



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

PENTECOST SUNDAY-YEAR C

5th 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 6/6/22-12/6/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 6/6	6.30pm
Tuesday 7/6	9.30am
Holy Hour	5.30pm
Week 13 of the St Anthony's Novena	6.15pm
followed by Mass at	6.30pm
Wednesday 8/6	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 9/6	9.30am
Friday 10/6	7.30am & 9.30am

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 11/6	5.00pm
Sunday 12/6	8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 6/6/22-12/6/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 6/6	No Mass	Rosary	7.30pm
with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour			
Tuesday 7/6			7.30am
Holy Hour			7.30pm
Wednesday 8/6			9.30am
Thursday 9/6			7.30am
Friday 10/6			9.30am
Providence Mass			11.00am
Saturday 11/6			9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 11/6	5.00pm
Sunday 12/6	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 ON THE FEAST OF PENTECOST– Mary Fermio rsj

The song "I am a rock, I am an island" has a sad line "and a rock feels no pain and an island never dies"! Community is essential for each person, as we cannot survive alone. Community was an essential part of our First Peoples' lives. They had special gathering spaces for community events, for sharing their lives and their food.

The disciples of Jesus gathered as a community waiting for the Promise of Jesus, the one who would teach them. While waiting they prayed in the temple, they ate together, shared their hopes and dreams, remembered the life of Jesus, and grew as a close community as the days passed. And what a change occurred! No longer hiding and fearful, they faced the crowds, speaking of Jesus in languages "that all could understand". The Holy Spirit compelled them to **GO OUT**, to share the good news, to create communities across the known world.

We also have need of community, especially our Parish community, where we hear the Word of God, are nourished by the Bread of Life. Our gathering place at the Church, gives us the space where we can share a cuppa, express our need for prayers and receive the impetus to **GO OUT** and live the Gospel, because none of us is an island. We need each other.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

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

ST ANTHONY'S

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL-THIS SUNDAY

Our International Food Festival will be held this Sunday 5th June after the 10.30am Mass. Lots of delicious meals from a variety of cuisines will be available. Funds raised will go towards the extension of 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.

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. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

ST BERNARD'S

PARISH POTLUCK LUNCH -THIS SUNDAY

Our Parish Pot luck lunch will be held this Sunday after the 10.30am Mass. It will be held in the St Bernard's Parish Centre. Bring a plate to share - preferably with something on it! Food can be left in the Parish Centre prior to Mass. BYO drinks alcohol permitted. Tea & coffee provided.

MORNING TEA

Please join us for morning tea after the 8.30am Mass on the second Sunday of each month at St Bernard's parish. The next morning tea will be held on Sunday June 12th. Enquires: Meg Kennedy, 0403 696 645

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 Lerderderg St. In case of inclement weather, we will have a Holy Hour instead of the Procession.

PROPAGATION APPEAL-LAST WEEKEND

We raised \$475.00 in last weekend's special collection. The funds raised will go to providing life changing programs which aim to help prevent malnutrition in disadvantaged families in Ethiopia and support mission programs around the world. Thank you for your generosity.

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: 11th & 12th 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: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Amy Honrade
10.30am: Susan Malinov
5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Aloysious Dacunha
8.30am: Ron Howard
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: Natalie & Ron
8.30am: Julie & Lillian
10.30am: Godwin & Lillian
5.00pm: Annonica & Olen

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Gaitino Falzon

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

Seloti Alainuuese & Simon Borg

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

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 11th & 12th June

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil
10.30am: Samantha Butler

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Margaret Love

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

George Francis Vallence

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

Joan Blood, Kathleen Corrigan, Bill Dudley, Kevin Monagle, Peter Mullins, Norma Nichol, Frank O'Malley, Georgina Simic.

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: 11th & 12th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

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 : 11th & 12th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Piety Stall will open after Saturday 5pm Mass & Sunday 8.30 Mass
11th June: Jan & Colm
12th June: Jan Farmelo

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: Francis 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

***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 LaRose

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

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world
and that which contains all things
understands what is said, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 103

Commentator: Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

All: Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches.

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord.

Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

First Reading: Provo 8:22-31;
Second Reading: Rom 5:1-5;
Gospel: Jn 16:12-15



SECOND READING Romans 8:8-17 (Year C)

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 14:15-16, 23-26

Jesus said to his disciples
'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever.
'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my words.
And my word is not my own;
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

St Bernard of Clairvaux XII

Character of St Bernard, Part 1

St Bernard is one of the few saints who are figures in world history, whose personality and actions moulded the life of their day. He stands in this group, indeed, on more than one title: as a great religious statesman, as the leader and spokesman of a celebrated order, as a theologian, and as a writer and speaker of genius.

To the historian he is perhaps most remarkable for his achievement on the stage of Church politics. It is hard to name any other, not occupying the chair of St Peter — St Athanasius is the only possible rival — who so determined the policy and the fortunes of the Church as he. He confirmed one pope and instructed another; he confounded anti-popes and revolutionaries; he put down dynasts from their seats in Church and state; he determined the agenda at Councils; he sent Christendom on a crusade.

He challenged and engaged single-handed the greatest monastic confederation that the Western Church had seen, and the acutest mind that the new dialectic had tempered. And all the time he was drawing to his abbey of Clairvaux, and sending as colonists all over Europe, a *corps d'élite* that counted among its numbers a pope, cardinals, bishops, and many saints.

Had Bernard been no more than a Cistercian abbot, his fame would have been secure. When, at the age of 22 and in the year 1112, he arrived at the gates of Cîteaux as a postulant — with 29 relatives whom he had won to his ideal — the new abbey of Cîteaux, to outward sight, was on the point of foundering. Poverty, austerity and disease had killed many and deterred more.

With Bernard's arrival it was as if a great spring had been tapped. When he died, the progeny of Cîteaux numbered 339 houses, and his own abbey of Clairvaux had 68 daughters and 159 lineal descendants. As for the numbers of their monks, who shall tell them?

Bernard's magnetism was indeed irresistible. He could launch armies on the road to Jerusalem, and call legions to the cloister. Wherever he went, we are told, mothers feared for their sons, and brides for their husbands, as they were to do centuries later at the passage of Napoleon. The whole world, it was said, was turning into Cîteaux.

The Towering Figure

What was it in St Bernard that made him the towering figure that he was? Circumstances are no explanation of genius, but they may help it to expand, and undoubtedly one reason of St Bernard's influence was his long life as master of himself and in high place. Many saints — an Augustine, a Dominic, a Teresa, a Vincent — have spent many years or decades of their lives in finding their salvation or their vocation; others — a Gabriel or a Thérèse — have been made perfect in short space. For St Bernard, the decisive struggle was over before he came to Cîteaux; he was abbot at 25, and for almost 40 years he could act and speak as the father of an immense and

saintly family. Then, the age and the man were exactly matched. Moreover, the monastic ideal was acknowledged by the whole of Western Christendom; Bernard was at the heart of the greatest monastic revival the West had ever seen.

Every human personality is unique, and the richer and deeper the personality, the more is it distinguished from all others. Among the saints, *ex hypothesi* the most fully developed of all human beings, the variety is infinite.

Nevertheless, among the saints two broad classes appear. There are those who are roused and raised from a life of sin or mediocrity to sanctity, the so-called "twice-born", such as St Paul and St Augustine, and there are those whose life resembles, all due proportions guarded, those of Our Lady or St John the Baptist; they seem sealed and set apart to a dedicated life from the waters of Baptism.

With the former we can often watch the struggle between good and evil, with the latter we can only guess how they were called and strengthened to accept and not to fail, to cooperate and to receive, as wave after wave of grace came upon them.

St Bernard was clearly of this latter sort. From childhood, from infancy, he was a privileged soul. There is no hint, either in his writings or in his biographies, that he had ever closed his eyes to the light or slipped back. There was no great moral or psychological crisis in his youth. When he hesitated for a few months on the threshold of manhood, the choice was not between good and evil, God and the world, but between a life of letters and a life of solitude. Even then the hesitation was brief.

For the rest his life, so far as we can observe it, was a series of responses to the demand for a love exclusive and heroic, and because such a love of God exceeds our experience and strains our sympathies, biographers take refuge either in silence or devotional exclamations. Moreover, though he wrote so much and was such an artist in words, Bernard was not interested in his own past or his own growth, as were Augustine, Ailred and the two Teresas. Even when he speaks of himself it is, so to say, Bernard speaking of the historical Bernard rather than a soul revealing itself.

It is for this reason, perhaps, that for the many who admire St Bernard, either as a teacher or as a leader, or as a master of words and worker of wonders, there are few who have for him that personal love that the four saints just mentioned can evoke. With them we feel that we have a spark of kinship, however remote; they would understand and counsel us. With Bernard it is not so.

Yet this is not the true picture of him. Bernard could be all things to all men; his biographer tells us not only that his counsel was sought, by letter and face to face, all over Christendom, but that he was happiest and most himself in the daily relations with his monks. The same biographer, who knew him well, goes on to say that with his monks he was not only most himself, but that he used a simplicity of intercourse with them which the world did not know.

To be continued