



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

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

6th 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.stanthonyof padua.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 7/2/22-13/2/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 7/2	6.30pm
Tuesday 8/2	9.30am
5.30pm Holy Hour followed by Mass at	6.30pm
Wednesday 9/2	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 10/2	9.30am
Friday 11/2	7.30am & 9.30am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 12/2	5.00pm
Sunday 13/2	8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 7/2/22-13/2/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 7/2	*Rosary	7.30pm
Tuesday 8/2		7.30am
	Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 9/2		9.30am
Thursday 10/2		7.30am
Friday 11/2		9.30am
Providence and Friends Mass 11/2		11.00am
(all attendees must be double vaxed)		

Saturday 12/2 9.00am
*Rosary - Prayed every Monday at 7:30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour.

Sunday Masses

Saturday 12/2	5.00pm
Sunday 13/2	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 TRUST

We exercise trust every day of our lives – turn on the light, obey the doctor, switch on the phone or computer, turn the key in the car - always expecting them to work or help us.

Peter had to trust in Jesus, impossible as it seemed to him, and his trust was rewarded. Peter had been fishing all night. He would be tired, sleepy, frustrated, disappointed – no fish to sell or feed a family! This itinerant preacher tells him to try again! To tell him, a professional, what to do! Yet he obeys, trusts the instruction, and to his surprise a huge catch fills two boats.

When we pray, we trust God will listen, but this is not easy. We can't see God, who is usually silent; most times we receive no answer, yet real trust involves continuing to pray. Maybe God knows that what we want is not the right thing for us, no matter how much we hurt or desire. The secret is, can we trust God enough to keep asking. An elderly East Timorese woman said she prayed to Mary MacKillop to pull God's ear!

Mary MacKillop told us that prayer is our greatest weapon.

Sr Mary Fermio rsj



Prayer is not asking.
Prayer is putting oneself in
the hands of God, at His
disposition, and listening
to His voice in the depth
of our hearts.

~Mother Teresa

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE – Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. A Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding will take place prior to commencement. Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact) Website: www.mercyworks.org.au
Mercy Connect Melbourne Tel: 9326 1895

CHAPLAINCY APPEAL 2022-SPECIAL COLLECTION –NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Each year a special collection is conducted in all parishes for the purpose of supporting the vital work of our Catholic chaplains. The Chaplains support thousands of Victorians every year in hospitals, prisons and youth justice centres, and those living with HIV/AIDS. Your gift can help people find comfort and hope as they go through some of their darkest hours and times of need. **Please give generously.**

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

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.

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.

ST BERNARD'S

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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 Bernard's Sunday 6th at 11:30am and Saturday 26th at 6pm with Parish AGM.**

ST BERNARD'S YOUTH GATHERING

Ages 16-25 6.30pm-9.30pm Friday, 11th February 2022

Then every second Friday of the month

St Bernard's Parish Centre For more information and to RSVP, contact Fr Marcus by email: marcus.goulding@cam.org.au

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS MASS

Parishioners are invited to the monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 11th February at 11am.

Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch.

If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short 0419 507438.

Reminder: All attendees must be double vaxed.

MORNING TEA

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 on Sunday February 13th.

Enquires:

Meg Kennedy, 0403 696 645



WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 12th & 13th 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: Aloysius Dacunha
8.30am: Leonia Jessop
10.30am: Karina Dunne
5.00pm: Regina Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Geoff Sutton
10.30am: George Bonello
5.00pm: Not rostered

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm Vigil: Carmen & Godwin
8.30am: Natalie & Ron
10.30am: Godwin & Lillian
5.00pm: Leonia & Annoika

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Babette Arandez, Peter Azzopardi, Maria & Joseph Cauchi and George Portelli

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, Tony Birch 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: 12th & 13th 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:

Anthony Chircop & Lyn Delahey

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

Jessica Cato, Alma Dowsett, Mary Grech, Ronald Knight, Mercy Kumar, Greg Light, Marija Magdic, Peter Shea, Dorothy (Jill) Smith and Tom Thompson.

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: 12th & 13th February

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: To be advised
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

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 : 12th & 13th February

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Margot Short

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 going forward will 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 10.30am.

Parents must attend two sessions. Sessions will run from 12..30pm-4.30pm. The new program will begin in February 2022. Bookings must be made to attend these sessions. Our website will be updated shortly.

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: John & Rose Ma'ae

0431 386 473

Group 2: Naim Chdid

0437 004 790

Group 3: Josephine German

0478 288 761

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

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

FIRST READING Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out one to another in this way,
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said:

'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost,
for I am a man of unclean lips
and I live among a people of unclean lips,
and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips,
your sin is taken away,
your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'
I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 137

Commentator: In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

All: In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways:
'How great is the glory of the Lord!'

You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you - believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless.

On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 5:1-11

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats - it was Simon's - and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.



NEWST WEEKEND'S READINGS- **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading:	Jer 17:5-8:
Second Reading:	1 Cor 15:12, 16-20;
Gospel:	Lk 6:17, 20-26

Saint Bernard III

St Bernard on pride, Part Two

(7) Presumption: At this stage of pride, even God's judgements must cede to ours. This is a sin against the virtue of hope wherein we believe that salvation is due to us no matter how we live. The Theological Virtue of hope teaches us to ask with confidence for God's help in attaining eternal life. It is great pride to presume that we have already accomplished it and possess what we do not.

(8) Self-justification: Jesus must now vacate the judgement seat because we demand to take his place. Not only that, but he must also vacate the cross because we do not really need his sacrifice. We think that we can save ourselves and, frankly, we do not need a lot of saving. Self-justification is the attitude that says we are able, by our own power, to justify, that is, to save ourselves. It is also an attitude that says, in effect: "I will do what I want to do and I will decide if it is right or wrong."

St Paul says: "I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me" (1 Corinthians 4:3-4). Yet the prideful care only for their own point of view and refuse to be accountable ultimately even to God. The prideful person forgets that no one is his own judge.

(9) Hypocritical confession: The word "hypocrite" in Greek means "actor". We may observe that, in certain settings, some degree of humility and acknowledgement of our faults is "profitable". We may see that we can get credit for humbly acknowledging our faults and calling ourselves sinners. But the prideful are just acting, just playing a role more for social credit than out of real contrition or repentance.

We may believe that, after all, we are really not that bad. And if posturing and playing the role of the humble and contrite sinner will get us somewhere, then we will say our lines, play the part and look holy if the applause from the audience is forthcoming.

(10) Revolt: Pride really begins to go off the rails when we openly revolt against God and his lawful

representatives. To revolt means to renounce allegiance, accountability, or obedience to God, his Word or to his Church. It is prideful to refuse to be under lawful authority and act in ways that are directly contrary to what that authority rightly asserts.

(11) Freedom to sin: Here pride reaches its near conclusion as it arrogantly asserts and celebrates that it is utterly free to do as it pleases. The prideful person increasingly rejects any restraints or limits. But the freedom of the prideful is not really freedom at all. Jesus says: "Whoever sins is a slave to sin" (John 8:34). The *Catechism* echoes this: "The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to the slavery of sin" (Catechism 1733).

But the prideful will have none of this and arrogantly go on asserting the freedom to do what they please, even as they descend deeper and deeper into addiction and slavery.

(12) The habit of sinning: Here we see Pride's full and ugly flower: habitual sin and slavery to sin. St Augustine describes it: "For of a forward will, was a lust made; and a lust served, became custom; and custom not resisted, became necessity" (*Confessions* 8.5.10).

Thus we have climbed in 12 steps the mountain of pride. It begins in the mind with a lack of sobriety rooted in sinful curiosity and frivolous preoccupation. Then follows frivolous behaviour and excusing, and presumptive and dismissive attitudes. Last come outright revolt and slavery to sin. Pride is then in full flower.

The escalation in these steps illustrates an old admonition: Sow a thought, reap a deed; sow a deed, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character, sow a character, reap a destiny.

Is there a way down this mountain of pride? You can read the answer next Sunday in "12 More Steps: Out of Pride and into Humility, from St Bernard."