



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

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR C

24th July 2022

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and Fr Samuel Kapani

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

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 Samuel Kapani, 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 Samuel Kapani

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 25/7/2022-31/7/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 25/7	6.30pm
Tuesday 26/7	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 27/7	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 28/7	9.30am
Friday 29/7	7.30am & 9.30am

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 30/7	5.00pm
Sunday 31/7	8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 25/7/2022-31/7/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 25/7	No Mass
Tuesday 26/7	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 27/7	9.30am
Thursday 28/7	7.30am
Friday 29/7	9.30am
Saturday 30/7	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 30/7	5.00pm
Sunday 31/7	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 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 17TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME-Sr Mary Fermio

The most often used and most well-known prayer is the **Our Father**, known by all Christians. A prayer given by Jesus and containing several kinds of prayers e.g. praise, intercession and forgiveness. Often, we can say this prayer without any thought to the meaning of the words.

In a book called **What's so Amazing about Grace by Philip Yancey**, a story is told of a German soldier meeting a group of Polish people. His intention was to ask forgiveness for the crimes committed against the Polish people during the second World War. The people present were having a difficulty with this, such were their memories and personal experiences. Towards the end of the meeting, the German soldier suggested they pray the Our Father together. When they came to the words "Forgive us our....." one Polish man stopped and said: "I have to forgive you, or I will never be able to say this prayer again!"

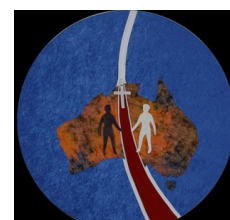
Sometimes, it is beneficial to pray this prayer very slowly, reflecting on each phrase.

Maybe we also have someone we find it hard to forgive. As someone once said

"This is the most dangerous prayer of all".

We are asking God to forgive us in the same way we extend forgiveness to others. Wow!

Uniting Church, Traralgon
Used with permission



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Looking for love? Needing hope? Seeking God's love? Find peace, hope and love through the Catholic Faith. Call our Catechist Naim Chdid to learn more 0437 004 790. Classes begin on the 23rd August at 7.00pm at St Anthony's Church of Padua, 67-75 Exford Road, Melton South (Age 16+).

FOSTERING MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH FAITH By Dr. Benjamin Arulanandhu

These sessions are intended to strengthen our knowledge about mental health, and how to improve mental health outcomes through faith. Who should attend? All are welcome and is not limited to those with mental health concerns. These sessions are intended to journey together in Faith. 8 sessions, every Wednesday starting from 17th August in St Anthony's Meeting room 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

APPEAL FOR THE PROPAGATIO OF THE FAITH –THANK YOU

Thank You! Your support of this year's Appeal for the Propagation of the Faith enables Church workers in 1047 mission dioceses to offer Good News to their local communities. Thank you for contributing to the amounts of **\$475.00** which was raised by **St Bernard's** and **\$488.35** which was raised by **St Anthony's** community for Catholic Mission. Our partnership with local churches in over 160 countries is dependent upon the prayerful and financial support of many. Your support this year will enable Catholic Mission to provide nutrition programs in Ethiopia, along with scholarships for rural children and pastoral care and vocational training for women in Meki.

ST VINNIES WINTER APPEAL-NEXT WEEKEND

We will have a special collection next weekend to support the St Vinnies Winter Appeal. The annual Winter Fundraising Appeal plays a vital role each year in enabling the good works of the Society and, with your support, we hope to achieve a strong result in order to sustain our varied good works into the future. The theme of this year's Winter Appeal is 'Make it Stop', focusing on the importance of providing safety to families and individuals fleeing domestic violence. Domestic violence is a major cause of poverty, while the experience of poverty can also make it harder for women to break free and start a new life.

Please give generously, thank you.

THE SOLEMNITY OF ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday 13th August 2022 from 2.00pm -Our Lady of Ta Pinu Shrine. Please see flyer on notice board.

SPECIAL COLLECTION-PETER'S PENCE

Last weekend we had a special collection for the Peter's Pence Appeal, St Anthony's raised \$745.00 and St Bernard's raised \$300.00. Thank you for your generosity.

ST ANTHONY'S

SAVE THE DATE - Liturgy Formation Session - Sat,30th July 2022

All Readers, Extraordinary Ministers, Mass Coordinators and Choir members are required to attend this Liturgy Formation Session scheduled for Saturday, 30th July 2022 from 9am to 11am at the Padua Hall. Please save this date!

VINNIES SOUP VAN SERVICE IN THE MELTON AREA.

We are looking for expressions of interest to help with the Soup Van Service. The program would provide a regular evening meal service at a fixed location and time to people experiencing disadvantage and homelessness in the Melton Area.

Email us at soupvans@svdp-vic.org.au or scan the QR code on the notices on the Church noticeboards. Thank you.

ST BERNARD'S

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP

Sincere thanks to Godwin and his committee for allowing interested parishioners from St Bernard's to attend the well-organized and informative workshop. How fortunate we are to have our three priests committed to safeguarding legislation. Their attendance was appreciated. Our volunteers and those in charge of any parish groups are reminded that all safeguarding paperwork must have been completed and placed in the box in our gathering space or handed in to the presbytery. If difficulties or hold-ups have been encountered in completing required forms, please contact me without delay.

Margaret Love

St VINCENT de PAUL FESTIVAL MASS

Our St Vincent's de Paul Festival Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am Mass at St Bernard's on Sunday 28th August. The music will be provided by the Byham family.

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH CORPORATE DINNER

VENUE: Tabcorp Park 2 Ferris Road Melton 3337
DATE: 22nd October 2022
TIME: 6pm till late
DRESS CODE: Black Tie
ADULT: \$100 per head (3-course meal)
CHILD: \$50 (12 years and under)

LIVE BAND—FUN FOR ALL—GROUP ENTERTAINMENT

RSVP: 1st October 2022
YOUR SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED AND WILL GO TOWARDS FUNDING THE EXTENSION OF PADUA HALL
CONTACT: JULIE S: 0402 182 458
ANA T: 0406 503 363



WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 30th & 31st July

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: Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Romeo Sacris

5.00pm: Rebecca Comini

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Geoff Sutton

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: Natalie & Ron

10.30am: Godwin & Lillian

5.00pm: Leonia & Godwin

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Marjorie Barker, Marie Dove, Wayne Dunn, Michelle Ivey, Coral Mary Manuel, Fortunato Portelli, Patrick Portelli, & Francis Vella

Please pray for the Sick:

Hazel Michael, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Jamie Coghlan, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, 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, 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: Margaret Love

10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 30th & 31st July

5.00pm: Evana Miesen

8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil

10.30am: Samantha Butler

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

July: Josephite Associates

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Jack DeLuca

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

Zvonko & Mary Benac, Josephine Borg, Sr Cathy Dean rsj, Tony Dickinson, Bill Griffith, & Bronwyn Kays.

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, 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: 30th & 31st July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: To be advised
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS—THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm Vigil: Technica Samarasinghe & family
8.30am: Joyce Stellini & Mary Saliba
10.30am: Romeo and Maribel Sacris

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Rosabella



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.
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.



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 30th & 31st July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Piety Stall will open after Saturday 5pm Mass & Sunday 8.30 Mass
30th July: Dianne Shelly
31st July: Maj Tung

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Tup Shea



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

July: Stephen Millington

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.
The Vinnies Store is located at 8 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh. The store is open 7 days a week. If you are able to volunteer and would like some more information, please contact the Store Manager on 8199 4205.

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

The Neighbours' Place is a Christian not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to serve people of the **Moorabool Shire**, west of Melbourne Australia, who are disadvantaged, at risk or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family and who are in need of emergency food relief.

NILS is a **No Interest Loans Scheme** for assistance of up \$1500 for things like white goods, furniture and minor car repairs to keep life going.

We are located at [77 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh](#)
Phone: 03 5367 6222
Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au
Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Closed on public holidays.

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food provides a free community meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays), in the Uniting Church Hall, Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh. Meals are served up at 12noon. All are welcome and this is a free event. No need to book, just come along.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427 Mon—Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm
Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

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

Dear Parishioners

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

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

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 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 Samuel or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

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

Group 1: Wayne & Marian Muller 0400 007 286

Group 2: Gavin & Allison Pereira 0419 178 970

Group 3: Louise Sciberras 0401 413 439

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

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING Genesis 18:20-32

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'
The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'
Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No,' he replied, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will be only forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'
Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 137

Commentator: Lord, on the day I called for help,
you answered me.

All: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

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.
Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes.

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.

Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

SECOND READING Colossians 2:12-14

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 11:1-13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy,
your kingdom come;
give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.
And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it to him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants. 'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Eccl 1:2, 2:21-23;

Second Reading: Col 3:1-5, 9-11;

Gospel: Lk 12:13-21



St Lawrence of Brindisi I

Apostolic Doctor

St Lawrence of Brindisi Catholic Primary School has opened its doors this year to students. It is located at 31 Waterway Boulevard in the Weir Views estate and is part of the Parish of St Anthony of Padua, Melton South. In view of that, we will run a few articles over the next few Sundays on who St Lawrence is. His feast day fell during the past week, on Thursday, July 22.

On March 19, 1959, Pope John XXIII signed the brief declaring St Lawrence of Brindisi a Doctor of the Church, with the title Apostolic Doctor. He is the first Capuchin Franciscan thus to be honoured, the third Doctor of the entire Franciscan family (St Bonaventure and St Anthony of Padua are the others), the 30th saint to be declared a Doctor by the Church, and the seventh to be so honoured in the 20th century.

Brief Sketch

St Lawrence was born in Brindisi, Italy, July 22, 1559, the son of Guglielmo Rossi and Elizabetta Masella. He was baptised Giulio Cesare. Educated by the Conventual Franciscan Friars, the youth went to Venice to complete his studies. He had a facility for languages and learned to speak French, German, Latin, and Spanish in addition to his native Italian. He also had a thorough knowledge of Greek, Hebrew, and Syriac.

He became a Capuchin in the Venetian Province of the Order in 1575, studied philosophy and theology at the University of Padua, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1582. Soon he acquired fame as a preacher and was in great demand. His superiors, as well as popes and kings, were so quick to recognise his prudence and other virtues and gifts, that his services for the benefit of others were employed from 1590 till his death in 1619. He ruled several provinces of his Order in Italy and the Alps, acted as delegate of popes to various rulers and gave counsel to the latter for many years.

Sent in 1599 to Austria and Bohemia to help in the fight against Protestantism, Lawrence took with him 12 other friars, whom he dispatched to Vienna, Graz, and Prague. Even before his arrival in these countries, Lawrence was known as an austere religious, a cultured and famous preacher, and an efficacious controversialist. So great an impression did his sermons make in

Prague, that the Protestants were aroused to action and tried in vain to have Emperor Rudolf II expel Lawrence from the realm.

In 1595, the Turks entered Hungary. When Europe rose up against them, the Imperial Army chose Lawrence to be head of all the chaplains. After one of the most decisive battles of the ensuing war, October 9-12, 1601, at Stuhlvisenburg (Alba Reale), in which only 18,000 Christians fought 80,000 Turks under Mohammed III, many of the officers and men of the Christian army gave Lawrence the merit of having led them to victory. Filled with courage, Lawrence took command, grasped his famous Cross with which he worked miracles, and led the soldiers to battle and victory. (His Cross is still used by the Superior Generals of the Capuchin Order.) Lawrence lamented the fact that he lost the chance of shedding his blood as a martyr for Christ.

Controversialist and Diplomat

After three years as Vicar General of his Order (1602-05), Lawrence engaged in a preaching crusade against the heretics in Prague (1606-10) and in Munich (1610-13), where he was well received by his friend Duke Maximilian II. He laboured at the constitution of the League of German Catholic Princes, which would oppose the Union of Protestant Princes. As the result of an official mission to the court of Madrid, Lawrence obtained the adhesion of King Phillip III to this plan, as well as financial aid for it. Through the intervention of Cardinal Dietrichstein, Commissary General of the Empire at the court of Pope Paul V, Lawrence was kept for a time in Munich.

Other diplomatic missions followed. He was sent to Tyrol by Paul V to bring about peace; then to Madrid as papal representative. From 1613 to 1618 Lawrence was an Assistant General of his Order, after which period he retired to a friary to devote himself to prayer and study.

However, Paul V sent him on another diplomatic mission to Madrid and Lisbon (1618-19) in defence of the city of Naples against the tyranny of Vice-Roy Pietro Teller Giron di Osuna. His mission accomplished, Lawrence was on his way back to Italy when he took sick at Lisbon. He died there on his 60th birthday, July 22, 1619. His body rests at Lisbon in a monastery of the Poor Clares. He was beatified by Pope Pius VI in 1783 and canonised by Pope Leo XIII in 1881.