



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

27th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Year B

7th October 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 974 960

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

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH

MASS TIMES :

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday morning:	9.15am	FJP
Tuesday evening:	6.30pm	FFS
Wednesday:	9.15am	FFS
Thursday:	9.15am	FJP
Friday:	9.15am	FJP
Saturday Vigil :	5.30pm	FJP
Sunday :	8.30am	FJP
	10.30am	FFS

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.



During School Term Mass on Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri at CRC Melton Chapel: 8.00am

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBET

MASS TIMES :

Saturday:	6.30pm Mass	FPB
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ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH

MASS TIMES :

All weekday Masses (except Thursday) will be held in the Chapel

Monday :	No Mass	
Tuesday :	5.30pm	FJP
Wednesday :	9.30am	FPB
Thursday :	9.30am	FFS
Friday :	9.30am	FPB
Saturday :	5:00pm	FPB
Year 2 Family Mass		
Sunday :	8:30am	FPB
	10:00am	FPB

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 : **2nd November**

ADORATION:

1 hour before every weekday Mass.

PROVIDENCE MASS

Is held on the second Friday of the month at 11.00am

The Village 5-7 Griffin St, Maddingley.

Next Mass: **12th October**

FFS

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: **19th October**



NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

LIVING ICONS: MOTHERS, FATHERS & THE GOSPEL OF THE FAMILY

New video and print resources highlighting the role of both a mother and a father in family life have been produced by the Life, Marriage & Family Office. Print copies of the booklet are available in parishes from Sunday 7th October. The accompanying videos can be viewed online at: www.cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily. We encourage you to watch and share these free resources with anyone you think will find them helpful.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE – Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for four school terms. 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. Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact) Website: www.mercyworks.org.au Mercy Connect Melbourne Tel: 9326 1895

PARISH EVENTS & NOTICES

SPIRITS OF THE TWO HEARTS YOUTH GROUP

Experience faith, friendship and fun through: Praise and Worship, Music, Trivia nights, Game nights, Movie nights, Team Building activities, Outdoor activities, BBQ's, Bush walks, Bonfire nights, Camps and much more

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



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

SPECIAL COLLECTION—THIS WEEKEND

In August severe floods affected the south Indian state of Kerala, due to unusually high rainfall during the monsoon season. It was the worst flooding in Kerala in nearly a century. Amongst many families affected by this natural disaster, Father Joseph's sister and her family with 3 young children have been affected severely. To help them re-establish their home, we will be having a special collection, this weekend to help this family in this time of great need. Please give generously, thank you.

26TH ANNUAL FEAST IN HONOUR OF SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Saturday 13th October 2018 Josefina Maria's Two Hearts Eucharistic Chapel, 274 La Cote Road, Greendale, Vic 3341

10:30am: Holy Rosary **11:00am:** Holy Mass **Followed by:** Eucharistic Procession (Weather permitting) Benediction Fellowship in the adjoining St. Joseph's Hall **Main Celebrant:** Rev. Father Fabian Smith (Parish Priest of St. Anthony's Melton South and St. Bernard's Bacchus Marsh) **Concelebrant:** Rev. Father Remigius Kasawa (Visiting priest from overseas)

Coordinated by the Missionaries of Love and Peace of the Two Hearts.

For further details please contact us on:

Mobile: 0415 806 217 or 0425 882 470 or **Email:** twoheartscentre@bigpond.com

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2019

Details for the enrolment process for 2019 for children who attend either government or other private schools will be included in next weeks newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

ST ANTHONY'S

YOUNG MEN'S (YMG) AND YOUNG WOMEN'S GROUPS (YWG)

Thank you to all who came to the first meet and greet for the Young Women's Group. Our next session will be on the first Sunday of October, **the 7th of October from 6-7pm**, and will be run in parallel (but separately) to the Young Men's Group. We are starting a series of sessions to explore and discuss true masculinity (YMG)/true femininity (YWG) as well as the virtue of chastity (yes, relevant to married people too!) guided by the **True Strength (YMG)/True Beauty (YWG)** 4-DVD series.

We will be watching the first DVD on our next session: **The Heart of a Man (YMG)/The Heart of a Woman (YWG)**. Come and join in fellowship with like-minded brothers/sisters in Christ! For more information contact Kim (YMG) at 0431035980 or Villy (YWG) at 0403751343.

THANK YOU – MALTESE COMMUNITY

The Fund Raising Committee would like to thank the Maltese Community for raising \$158.75 with their sale of pastizzis and various cakes. Special thanks to all those who supported this. The proceeds will go towards the extension of the Church.

PARISH OFFICE

Lesley is on long service leave this week. The Parish Office will be open Mon-Fri 9.00am-1.00pm.

ST BERNARD'S

SENIORS WEEK FESTIVAL

U3A Bacchus Marsh and Moorabool Shire Active Ageing & Community Access invite you to join us to celebrate our Seniors Week at the **Supper Room 207 Main Street Bacchus Marsh on Tuesday 9th October 2018, 10.00am-1.00pm.**

Come and meet our committee and members and have a look at displays of things we do and what we can offer you.

A free morning tea including Mazi's famous scones will be served.

For further details contact:

Adrian: 5367 5341

Sharon: 0407 480 207

www.u3abacchus.org.au

KSC MEETING

To be held this Monday 8th October 2018 at 8:00pm in the Parish Centre.

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 13th & 14th October

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.30pm: John Little
8.30am: Amy Honrade
10.30am: Faustina Ma'ae

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.30pm : Philip Anyayahan (P) & Mila Little
8.30am : Villy Julita (P), Lois Brewis
& Denise Van Rooyen

10.30am: Elaine Lacey (P) & Rita Harinos

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.30pm: Alina Tsakonas & Godwin Barton
8.30am: Natalie Howard & Ron Howard
10.30am: Ken Dumandan & Josephine German

ALTAR SERVERS

5.30pm: Andre Oqueli & Jedi Anyayahan
8.30am: Volunteers Please
10.30am: Anakin Anderson & Josh Djie- Spiteri
If you are unavailable please contact Ben Kratochvil 0423 076 305

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 13th & 14th October

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Jan Carragher & Allan Comrie
10.00am: Carmel Shea & Jennifer Taylor

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Colin Remedios
8.30am: Colm Carragher
10.00am: James Waters

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ROSTER

October: Sr Ellie Taffe

ALTAR SERVERS

5.00pm:
8.30am: Roster Pending
10.00am:

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

John Montgomery & Donald Sutherland

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Francisco Alatrasta, Avelino Asube Jr, Rick Galanti, Father Peter James, William Kelly, Michael Portelli & Keith Harry Williams.

Please pray for the Sick: Jean Barnett, Nickolia &

Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Veronica Michael, Wanda Novak, John Osborne, Howard Parr, 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

We pray for the recently deceased:

Nowell Tregurtha

We pray for the death anniversary at this time of:

Domenica Amato, Isabel Aquino, Pat Barry, Kevin Blood, John Brook, Richard Coleman, Vincent Condon, Jeff Curran, Glen D'Sylva, Ellen Kealy, John King, William (Bill) Lang, Agnes O'Kane, Kit O'Kane, Fr Barry Robinson, Tim Shea, John Trask, Bernard Wale, Max Walker, Mary Wheelahan.

Please pray for the Sick:

Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Michael Barrett, Peter Bennett, Margaret Bolger, 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, Nancy (Girlie) Massey, 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, 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: 13th & 14th October

PIETY STALLS VOLUNTEERS

5.30pm: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Imalsha Silva

CUPPA ROSTER

Next Cuppa Weekend: **27th & 28th October**

5.30pm: Mary Drew & Michelle Dachuna
8.30am: Chris Fitzgerald &
 Regina Traczynski
10.30am: Angelo & Rita Harinos



CHURCH FLOWERS

Ana Tannu &
 Roperta Mavaega



CLEANING ROSTER: Thursday

Lorelle Porter
 Volunteers would be appreciated as well.

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

FUNDRAISING & SOCIAL COMMITTEE DATES

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 : 13th & 14th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: Trish Davine
Sunday: Volunteer Please

MORNING TEA

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

Next Morning Tea: **7th October**

Host: St Vincent de Paul Society



CHURCH FLOWERS

Jan Carragher



COUNTING TEAM # 10

Kath Connell
 Val Dickson
 Michael Duffy
 Mary Delahey

PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS- (October)

Front Garden: Colm Carragher
 Back/Side Garden: John Tung
 Parish Centre: Volunteer Please
 Carpark/Pines: Volunteer Please
 Back Paddock: Ron Geurts

ST VINCENT 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.

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

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 25th Oct**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 4th & 18th November.**

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: **Joe & Josephine Grima 8732 7757**

Group 2: **Sr Therese Dagge 0418 480 880**



ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

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

Next program: **Sunday 28th October**

Baptisms are held on the 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the month: **Sunday 4th & 18th November**

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 : Kate & Danny

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

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

They were two in one flesh.

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 127

Comm: May the Lord bless us
all the days of our lives.

All: May the Lord bless us
all the days of our lives.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
by the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace!

All: May the Lord bless us
all the days of our lives.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

He who sanctifies, and those who are sanctified have one origin.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

What God has joined together, no one must divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them. 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.

NEXT WEEKS READINGS

First Reading: Wis 7:7-11;
Second Reading: Heb 4:12-13;
Gospel: Mk 10:17-30



2018 the Year of Youth:

Models of youthful holiness I: Pier Giorgio Frassati

Pier Giorgio Michelangelo Frassati was born in Turin, Italy, on April 6, 1901. His mother, Adelaide Ametis, was a painter. His father Alfredo, was the founder and director of the newspaper, *La Stampa*, and was influential in Italian politics, holding positions as an Italian senator and ambassador to Germany.

At an early age, Pier Giorgio joined the Marian Sodality and the Apostleship of Prayer, and obtained permission to receive daily Communion (which was rare at that time).

He developed a deep spiritual life, which he never hesitated to share with his friends. The Holy Eucharist and the Blessed Virgin were the two poles of his world of prayer. At the age of 17, he joined the St Vincent de Paul Society and dedicated much of his spare time to serving the sick and the needy, caring for orphans, and assisting the demobilised servicemen returning from World War I.

He decided to become a mining engineer, studying at the Royal Polytechnic University of Turin, so as to “serve Christ better among the miners”, as he told a friend.

Although he considered his studies his first duty, they did not keep him from social and political activism. In 1919, he joined the Catholic Student Foundation and the organisation known as Catholic Action. He became an active member of the People’s Party, which promoted the Catholic Church’s social teaching based on the principles of Pope Leo XIII’s encyclical letter, *Rerum Novarum*.

What little he had, Pier Giorgio gave to help the poor, even using his bus fare for charity and then running home to be on time for meals. The poor and the suffering were his masters, and he was literally their servant, which he considered a privilege.

His charity did not simply involve giving something to others, but giving completely of himself. This was fed by daily communion with Christ in the Holy Eucharist and by frequent nocturnal adoration, by meditation on St Paul’s “Hymn of Charity” (I Corinthians 13), and by the writings of St Catherine of Siena. He often sacrificed vacations at the Frassati summer home in Pollone (outside of Turin) because, as he said, “If everybody leaves Turin, who will take care of the poor?”

In 1921, he was a central figure in Ravenna, enthusiastically helping to organise the first convention of Pax Romana, an association which had as its purpose the unification of all Catholic students worldwide for the purpose of working together for universal peace.

Mountain climbing was one of his favourite sports. Outings in the mountains, which he organised with his friends, also served as opportunities for his apostolic work. He never lost the chance to lead his friends to Mass, to the reading of Scripture, and to praying the rosary.

He often went to the theatre, to the opera, and to museums. He loved art and music, and could quote whole passages of the poet Dante.

Fondness for the epistles of St Paul sparked his zeal for fraternal charity, and the fiery sermons of the Renaissance preacher and reformer Girolamo Savonarola and the writings of St Catherine impelled him in 1922 to join the Lay Dominicans (Third Order of St Dominic). He chose the name Girolamo after his personal hero, Savonarola. “I am a fervent admirer of this friar, who died as a saint at the stake,” he wrote to a friend.

Like his father, he was strongly anti-Fascist. He physically defended the faith, at times involved in fights, first with anti-clerical communists and later with Fascists. Participating in a Church-organised demonstration in Rome on one occasion, he stood up to police violence and rallied the other young people by grabbing the group’s banner, which the royal guards had knocked out of another student’s hands. Pier Giorgio held it even higher, while using the banner’s pole to fend off the blows of the guards.

Just before taking his university degree, Pier Giorgio contracted poliomyelitis, which doctors later speculated he caught from the sick whom he tended. Neglecting his own health because his grandmother was dying, after six days of terrible suffering Pier Giorgio died at the age of 24 on July 4, 1925.

His last preoccupation was for the poor. On the eve of his death, with a paralysed hand he scribbled a message to a friend, asking him to take the medicine needed for injections to be given to Converso, a poor sick man he had been visiting.

Pier Giorgio’s funeral was a triumph. The streets of the city were lined with a multitude of mourners who were unknown to his family—the poor and the needy whom he had served so unselfishly for seven years. Many of these people, in turn, were surprised to learn that the saintly young man they knew had actually been the heir of the influential Frassati family.

On May 20, 1990, in St Peter’s Square, which was filled with thousands of people, the Pope beatified Pier Giorgio Frassati, calling him the “Man of the Eight Beatitudes”.

His mortal remains, found completely intact and incorrupt upon their exhumation on March 31, 1981, were transferred from the family tomb in Pollone to the cathedral in Turin. Many pilgrims, especially students and the young, come to the tomb of Blessed Frassati to seek favours and the courage to follow his example.

Prayer for the canonisation of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

O merciful God, Who through the perils of the world deigned to preserve by Your grace Your servant Pier Giorgio Frassati pure of heart and ardent of charity, listen, we ask You, to our prayers and, if it is in Your designs that he be glorified by the Church, show us Your will, granting us the graces we ask of You, through his intercession, by the merits of Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.