



# St Anthony's Parish



# St Bernard's Parish

67-74 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.  
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338  
TEL: 9747 9692 FAX: 9746 0422

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340  
TEL: 5367 2069 FAX: 5367 4863  
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBET  
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBET ROAD 3341

**33rd Sunday In Ordinary Time**

**Year B**

**18th November 2018**

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr Fabian Smith

**ASSISTANT PRIESTS:** Fr Patrick Bradford & Fr Joseph Panackal IV Dei

### ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

**Parish Secretary:** Lesley Morffew  
**Admin Assistant:** Judy Johnson  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.00am—4.00pm  
**Email:** meltonsouth@cam.org.au  
**Website:** stanthonysmeltonsouth.wordpress.com

**St Anthony's School Principal:** Damien Schuster  
Wilson Road, Melton South 3338  
**Phone:** 9743 1401  
**Email:** principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au  
**Website:** www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

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

### ST BERNARD'S PARISH

**Parish Secretary:** Dolores Turcsan  
**Admin Assistant:** Judy Johnson  
**Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper:**  
Naim Chdid Fri 10.00am—3.00pm

**Parish Office Hours:** Tue –Thurs 9.00am-1.00pm  
**Email:** bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au  
**Website:** http://pol.org.au/bacchusmarsh/Home.aspx

**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

### **ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Sue Alexander	0400 171 843
Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian	0400 441 257
Stephen Fernandes	0439 743 533
Amy Honrade	03 9747 0078
Natalie Howard	0410 478 046
Rose Ma'ae	0431 386 473
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 PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Cathy Belcher	0431 082 886
Shane Cook	0419 999 052
Peter Farren	0418 594 501
David Loxley	0459 974 960
Maira Ross	0400 675 056
Emillio Scalzo	5366 5800
James Waters	0403 822 795

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

### **CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS**

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

For urgent matters only please call Fr Fabian on 0403 435 471



## PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

### MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RETREAT

St Anthony's and St Bernard's Parishes will be holding a retreat for men, women and children on the 14th-16th December. Flyers are available with all the details.

### CHRISTMAS BBQ AND NATIVITY PLAY

Organised by the Spirit of the Two Hearts Youth Group **Sunday 9th December 2018** St. Joseph's Hall at the Two Hearts Centre 274 La Cote Road, Greendale, Vic 3341. 12:30pm BBQ Lunch 1:30pm Nativity Play and Christmas Carols followed by Dessert. Cost: Free RSVP: Monday 3rd December Contact: Sister Clare Mobile: [0415 806 217](tel:0415806217) or Email: [twoheartscentre@bigpond.com](mailto:twoheartscentre@bigpond.com) Coordinated by the Missionaries of Love and Peace of the Most Blessed Trinity

### CATHOLIC DEAF APPEAL

Last weekend we had a special collection for the Catholic Deaf Appeal. St Anthony's Parish collected \$498.00 and St Bernard's Parish collected \$570.00. Thank you for your generosity.

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

### ST ANTHONY'S

#### ANOINTING MASS—21st NOVEMBER

We will be having an Anointing of the sick and the elderly Mass on Wednesday 21st November at 11am. A light luncheon will be served after Mass. Please feel free to bring along friends and relatives who would like to receive the anointing. There is a clipboard at the back of the Church for catering purposes.

#### THANK YOU – SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee raised **\$189.00** with the sausage sizzle last weekend. The funds raised will go towards the extension of the Church. A big thank you to the Social Committee.

#### COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

The CCCM team are in need of a volunteer driver with a current drivers licence, a suitable car and, if possible, a trailer please. (We don't ask much!! :) We currently have to pick up food from our local supermarkets five days a week. We have a dedicated team of drivers but we need one more. This will be to cover our Thursday pick up from Coburns Woolworths at 9:30am and deliver back to the CCCM foodbank. If this sounds like something you could help us with and want to belong to a great team of volunteers, please contact Denise or Jenny on 9747-6811 or drop in at the CCCM foodbank Monday to Friday from 9am to 2pm.

#### COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC —SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

CCCM's aim is to supply free food to help people in our local community in need. We will have a special collection next weekend to support them.

Please give generously.

#### PRIME TIMERS

There will be NO outing this November as our Christmas Lunch will be Tuesday 4th December at 12 o'clock. Wallace Hotel, 741 Bungaree - Wallace Rd, Wallace. There will be a two course meal for \$25.00.

Pick up from St Anthony's Church car park at 11.15am. Please RSVP by Thursday 29th November for catering purposes as the venue will be open just for us Ineke 0400120401 or [ineke49@yahoo.com](mailto:ineke49@yahoo.com).

Also please note that as of next year there will no longer be a clip board for names in the church.

Thanks everyone, hope to see you there.

### ST BERNARD'S

#### KSC AND PARISHIONERS MEMORIAL MASS

Deceased Members and Parishioners Memorial Mass  
Friday 23rd November at 6pm  
(not 6.30pm as previously noted)

All parishioners welcome to remember those recently passed.

#### SENIOR PARISHIONER'S MASS GROUP

The December Mass will be the groups last for 2018. It will be celebrated on the **2nd Friday of the month— 14th December at 11.30am** in the Parish Centre.

#### MISSION SUNDAY

The Mission Sunday collection which was scheduled to be collected on the 21st October will be collected this weekend.

#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

We are again seeking food donations for our Christmas Hampers. If you are able to assist, please take labels from the Giving Tree which is located in the Gathering Space.

**Please return your donations by Sunday December 8.**

*(If further information is required please contact Margot 0419 507 438)*

#### PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2019

(for students who attend non-Catholic schools)

Preparation and active participation in the Sacraments is very important for the development of the spiritual journey of your child. To enrol your child in the program, please arrange a meeting time with Naim Chdid, our Sacramental Coordinator, through the Parish Office (5367 2069). The enrolment meetings will be held on Fridays in November. He will be available each Friday 10.00am –5.00pm and 12noon—6.30pm alternately. All information and dates will be given to you at the Sacramental Enrolment Meeting.

#### KSC RACING GAME – FINAL RESULTS

##### Game 1

1<sup>st</sup> Mary Flanagan – 104 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Marie Casey – 102 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> John Righetti – 82 points

##### Game 2

1<sup>st</sup> Mark Farrell – 104 points  
2<sup>nd</sup> Pat O'Leary – 102 points  
3<sup>rd</sup> Carole Ryder – 82 points

Results sheets displayed in the Gathering Space.

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICES** Wednesday 5th Dec, 1.30 and 8pm  
St Andrews Church Uniting Church Bacchus Marsh– for those suffering GRIEF.

**COMMUNITY CAROLS + FESTIVAL** – Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup>,  
Village Green, 7.30PM Flyers displayed in the Church.

# WORSHIP NEWS

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

## ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER:** 24th & 25th November

### MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

**5.30pm:** Dolores Turcsan  
**8.30am:** \*Volunteer Please\*  
**10.30am:** Romeo Sacris

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

**5.30pm :** Lorraine Tellis (P) & Gavin Pereira  
**8.30am :** Michael Higgins (P) , Villy Julita & Edwina La Rose  
**10.30am:** George Bonello (P) & Doris Bonello

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact the emergency minister on the roster. Thank you.

### MASS COORDINATORS

**5.30pm:** Carmen Vella & Stephen Fernandes  
**8.30am:** Natalie Howard & Ron Howard  
**10.30am:** Anthea Scerri & Josephine German

### ALTAR SERVERS

**5.30pm:** Jonathan Dacunha & Mason Azzopardi  
**8.30am:** Rhys Tuala & Andre Oqueli  
**10.30am:** Nick Taunuu & Ethan Porter

If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

## ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

**NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER:** 24th & 25th November

### MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

**5.00pm:** Maureen Zahra  
**8.30am:** Peter Lafranchi & Margaret Love  
**10.00am:** Diane Corro & James Waters

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

**5.00pm:** Vikki Benson  
**8.30am:** Colm Carragher  
**10.00am:** Jenny Kearney

### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

**November:** John Thorne

### ALTAR SERVERS

**5.00pm:**  
**8.30am:** Farrell  
**10.00am:** Lindorff

## ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

### We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Ryan Alvares, Michael Borg, May Boyce, Marya Dolores Cacciatolo, Bryan Davies, Anthony D'Cruz, Francis D'Cruz, Jonas D'Cruz, Joseph Gomez, Rosa Gomez, Ronnie Guzman, Darren Hunter, Loretta & Oscar Jones, Douglas Leslie, Shirley & Leo Mahoney, Robert Marley, Gerald McDade, John McDade, Rose McDade, Margaret Montgomery, Tony Pollock, Dorris & Edmund Roncon, William, Cheryl, Olive, Filip Saldanha, Louna Teano & Stella Silva

**Please pray for the Sick:** Jean Barnett, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, 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



## ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

### SPIRITS OF THE TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

Experience faith, friendship and fun.

**Age group:** 11years+ **When:** Every 4th Thursday of the month 7.00pm-9.00pm **Where:** Two Hearts Centre, 274 La Cote Road, Greendale

**Contact:** Sister Clare 0415 806 217 or

**Email :** [twoheartscentre@bigpond.com](mailto:twoheartscentre@bigpond.com)

'Coordinated by the Missionaries of Love and Peace of the Most Blessed Trinity of the Pilgrimage of the Two Hearts'



### We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Shagula Abraham, Margaret Bennet, Arthur De Bortoli, Anthony Giani, Mary Glasheen, Lorna Hives, John Marum, Ted Wilkinson, Thelma & Arthur Humphries, Fran & Hal Dawe.

### Please pray for the Sick:

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, 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 Marshall, Jordanis Maryo, Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Kevin O'Gorman, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Arabella Periera, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, 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, Niels 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:** 24th & 25th November

#### **PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS**

**5.30pm:** Anne Peramuna

**8.30am:** Judy Johnson

**10.30am:** Kim Barton

#### **CUPPA ROSTER**

Cuppa Weekend: **24th & 25th November**

**5.30pm:** Emily Bonello & Kristina Scerri

**8.30am:** Joyce Stellini & Lina Calleja

**10.30am:** Charlie & Lina Vassalo



#### **CHURCH FLOWERS**

Rosabella Tuala



#### **CLEANING ROSTER: Thursday**

Lorelle Porter

Volunteers would be appreciated as well.

#### **SERVICE AND COMMUNITY QUADRANT**

Volunteers are required for the following groups:

Piety Stall, Social Committee, & Monthly Cuppa.

Contact:

Natalie Howard 0410478046,

Amy Honrade 0457042695

Lillian Christian 0400441257

#### **ST VINCENT 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, training provided.

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

### ST BERNARD'S

**VOLUNTEERS WEEKEND :** 24th & 25th November

#### **PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS**

**Saturday:** Sean Giani

**Sunday:** Marj Tung

#### **MORNING TEA**

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

Next Morning Tea: **2nd December**

Host: Parish Pastoral Council



#### **CHURCH FLOWERS**

Frances McDaid



#### **COUNTING TEAM # 6**

Gerard Shelly

Jill Geurts

Ron Geurts

Michael Larkin

#### **PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (November)**

Front Garden: Stuart Robertson

Back/Side Garden: Hugh Miller

Parish Centre: \*Volunteer Please\*

Carpark/Pines: \*Volunteer Please\*

Back Paddock: Henry Gasior

#### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.

The Bacchus Marsh Conference meets once a month in the Parish Centre. New members are welcome and training is available. The contact number is 5310 6322.

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. Presently, the store is looking for homewares and toys. However, all donations are gratefully accepted.

#### **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

#### **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.

Contact: Jenny Kearney 0408 104 155

#### **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 22nd Nov**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 2nd & 16th December**

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 and a copy of the birth certificate.

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: **Barry & Rossana** 9743 5063

Group 2: **Rudy & Carol Nalipay** 0401 875 410



## ST BERNARD'S

### BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

Held on the fourth Sunday of the month in the Parish Centre at 11:15am.

Next program: **Sunday 25th November**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 2nd & 16th December**

Registration forms can be downloaded from our website [www.pol.cam.org.au/bacchusmarsh](http://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

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.

You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Daniel

*When that time comes your own people will be spared.*

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 15

**Comm:** Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

**All:** Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever.

**All:** Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of to the Hebrews

*By a single offering he has achieved the eternal perfection of those who are sanctified.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and pray constantly, that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*He shall gather his elect from the four winds.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS- OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

**First Reading:** Dan 7:13-14;

**Second Reading:** Apoc 1:5-8;

**Gospel:** Jn 18:33-37



# 2018 the Year of Youth:

## Models of holiness VI: Francisco Marto

Francisco Marto was born the sixth of seven children of Manuel and Olimpia Marto. He was a handsome boy, with light hair and dark eyes. He loved games and other children, yet without the spirit of competition. He would not complain when treated unfairly, and gave up a treasured possession (a handkerchief stamped with the image of Our Lady) rather than contend for it.

He was a peacemaker, but courageous, as his conduct under questioning by the Mayor would later show. He also had a mischievous turn. He was known to drop strange and inedible objects in his sleeping brother's mouth. He had a love for nature, and animals in particular. He played with lizards and snakes, and would bring them home, to his mother's chagrin. Once he gave a penny, all the money he had, to a friend for a captured bird, only to set the bird free. He played a reed pipe, to which Lucia and his sister Jacinta would sing and dance. In short, he was a kind, gentle boy, not yet a saint, but one predisposed by God for the graces soon bestowed on him.

Alone among the three visionaries of Fatima, Francisco never heard the Lady's words, although he saw her and felt her presence. After the first apparition, Lucia conveyed the Lady's message to him, that he would go to heaven if he prayed many Rosaries. In the second apparition, Lucia asked to be taken to heaven, and the Lady replied that Francisco and Jacinta would be taken soon, but Lucia would have to wait for a time. Lucia died on February 13, 2005, at the age of 97.

In the third apparition, the children were given a secret, including a vision of hell, which so changed them that they became more like adults than children. At this time the Mayor of the district, Artur de Oliveira Santos, a Freemason, devised a scheme to discredit the apparitions by terrorising the children. He tried to bully them into admitting they lied, threatened to boil them in oil if they withheld the Lady's "secret" (at which time Francisco showed extravagant courage in anticipation of going to heaven), and jailed them to keep them

from their appointment with the Lady on the day of the fourth apparition (August 13, 1917). They kept their appointment two days later.

For the fifth apparition, tens of thousands attended, having been alerted by the press to the Mayor's controversy with the children. Among the curious was a seminary professor from Santarem, Dr Manuel Formigao, who questioned the children afterwards and became convinced of their truthfulness.

When the public learned of a miracle promised for the next appointed day, many resolved to be there, and on October 13, perhaps 70,000 people were present for the Miracle of the Sun.

After the apparitions ended, Francisco was enrolled in school but played truant as often as possible. He preferred to spend time praying to the "Hidden Jesus" in the Tabernacle. His great concern was to console his sorrowing Lord and the Heart of His Mother. When asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, Francisco answered: "I don't want to be anything. I want to die and go to heaven."

In August 1918, when World War I was nearing an end, Francisco and Jacinta both contracted influenza. They had short reprieves, but their decline was inevitable.

In April of the following year, Francisco, knowing his time was short, asked to receive the Hidden Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion. The next morning, April 4, at 10 o'clock, he died with a glow on his shrunken face. He was buried the next day in a little cemetery in Fatima, across from the parish church, and later translated to the Sanctuary at Cova da Iria.



Francisco Marto  
(June 11, 1908 –  
April 4, 1919)