



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

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR C

21st 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/Officer: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's - Lorraine Tellis 0437 658 423 & Geetha Vincent 0478 112 996
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 22/8/2022-28/08/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 22/8	6.30pm
Tuesday 23/8	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 24/8	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 25/8	9.30am
Friday 26/8	7.30am & 9.30am

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 27/8	5.00pm
Sunday 28/8	8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 22/08/2022-28/08/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 22/8	No Mass
Tuesday 23/8	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 24/8	9.30am
Thursday 25/8	7.30am
Friday 26/8	9.30am
Saturday 27/8	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 27/8	5.00pm
Sunday 28/8	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS 27/8

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 21ST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME– Mary Fermio rsj

An invitation to a dinner, party or outing is usually very welcome. Sometimes the reply is "Can I let you know?" and we might wonder are they waiting for something better to turn up as an excuse. At sometime a decision will have to be made: Am I going or not? And then I have committed myself.

Jesus has invited me to be part of the Kingdom of God, to join him and share the joy of God's presence. But he warns me it may be difficult – the door is narrow! How do I respond to this invitation given to me at Baptism and Confirmation? If I say: "Hang on God, I'm not quite ready to commit myself yet" I may find it is too late and I have missed the best opportunity of my life.

When we read the lives of the saints, we find invitations can come in various ways, but they all asked a full commitment. St Francis of Assisi heard the voice of God: Repair my Church! Mary MacKillop's friend, Fr Woods, nourished the invitation Mary felt to teach the poor. The Apostles heard Jesus say: Come, follow me! Sometimes it is just a movement of the Spirit within myself, a drawing to do something different.

Everyone is invited to follow Jesus in whatever way of life is chosen. At my death, will I be able to say, as Jesus did on the cross, "It is accomplished!" knowing I have answered the invitation to the best of my ability.



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+).

CATHOLICARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL

Last weekend we had a special collection for Catholicare Victoria Sunday Appeal. St Anthony's parish collected \$758.40 and St Bernard's parish collected \$270.00. Thank you for your generosity.

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

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 this weekend after all Masses, to raise funds for the Padua Hall extension. Please support this fundraiser.

FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE

Next weekend the Social Committee will be selling raffle tickets for the Father's Day hampers. Please support this fundraiser all money raised will go towards the Padua Hall Extension.

MESSAGE FROM SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

All volunteers are required to have a current valid Working with Children Check and a Code of Conduct form signed. Any queries, please see or contact any of the Safeguarding Officers - Lorraine Tellis, Geetha Vincent or Godwin Barton. Contact details are on the front page of the newsletter.

PARISH OFFICE

The parish office will be closed on Monday 22nd & Monday 29th August.

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH CORPORATE DINNER

Venue: Tabcorp Park, 2 Ferris Rd, Melton 3337

Date: 22nd October 2022

Time: 6pm till late

Dress Code: Black Tie

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

RSVP: 1st October 2022

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

LIVE BAND-FUN FOR ALL-GROUP ENTERTAINMENT

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

ST BERNARD'S

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

Parishioners are invited to our Festival Mass on Sunday August 28 at 10.30am Mass. If you would like to join us for a light lunch following the Mass, please RSVP to Margot Short by this Sunday 21st August 0419 507 438 or margotmshort@gmail.com.

THE DOMINICAN SISTERS' MAJOR SUPERIOR'S VISIT

The Dominican Sisters' major superior, Mother Anna Grace, will be coming from the United States to visit the sisters and meet the parish community at the beginning of September. Please join us in welcoming Mother Anna Grace on her first visit to Australia with a morning tea after the 8:30 am Mass on Sunday 4 September.

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE

Our Safeguarding role is about looking after the well-being of our parishioners and anyone using St Bernard's Parish facilities. It is not just about our physical safety, but also aims to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. We fully embrace the bishops' responses to the crimes and failures of our Church documented by the Royal Commission – 'The governance and management of dioceses and parishes must maintain an unwavering commitment to protect the most vulnerable and rebuild trust and credibility among the Catholic and broader communities for the health and integrity of the Church.' Our committee has begun assessing all risk issues submitted in survey returns. Urgent items requiring finance – uneven concrete, disabled toilet, choir rail - have been discussed with the Finance Committee.

St Bernard's Parish Safeguarding Committee

Prayer of St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto you, O virgin of virgins, our mother. To you we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me.

St Bernard's Feast Day - 20th August

WORSHIP NEWS

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 27th & 28th 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: Stephen Fernandes

8.30am: Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Anastasia Mavaega

5.00pm: Rebecca Comini

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Ron Howard

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: Godwin & Deepa

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Frank Barker, Anthony Buhagiar, Eric Clyne, Angelina de Guzman, Daminku Mintoff & Doris Trevor.

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: John Thorne

8.30am: Nathan Costin

10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 27th & 28th August

5.00pm: Vikki Benson

8.30am: Dominican Sisters

10.30am: St Vincent de Paul Conference

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

August: John Wilson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Rebecca Ruby Vas

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

Dorothy "Dot" Atwood, Maurice Clancy, Alice Doolan, Roy Magill, Antonio Schembri, Jack Shelley, Norma Stevens, John Thorneycroft and Brian Ward.

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 VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 27th & 28th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Liza Fernandes
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS 27th & 28th August

5.00pm Vigil: Julie Sequiera & Judy Van Hoos
8.30am: Sam & Pat Chiles
10.30am: Kathleen McCurry & Frank Paulo

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 : 27th & 28th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Piety Stall will open after Saturday 5pm Mass & Sunday 8.30 Mass

Saturday: Marj Tung
Sunday: Dianne Shelly

CHURCH FLOWERS

August: Deborah Hosking



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

August: Stuart Robertson & Sean Giani

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.
The Vinnies Store is located at 8 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh. The store is open 7 days a week. If you are able to volunteer and would like some more information, please contact the Store Manager on 8199 4205.

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

The Neighbours' Place is a Christian not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to serve people of the **Moorabool Shire**, west of Melbourne Australia, who are disadvantaged, at risk or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family and who are in need of emergency food relief.

NILS is a **No Interest Loans Scheme** for assistance of up \$1500 for things like white goods, furniture and minor car repairs to keep life going.

We are located at [77 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh](#)

Phone: 03 5367 6222

Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Closed on public holidays.

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food provides a free community meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays), in the Uniting Church Hall, Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh. Meals are served up at 12noon. All are welcome and this is a free event. No need to book, just come along.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

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

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM– ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

Dear Parishioners

Keeping in line with the Archbishop's vision for Mission, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's have put together a new Baptism Preparation Program, for any parents who wish to have their child Baptised.

Preparations for Baptisms will take place on Saturdays alternating between both Parishes.

A welcome Mass must be attended prior to the Baptism. Baptisms will be held on

Saturday mornings at 11.00am. Parents must attend two sessions.

Sessions will run from 12.00pm-4.00pm. Godparents must attend the 2nd session.

Bookings must be made to attend these sessions. Please visit our website for a detailed

description of the new program. Contact the Parish Office to book your Preparation and Baptism.



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

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1: Robert & Angela Lacono 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 ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

FIRST READING Isaiah 66:18-21

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 116

Commentator: Go out to all the world
and tell the Good News.

All: Go out to all the world
and tell the Good News.

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever.

Go out to all the world
and tell the Good News

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29;

Second Reading: Heb 12:18-19, 22-24;

Gospel: Lk 14:1, 7-14



SECOND READING Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 13:22-30

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from the east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.

The Crusades II

Rethinking the Crusades (Part 2)

As far as crusading itself is concerned, most Muslims do not view the crusades, in which they anyway believe they were victorious, in isolation. Islam has been spasmodically in conflict with Christianity since the Muslim conquests of the seventh century, long before the First Crusade, and the crusading movement was a succession of episodes in a continuum of hostility between the two religions.

Muslims do not seem to have considered until relatively recently that the crusades stood out in this history; by 1500, indeed, they would have been justified in believing that that particular sequence of wars was ending in their favour. They might have lost Spain, but the Ottoman conquests in Europe had far exceeded anything the crusaders had gained in the East.

In the late 19th century, however, they began to regard the West's monopoly of commerce and colonialism as a change of tactics, in which everything the crusaders had lost to them was being more than regained. It follows that apologising to them now can never, as far as they are concerned, get to the root of the problem, because the crusades are merely symptomatic of a much longer-term competitiveness. It is rather like a marksman aiming at an opponent and, while he fires his rifle, expressing regrets for his ancestor's use of a bow and arrow.

But for many of the Christian penitents, what the Muslims think is of secondary importance; it is the Church's subjective act of repentance for past sin that matters. While this kind of self-accusation may make them feel good about themselves, it is possible that, in diverting attention from the real issues, they are doing more harm than good. How useful is it to condemn wars that were supported by great saints like Bernard of Clairvaux, Thomas Aquinas, Bridget of Sweden, Catherine of Siena, John of Capistrano, even possibly Francis of Assisi? Ought we not rather challenge the widespread sentimental and unhistorical assumptions that on the one hand Christianity is an unambiguously pacific religion and on the other that Christian justifications of force have been consistent?

The consensus among Christians on the use of violence has changed radically since the crusades were fought. The just war theory prevailing for most of the last two centuries — that violence is an evil which can in certain situations be condoned as the lesser of evils — is relatively young. Although it has inherited some elements (the criteria of legitimate authority, just cause, right intention) from the older war theory that first evolved around AD 400, it has rejected two premises that underpinned all medieval just wars, including crusades: first, that violence could be employed on behalf of Christ's intentions for mankind

and could even be directly authorised by him; and second, that it was a morally neutral force which drew whatever ethical colouring it had from the intentions of the perpetrators. Only in the 16th century did the nearly universal conviction that the use of violence depended on Christ's direct or indirect authority begin to be undermined. For the Dominican Francisco de Vitoria and his followers, particularly Suarez and Ayala, violence could be justified only in terms of the needs of the "common good", defined in relation to accepted earthly laws.

"Just war" arguments thus moved from the field of moral theology to that of law, a step taken within decades by Gentili and Grotius. Christ was withdrawing from the fray, at least as far as Enlightenment thinkers were concerned — the French Encyclopédistes referred to the crusades as *ces guerres horribles* ("those horrible wars") — but although they agreed that the use of force nearly always had evil consequences because of the suffering that accompanied it, they still regarded violence itself as being morally neutral.

No one had yet taken the second step necessary for the emergence of modern "just war" theory, the conviction borrowed from pacifism that force is intrinsically evil — though conceding that it can nevertheless be condoned as a lesser evil. I do not know exactly when this change took place, but I suspect it was an achievement of the peace movement that swept Europe and America after the Napoleonic Wars and split into two wings, pacifist and moderate, in the 1830s.

From the fourth century, and especially from the 11th to the 19th century, therefore, Christians considered violence in a quite different light than we do today. Our "just war" theory has become so embedded in our thinking that we forget that it represents a relatively short-lived departure from a much longer-lasting and more positive tradition. Time will tell whether that older tradition represents the norm, but a realisation of this may come sooner rather than later, because there are several straws in the wind. The founding of the League of Nations and then the United Nations and the judgements at the Nuremberg trials encouraged the revival of concepts of natural law, manifesting themselves in the notion of crimes against humanity and an insistence on judgement by international tribunals. This seems to have set in motion a process that has now led to the waging of a war justified by its "humanitarian" aims.

This development, subordinates international law to natural law and reintroduces ethical judgements to just-war theory. It is beginning to look, moreover, as though the restoration of Christ to the position of an authoriser of violence, which was a feature of the militant Christian liberation theology in the 1960s and early 1970s, was part of this process of change.