



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

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR C

7th August 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 9.00am-11.30am 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	0457 042 695
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 8/8/2022-14/8/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 8/8	6.30pm
Tuesday 9/8	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 10/8	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 11/8	9.30am
Friday 12/8	7.30am & 9.30am

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 13/8	5.00pm
Sunday 14/8	8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 8/8/2022-14/8/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 8/8	No Mass
Tuesday 9/8	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 10/8	9.30am
Thursday 11/8	7.30am
Friday 12/8	9.30am
Providence Mass	11.00am
Saturday 13/8	9.00am
<u>Sunday Masses</u>	
Saturday 13/8	5.00pm
Sunday 14/8	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 19th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME-Sr Mary Fermio

Fear can be a positive thing which often prevents us from going into danger. But Fear can cripple a person, destroying their peace, their life, joy and happiness. Trust is the opposite of fear and allows one to face a situation. On my first hospital visit for surgery, I had taken with me a book **Psalms Now**. Feeling rather anxious about the next day, I read PS 23, and was amazed at how my fear dissipated and I felt a great trust in our Good Shepherd. A gift from my God.

The words "Do not be afraid" are found over 300 times in the Scriptures. Jesus uses them often to calm people, reassure them, to give them confidence in him. The Kingdom is already here Jesus tells us, and we are part of that Kingdom. God's love is with us, God walks with us, God carries us when we are needy and helpless. (**read Footprints**) If we can build our trust in God, we can be ready to go home to God knowing, God calls us and wants us to share that love.

Someone was once asked: "If you knew this was your last day on earth, how would you spend it?"
The reply was, "I would just keep on doing what I always do."

Let us pray that we will also have that same readiness and trust in the God in whose image we are made.



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+).

ST VINNIES WINTER APPEAL Last weekend we collected \$930.00 from the St Anthony's and \$830.00 from the St Bernard's Parishes, for the St Vinnies Winter Appeal. Thank you for your generosity.

CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE YEAR 7 2024 ENROLMENTS-CLOSING SOON Enrolment applications for Year 7 2024 at our Melton West and Cobblebank campuses are due Friday 19th August 2022.

Apply online now [Enrolment Contact - Catholic Regional College Melton \(crcmelton.com.au\)](http://enrolmentcontact-catholicregionalcollege-melton.crcmelton.com.au)

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC TEACHERS' GROUP Are you a primary or secondary teacher who wants to learn more about the Catholic Church's writings on the dignity of the human person? Are you interested in knowing more about the role of education in forming students to know, love and serve God and contribute to a just and humane civic society? Do you want to meet others who are seeking to do the same? Join us for the inaugural meeting of the Melbourne Catholic Teachers' Group. Thursday 11 August | 6:30-7:30PM | JP II House 169 Grattan St.

For more information: Sr Mary Sarah | melbourne@op-tn.org.

VOLUNTEERS FOR BREAKFAST CLUB AT ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL We are planning to run breakfast club 2 mornings a week on a Tuesday and Thursday from 7.00 am – 9.30 am. Our proposed start date is late in Term 3. If you would like to be involved and volunteer some time to assist please contact Andrea Lalor by email on alalor@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au **SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB COORDINATOR**

POSITION—We have a School Breakfast Club Coordinator position available which will be for 6 hours a week. The successful candidate will be required to work Tuesday and Thursday from 7am to 9.30am with an additional hour throughout the week to liaise with business to pick up supplies. Applicants must have a current Working with Children Check, a National Police Check and complete the Food Safety supervisor's qualification once appointed. If you feel like you are a suitable candidate, please send a letter of application with your resume to alalor@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au.

CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND As our parish's social service agency, CatholicCare Victoria delivers over 60 programs and services including counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral care in hospitals and prisons, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support. Donations from our parish community help CatholicCare Victoria support the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community and empower everyone to live life to the full. Please give generously.

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.

Scan QR Code to register



ST ANTHONY'S

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@sudp-vic.org.au or scan the QR code on the notices on the Church noticeboards. Thank you.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mass will be held at St Anthony's on Monday 15th August at 6.30pm.

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH CORPORATE DINNER

Venue: Tabcorp Park, 2 Ferris Rd, Melton 3337

Date: 22nd October 2022

Time: 6pm till late

Dress Code: Black Tie

Adult: \$100 per head **Child:** \$50.00 (12 years and under)

RSVP: 1st October 2022

Contacts: Julie S 0402182 458 & Ana T 0406 503 363

LIVE BAND-FUN FOR ALL-GROUP ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED AND WILL GO TOWARDS FUNDING THE EXTENSION OF PADUA HALL

ST BERNARD'S

ST VINCENT de PAUL FESTIVAL MASS & CELEBRATION OF 60th ANNIVERSARY OF BACCHUS MARSH CONFERENCE

Parishioners are invited to our Festival Mass on Sunday August 28 at 10.30am Mass. If you would like to join us for a light lunch following the Mass, please RSVP to Margot Short 0419 507 438 or margotmshort@gmail.com.

BACCHUS MARSH JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

A reminder that on Thursday 11 August we will celebrate belatedly Saint Mary MacKillop' feast day by attending 9.30am Mass at St Ambrose church, Woodend and followed by brunch at Cosy Corner Cafe in Woodend. All welcome.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mass will be held at St Bernard's on Monday 15th August at 9.30am.

KSC MEETING

KSC Meeting will be held in the Parish Centre meeting room on Monday 8th August at 8pm.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 13th & 14th August

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: Leonia Jessop
10.30am: Romeo Sacris
5.00pm: Rebecca Comini

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Ann Tennakoon
8.30am: Ron Howard
10.30am: 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: Olen & Godwin
8.30am: Julie & Godwin
10.30am: Annonica & Godwin
5.00pm: Godwin & Deepa

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased;

Tarcis Cutajar and Julia Monks

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

Ralph Cinel, Domenica Dimartino, Brodie Grevink & George Phelan

Please pray for the Sick:

Hazel Michael, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, 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: Sonia Smith
8.30am: Gerard O'Shea
10.30am: Charlotte Lindorff

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 13th & 14th August

5.00pm: Maureen Zahra
8.30am: Margret Love
10.30am: Dudley Rodrigues

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

August: John Wilson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Brian Blood, Veronica Buttler, Jack Dannatt, Ian Dominguez, Mary Noonan, Milos Kratachvil, Sr Mary Lanigan rsj, Bernadette O'Shannassy, Anne O'Shea, Lawrence Roberts and Edward Tudball.

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: 13th & 14th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Geetha Vincent

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 27th & 28th August

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

August: Gloria



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 : 13th & 14th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Piety Stall will open after Saturday 5pm Mass & Sunday 8.30 Mass
6th August: Jackie Tabone
7th August: Sean Giani

CHURCH FLOWERS

August: Deborah Hosking



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

August: Stuart Robertson & Sean Giani

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: Anna Samy 0435 258 230

Group 2: Gavin & Allison Pereira 0419 178 970

Group 3: Ben & Geetha 0478 112 996



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

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

FIRST READING Wisdom 18:6-9

That night had been foretold to our ancestors,
so that,
once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in,
they would joyfully take courage.
This was the expectation of your people,
the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies;
for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes
you made us glorious by calling us to you.
The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret
and this divine pact they struck with one accord:
that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers
alike;
and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 32

Commentator: Happy the people the Lord has chosen
to be his own.

All: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jer 38:4-6,8-10;

Second Reading: Heb 12:1-4;

Gospel: Lk 12:1-4



SECOND READING Hebrews 11:1-2.8-19

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

You know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 12:32-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom. 'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

St Lawrence of Brindisi III

Exegete

St Lawrence had a rich personality, wonderful talents, and a fine appearance. "He looks like St Paul," people said of him. Preaching, to him, was "*magnum et superhumanum munus*" ("great and superhuman duty") because it demands in the preacher "*vitae sanctitas et doctrinae veritas*" ("sanctity of life and truth in doctrine").

At the age of 22, while still only a deacon (1581), he himself was given the rare privilege of preaching to the people. Because he deemed preaching to be his true vocation, Lawrence kept up his lifelong zeal for it by prayer, penance, and study. He often said: "God called me to be a Franciscan for the conversion of sinners and heretics."

The pulpit in the Middle Ages, and even at the time of St Lawrence, was a true *cathedra* (chair of teaching), that was less professorial than that of the universities, but was more frequented by the people, and it had a vast and immediate influence on them.

Means of communication were scarce in those days, and so the pulpit was the microphone of the crowds. A good preacher was "the man of the day", and his sermons were events to chronicle for the town and the whole nation. Some of this fame still continued in later times with other preachers like Sts Leonard of Port Maurice, Paul of the Cross, Gaspar del Bufalo, and others who, like Sts Vincent Ferrer and Bernardine of Siena, could be called "Trumpets of Heaven".

Lawrence knew that to be a good preacher he had to know not only theology and philosophy, but especially Holy Scripture. He studied the Bible from early youth with extraordinary zeal. He said that he could have rewritten it entirely in its original languages merely from memory!

Popes Gregory XIII and Clement VIII ordered the Saint to preach exegetical sermons to the Jews in Rome and other cities to convince them that Christ is the divine Messiah and that the Christian religion alone is the true one. Lawrence claimed that his excellent knowledge of Hebrew and Aramaic was a God-given charism.

Assigned to teach the Scriptures to his young confreres, Lawrence put his heart and soul into it. Between the ages of 25 and 30 he composed his *Explanatio in Genesim* (on the first eleven chapters of Genesis). This has also been praised

by critics for its masterful philosophic method of seeking the literal sense, for its sureness and vastness of exegetical information (Talmudic and Patristic, as well as more recent authors, are used by him).

He gives some of his own opinions, critically weighs those of others, even some venerable in age and authority. In his doctrinal "*excursus*" we see the theologian who treats God the Creator, His attributes, the angels, the nature of man, the state of original justice, free will, the institution of marriage, etc.

The saint's up-to-date mastery of biblical science, which the Protestants opposed to tradition, to the Scholastics, and to the ecclesiastical Magisterium, gave Lawrence an undisputed authority in controversies with the innovators. Lawrence rightly considered the Protestant heresy a degeneration of Christian truth, a dissolution not only of Catholic unity, but also of the civil and political unity of Europe. Besides fighting heresy through his diplomatic missions, Lawrence was eager to meet eminent teachers of heresy in open debate. He was encouraged in this by princes and by learned priests and laymen.

Thus we have the three volumes that the Saint wrote against Protestant theologian Polycarp Leiser, who was a writer and a preacher at the court of the Elector of Saxony. Lawrence had encounters with Leiser in Prague, and his *Lutheranismi hypotyposis* is the result of all these disputes.

This work is a practical manual of the Catholic Faith and a confutation of the Protestant interpretation of Scripture. The Saint quotes about 40 reformers, including Luther, and refutes them all. He ably defends such doctrines as Revelation, Tradition, the one true Church; Scripture, original sin, justification and grace, faith and good works, the cult of Mary and the saints, the Holy Eucharist as sacrifice and sacrament, celibacy and purgatory. Lawrence also examines the sad social consequences of false doctrines. This work, like his others, has a perennial appeal and can be used even today.

Today studies are appearing constantly on the personality and doctrine of St Lawrence. For priests, St Lawrence as the "Apostolic Doctor" offers a new model for studies and preaching.