



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

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR A

27th August 2023

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Alex Clemente
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Wilford Urmaza and Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-4.30pm

Email: parishsecretary83@gmail.com

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: 8099 6699

Email: principal@slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan

Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-1.30pm

Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stbernardsbacchusmarsh>

St Bernard's School **Principal:** Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith
19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Phone: (03) 5366 5800

Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Catholic College- Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

109-141 Bulmans Rd, West Melton, 3337 / Bridge Rd, Cobblebank 3338 **Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

In the case of urgent situations-sickness etc. please call 0422 869 646

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Amy Honrade	0457 042 695
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Alex Clemente PP, Fr Wilford Urmaza,
Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Damien Schuster and Bill Hill
Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rob Brennan OLHC	0430 312 684
Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Kennedy - Secretary	0407 778 119
Annette Marum	0417 525 617
Moir Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

EX-OFFICIO:
Fr Alex Clemente PP, Fr Wilford Urmaza, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and
Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator/Officer: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's - Lorraine Tellis 0409 110 259 Geetha Vincent 0478 112 996
& Liza Fernandes
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) & Ron Geurts

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Wednesday midnight.

Please email parishsecretary83@gmail.com

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 28/08/2023-3/09/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 28/8	6.30pm
Tuesday 29/8	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 30/8	9.30am
Thursday 31/8	9.30am
Friday 1/9	9.30am
First Friday Devotions	7.30pm & Midnight
Saturday 2/9 (First Saturday)	9.00am

Rosary **9.00am prior to weekday masses &**

Rosary **8.30am prior to Saturday morning masses**



Sunday Masses

Saturday 2/9	5.00pm
Sunday 3/9	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession is available and begins 30 minutes prior to each Mass and will cease 5 minutes before Mass commences.
No Confession on Monday.

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 28/08/2023-3/09/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 28/8	No Mass
Tuesday 29/8	7.30am
Holy Hour	6.30pm
Wednesday 30/8	9.30am
Thursday 31/8	7.30am
Friday 1/9	7.30am
Saturday 2/9	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 2/9	6.30pm
Sunday 3/9	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)

Every Monday-Rosary and Adoration 7pm-8pm in the church.

Confession is available and begins 30 minutes prior to each Mass and will cease 5 minutes before Mass commences.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET MASS TIMES

VIGIL	2/9	5.00pm
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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. Thank you.

REFLECTION – 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A –FR LUCAS KYAW MYINT

PETER AS LEADER

God does not need your ability; He wants only your availability. By human reckoning Christ's Choice of Peter as leader of Apostles was disastrous. He was not a stable man; because at times, he was brave, while on other occasions, he displayed complete cowardice. However, right or wrong, he was all for Christ. He reacted without thinking. As soon as he opened his mouth, he put his foot in. Because of his availability. For Christ, he was changed from a fisherman into a great fisher of people, or as the head of the Church. God does not need your ability, but availability. Are you available for Christ?

KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

Your knowledge of Christ will influence your life.

For me, personally, Christ is a good Shepherd, who went about doing good.

(Acts 10:38). Who is Christ for you?



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parishioners, I will be on leave from Friday 25th August and will be back in the office on Tuesday 12th September. Please send all newsletter items to parishsecretary83@gmail.com. Thank you Judy

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP - SAVE THE DATE

Date: Monday, 18 September 2023

Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Venue: St Bernard's Parish Hall, Bacchus Marsh

This Safeguarding Workshop is intended to provide foundational knowledge in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable persons from abuse and harm. Also, a clear understanding of one's duty of care and expectations. The workshop is presented by Rosemary Teed from the Professional Safeguarding Unit of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

It is a requirement that all Parish Leaders, Coordinators, current and future Volunteers attend this Workshop to keep abreast with the updates and new required processes. Please bring along your WWCC or VIT card in order to receive a certificate of completion.

This invitation is also extended to all Parishioners, including parents/carers, who have a keen interest in the safety of young children and vulnerable adults.

Any enquiries, please call, Godwin Barton (St. Anthony's Parish) on 0425 734 449, or Margaret Love (St. Bernard's Parish) on 0437 247 779.

We look forward to your support. - *Safeguarding Committee*

FATHER'S DAY NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend we will be conducting the Annual Father's Day Appeal for Sick and Retired Priests. This is a great way of showing your gratitude for the enormous work our priests have done for us in the past and present day and to give them comfort and respite in the later years. Please give generously, thank you.

ST ANTHONY'S

REKINDLING OUR DEVOTIONS TO BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday 2nd September: First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Rosary 8.30am followed by Mass. 9.00am and a talk on 'Cherishing First Saturday Devotions & welcoming Maria Bambinella in our church.'

Friday 8th September: Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Rosary 6.00pm Mass 6.30pm Followed by procession after mass, adjourn to fellowship and supper.

CLEANING

We are now cleaning on Saturdays as well as Fridays. If you are interested in helping to keep our church clean, please add your details to the clipboard in the foyer or contact Elizabeth on 042 288 2562.

CUPPA

Please join us for a cuppa after all our masses this weekend. All Welcome!

BINGO

Bingo is held every Tuesday night at 7pm in the Padua Hall, St Anthony's Parish. Complimentary tea and coffee available. Canteen services available. Come along and enjoy a great night, and with a bit of luck you could be one of our lucky winners!

ST BERNARD'S

PARISH OFFICE

Dear Parishioners, please note the Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 29th August. Thank you.

MEN'S POKER NIGHT

To celebrate Father's Day, we will be hosting a men's social night in the hall on Friday 1st September. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a fun night of poker and also form connections with other men in the parish. If you'd like to attend please get in touch with Thomas Halloran on 0431 504 402 for details.



WORSHIP NEWS

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 2nd & 3rd September
Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator
15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement
will be found. Thank you.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

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

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

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

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Coleen & Olen
8.30am: Lillian & Godwin
10.30am: Josephine & Leonia

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Moira Ross
10.30am: Samantha Butler

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: John Thorne

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 2nd & 3rd September

6.30pm: Sonia Smith
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi
10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: John Thorne

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

September: Paul Miesen & Family

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Gloria Ainsworth, Alvin John Bugeja, Malaga Niko Lovi, Cassandra O'Keefe, Marie Rietschel, Dorette Turcsan & Giovanni Viscosi.

Please pray for the Sick:

David Bonello, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Hazel Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Troy Saliba, Anna Samy, Samantha Smith, Sina, Saleri, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Christina Tuigamala, Uatoa Tuigamala, 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.**

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased;
 Kevin Eddy

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

Kevin Bridges, Gilly Gleeson, Ashley Hine, Joan Kervin, Denis Leahy, Phillip Lennox, Kathleen Martin, Nathan Prince, & Robert Taylor.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Stephen Beaton, Peter Bennett, Carmel Berry, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, Tracey Burn, Alex, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Brendan Coburn, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, George Farrell, 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, Troy Saliba, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Colin Taffe, Catherine Time, Susan Trist, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Jayne Wilkins, Nathan Witmore, Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young 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



SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 2nd & 3rd September

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

CHURCH FLOWERS

September: Gloria

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS– 26th & 27th August

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Mary Saliba & Remy Peroy
10.30am: Romeo & Maribel Sacris

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.

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.
ress: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

*The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
Pray therefore (**Rogate Ergo...**) to the Lord of the Harvest that He may send Good workers into His vast vineyard. (Mt. 9:37-38).*

Prayer is the answer to the perennial problem of the lack of good evangelical workers. It is a command and not just a simple request or an invitation. The Church needs holy workers. She needs committed, faithful, and zealous ministers of the Gospel. But if we will not beg the Lord, we will never be blessed with Good and Holy Vocations.

St. Hannibal Ma. Di Francia, the Patron of Vocations said; Vocations come from on High, if we do not pray, vocations will not come. Let us therefore implore the Master of the Harvest with this short prayer:

Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 2nd & 3rd September

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Dianne Shelly
Sunday: 8.30am: Marj Tung
10.30am: Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

September: Frances McDaid



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

September: Colm Carragher & Ron Geurts

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare number 1800 305 330.
Bacchus Marsh Vinnies Store 164-190 Main Street is in urgent need of donations. All donations gratefully appreciated and can be dropped at the Store 7 days a week. Any enquiries 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 \$2000 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, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's have updated their Baptism Preparation Program.

Baptisms will be held at St Anthony's on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month at 11.00am and Baptisms will be held at St Bernard's on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month at 11.00am.

Please go to [St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish | Melton South](#) click on 'Faith Formation' and then 'Baptism of Infants' for all the information and the application form.

Please contact the Parish Offices if you need any assistance. Thank you.



ADULT PREPARATION Adult preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Alex, Fr Wilford or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1:	Joseph & Caroline Da Rocha	0421 854 711
Group 2:	David & Anne Leheny	0405 621 232
Group 3:	Amy & Ronald Honrade	0457 042 695

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the month 3pm.



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

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

FIRST READING Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 137

Commentator: Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

All: Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

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.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

22nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME– YEAR A

First Reading: Jer 20:7-9
Second Reading: Rom 12:1-2
Gospel: Mt 16:21-27



The Holy Eucharist XXVII

Eucharistic saints (3)

St Margaret Mary Alacoque

St Margaret Mary (1647-90) is the apostle of devotion to the Sacred Heart. From early childhood she was intensely devoted to the Blessed Sacrament. After four years suffering from paralysis, she was miraculously cured by our Lady.

Having vowed to consecrate herself to the religious life, she entered the Visitation convent at Peray, where she was distinguished for obedience, humility, and love of suffering. Among the many visions she received of Christ, the most important were those in which Our Lord told her she was to promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Margaret Mary wrote many letters to people who asked for her counsel. Among these is a long letter to a religious in which she describes the diverse lives of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Each is a method of honouring Christ during the Octave of the feast of *Corpus Christi*.

Today the Lord destines you to honour His glorified life in the Blessed Sacrament. That is why He wishes you to enthrone yourself on the Cross. He wants you to glorify Him by carrying lovingly all those crosses which He presents to you, without ever letting yourself grow weary or complaining of their length or weight.

Today the Lord chooses you to honour His life of sacrifice in the Holy Eucharist. Therefore, you must offer yourself to His Sacred Heart as a victim of immolation before the Divine Sacrificing Priest.

Today the Lord has chosen you to honour His humiliated life in the Blessed Sacrament. So you must offer yourself to Him as nothingness to its All. Your whole attention must be concentrated on annihilating self and rejoicing when others help you to do so.

Today the Lord has chosen you to honour His active life in the Blessed Sacrament. As a faithful servant, you must do violence to yourself to labour fervently in the service of your master.

Today the Lord wants you to honour His life wholly given to us in the Blessed Sacrament. You must be as a burning candle with no other desire than to be consumed in His honour. Surrender yourself to the Mercy of Providence and let Him do with you according to His designs.

By Fr John Hardon SJ, catholicculture.org

St Alphonsus Liguori

The "Protestant Reformation" in the 16th century was really a revolution. Among the doctrines of faith that the followers of Martin Luther denied was that Christ instituted the priesthood in order to perpetuate His human and divine presence on earth till the end of time. Among the results of this teaching was the martyrdom of many priests who were put to death, even while celebrating Mass, because they were charged with the idolatry of claiming they had the power to bring Jesus Christ on earth in the Holy Eucharist.

By the 18th century, God raised up courageous defenders who spoke and wrote extensively in witness of the Real Presence. Among these, the most famous was St Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787). During his long life he published some 100 volumes on every aspect of Christian morals and spirituality. Among these is his book on *The Holy Eucharist*. Once again the quotation will be extensive but deserves to be made.

Our holy faith teaches us, and we are bound to believe, that in the consecrated Host, Jesus Christ is really present under the species of bread. But we must also understand that He is thus present on our altars as on a throne of love and mercy, to dispense graces and there to show us the love which He bears us, by being pleased to dwell night and day hidden in our midst. There it was that St Francis Xavier found refreshment in the midst of his many labours in India; for he employed his days in toiling for souls, and his nights in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. St John Francis Regis did the same thing; and sometimes finding the church closed, he endeavoured to satisfy his longings by remaining on his knees, outside the door exposed to the rain and cold so that at least at a distance he might attend upon his Comforter concealed under the sacramental species.

The Holy Eucharist is a sacrament three times over: as Sacrifice Sacrament of the Mass; Communion Sacrament of Holy Communion; and Presence Sacrament.

The modern world needs a series of moral miracles to be reconverted to the God from whom it has strayed. Who else but the Incarnate Son of God, present on earth in the Blessed Sacrament, can perform these miracles. But His omnipotence, dare we say it, is at the mercy of our faith.