



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 Fourth Sunday of Easter-Year B

25th April 2021

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/Wednesday/Friday 9.00am-4.00pm
Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm Thursday 9.00am-5.30pm
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 BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid
Parish Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 9.00am-1.00pm
Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au
Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au
St Bernard's School Principal: Emilio Scalzo
19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340
Phone: (03) 5366 5800
Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Regional College - Melton (Years 7-12)
Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000
Website: www.crcmelton.com.au

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Sue Alexander	0400 171 843
Naim Chdid	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	0431 386 473
Sally Markulin	0405 814 490
EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson	

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
Peter Kennedy	0407 778 119
Maira Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502
EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Fr Marcus Goulding and Emilio Scalzo	

CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's -Karina Dunne, Lorraine Tellis & Geetha Vincent
St Bernard's -Dolores Turcsan

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.

If you need a Priest in the case of an emergency please call 0403 435 471

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S 26/4-2/5 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 26th April: St Mark, Evangelist	6.30pm
Tuesday 27th April:	9.15am
Holy Hour	5.30pm
Week 7 Novena to St Anthony	6.15pm
Mass	6.30pm
Wednesday 28th April: St Peter Chanel	7.30am & 9.15am
Thursday 29th April: St Catherine of Siena	9.15am
Friday 30th April:	7.30am & 9.15am
Memorial Mass	7.00pm
First Saturday Mass	8.30am
Saturday Vigil 1st May:	5.00pm
Sunday 2nd May:	8.30am
	10.30am
	5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass

ST BERNARD'S 26/4-2/5 BACCHUSMARSH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 26th April: St Mark, Evangelist	No Mass
Tuesday 27th April:	7.30am
Wednesday 28th April: St Peter Chanel	9.30am
Thursday 29th April: St Catherine of Siena	7.30am
Friday 30th April:	9.30am
Saturday 1st May: (EF Latin 1962)	9.00am
Saturday Vigil 1st May:	5.00pm
Sunday 2nd May:	8.30am
	10.30am
<u>A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be held each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm</u>	
<u>Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass</u>	

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

A VIRTUAL CONVOCATION OF CATHOLICS, ON THE FUTURE OF CATHOLICISM IN AUSTRALIA IN THIS YEAR OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL. Sunday 2 May 2021, 9am to 10.30am:

You are invited to a webinar, a virtual Convocation of Catholics, on the Future of Catholicism in Australia in this year of the Plenary Council or receive a recording later.

Sr. Joan Chittister will address the Convocation on renewal directions, priorities, hopes and aspirations.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge as President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting the Convocation with a greeting.

The Convocations will be public and free. Participants can register to attend from home via their computer, individually or with a group.

A link and instructions will be sent to all registrants.

Register [here: https://garratt1.wufoo.com/forms/s1698nzm1qsjym3/](https://garratt1.wufoo.com/forms/s1698nzm1qsjym3/)

EASTER REFLECTION ON COMPANIONSHIP

Many of you would have watched the program depicting "old people" with four year olds and been delighted, as I have been, to see the connection growing between the child and the adult and real love and companionship develop, giving life, hope and confidence to both. We can learn a lot from how this grows as they share time and activities.

In the time of Jesus, the shepherd developed a relationship with his sheep, few in number, each one named and lead out to pasture. They were watched over, protected and cared for day and night. And real companionship must have developed between the sheep and shepherd, each knowing the other's idiosyncrasies, trusting in the care given, knowing to follow him is to be safe and well fed.

Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd, who knows his sheep and they know him. We are called to know Jesus, to make him our friend and companion. How do we do this? The only way is to spend time with Jesus, to sit with him in silent companionship, to talk to him, listen to him, share our lives with him, read about him and reflect on his life and how we are called to be like him.

Is Jesus your companion on your journey?

Mary Fermio rsj

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

ST BERNARD'S

SERIES OF FAITH FORMATION ON OUR LADY —COMMENCING 3rd MAY 2021

Lectio on Mary. **Venue:** St Anthony's Meeting Room **Time:** 7.00pm

Monday 3rd of May: The New Eve **Monday 10th of May:** The New Ark **Monday 17th of May:** Mother of Messiah.

Monday 24th of May: The Queen Mother **Monday 31st of May:** The Perpetual Virgin **Monday 7th of June:** Mother of Sorrows.

Please add your name to the 'expression of interest clipboard' in the Church foyer if you will be attending these talks. Thank you.



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE



**Corpus Christi College and
Catholic Theological College**
Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal

Support the training of priests for tomorrow's Church
Your (tax deductible) donation will support the living arrangements and
education for the Corpus Christi College seminarians.

Donate via our website: www.ctc.edu.au



ARCHBISHOP PETER'S VISIT

Archbishop Peter will visit our Parish on **Sunday 25th July**
(10.30am Mass) to bless our newly renovated Church.

MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass will be held on **Friday 30th April 7.00pm** for
families that have lost a loved one in **2020/21**. You are welcome
to bring a photo of your loved one. We will have a light supper
following the service. Please bring a plate to share.

WEEKDAY MASS TIME CHANGE

Parishioners, please note, with the increase in school traffic
during the mornings, we have consulted with many of our
Parishioners who attend our 9.15am Mass and have decided
from the **4th May 2021** our **9.15am Mass** will be held at **9.30am**.

ALL VOLUNTEERS PLEASE NOTE

All volunteers must now register their contact details with the
Parish Office. If you haven't ever filled in a Census Card can you
please get one from the back of the Church, fill it out and return it
to the Parish Office. Alternatively, you can email the Parish
Office on meltonsouth@cam.org.au with your details.

Thanks from Lesley Morffew

MOVIE NIGHT— The Shack

The movie nights will be held on the 4th Sunday of the month.
The next one will be held this **Sunday 25th April, 6.30pm** in the
meeting room. BYO snacks. The movie will be 'The Shack'.

MEAT TASTING FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all our Parishioners that supported our Meat
Tasting Fundraiser, our Parish raised \$1,000.00.

ANZAC DAY PRAYER—COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the
peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the
courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of
war. We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain,
but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come.
That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve
may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth. This we
pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the
world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST BERNARD'S SUNDAY MASS TIMES CHANGING TO 8.30AM & 10.30AM on 1/2 May 2021

Parishioners please note the 10.30am Mass will begin from next
Sunday 2nd May.

INAUGURAL OPEN HOUSE PARISH LUNCH NEXT SUNDAY!

Prior to lockdown, morning tea was provided by different parish
groups on a monthly basis. We are pleased to resume this social
occasion as 'Open House', a free lunch offered after the 10.30am
Mass on the first Sunday of each month. The inaugural Open
House will be held in the Hall after the 10.30am Mass from
11.30am – 1.30pm (lunch served at Midday) on Sunday, 2nd May
2021 and will feature a variety of soups and delicious bread
provided by the Van Der Linden and Brennan families. To help
with catering, registration through the parish office or website
contact page.

CHANGE OF TIME FOR INFANT BAPTISMS

With the coming time- change of our 10.00am Mass to 10.30am,
Infant Baptisms will now be celebrated at Midday on the first and
third Sundays of the month.

ST BERNARD'S CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choir rehearsals held in the Church. New members welcome.

9.30am, Sunday 25th April 2021

No rehearsal on Wednesday 28th April 2021

9.30am Sunday 2nd May 2021

PIETY STALL Commencing May 2 the Piety Stall will now open
10am-10.30am on Sundays.

SENIOR'S FREE MORNING TEA Wednesday 5th May 2021

Bacchus Marsh Public Town Hall from 10.00am. The morning tea
will begin with a short presentation from an infection control
expert from Djerriwarrh Health Service about COVID
vaccinations, risk reduction and socialising safely. Limited
numbers, please rsvp 5366 7100 or 0437 177 031.



WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 1st & 2nd 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: Aloysious Dacunha
8.30am: Leonia Jessop
10.30am: Karina Dunne
5.00pm: Rebecca Comini

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Ann Tennakoon & Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Lillian Christian & Naim Chdid
10.30am: Richard Tuala & Elaine Lacey
5.00pm: Not rostered

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm Vigil: Carmen & Godwin
8.30am: Lina & Julie
10.30am: Lillian & Godwin
5.00pm: Leonia & Annonika

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Jennifer Barrow, George Bonello, John DeBrincat, Bernie Lavery, Honorato E Miranda, Kenneth & Ella Rule and John David Schuler.

Please pray for the Sick:

Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Bruce Hynes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, Kevin Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Sherine Pereira, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Uatoa Tuigamala, Clint Abela Wadge, Wai Walsh & John Xuereb and all those who have requested our prayers. **(PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)**

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father we lift up all those who are facing illness. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love.
 Amen



ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 1st & 2nd May

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Kratochvil Family
8.30am: Moira Ross
10.30am: Carmel Shea

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Stuart Robertson
8.30am: Peter Lafranchi
10.30am: Cheryl Stevens

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

May: Maureen Zahra

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Judi Sherri

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

Muriel Burt, Carmel Fitzgerald, Patrick Leonard, Paul Micallef and Neville Thompson.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Daniel Andrews, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliardi, 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

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 1st & 2nd May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Judy Johnson
10.30am: Wina Tunogbanua

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS- THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm Vigil: No Cuppa
8.30am: Geoff & Debra Sutton
10.30am: Gladys Clarke &
Judy Van Hoos

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: Ropeta



CHURCH CLEANING

Lorelle Porter and a Team of Volunteers.

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. 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 : 1st & 2nd May

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Jan & Colm

CHURCH FLOWERS

May: To be Advised



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-

Front Garden:
Back/Side Garden:
Parish Centre: Roster Pending
Carpark/Pines:
Back Paddock:

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

The Baptism Preparation Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Time: **6.30pm-7.45pm**.

Next preparation meeting : **Thursday 27th May 2021**

Location: **St Anthony's Meeting Room**



Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Both parents are required to attend these meetings. **We kindly request adults only** and a copy of the birth certificate.
Please be advised that Baptism applications must be submitted 2 months in advance.

Please contact the Parish Office if you have any queries.

BAPTISM TEAM: St Anthony's: **Agnes & Merla** St Bernard's: **Dolores**

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: **Carmen Vella**

0429 435 724

Group 2: **Gordon & Gladys Clarke**

0402 021 435

Group 3: **Tony & Stella Cochrane**

9743 6340



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the Month-3.00pm

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle,
be our protection against the wickedness
and snares of the Devil; may God rebuke him,
we humbly pray, and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly host,
by the power of God, cast into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits, who prowl
through the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.



NEO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

[bow during the next line]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 117

Commentator: The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.

All: The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:

it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end.

The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31;

Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:18-24;

Gospel: Jn 15:1-8



SECOND READING John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 10:11-18

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd

and the sheep do not belong to him,
abandons the sheep and runs away

as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man
and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my own

and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have

that are not of this fold,

and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock

and one shepherd.

The Father loves me,

because I lay down my life

in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me;

I lay it down of my own free will,

and as it is in my power to lay it down,

so it is in my power to take it up again;

and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Year of Saint Joseph VII

The chivalry of Saint Joseph

Today more than ever, the Church needs the noble strength and practical wisdom of the patron saint of fathers.

In the third panel of the Mérode altarpiece, a 15th-century triptych also known as *Annunciation with St Joseph and Donors*, St Joseph is busy building a mousetrap. This is probably a reference to St Augustine's metaphor of the cross as a mousetrap set for the devil. St Joseph is therefore doing his bit as guardian of the nascent Church by helping to construct a trap for the devil.

In this and many other depictions of the domestic life of the Holy Family, St Joseph is portrayed as a man who “sorts” problems in a practical way. He finds solutions by being both brave and prudent. He had to preserve Our Lady's dignity when she was found to be with child before their marriage. He had to get his family to safety when Herod's henchmen slaughtered the Holy Innocents. Like the medieval Christian knights who later made arduous journeys to protect pilgrims and sacred places in the Holy Land, St Joseph had to face danger and deal with it.

“In St Joseph, justice is combined with tenderness, strength and decisiveness with flexibility and openness to the will of God,” said the late Catholic writer Stratford Caldecott in a 2002 address. “He is an adventurer, too, like the ‘questing knights’ of later legend.”

Quoting the French poet Charles Péguy, Caldecott added: “There is only one adventurer in the world, as can be seen very clearly in the modern world — the father of a family. Even the most desperate adventurers are nothing compared to him.”

Father Jean-Jacques Olier, who founded the Society of St Sulpice in the 17th century, argued that St Joseph is unique among the saints because of the mysterious bond that exists between him and God the Father. A multitude of saints have represented Christ in this or that aspect of their heroism, but

By Tracy Rowland, www.catholiceducation.org

only St Joseph, among all the saints, has a special vocation to represent God the Father.

Today, St Joseph is the patron saint of fathers — both fathers by nature and spiritual fathers, of whom priests are the obvious example. He is also the patron saint of those who grow up without a father, often as a consequence of the devil's war against the family — a war in which fatherhood is under systematic attack.

If you want to attack the Logos, you need to attack fatherhood. If you want to attack the priesthood, you need to attack fatherhood. If you want to attack the family, you need to attack fatherhood. The powers of darkness have not yet abandoned their project to cripple humanity, their defeat at Calvary notwithstanding. The destruction of the family is their endgame strategy, as Sister Lucia of Fátima testified on the basis of the private revelations she received.



The deepest meaning of chivalry is to use one's strength to defend the faith and the vulnerable, and to do so without any regard for one's own self-interest. Nobility exists precisely in self-surrender, which is clearly exemplified in St Joseph, who was noble by disposition as well as by birth.

St Bernardino of Siena commented: “St Matthew establishes the direct line of all the fathers from Abraham to the spouse of the Virgin, clearly demonstrating that all patriarchal, royal and princely dignity came together in him.”

All chivalrous men, all children without fathers, all priests on the front lines of a cosmic battle, all women who wish they had a knight to protect them — all would do well to pray to St Joseph as St Teresa of Ávila did:

O holy protector of the Holy Family, protect us children of the Lord Jesus Christ; keep far from us the errors and evils which

corrupt the world; assist us from Heaven in our struggles against the powers of darkness. And as you once protected the Divine Child from the cruel edict of Herod, now defend the Church and keep it safe from all dangers and threats. Amen.