February: Sr Mary Fermio

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Peter Skinner and Mary Cassar

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

Guido Boratto, Elizabeth Jones, Telly Khomar, Samara Vereker, Noeline Wadey, Stanley Walsh and Laurie Wheelahan.

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, Bill Shea, 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: 19th & 20th February

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Geetha Vincent

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:

CHURCH FLOWERS

February: Ana



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

***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



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 19th & 20th February

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Carmel Shea

CHURCH FLOWERS

February: Deborah Hosking



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

February: Stephen Millington

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

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

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

Dear Parishioners

Keeping in line with the Archbishop's vision for Mission, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's have put together a new Baptism Preparation Program, for any parents who wish to have their child Baptised.



Preparations for Baptisms will take place on Saturdays alternating between both Parishes.

Baptisms will be held on Saturday mornings at 11.00am.

Parents must attend two sessions. Sessions will run from 12..30pm-4.30pm. Godparents must attend the 2nd session.

The new program will begin in February 2022. Bookings must be made to attend these sessions. Our websites have now been updated. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

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: Lillian Christian

0400 441 257

Group 2: Frank & Cia Carreon

0431 206 357

Group 3: Helen Calleja

0401 497 980

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

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 17:5-8

The Lord says this:
'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.
'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 1:1-4

Commentator: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

All: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

Happy are they who hope in the Lord

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached,
how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection
of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not
been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in
your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in
Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this
life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.
But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-
fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 6:17, 20-26

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of
level ground where there was a large gathering of his disci-
ples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and
from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Si-
don who had come to hear him and to be cured of their dis-
eases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:
'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of
God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.
Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse
you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son
of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for
then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way
their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consola-
tion now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the
way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

NEWST WEEKEND'S READINGS- SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23:

Second Reading: 1 Cor 15:45-49;

Gospel: Lk 6:27-38



Saint Bernard IV

St Bernard on humility, Part One

12 More Steps: Out of Pride and into Humility

As we saw in the 12 Steps of Pride set forth by St Bernard of Clairvaux, in escalating ways, the 12 steps draw us up to an increasingly mountainous and enslaving pride.

St Bernard lists the 12 steps to deeper humility in his work, *Vultus Dei*. See also his book, *Steps of Humility and Pride*.

(1) Fear of God. To fear the Lord is to hold God in awe. It is to be filled with wonder at all God has done, and who he is.

Cringing, servile fear is not counselled here. Rather, the fear rooted in love and deep reverence for God is what begins to bring us down the mountain of pride. It is a look towards God, and away from ourselves and our egocentric tendencies, that begins to break our pride.

Scripture says: The fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10). To fear the Lord is to turn to the Lord, seeking answers, seeking meaning, realising that in God is all wisdom and knowledge. To fear the Lord is to hunger and thirst for his truth and righteousness. To fear the Lord is to look outside and upward from myself to God.

Here begins our journey down the mountain of pride, a simple and loving look to God who alone can set us free from the slavery that pride and sinfulness created for us.

(2) Abnegation of self-will. In the garden, Jesus said to his father, “Father, not as I will, but as you will” (Luke 22:42). This is what abnegation of the will means. It is to be willing to surrender my will to God’s will, to subsume my decisions under his.

Pride demands to do what it pleases, and to determine whether it is right or wrong. But in this stage of humility I am willing to look to God.

The Saints say: “If God wants it, I want it. If God doesn’t want it, I don’t want it.” The prideful person says “How come I can’t have it? Its not so bad. Everybody else is doing it.”

But on the journey away from pride, and having come to a fear of the Lord, now we are more joyfully ready to listen to God, and to submit to his vision will for us.

(3) Obedience. Now, having obtained to a more humble disposition of heart, we are more capable and willing to obey. Obedience moves from the hearing to the heeding of God’s word, of God’s holy will, and of being willing to surrender our stubborn wills. We are made ready, by God’s grace, to execute that will, to obey and put into action the will of God. And thus the descent of the Mountain of Pride begins apace, toward the freedom of the children of God, little by little.

(4) Patient endurance. Embarking on this journey down the Mountain of Pride and striving to hear and understand God’s will and to obey him, one can surely expect obstacles both internally and externally.

Our flesh, that is, our sinful nature, does not simply and wholeheartedly surrender, but continues to battle. Our flesh resists prayer, resists being submitted to anything other than his own wishes and desires. Thus, internally, we suffer resistance from our sinful nature.

But little by little we gain greater self-discipline and authority over our unruly passions. This is truly a struggle, requiring patience, and an enduring spirit and will.

Externally, too, we encounter resistance. Perhaps old friends seek to seduce us back to former ways. Perhaps too the structures of our pride remain standing; structures such as wilfulness, self-reliance, powerful positions continue to draw us away from our intention to come down the Mountain of Pride. Perhaps the world continues to demand that we think and act out of old categories that are not of God, and still hold us bound to some extent.

Patient endurance is often required to see such things borne away. Yes, it can take years of patient and persistent action, even decades, for the sinful world dominated by structures of sin and rebellion, to lose its grip on us.

To be continued