



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

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY-YEAR C

12th June 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 13/6/22-19/6/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 13/6 St Anthony's Feast	6.30pm
Tuesday 14/6	9.30am
Holy Hour	5.30pm
followed by Mass at	6.30pm
Wednesday 15/6	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 16/6	9.30am
Friday 17/6	7.30am & 9.30am

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 18/6	5.00pm
Sunday 19/6	8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 13/6/22-19/6/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 13/6	No Mass	Rosary	7.30pm
with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour			
Tuesday 14/6			7.30am
Holy Hour			7.30pm
Wednesday 15/6			9.30am
Thursday 16/6			7.30am
Friday 17/6			9.30am
Saturday 18/6			9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 18/6	5.00pm
Sunday 19/6	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS

6.30pm

If you need a Priest in the case of an emergency please call 0456 718 965

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 FOR FEAST OF BLESSED TRINITY -Mary Fermio rsj

One of the most common theme of songs is Love – searching for love, losing love, needing love. As images of God, we need love in our lives, to receive and also to give. This helps to make us a balanced person able to give and receive love and it is important children grow up knowing they are loved and feeling the expression of this love.

Today's feast gives us an image of the love of God, the relationship shared between Father, Son and Spirit, who is the expression of love between Father and Son. I remember one of our Sisters recalling being in Israel and hearing a little boy crying out: Abba, Abba, which is the equivalent of our word Daddy, and helping her realise this was how Jesus referred to his Father, in this loving and personal way. But so close that Jesus could say: *He who sees me, sees the Father*. Some artistic representations of the Trinity show three persons, equal in all things.

With this feast, we celebrate and give thanks for our participation in this life of love.
Each time we make the sign of the Cross, we acknowledge this love freely given to us.

What is my image of God? Of the Blessed Trinity? Could you express it in art or poetry? Try!



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

FAITH FORMATION

Looking for peace? Needing hope? Feeling God's love? RCIA is here for you! (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Call us to ask your questions. We are here to listen...

Peace, Hope, Love - Awaits us through Faith - Enquiry Classes available call Naim Chdid 0437 004 790

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE/ Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to academically support Refugee and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese and also adult centre. 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. The training day is in July. **Email:** somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact) **Website:** www.mercyworks.org.au **Tel:** 9326 1895



SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP – SAVE THE DATE

The Victorian Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) has released 11 new Victorian Child Safety Standards (VCSS) that will come into effect on 1 July 2022.

Your friendly and caring 'Safeguarding Team' at St Anthony's Catholic Parish, Melton South is running a Workshop on

Saturday, 16 July 2022 to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the necessary changes.

It is a requirement that all Parish Leaders, Coordinators, current and future Volunteers attend the Workshop to keep abreast with the updates and new required processes.

The 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 queries, please call Godwin Barton on 0425 734 449 or Margaret Love on 0437 247 779

Save the Date: Saturday, 16 July 2022 - 9:30am – 11:00am in the Padua Hall

ST ANTHONY'S

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL-THANK YOU

A big thank you to our Social Committee for organising a very successful International Food Festival last Sunday 5th June 2022.

Thank you to all our wonderful parishioners who gave their time and talent and provided the amazing dishes that represent our diverse community here at St Anthony's.

We especially thank everyone that came along and supported the fundraising event. We raised \$4616.20. The money raised will go towards the extension of the Padua Hall.

ST ANTHONY'S FEAST DAY MASS AND CELEBRATION

St Anthony's Feast Day is on Monday 13th June. Mass will be celebrated at 6.30pm. We will have a gathering after Mass to celebrate the Feast Day, please bring a plate to share.

PARISH OFFICE

Parishioners, please note the Parish Office will be closed on Monday 13th June for the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday.

PRIME TIMERS

Our June outing will be Tuesday 28th June at noon to Back to Bacchus. 178 Main st Bacchus Marsh. Senior meal is \$12.00.

RSVP 24th June to confirm numbers.

Email ineke49@yahoo.com or 0400120401.

The Werribee Zoo trip was cancelled due to the bad weather.

Thanks, hope to see you there..

FATHER MARCUS' FAREWELL-UPDATED

Fr Marcus will celebrate his last weekend Masses at St Anthony's on the 25th and 26th of June. It is our cuppa weekend and you will have the opportunity to catch up with Fr Marcus and wish him well. Also a farewell lunch will be held in Padua Hall following the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 26th June. Please bring a plate of food to share.

ST BERNARD'S

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.

Our morning tea will be held this Sunday June 12th.

Enquires: Meg Kennedy, 0403 696 645

KSC MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting will be held at 8:00pm on Monday 13th June 2022 in the Parish Centre small meeting room.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Dean Marshall from Marshall Engineering for his donation of additional bollards for safety purposes at our Church. Margaret Love

CELEBRATE CORPUS CHRISTI AT ST BERNARD'S

Sunday, 19th June 2022

10.30am Solemn Mass

11.30am Eucharistic Procession & Benediction

On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi we celebrate the gift of Christ's Body and Blood in the Most Holy Eucharist. We will mark this feast at St Bernard's with a Eucharistic Procession along Manor St, Crook St and Lerderberg St. In case of inclement weather, we will have a Holy Hour instead of the Procession.

FATHER MARCUS' FAREWELL-UPDATED

Fr Marcus will celebrate his last weekend Masses at St Bernard's on the 2nd and 3rd of July. A farewell lunch will be held in St Bernard's Parish Centre following the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 3rd July. Please bring a plate of food to share. Contact Dagmar van der Linden on 0431 676 017 for more information.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 18th & 19th June

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: Liza Fernandes
8.30am: John Brewis
10.30am: Annonica Mavaega
5.00pm: Rebecca Comini

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Ann Tennakoon
8.30am: Lois Brewis
10.30am: Doris 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: Coleen & Godwin
8.30am: Julie & Godwin
10.30am: Godwin & Annonica
5.00pm: Annonica & Godwin

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Emmanuel Bonnici, Marya Assunta Borg, Simon Borg, John Church, Frank Consiglio, Emanuel & Jane DeBrincat, Gregory Fernandez, Felicity Galea, Joseph Hun, Maria Nguyet, Losa McAlpine Tuala & Joan Unferdorben

Please pray for the Sick: Hazel Michael, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Jamie Coghlan, Christabelle, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Paul Nowak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Samantha Smith, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Christina Tuigamala, 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: John Thorne
8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil
10.30am: Samantha Butler

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 18th & 19th June

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Margaret Love
10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Margaret Love

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Kathleen Canavan, Kathleen Cox, Anna Falzon, Jack O'Donohue, Sophie Parsons, & Evelyn Walsh.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Chris, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, 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, 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: 18th & 19th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

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

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS—25th & 26th June

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: 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

ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 18th & 19th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Piety Stall will open after Saturday 5pm Mass & Sunday 8.30 Mass
18th June: Jackie Tabone
19th June: Sean Giani

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: Frances McDaid



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

June: Colm Carragher & Ron Geurts

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

***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



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: Mark & Edwina La Rose

Group 2: Maria & Juan Dumanden

0402 177 623

Group 3: Joseph & Carmen Cilia

0418 201 027

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

Blest be God the Father,
and the Only Begotten Son of God,
and also the Holy Spirit,
for he has shown us his merciful love.

FIRST READING Proverbs 8:22-31

The Wisdom of God cries aloud:
The Lord created me when his purpose first unfolded,
before the oldest of his works.
From everlasting I was firmly set,
from the beginning, before earth came into being.
The deep was not, when I was born,
there were no springs to gush with water.
Before the mountains were settled,
before the hills, I came to birth;
before he made the earth, the countryside,
or the first grains of the world's dust.
When he fixed the heavens firm, I was there,
when he drew a ring on the surface of the deep,
when he thickened the clouds above,
when he fixed fast the springs of the deep,
when he assigned the sea its boundaries
- and the waters will not invade the shore -
when he laid down the foundations of the earth,
I was by his side, a master craftsman,
delighting him day after day,
ever at play in his presence,
at play everywhere in his world,
delighting to be with the sons of men.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 8

Commentator: O Lord, our God,
how wonderful your name in all the earth!

All: O Lord, our God,
how wonderful your name in all the earth!

When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and the stars which you arranged,
what is man that you should keep him in mind,
mortal man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him little less than a god;
with glory and honour you crowned him,
gave him power over the works of your hand,
put all things under his feet.

All of them, sheep and cattle,
yes, even the savage beasts,
birds of the air, and fish
that make their way through the waters.

O Lord, our God,
how wonderful your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING Romans 5:1-5

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous
and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus
that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast
about looking forward to God's glory. But that is not all we can
boast about; we can boast about our sufferings. These suffer-
ings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings persever-
ance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not de-
ceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our
hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I still have many things to say to you
but they would be too much for you now.
But when the Spirit of truth comes
he will lead you to the complete truth,
since he will not be speaking as from himself
but will say only what he has learnt;
and he will tell you of the things to come.
He will glorify me
since all he tells you
will be taken from what is mine.
Everything the Father has is mine;
that is why I said:
All he tells you
will be taken from what is mine.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Since you are children of God,
God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,
the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.



NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

First Reading: Gen 14:18-20;

Second Reading: 1 Cor 11:23-26;

Gospel: Lk 9:11-17

St Bernard of Clairvaux XIII

Character of St Bernard, Part 2 Fortitude: the most characteristic of Bernard's virtues

Bernard's feats of endurance and the interminable list of his wonders fill almost all the space in his biographies that is not given to his achievements as founder of Clairvaux and her many daughters, as champion of the Church, and as the hammer of heretics. Bernard the friend, even Bernard the father in God, are lost.

More strangely still, Bernard's real fortitude is lost also; he becomes a champion whose victories are assured by his skill and prowess in arms. Yet fortitude, both in secret and in *facie ecclesiae*, is perhaps the most characteristic of all his virtues.

Every saint is what he is through charity alone, but in every human personality some characteristics are more obvious than others. In Bernard it is his fortitude, his utter fearlessness. Fortitude is as essential a part of the Christian character as is humility; both in the last resort spring from a love of God which obliterates human apprehensions and values. But the fortitude of many saints of recent times has been shown only in secret to a few and in the private relationships of life. Bernard's was shown pre-eminently in his external dealings with men.

Here again his biographers have done Bernard a disservice. They show him at war only with open heresy and vice and tyranny. In fact, he denounced and fought against falsehood, worldliness and weakness wherever he saw them, however revered or exalted might be the object of his attack. A more faithful servant of the pope could not be found, but neither could one be found who had a clearer sense of the duties and obligations of that sublime office. Bernard did not hesitate to tell a pope what he should do, and what he should have done; he did not hesitate to tell him that he had neglected his duty.

Biographers are apt to give the impression that only simoniacs and interlopers were Bernard's targets. In fact, he did not hesitate to thwart, denounce and uproot bishops who to the eyes of their contemporaries were passable, even respectable, or at least were secure and powerful. If he was convinced that a bishop or an abbot or a community was bad, he said so. He said it very loud and clear, and went on saying it. He did not mince his words or pull his punches.

If he was persuaded that the great Henry of Winchester, legate of the Apostolic See and brother

of a king, disgraced his high office and his monastic profession by his ambition and his riches, he called him, in well chosen scriptural phrases, a whore and a wizard. The bishop's protégé, the Archbishop of York, was, said Bernard, an idol set up in the temple of the Lord. If authority was remiss in acting or punishing, Bernard lashed authority and gave it no rest till, like the judge in the parable, as if fearful of physical violence, it was driven to act.

But behind the fire and the eloquence the courage was not that of a knight-errant, still less that of a Don Quixote; it was the fortitude of Christ, despised as a Galilean and unlettered in the law, challenging and accusing the priests and lawyers because they set human respect and the traditions of men before the law of God. It was a fortitude that owed its clear sight of God's truth to a purity won in the secret conflict with pain and fatigue and physical illness.

The legendary austerity, the reputation for drastic and intolerant action, and the ceaseless activity of Bernard, suggest to the casual reader an iron constitution and physical powers that answered every call made upon them. Assuredly he came of a race of fighters, and had imposed his leadership upon the whole family while yet a young man in the world; he was tall and handsome as a youth, with a charm and grace of manner, and a gaiety which he never lost.

But from his early years in the monastery, whether from unhealthy food, or excessive fasting, or from some cause that eluded medical science then, his health broke down utterly and never mended. For the whole of his adult life he was an invalid, brought more than once or twice to the edge of the grave.

His earliest and most discerning biographer, William of St Thierry, who spoke from long and loving observation, gives realistic details which establish beyond all doubt the painful and humiliating symptoms which made Bernard a burden to others as well as himself. During the greater part of his life, his stomach repeatedly rejected all solid food.

He was, after his first years at Clairvaux, too weak to take part in any manual work; even walking exhausted him; and to his lifelong friends the characteristic memory was of a Bernard seated, emaciated and in pain. It was in such circumstances, which to most would seem an excuse for self-indulgence, self-pity and inertia, that Bernard guided his monks, made his foundations, wrote his treatises and journeyed across the Alps.