



61 LERDERDERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBEIT

309 MYRNIONG-KOROBEIT ROAD 3341

TEL: 5367 2069

67-74 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.

P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338 TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422

19th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Year B

12th August 2018

FAX: 5367 4863

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Patrick Bradford & Fr Joseph Panackal IV Dei **ST ANTHONY'S PARISH ST BERNARD'S PARISH** Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson Sacramental Coordinator/ Book Keeper: Parish Office Hours: Naim Chdid Fri 10.00am—3.00pm Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.00am—4.00pm Parish Office Hours: Tue - Thurs 9.00am - 1.00pm EMAIL: meltonsouth@cam.org.au EMAIL: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au Web: stanthonysmeltonsouth.wordpress.com Web: http://pol.org.au/bacchusmarsh/Home.aspx St Anthony's School Principal: Damien Schuster St Bernard's School Principal: Emilio Scalzo Wilson Road, Melton South 3338 Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340 **PHONE:** 9743 1401 **PHONE:** (03) 5366 5800 **EMAIL:** principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au **EMAIL:** principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au WEBSITE: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au WEBSITE: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au ST ANTHONY'S PASTROL COUNCIL Vikki Benson 0448 966 120 Sue Alexander 0400 171 843 Cathy Belcher 0431 082 886 0437 004 790 Naim Chdid Shane Cook 0419 999 052 Lillian Christian 0400 441 257 Peter Farren 0418 594 501 Stephan Fernandes 0439 743 533 David Loxley 0459 974 960 Amy Honrade 03 9747 0078 Moira Ross 0400 675 056 Natalie Howard 0410 478 046 Emillio Scalzo 5366 5800 Rose Ma'ae 0431 386 473 James Walters 0403 974 960 Marthese Mercieca 0421 378 691

EX-OFFICIO:

Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Patrick Bradford, Fr Joseph Panackal and Damien Schuster Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTROL COUNCIL

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Patrick Bradford, Fr Joseph Panackal and Emilio Scalzo

CHILD SAFETY OFFICIERS

Coordinator: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449)

Officers: Aloysious Dacunha, Karina Dunne & Lorraine Tellis

Please contact Judy Johnson for any Parish news you would like published in the Newsletter Articles must be received by midday Tuesdays. Email: judyparishnews@gmail.com

For appointments with Father Fabian please call Judy on 0414 007 009

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S

MASS TIMES :

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday morning: Vigil of the Assumption	9.15am Mass FJP of the Blessed Virgin:	
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm Mass FJP	
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary:		
Wednesday morning:	9.15am Mass FFS	
Wednesday morning:	10.15am Mass FJP	
Wednesday evening:	7.30pm Mass FFS	
Thursday morning:	9.15am Mass FJP	
Friday morning:	9.15am Mass FJP	
Saturday Vigil :	5.30pm Mass FJP	
Sunday :	8.30am Mass FPB	
	10.30am Mass FJP	

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4.45pm and before and after weekday Mass

ROSARY:

Prayed at 9.00am before every weekday Mass.

ADORATION:

30 minutes before and 30 minutes after every weekday Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

MASS TIMES :

Saturday:

6.30pm Mass

ST BERNARD'S			
MASS TIMES :			
Monday :	No Mass		
Vigil of the Assumption	Vigil of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin:		
Tuesday :	5:30pm Mass	FPB	
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin:			
Wednesday :	9.30am Mass	FPB	
Thursday :	9.30am Mass	FFS	
Friday :	9.30am Mass	FPB	
Saturday :	5:00pm Mass	FFS	
Sunday [:]	8:30am Mass	FFS	
	10:00am Mass	FFS	
INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION			
Saturday: 4.30pm and before and after weekday Mass			
ROSARY: Prayed every Monday at 7.30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour.			

Rosary is also held on the first Friday of the month following morning mass.

Next Date : 7th September

ADORATION:

1 hour before every weekday Mass.

SENIOR PARISHIONER'S MASS

Is held on the third Friday of the month in the Parish Centre at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome not just the seniors. Next Senior's Mass: **17th August**

PROVIDENCE MASS

Is held on the second Friday of the month at 11.00am The Village 5-7 Griffin St, Maddingley Next Mass: **14th September**

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

FFS

ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI—CELEBRATING MASS IN THE WESTERN REGION

Archbishop Comensoli will be celebrating Mass:

12th August 2018 - 11.00am St Mary of the Angels, 136 Yarra St, Geelong

19th August 2018 - 11.00am Queen of Peace, Cnr Everingham Rd & Queen St, Altona Meadows

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 19 August 2018

Just a reminder, that all Journey Catholic Radio information is always a week in advance This week on The Journey, Fr Steven Varney offers us his reflection on the Gospel of John. Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy talks to us about Honoring, Frances Pirolas, in her Smart Loving segment ponders Marriage: Happy or Holy (repeat), and Sr Hilda shares her unique wisdom from the Abbey. Vibrant Christian music helps us to celebrate the Journey Catholic Radio, where faith, hope, love and life come together. Go to <u>www.jcr.org.au</u> or <u>www.itunes.jcr.org.au</u> where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.



PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

NEW COMBINED NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first issue of the combined newsletter, this newsletter will keep us informed of Liturgical News, Parish News and Social Events happening in both Parish Communities. Father Fabian would like to thank Imalsha Silva for the initial design of the new format. If any Parishioner or Parish group would like to submit information for the newsletter please email: judyparishnews@gmail.com (Articles must be received by midday Tuesday) Thank you.

<u>HIGH TEA FUNDRAISER—ALL PROCEEDS TO SIENNA ONE STEP AT A TIME</u> — High Tea to be held on Sunday August 19th 2pm at St. Bernard's Parish Centre, Bacchus Marsh. Featuring 'Sweet Mona's Choir' from Ballarat. Options are Traditional High Tea, Chocolate Lovers High Tea, or Gluten Free High Tea. Please specify option when booking. Chocolate Fountain for the kids. Adults \$25 Children \$10 Jenny 0408104155

JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

Meeting for Session 4 Tuesday 14th August 10.30 am. St Dominic's Parish meeting Room.

ZUMBA AND BOXING CLASSES

Come along and get fit and have fun with our Zumba and Boxing classes every week. Zumba Classes: Monday 6.00pm—7.00pm and Wednesday 7.00pm—8.00pm Boxing Classes: Saturday 8.00am—9.00am Venue: Padua Hall Enquiries: Epi 0410 416 445 Price: \$5.00 per class



NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

The Parish Office would like to thank all the volunteers that helped us at our working bee. Thanksgiving envelopes can be collected at the rear of the Church. Thank you.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE-NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Would you like to meet new people and make new friends?

Do something with the family? Why not join the social committee, we'd love to have you on board. Please contact Natalie Howard 0410478046.

CATHOLICCARE APPEAL 2018

This weekend we will be having a special collection to support CatholicCare, this year's theme is Building Connections; Growing together.

THANK YOU-INDIAN COMMUNITY

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Indian Community for raising \$1293.00 with their Movie over lunch event. Special thanks to Liza Fernandes and the team; and to all those who supported this. The proceeds will go towards the extension of the Church.

ST BERNARD'S

FAMILY BONFIRE NIGHT



Saturday 8th September 2018 For a fun night, come along to Mark Farrell's Farm 4099 Bacchus Marsh-Geelong Road, Parwan. 3 course Dinner, Guest Speaker, and Bonfire. Tickets on sale next weekend after Masses (& following weekend) or from Presbytery or School Office. Adults \$15 and Children \$5 Enguiries – Mark 0416 251 025 or Ron 0419 156 191

KSC AGM

Knights of the Southern Cross Annual General Meeting will be held this Monday 13th August 2018 at 8:00pm in the Parish Centre.

CATHOLICCARE APPEAL 2018

Next weekend we will have a special collection for CatholicCare, this year's theme is Building Connections; Growing together . This year's resources focus on the dynamic concept of Family Wellbeing– how it can be celebrated and strengthened within a school or parish community, and how CatholicCare programs contribute to the wellbeing of families of all backgrounds.

WORSHI	P NEWS		
ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISHES MUST HAVE A CURRENT WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK			
ST ANTHONY'S MINISTERIES	ST BERNARD'S MINISTERIES		
NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 18th & 19th August MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 5.30pm: John Little 5.30pm: John Little 8.30am: Michael Higgins 10.30am: Susan Malinov EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 5.30pm: 5.30pm: Marthese Mercieca (P), Dolores Turcsan 8.30am: Lois Brewis (P), Sue Alexander & Geoff Sutton 10.30am: Ron Howard (P), John Scerri ALTAR SERVERS 5.30pm: 8.30am: Roster Pending 10.30am: MASS COORDINATORS 5.30pm: Alina Tsakonas & Dolores Turcsan 8.30am: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard Bolores Turcsan	NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 18th & 19th August MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 5.00pm: 5.00pm: Vikki Benson 8.30am: Jan Carragher Allan Comrie 10.00am: Sr Mary Fermio, Baddeley's EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS 5.00pm: S.00pm: Vikki Benson 8.30am: Colm Carragher 10.00am: Mira Foxford ALTAR SERVERS 5.00pm: S.30am: Roster Pending 10.00am: Wister Pending 10.00am: Koster Pending		
10.30am: Godwin Barton & Rose Ma'ae ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE	ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE		
 We pray for the recently deceased: John Montgomery We pray for the death anniversary at this time of: Margaret Austin, Theresa Buttigieg, Emmanuel Calleja Eva Cornelisz, Cynthia Daly, Brodie Grevink, Rita Gatt, Lucy Harrington, Charles Van Hoos, Please pray for the Sick: Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, John Osborne, Irene Rahilly, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Clint Abela Wadge, Michael Wright & 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 May you be wrapped up in God's love, Found deep in his everlasting wings; Carried and kept safe and cherished. May the healing power of Christ be with you. Amen 	We pray for the recently deceased: We pray for the death anniversary at this time of: Marjorie Abbott, Nina Cassar, Len Condon, Tony Hughes, June McAllister, Anton Mijic, Dale Mullins, Paddy O'Leary, Audrey Peasley, Jack Rayner. Please pray for the Sick: John Anderson, Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Ian Dominquez, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Brian Harrison, Adam Hillier, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Loretta Kervin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Mar- shall, Jordanis Maryo, Pauline McDonald, Ian McKech- nie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Arabella Periera, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Julie Scott, Ken Shaw, Marian Smith, Frank & Elizabeth Stehmann, Susan Trist, Mitchell Tung, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary Walsh, Carol Wells, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Nils Wyren, Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young, Hannah Young. (PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST)		

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ST ANTHONY'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND: 18th & 19th August

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm:Liza Fernandes8.30am:Edwina La Rose10.30am:Indika Silva

CUPPA ROSTER

Next Cuppa Weekend: 25th & 26th August 5.30pm: Josephine Sultana & Margaret Coghlan 8.30am: Sam & Pat Chiles 10.30am: Rose Ma'ae & family



CHURCH FLOWERS

Rosabella Tuala



CLEANING ROSTER: Thursday

Lorelle Porter Volunteers would be appreciated as well.

ST VINCENTS DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330 The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Holy Family Room 10.00am. New members most welcome.

Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' at the back of the Church. Thank you.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

CCCM's aim is to supply free food to help people in our local community in need and walk alongside them to reduce dependency through friendship and education. Address: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811 Hours: Mon– Thurs: 10.00am—3.00pm Friday : 10.00am—12.15pm School Holidays : 10.00am—12.30pm

FUNDRAISING & SOCIAL COMMITTEE DATES

9th September :	Spit Roast Lunch
19th Oct:	Parish & School Fete
11th Nov:	Family Day
31st December:	New Year's Eve Dance Aspendale Gardens Fundraiser for New Chapel

ST BERNARD'S

VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND : 18th & 19th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS18th August:Mandy Harrington19th August:Jan & Colm

MORNING TEA

Is held on the the first Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre after 10.00am Mass.

Next Morning Tea: 2nd September

Host: Baptism Preparation Team

CHURCH FLOWERS

Deborah Hosking

COUNTING TEAM # 2

John Tung Lucille Wheelahan Jennifer Taylor Gerard Harrington

ST VINCENTS DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The Vinnies Store is located at 8 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh. We are calling for more volunteers. If you would like more information please ring 5310 6322.

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (AUGUST)

Front Garden: Back/Side Garden: Parish Centre: Ron Gerts Carpark/Pines: Ron Gerts Back Paddock: Colm Carragher

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

Emergency Foodbank and Hospitality centre Address: 77 Main Street Bacchus Marsh Open: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.30am-3.00pm Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

Our committee consists of two representatives from each of the participating churches who normally are nominated and appointed at our Annual General Meeting which was held in May.

Currently we only have one representative from the Catholic church and we are calling for a volunteer from St Bernard's Parish to take up this position on The Neighbour's Place Committee of Management. We only meet once a month and it provides two-way communication of information, ideas and opinions on our outreach work. Contact: Fr Fabian 5367 2069

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

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



FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Held on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Church 6.30pm-7.45pm.



Next preparation : Thursday 23rd Aug Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: Sunday 2nd & 16th September See details on Parish Homepage as listed on front page and download forms. Forms are also available from the Parish Office or from the Sacristy after Mass from Father.

Both parents are required to attend these meetings. We kindly request adults only please.

Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Patrick, Fr Joseph or the Parish Office for queries.

BAPTISM TEAM: Karina Dunne & Judy Johnson

ADULT PREPARATION for the Sacraments of Baptism,

Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Fabian, Fr Patrick or Fr Joseph

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Is held during Saturday evening Vigil Mass and Sunday 10.30am Mass.

DIVINE MERCY: 1st Sunday of the month at 3pm.

FATIMA STATUE

(These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish)

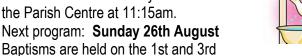
Group 1: Kratochvil Family	0438 765 776
Group 2: DaRocha Family	9747 0613

LITURGY Is held during Saturday evening Vigil Mass and Sunday 10.30am Mass.

ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Held on the fourth Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre at 11:15am. Next program: Sunday 26th August



Sunday of the month: Sunday 2nd & 16th September Registration forms can be downloaded from our website www.pol.cam.org.au/bacchusmarsh. Bring completed Registration Form with a copy of Birth Certificate to the program.

Please note: Both parents are required to attend the program.

Contact Fr Fabian, Fr Patrick, Fr Joseph or the Parish Office for queries.

COORDINATORS: Steve & Geraldine

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Is held every Sunday during 10.00am Mass in the meeting room in the Parish Centre.

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.

NICENO-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

WEEKLY PRAYERS & READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

A reading from the first book of the Kings Strengthened by the food, he walked to the mountain of the Lord.

Elijah went into the wilderness, a day's journey, and sitting under a furze bush wished he were dead. 'Lord,' he said 'I have had enough. Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down and went to sleep. But an angel touched him and said, 'Get up and eat.' He looked round, and there at his head was a scone baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. But the angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, 'Get up and eat, or the journey will be too long for you.' So he got up and ate and drank, and strengthened by that food he walked for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Comm: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

All: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,

his praise always on my lips;

in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me;

from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who revere him, to rescue them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

All: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians *Walk in love, just as Christ.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

<u>GOSPEL</u>

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John *I am the living bread come down from heaven.*

The Jews were complaining to each other about Jesus, because he had said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' 'Surely this is Jesus son of Joseph' they said. 'We know his father and mother. How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus said in reply, 'Stop complaining to each other.

'No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets: They will all be taught by God, and to hear the teaching of the Father, and learn from it. is to come to me. Not that anybody has seen the Father, except the one who comes from God: he has seen the Father. I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the desert and they are dead; but this is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that a man may eat it and not die. I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.' 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.

NEXT WEEKS READINGS

First Reading:	Prov 9:1-6;
Second Reading:	Eph 5:15-20;
Gospel:	Jn 6:51-58

2018 the Year of Youth: World Youth Day Madrid, Spain, August 2011 II

This Sunday we continue with the second and final part of the homily His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI delivered at World Youth Day Madrid on

The Church, then, is not simply a human institution, like any other. Rather, she is closely joined to God. Christ himself speaks of her as "his" Church. Christ cannot be separated from the Church any more than the head can be separated from the body (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:12). The Church does not draw her life from herself, but from the Lord.

Dear young friends, as the Successor of Peter, let me urge you to strengthen this faith which has been handed down to us from the time of the Apostles. Make Christ, the Son of God, the centre of your life. But let me also remind you that following Jesus in faith means walking at his side in the communion of the Church.

We cannot follow Jesus on our own. Anyone who would be tempted to do so "on his own", or to approach the life of faith with that kind of individualism so prevalent today, will risk never truly encountering Jesus, or will end up following a counterfeit Jesus.

Having faith means drawing support from the faith of your brothers and sisters, even as your own faith serves as a support for the faith of others.

I ask you, dear friends, to love the Church which brought you to birth in the faith, which helped you to grow in the knowledge of Christ and which led you to discover the beauty of his

The theme of WYD Madrid was: "Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, love. Growing in friendship with Christ necessarily means recognising the importance of joyful participation in the life of your parishes, communities and movements, as well as the celebration of Sunday Mass, frequent reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation, and the cultivation of personal prayer and meditation on God's word.

Friendship with Jesus will also lead you to bear witness to the faith wherever you are, even when it meets with rejection or indifference. We cannot encounter Christ and not want to make him known to others.

So, do not keep Christ to yourselves! Share with others the joy of your faith. The world needs the witness of your faith, it surely needs God. I think that the presence here of so many young people, coming from all over the world, is a wonderful proof of the fruitfulness of Christ's command to the Church: "Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole of creation" (Mark 16:15).

You too have been given the extraordinary task of being disciples and missionaries of Christ in other lands and countries filled with young people who are looking for something greater and, because their heart tells them that more authentic values do exist, they do not let themselves be seduced by the empty promises of a lifestyle which has no room for God.

Dear young people, I pray for you with heartfelt affection. I commend all of you to the Virgin Mary and I ask her to accompany you



Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis