



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER-YEAR C

15th May 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 10.30am-1.00pm Wed & Thu 9.00am-1.00pm
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

Naim Chid	0437 004 790
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 - Secretary	0407 778 119
Maira 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) Evana Miesen & Ron Geurts

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Wednesday 1.00pm. Please email judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 16/5/22-22/5/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 16/5	6.30pm
Tuesday 17/5	9.30am
Holy Hour	5.30pm
Week 10 of the St Antony's Novena	6.15pm
followed by Mass at	6.30pm
Wednesday 18/5	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 19/5	9.30am
Friday 20/5	7.30am & 9.30am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 21/5	5.00pm
Sunday 22/5	8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 16/5/22-22/5/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 16/5	No Mass	Rosary	7.30pm
with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour.			
Tuesday 17/5			7.30am
Holy Hour			7.30pm
Wednesday 18/5			9.30am
Thursday 19/5			7.30am
Friday 20/5			9.30am
Saturday 21/5			9.00am
<u>Sunday Masses</u>			
Saturday 21/5			5.00pm
Sunday 22/5			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 5th SUNDAY EASTER– MARY FERMIO rsj

Love is a word which can be used lightly e.g. I love Pizza or deeply as the love of a parent for a child. This is a love that can be tried and true.

Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us. Not only in our minds, but openly, so that it was witnessed by others. In this way we fulfil our Confirmation promises to be true disciples of Jesus. The love Jesus proclaimed for us, was fully tested on the cross – his willingness to do what the Father willed.

The test of this love for us comes when we care for a parent who no longer knows us; a tough love witnessed in struggling families caring for children, giving all the essentials they need for healthy growth of body and mind; love in sickness and health, watching one's partner suffering or dying. One hour in Church each week is no measuring stick of the strength of our love. It is measured in the home, our workplace, on the bus or train, in the street. How do I measure up?



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FATHER MARCUS GOULDING

The Archbishop has recently appointed Fr Marcus as Assistant Priest, Malvern East. Fr Marcus will celebrate his last weekend Masses at St Anthony's on the 25th & 26th June, we will have a cuppa and farewell for him after Masses that weekend. Please bring a plate to share. He will celebrate his last weekend Masses on the 2nd & 3rd July at St Bernard's. We will have refreshments after the 10.30am Mass that weekend.

MASS COUNT

Our Mass count continues this weekend. The count maintains an up-to-date picture of Mass attendance in the Archdiocese. This year, the four weekends of **7-8 May, 14-15 May, 21-22 May and 28-29 May** have been selected for the count.

MASS TO COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO HAVE DIED DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

Sunday 22 May, 11am · St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne

In recognition of the significant impact of COVID in our families and communities, Archbishop Comensoli will celebrate a memorial Mass for all those who have died during the COVID pandemic and could not be mourned properly due to pandemic restrictions. Parishes and individuals are invited to submit the name(s) of those you would like remembered during the Mass by visiting the Holy Souls Chapel (inside St Patrick's Cathedral) during May or online <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GZKP7QF>. The names will be placed in a book on the Sanctuary, to be prayed for during all Masses over the weekend of 21-22 May.

PROPAGATION APPEAL-NEXT WEEKEND

Many families in Emdibir are subsistence farmers, and distressingly, many are unable to put enough food on the table each day. Next week Catholic Mission will offer you the opportunity to partner with the Church and community in Emdibir, Ethiopia, where your gift can help build a life-changing program from the ground up to help address this urgent need. We hope you will take this opportunity to make an incredible impact for those in need.

ST ANTHONY'S

MOTHER'S DAY SOCIAL

Thank you to everyone that supported our Mother's Day Social. We raised \$5000.00. It was a very enjoyable and successful night.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THANKSGIVING VIA THE ONLINE PLATFORM

First, thank you for your generous contributions. To make accounting with regard to your Thanksgiving Contributions, easier to reconcile, we kindly ask that you place your surname and your Thanksgiving number in the reference so it can be reflected on your Statement. If you don't know your number or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lesley at the Parish Office.

PRIME TIMERS

Prime Timers May outing will be to Werribee Zoo, K Road Werribee. Tuesday 31st May. Entry cost is \$40, \$36 depending on numbers. (Prime Timers members will receive a subsidy.). Cafe lunch available or BYO. Entry includes Safari Bus tour of open range.

We will meet at 10 am Bunnings car park, garden entry end. Enquiries contact Ineke 0400120401 or ineke49@yahoo.com. RSVP Friday 27th May.

CUPPA WEEKENDS ARE BACK!

Parishioners please be advised that our monthly cuppa weekend will return. Our next weekend to enjoy a cuppa and a chat after Mass will be on the 28th and 29th May. Cuppa will be available after the 5.00pm Vigil, 8.30am and 10.30am Masses.

EASTER COLLECTIONS

Our Parish collected \$2320.00 for the Project Compassion Appeal And \$1320.00 for the Good Friday-Holy Places Appeal. Thank you very much for your generosity.

ST BERNARD'S

ST BERNARD'S PARISH FINANCE CO REPORT

The Financial Statement to March 31st 2022 showed an operating deficit of \$9944.00. This grim figure has resulted in spite of the committee requesting expenditure be restricted to urgent, budgeted for items and works related to safety issues requiring immediate attention. Long term planning is dependent on sale of land not required for parish purposes. All parish church and parish centre charges are to be reviewed. Because of the financial implications, the collated Risk Survey results were discussed. The disabled toilet deficiencies and raised concrete are two matters requiring immediate attention. To meet the duty of care we have, a parent is asked to accompany a child to the toilet when using parish facilities. Non-financial survey items will be addressed by the Safeguarding Co and Fr Fabian. A replacement tree has been planted behind the Shanny Thompson seat. The thirty-day post termite treatment inspection of the Parish Centre has been conducted. Treatment was successful. The church and presbytery were termite free.

Margaret Love

FATHER GLASHEEN'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF

ORDINATION SUNDAY 15TH MAY 10.30AM MASS

Father Glasheen (Glash) will be the Celebrant at 10.30am Mass this Sunday 15th May to commemorate his Golden Anniversary of Ordination. All are welcome.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will reopen Wednesday 18th May. If you need to contact the office please call Judy Johnson 0414 007 009 and leave a message or email judyparishnews@gmail.com

PARISH POTLUCK LUNCH: SAVE THE DATE!

After 10.30am Mass Sunday, 5th June 2022

All parishioners are invited to a potluck lunch in St Bernard's Parish Centre on Sunday 5th June following the 10.30am Mass. Bring a plate to share - preferably with something on it! Food can be left in the Parish Centre prior to Mass. BYO drinks alcohol permitted. Tea & coffee provided.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 21st & 22nd May

Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator

15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement will be found. Thank you.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm Vigil: Marian Muller
8.30am: Amy Honrade
10.30am: Susan Malinov
5.00pm: Rebecca Comini

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Ron Howard
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: Natalie & Ron
8.30am: Julie & Lillian
10.30am: Godwin & Lillian
5.00pm: Olen & Noni

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Taumasina Pela Amoa, Emilia Borges, Annie Bowland, Emidia Buhagiar, Ivan Cornelisz, Josephine Giodamanja, Alistair Knox, Robert Marley, and Fuatino Taulapapa.

Please pray for the Sick: Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Jamie Coghlan, 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, 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

MINISTERS OF THE WORD : THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Dominican Sisters
10.30am: Evana Miesen & Gerard Shelly

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 21st & 22nd May

5.00pm: Evana Miesen
8.30am: Nathan Costin
10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

May: Maureen Zahra

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

John Raymond Carr, Gwyneth Davies, Jeffrey Galea, Gloria Rogers, Fr Herb Steele, and Ray Stevens.

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, 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, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, & Betty Young. **(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)**

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

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

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 21st & 22nd May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS—28th & 29th May

5.00pm Vigil: Marthese, Gavin & Alison
8.30am: Sam & Pat Chiles
10.30am: Doris & Emily Bonello

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Anna Samy & Doris



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 : 21st & 22nd May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: To be advised

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Rita Marshall



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

May: Stuart Robertson

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 St Bernard's Parish Hall (18th May). 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.

A welcome Mass must be attended prior to the Baptism. Baptisms will be held on

Saturday mornings at 11.00am. Parents must attend two sessions.

Sessions will run from 12.00pm-4.00pm. Godparents must attend the 2nd session.

Bookings must be made to attend these sessions. Please visit our website for a detailed

description of the new program. Contact the Parish Office to book your Baptism Preparation and Baptism.



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: Jojo & Wilma Chua 0423 953 843

Group 2: Gregory McCutcheon 0455 457 645

Group 3: Vilma Pinto 0400 070 263



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



Lord, we ask you to continue
to be with us as we
' TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL '
together in prayer.

May we open ourselves to you
with a new depth of trust and conviction
in your guiding hand,
so that we may discern our journey
with compassionate and humble hearts
and come to know your Holy Spirit
Moving within and amongst us,
And so be transformed Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 14:21-27

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 144

Commentator: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

All: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign.

Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age.

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

SECOND READING Revelation 21:1-5

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new'.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 13:31-35

When Judas had gone Jesus said:
'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.
My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.
By this love you have for one another,
everyone will know that you are my disciples'.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.



NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Second Reading: Rev 21:10-14, 22-23
Gospel: Jn 14:23-29

St Bernard of Clairvaux IX

Life of St Bernard, Part 3

The influence of the Abbot of Clairvaux was soon felt in provincial affairs. He defended the rights of the Church against the encroachments of kings and princes, and recalled to their duty Henry Archbishop of Sens, and Stephen de Senlis, Bishop of Paris.

On the death of Pope Honorius II, which occurred on February 14, 1130, a schism broke out in the Church by the election of two popes, Innocent II and Anacletus II. Innocent II having been banished from Rome by Anacletus took refuge in France. King Louis le Gros convened a national council of the French bishops at Etampes, and Bernard, summoned thither by consent of the bishops, was chosen to judge between the rival popes.

Bernard decided in favour of Innocent II and caused him to be recognised by all the great Catholic powers. He then went with the Pope into Italy, and calmed the troubles that agitated the country, reconciled Pisa with Genoa, and Milan with the Pope and Holy Roman Emperor Lothaire.

According to the desire of Lothaire, the Pope went to Liege to consult with the emperor upon the best means to be taken for his return to Rome, for it was there that Lothaire was to receive the imperial crown from the hands of the Pope. From Liege, the Pope returned to France, paid a visit to the Abbey of St Denis, and then to Clairvaux, where his reception was of a simple and purely religious character.

The pontifical court was touched by the saintly demeanour of the band of monks at Clairvaux. In the refectory only a few common fishes were found for the Pope and, instead of wine, the juice of herbs was served for drink, says an annalist of Citeaux. It was not a table feast that was served to the Pope and his retinue, but a feast of virtues.

The same year Bernard was again at the Council of Reims at the side of Innocent II, whose oracle he was; and then in Aquitaine where he succeeded for the time in detaching William, Count of Poitiers, from the cause of Anti-Pope Anacletus.

In 1132, Bernard accompanied Innocent II into Italy, and on their way, at Cluny, the Pope abolished the dues that Clairvaux used to pay to this celebrated abbey — an action which gave rise to a quarrel between the “White Monks” and the “Black Monks” which lasted 20 years. In May, the Pope supported by the army of Lothaire, entered Rome, but Lothaire, feeling himself too weak to resist the partisans of Anacletus, retired beyond the Alps, and Innocent sought refuge in Pisa in September, 1133.

In the meantime, Bernard had returned to France in June, and was continuing the work of peacemaking which he had begun in 1130.

Towards the end of 1134, he made a second journey into Aquitaine, where William X had relapsed into schism. This would have died out of itself if William could have been detached from the cause of Gerard, who had usurped the See of Bordeaux and retained that of Angouleme. Bernard invited William to the Mass which he celebrated in the Church of La Couldre. At the moment of the Communion, placing the Sacred Host upon the paten, he went to the door of the church where William was and, pointing to the Host, he adjured the Duke not to despise God as he did His servants. William yielded and the schism ended.

Bernard went again to Italy, where Roger of Sicily was endeavouring to withdraw the Pisans from their allegiance to Innocent. He recalled the city of Milan, which had been deceived and misled by the ambitious prelate Anselm, Archbishop of Milan, to obedience to the Pope, refused the Archbishopric of Milan, and returned to Clairvaux.

Believing himself at last secure in his cloister, Bernard devoted himself with renewed vigour to the composition of those pious and learned works which have won for him the title of Doctor of the Church. He wrote at this time his sermons on the Canticle of Canticles.

In 1137, he was again forced to leave his solitude by order of the Pope to put an end to the quarrel between Lothaire and Roger of Sicily. At the conference held at Palermo, Bernard succeeded in convincing Roger of the rights of Innocent II and in silencing Peter of Pisa, who sustained Anacletus. The latter died of grief and disappointment in 1138, and with him the schism.

Returning to Clairvaux, Bernard occupied himself in sending bands of monks from his too-crowded monastery into Germany, Sweden, England, Ireland, Portugal, Switzerland, and Italy. Some of these, at the command of Innocent II, took possession of Three Fountains Abbey in Rome.

Bernard assisted in 1139, at the Second General Lateran Council and the Tenth Ecumenical, in which the surviving adherents of the schism were definitively condemned. About the same time, Bernard was visited at Clairvaux by St Malachi, metropolitan of the Church in Ireland, and a very close friendship was formed between them. St Malachi would gladly have taken the Cistercian habit, but the Sovereign Pontiff would not give his permission. He died, however, at Clairvaux in 1148.