



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 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

27th June 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:
Mon/Thu/Fri 9.00am-4.00pm
Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm Wednesday 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-12noon
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
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

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



St Anthony's
QR code

Location code E2B Y8D



St Bernard's
QR code

Location code C7N T6M

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S 28/6-4/7 MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES: No pre-booking for weekday Masses

Monday 28th June	6.30pm
Tuesday 29th June Sts Peter & Paul	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 30th June	9.30am
Thursday 1st July	9.30am
Friday 2nd July	9.30am

WE WILL BE RETURNING TO OUR NORMAL WEEKEND

MASS TIMETABLE

Pre-booking essential for Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 3rd July:	5.00pm
Sunday 4th July:	8.30am
	10.30am
	5.00pm

Please book through the Parish website or ask someone with internet access to book on your behalf.

St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish | Melton South

Attendees at all Masses must wear masks and check-in with the QR code upon arrival.

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

ST BERNARD'S 28/6-4/7 BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES:

Monday 28th June *	No Mass
Tuesday 29th June ** Sts Peter & Paul	7.30am
Wednesday 30th June	9.30am
Thursday 1st July	7.30am
Friday 2nd July	9.30am
Saturday Vigil 3rd July	5.00pm
Sunday 4th July	8.30am
	10.30am

* Rosary and Adoration every Monday evening 7.30pm

** A Holy Hour of Eucharist Adoration will be held every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm

Attendees at all Masses must wear masks and check-in with the QR code upon arrival.

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

MASS TIME

Saturday Vigil	6.30pm
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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.

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

REFLECTION ON HAVING FAITH

Every time we turn on a switch, a tap or the key in our vehicle, we believe something will result – we have faith! Faith that whoever set this up, or invented it, has made it possible for my use.

In today's Gospel, Jesus praises two people for their faith, resulting in return from death and healing of a chronic illness. To the parent he says: "Do not be afraid; only have faith." To the woman, who had suffered for years, and who believed if she just touched his cloak, she would be healed, Jesus said: "Your faith has restored you to health."

Mary MacKillop's faith was to help her survive excommunication, banishment from Adelaide, opposition from priests and Bishops, because she believed she was doing God's will. To Mgr Kirby in Rome she wrote on 26/8/1873:

I leave it then to our dear Lord's all wise Providence to direct as He sees best, and my only prayer is that HIS Will may be done in the matter. I know well that if He so will it, He will dispose things in the way I desire, and if not, I shall be equally satisfied the other way.

Let us pray that we may also have this attitude when we pray – to have faith in God's care for me, God's love for me.

Mary Fermio rsj

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

ST BERNARD'S

MELTON SOUTH & BACCHUS MARSH WINTER MISSION

Join us as we gather together for a week of renewal and deepening in faith.

Date: 30th June-4th July (Please see flyer for detailed timetable and to register)

Venue: Padua Hall 67-75 Exford Rd, Melton South

Hosted by: The Missionaries of God's Love Brothers

EDUCATING IN CHRIST

Preeminent educator, Dr Gerard O'Shea, author of 'Educating in Christ', will be speaking about the sensitive periods in the life of a child which parents can teach certain doctrines and spiritual practices to their children.

Date: 4th July 2021

Venue: Foyer of the St Anthony's Church

Time: 12:15pm-1:15pm (Child-minding will be available for parents who wish to use this service).

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

This weekend we will have the Peter's Pence Collection, the collection occurs yearly on the Sunday closest to June 29, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. Support for such papal efforts has its roots in the scriptural message to take care of the poor and is an expression of unity with the Holy Father. Peter's Pence expresses this unity in two ways: through the ongoing activities of the Holy See and through the charitable works of the Holy Father on behalf of those most in need. Please give generously.

PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR SUNDAY MASSES

Mass numbers are limited. This means that **pre-booking is essential for the Vigil and Sunday services.**

Please book through the parish website or ask someone with internet access to book on your behalf.

Pre-booking will not be required for weekday Masses.

WE ARE RETURNING TO OUR NORMAL

WEEKEND MASS TIMETABLE

ARCHBISHOP PETER'S VISIT

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

WWCC

Those parishioners who have applied for a **Working With Children's Check** also need to be in our Census. If this applies to you can you, please get a Census Card from the rear of the church, fill it in and then give it to the Mass Co-ordinator to be given to the Parish Office. Thank you.

LATIN MASS

Latin Mass will not be held on 3rd, 10th and 17th July. Latin Mass will resume on 24th July.

OPEN HOUSE PARISH LUNCH SUNDAY 4th July

All parishioners are warmly invited to our next Open House Lunch immediately following the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 4th July. Shake off the lockdown with a bowl of hot soup and faith-filled company. No RSVP required.



STS. PETER & PAUL—FEAST DAY 29TH JUNE

On June 29 the Church celebrates the feast day of Sts. Peter & Paul. As early as the year 258, there is evidence of an already lengthy tradition of celebrating the solemnities of both Saint Peter and Saint Paul on the same day.

Together, the two saints are the founders of the See of Rome, through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there.

St. Peter spent his last years in Rome, leading the Church through persecution and eventually being martyred in the year 64. He was crucified upside-down at his own request, because he claimed he was not worthy to die as his Lord. He was buried on Vatican hill, and St. Peter's Basilica is built over his tomb.

St Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome, where he was beheaded in the year 67. He is buried in Rome in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Source: Catholic news agency-website



WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 3rd & 4th 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: Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Amy Honrade
10.30am: Annonica Mavaega
5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Ann Tennakoon & Aloysious
8.30am: Lillian Christian & Geoff Sutton
10.30am: Doris Bonello & George Bonello
5.00pm Not rostered

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm Vigil: Annonica & Carmen
8.30am: Lina & Julie
10.30am: Deepa & Godwin
5.00pm: Leonia & Carmen

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Cecil Fernandez & Peter John Thomas.

Please pray for the Sick: Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Melanie Fue Bruce Hynes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Damien Michael, Kevin Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Maiava Kuno Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Sherine Pereira, Peter Poole, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Uatoa Tuigamala, Dolores Turcsan, 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: 3rd & 4th July

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Miesen Family
8.30am: Volunteer needed
10.30am: Volunteer needed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Geraldine Vereker
8.30am: Volunteer needed
10.30am: John Wilson

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Margaret Love

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Violet Borg, Mary Evans, Hazel Glasheen, Bronwyn Kays, Stan Mullane, Paul Murray, Rod Osborne, Audrey Peasley, David Rowen & Ted Shelly.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Chris, Josephine Cilia, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Marianne Cuskelly, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Leonie Kervin, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Brian Marshall, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Mary Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Catherine Time, Susan Trist, Dolores Turcsan, 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: 3rd & 4th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Kim Barton

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 24th & 25th July

5.00pm Vigil: To be advised
8.30am: Archbishop Peter's visit is
10.30am: scheduled for this weekend

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Rosabella



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

ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 3rd & 4th July

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: Sean Giani

CHURCH FLOWERS

July: Tup Shea



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@inet.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

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

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

Next preparation meeting : **Thursday 22nd July 2021**

Location: **St Anthony's MacKillop Room (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.

Visit our website for detailed information and application forms.

Please contact the Parish Office if you have any queries.

BAPTISM TEAM: St Anthony's: **Judy Johnson** St Bernard's: **Dolores Turcsan**

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



FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

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

Group 1: Jojo & Wilma Chua 0423 953 843

Group 2: Carolyn Cruz 0401 875 410

Group 3: Vilma Pinto 0400 070 263



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the Month-3.00pm

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

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



NEO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

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

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

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

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

[bow during the next line]

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

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

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

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

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

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

FIRST READING Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

Death was not God's doing,
he takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living.
To be - for this he created all;
the world's created things have health in them,
in them no fatal poison can be found,
and Hades holds no power on earth;
for virtue is undying.
Yet God did make man imperishable,
he made him in the image of his own nature;
it was the devil's envy that brought death into the world,
as those who are his partners will discover.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 29

Commentator: I will praise you, Lord,
for you have rescued me.

All: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts but a moment: his favour through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing,
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever.

I will praise you, Lord, for you have
rescued me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.

NEXT WEEK'S READING

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ezek 2:2-5;
Second Reading: 2 Cor 12:7-10;
Gospel: Mk 6:1-6



SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

You always have the most of everything - of faith, of eloquence, of understanding, of keenness for any cause, and the biggest share of our affection - so we expect you to put the most into this work of mercy too. Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was: he was rich, but he became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty. This does not mean that to give relief to others you ought to make things difficult for yourselves: it is a question of balancing what happens to be your surplus now against their present need, and one day they may have something to spare that will supply your own need. That is how we strike a balance: as scripture says: The man who gathered much had none too much, the man who gathered little did not go short.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death
and brought us life through his gospel.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered round him and he stayed by the lakeside. Then one of the synagogue officials came up, Jairus by name, and seeing him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is desperately sick. Do come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life.' Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed him; they were pressing all round him.

Now there was a woman who had suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years; after long and painful treatment under various doctors, she had spent all she had without being any the better for it, in fact, she was getting worse. She had heard about Jesus, and she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his cloak. 'If I can touch his clothes,' she had told herself 'I will be well again.' And the source of the bleeding dried up instantly, and she felt in herself that she was cured of her complaint. Immediately aware that power had gone out of him, Jesus turned around in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' His disciples said to him, 'You see how the crowd is pressing round you and yet you say, "Who touched me?"' But he continued to look all round to see who had done it. Then the woman came forward, frightened and trembling because she knew what had happened to her, and she fell at his feet and told him the whole truth. 'My daughter,' he said 'your faith has restored you to health; go in peace and be free from your complaint.'

While he was still speaking some people arrived from the house of the synagogue official to say, 'Your daughter is dead: why put the Master to any further trouble?' But Jesus had overheard this remark of theirs and he said to the official, 'Do not be afraid; only have faith.' And he allowed no one to go with him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. So they came to the official's house and Jesus noticed all the commotion, with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly. He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and crying? The child is not dead, but asleep.' But they laughed at him. So he turned them all out and, taking with him the child's father and mother and his own companions, he went into the place where the child lay. And taking the child by the hand he said to her, 'Talitha, kum!' which means, 'Little girl, I tell you to get up.' The little girl got up at once and began to walk about, for she was twelve years old. At this they were overcome with astonishment, and he ordered them strictly not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Year of Saint Joseph XVI

Theological reflections on Saint Joseph (5)

Devotion to Saint Joseph

Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman is particularly helpful in explaining the true connotation of devotion to a saint. His thought can be summarised thus: we *believe* that all the canonised saints are in heaven and that they were outstanding in the practice of their religion when they were on earth. This is something we hold on faith. But whereas we believe that there are any number of saints in heaven, we do not claim to have a special devotion to all of them. It would be foolish to claim that every Catholic has a special devotion to a Saint Achilles or to a Saint Casimir, though no one would deny they are numbered with the blessed.

On the other hand, devotion to a particular saint always means that the saint in question is held in high personal regard. Not only do we have particular reverence for the saint, but we are spiritually fascinated by his life, works and virtues. Somehow we are able spiritually to enter into his life; we seem to understand and grasp something of his unique spiritual genius. Not only that, but we *want to be influenced* by this saint because the way he lived and practised virtue on earth is viewed as a thing of compelling beauty.

Being devoted to a saint implies a personal conviction that the saint is a significant person, that he has become a meaningful person in our spiritual march towards perfection. We are persuaded that he fully understands us and takes a personal interest in our spiritual and material needs, and that he is pleased to be able to help us on our way.

By the grace of God, when we are led to have the attitude of reverent trust and confidence that we have been describing, is this not the same as declaring that a strong personal bond of affection and friendship has been established between ourselves and the saint we hold in veneration?

By Michael D. Griffin OCD, www.catholicculture.org

The popes encourage us to have devotion to God's saints. Naturally it is not possible for us to have strong devotion to every saint. Because of our limitations, we must be contented to venerate many of the saints only in a general way. But in the providence of God, it is desired that we have more than a general devotion to Saint Joseph because of the remarkable services he performed for Jesus and Mary.

This was underscored by Pope John XXIII in his talk to the Roman workers when he said:

"All the saints in glory assuredly merit honour and particular respect, but it is evident that Saint Joseph possesses a just title to a more sweet, more intimate and penetrating place in our hearts, belonging to him alone ... Here we are able to estimate completely all the greatness of Saint Joseph, not only by reason of the fact that he was close to Jesus and Mary, but also by the shining example he has given of all virtues."

Though the Church from the beginning was aware that Mary was given to be the spiritual mother of all, it is a fact that the consciousness of Saint Joseph as the spiritual father and protector of every Christian was only gradually arrived at. In the last one hundred years, the Church has taken ever more cognizance of the role of Saint Joseph. Obviously this devotion is a grace that has been reserved to this present age.

Cardinal Newman tells us that the Church always had *faith* in Saint Joseph from the beginning, but that *devotion* to him was slow in developing. Here are his words:

"Who, from his prerogatives and the testimony on which they come to us, had a greater claim to receive an early recognition among the faithful than he? A Saint of Scripture, the foster father of Our Lord, he was an object of the universal and absolute faith of the Christian world from the first, yet the devotion to him is comparatively of late date. When once it began, men seemed surprised that it had not been thought of before; and now they hold him next to the Blessed Virgin in their religious affection and veneration."