



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

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR C

14th 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 **Acting Principal:** Larissa Feketa
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 15/8/2022-21/8/2022

MASS TIMES:

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday 15/8 **6.30pm**

Tuesday 16/8 9.30am & 6.30pm

Wednesday 17/8 7.30am & 9.30am

Thursday 18/8 9.30am

Friday 19/8 7.30am & 9.30am

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 20/8 5.00pm

Sunday 21/8 8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

No Confession on Monday

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 15/8/2022-21/8/2022

MASS TIMES:

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday 15/8 **9.30am**

Tuesday 16/8 7.30am

Holy Hour 7.30pm

Wednesday 17/8 9.30am

Thursday 18/8 7.30am

Friday 19/8 9.30am

Saturday 20/8 9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 20/8 5.00pm

Sunday 21/8 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 ON THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION-Mary Fermio rsj

This feast dates from 5th Century and for 1500 years both Eastern and Western churches have celebrated Mary's Assumption into Heaven, body and soul. In 1950 Pope Pius XII declared this an infallible truth. In this way he was affirming the sacredness of human life, at a time when life had been degraded and devalued during World War II.

Mary herself has made numerous visits to earth, guaranteeing her identity by signs and miracles.

At Fatima, Portugal, visiting three children, rain-drenched pilgrims' clothes dried instantly and the sun danced in the sky. At Lourdes, France, on visiting Bernadette, a healing stream sprang from the earth and today hundreds still visit this shrine and bathe in its waters. At Guadalupe, Mexico, Mary asked a poor peasant to ask the Bishop to build a church in honour of her on that spot. As proof, an image of Mary, as she appeared, was imprinted on his cloak, revealed when he opened the cloak filled with flowers blooming out of season in the presence of the Bishop. The cloak, with a normal life of 40 years, is still intact after 400 years on display. Catherine Labore, a French Daughter of Charity, was asked by Mary to get a medal made according to the image shown to her.

Many wear this Miraculous Medal today. Her incorrupt body can be viewed in Paris. There are many others.

At some of her visits Mary prayed the Rosary and asked for prayers for the conversion of sinners. Fr Gerard Collins sj found, while walking from London to Rome, that the Rosary was a good walking prayer, deepening our knowledge of the life of Jesus. Saying even one decade reflectively each day is a means of doing this or taking your beads on your daily walk.



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+).

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)

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.

CATHOLIC CARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL -THIS WEEKEND Please support our CatholicCare appeal this 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.

DO YOU FEEL LIKE BEING CALLED TO SERVE?

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. COME & SEE! An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on Saturday 3 September 2022, 10:00 - 11.45 at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), East Melbourne. Contact: Office of the Permanent Diaconate (Phone) 03 9412 3357 (Email) diaconate@cam.org.au

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

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

PRIME TIMERS

Our August outing will be to for movie day at Melton Library Tuesday 30th August at 10.30am, followed by lunch at Degani Cafe, Woodgrove Shopping Centre from 12.30pm. Enquiries, Ineke 0400120401 or ineke49@yahoo.com. RSVP Friday 26th.

INDIAN FOOD FUNDRAISER

Our Indian community will be selling Indian meals on the weekend of the 20th & 21st August after all Masses, to raise funds for the Padua Hall extension. Please support this fundraiser.

Our social community is also requesting anyone who is willing to help provide meals for this fundraiser to please contact Julie Sequiera 0430 540 556, thank you.

ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL – FRIDAY MORNING PLAYGROUP

We are seeking expressions of interest from families that would like to join the playgroup, limited spaces available. Please express your interest in attending.

St Anthony's Primary School, Wilson Road, Melton South VIC 3338 Phone: [03 8099 7800](tel:0380997800)



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.

MORNING TEA

Please join us for morning tea today, August 14th, after both the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 20th & 21st 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: Marian Muller
8.30am: John Brewis
10.30am: Susan Malinov
5.00pm: Dolores Turcsan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Lois Brewis
10.30am: Doris Bonello
5.00pm: Not rostered

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact Lesley at the Parish Office Thank you

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Olen & Coleen
8.30am: Julie & Godwin
10.30am: Leonia & Godwin
5.00pm: Natalie & Annonica

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Margaret Austin, Theresa Buttigieg, Anthony Bughair, Emmanuel Calleja, Eva Cornelisz, Cythia (Topsy) Daly, Lucy Harrington & Charles Van Hoos.

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: Maureen Zahra
8.30am: Margaret Love
10.30am: Dudley Rodrigues

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 20th & 21st August

5.00pm: John Thorne
8.30am: Nathan Costin
10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

August: John Wilson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for those who are recently deceased:

Tarcis Cutajar

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

Lena Carli, Leonard Condon, William George Cook. Patricia Cooper, Peter Fanning, Maureen Grogan, Margarete Johnson, Moya McGonegal, Bill McGrath, Ketty Mifsud, Anton Mijic, Paddy O'Leary & James Symmons.

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: 20th & 21st August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Gilles Maitre

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 : 20th & 21st August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Piety Stall will open after Saturday 5pm Mass & Sunday 8.30 Mass
Saturday: Margot Short
Sunday: Carmel Shea

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 to \$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: Robert & Angela Lacona 0424 801 928

Group 2: David & Anne Leheny 0405 621 232

Group 3: Godwin & Kim Barton 0425 734 449

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

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank. Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 39

Commentator: Lord, come to my aid!

All: Lord, come to my aid!

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm.

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord.

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay!

Lord, come to my aid!

SECOND READING Hebrews 12:1-4

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Is 66:18-21;

Second Reading: Heb 12:5-7, 11-13;

Gospel: Lk 13:22-30



The Crusades I

Rethinking the Crusades

Both St Bernard of Clairvaux and St Laurence of Brindisi were involved in some way with wars that became known as “crusades”. Largely as a result of the split in Western Christendom that came at the Reformation and that later “reformers” and the atheist philosophers of the 18th-century “Enlightenment” often sought rather unfairly to paint the Church as black as possible, the crusades came to be used as representative of the evils that the Faith led to.

However, modern scholarship is rewriting the history of the crusades and the truth is slowly—perhaps too slowly—making its way into the mind of the general populace. It is thus coming to light that the crusaders were not so black as they have been painted (at least, not all of them); and the idea of a holy war (a crusade) is not as indefensible as we may have been led to believe.

In order to restore balance to our view of the crusades and to offer some facts pertaining to what they were, so our view will be based in truth rather than rumour, we offer a few insights from modern scholars who are engaged in bringing those truths to light.

Crusades were war-pilgrimages proclaimed by the Popes on Christ’s behalf and waged for the recovery of Christian territory or people, or in their defence. Each crusader made a vow, signified by the wearing of a cloth cross, and he (or she) was rewarded with the grant of an indulgence and certain temporal privileges.

A distinguishing feature of crusading was that the cross was enjoined on men and women not as a service, but as a penance. While holy war had had a long history, the idea of penitential war was unprecedented. It meant that a crusade was for the crusader only secondarily about service in arms to God; it was primarily about benefitting himself. He was engaged in an act of self-sanctification.

Crusading generated two institutional mutations: military orders, the members of which were not crusaders, being permanently as opposed to temporarily engaged in the defence of Christendom and sometimes operating out of theocratic order-states like Prussia, Rhodes, and Malta; and crusade leagues, which were alliances of certain frontline powers, the forces of which were granted crusade privileges.

The movement lasted a very long time, from the preaching of the First Crusade in 1095 to the fall of the last order-state, Hospitaller Malta, to Napoleon

in 1798. It manifested itself in many theatres of war: Palestine and the eastern Mediterranean region, North Africa, Spain, the Baltic shores, Hungary, the Balkans, and even Western Europe. The Muslims were not the crusaders’ only enemies, although they provided the opposition in North Africa and Spain as well as in Palestine and Syria, and, from the later 14th century onwards, in the Aegean and the Balkans. Crusaders were also engaged in campaigns against Pagan Wends, Balts and Lithuanians, Shamanist Mongols, Orthodox Russians and Greeks, Cathar and Hussite heretics, and Catholic political opponents of the papacy.

It has often been said that crusaders tended to behave particularly badly once they were in the field. That they could be undisciplined and capable of great cruelty cannot be denied. The question, though, is whether the form of war in which they were engaged was a peculiarly horrible one.

Recent work on the sack of Jerusalem in July 1099, one of the most notorious incidents, is leading some historians to look at the evidence again. We know it to be a myth that the crusaders targeted the Jewish community in Jerusalem. We also know that the figure for the Muslim dead, which used to range from ten to seventy thousand on the basis of accounts written long after the event, ought to be revised downward.

A contemporary Muslim source has been discovered that puts the number at three thousand. Three thousand men and women is still a lot of people, of course, but it is low enough to make one wonder why the Western eyewitnesses, who gloried in generalised descriptions of slaughter, felt the need to portray a bloodbath.

If, on the other hand, the behaviour of the crusaders in the East cannot be considered to have been quantitatively worse than that of those fighting in any ideological war, the behaviour of the crusaders in Europe could sometimes be abominable, even by the standards of the time. Before heading off to the Jerusalem crusades in the 12th and 13th centuries, some Europeans “prepared themselves” through violent outbreaks of anti-Judaism in France, Germany, and England.

During the crusades launched against heretics, the most unpleasant examples of loss of discipline and control took place (the sacks of Constantinople in 1204 and of Béziers in 1209 spring to mind). If we are going to express contrition for the behaviour of the crusaders, it is not so much to the Muslims that we should apologise, but to the Jews and to our fellow Christians.