



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

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR C

25th September 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: Mon 9.00am-12noon
Tue-Fri 9.00-1.00pm

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

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

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 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 Tuesday 6.00pm. Please email judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 26/9/2022-2/10/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 26/9	6.30pm
Tuesday 27/9	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 28/9	9.30am
Thursday 29/9	9.30am
Friday 30/9	9.30am
First Saturday Devotion 1/10	8.30am

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 1/10	5.00pm
Sunday 2/10	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 26/09/2022-2/10/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 26/9	No Mass
Tuesday 27/9	9.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 28/9	9.30am
Thursday 29/9	9.30am
Friday 30/9	9.30am
Saturday 1/10	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday 1/10	5.00pm
Sunday 2/10	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS	1/10	6.30pm
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If you need a Priest in the case of a genuine 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 26TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME-Sr Mary Fermio

19,000 refugees and asylum seekers are in our country, not sitting at our gates, but relying on the goodness of others for the necessities of life, seeking a life free from fear, oppression and persecution. For years they have been trapped with temporary visas.

In today's parable Jesus describes a situation where a rich man, Dives, is feasting, living with all the comforts his wealth can provide and a poor sick man, Lazarus, no support, apparently no housing, willing to poke around in the garbage for the leftovers and have the dogs lick his sores. After death their roles are reversed with no help available to ease the suffering of Dives, who wants someone to go and warn his brothers – but this is not possible.

WE do have someone who has risen from the dead, Jesus, who has given us a guide on how to live. May our ears and hearts be open to feel the needs of others, to feel our own discomfort when we ignore the needs of others. Do I just give of my "leftovers" or do I part with something in my life that is valuable – money, time, my volunteering, letter writing, and prayer?



The Begging Jesus-Timot

PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC? -SESSIONS RECOMMENCE 4th October

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 at 7.00pm at St Anthony's Church of Padua, 67-75 Exford Road, Melton South (Age 16+) **Topic is: 'Salvation history'** God created us out of Love, and wanted us to freely love him in return.

NEWSLETTER

Please submit all articles for the newsletter by 6pm on **Tuesdays** to judyparishnews@gmail.com Thank you.

LIVING ROSARY

Let us begin the month of October with the living rosary. 11.30am onwards-Helium Balloon Rosary-Flower Offering to Our Lady-BBQ Lunch-Activities for the Kids. Please join us at St Anthony's Church **Sunday 2nd October**

CHILDREN'S CATECHISM PROGRAM (Children 6-12 years old) – St Anthony's Padua Hall

The Children's Catechism program will be held on four Sundays in October (9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th) 11.30am-12.30pm. Pre-Register: Contact AHFI Missionaries 0404 380 305.

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. **YOU CAN JOIN THESE SESSIONS AT ANY TIME.**

Every Wednesday until 5th October in St Anthony's Meeting room 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Scan QR Code to register



ST ANTHONY'S

PRIME TIMERS We will have a Memorial Mass for deceased members with Fr. Martin at St. Ambrose Church, 18 Templeton St Woodend. WEDNESDAY 28th September at 11.30 am. Followed by lunch at the Victoria Hotel.

Enquiries Ineke 0400 120 401 or ineke49@yahoo.com.

WOMEN'S RECOLLECTION A recollection – a sort of mini-retreat – provides an opportunity to review your life, to renew your relationship with God, and to make firm resolutions for the future. Recollections are a well-established means of deepening the spiritual life. **Thursday 6th October 6.30pm-8.30pm.** Please see notice board for flyer with all the details Contact: Renee 0403 080 632

THE SEARCH The Search is an innovative video series that tackles the key questions of every human heart. In seven beautifully filmed episodes hosted by Chris Stefanick and featuring other experts from multiple fields of science, medicine, psychology, art, and religion...they examine our place in the larger story of existence.

Whether you're a practiced inquirer or a jaded sceptic, The Search will speak to you. **You may be reassured by some parts, and challenged by others. Either way, you'll find a lot here to think about. And when all is said and done, life's questions demand to be answered.**

Are you ready for The Search? The program will be held at St Anthony's Church **from 12th October 10am-11.30am and 6pm-7.30pm.**

Please add your name and phone to the clipboard in the Church foyer or **TEXT** your details 0414 007 009.

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

PIETY STALL

The Piety Stall has the Revised Catholic Edition Bible for sale for \$49.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Dominican Sisters, thank you for the warm welcome you extended to Mother Anna Grace and Sr John Mary during their visit to Melbourne. They thoroughly enjoyed their time in Australia and were especially happy to meet the parishioners and friends of the community. In a few weeks, we will welcome Sr Mary Ruth who will be coming from the US to join the community in Melbourne. Thanks as always for your kindness and spirit of welcome!

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

Lord, make us bearers of hope, so that where there is darkness, your light may shine, and where there is discouragement, confidence in the future may be reborn.

Lord, make us instruments of your justice, so that where there is exclusion, fraternity may flourish, and where there is greed, a spirit of sharing may grow.

Lord, make us builders of your Kingdom, together with migrants and refugees and with all who dwell on the peripheries.

Lord, let us learn how beautiful it is to live together as brothers and sisters. Amen.

[Migrant & Refugee Sunday: September 25, 2022 – Diocese of Ballarat \(catholic.org.au\)](https://catholic.org.au)

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: 1st & 2nd October

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: Liza Fenandes

8.30am: Leonia Jessop

10.30am: Rhys Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Ann Tennakoon

8.30am: Geoff Sutton

10.30am: George Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm:

8.30am: To be advised

10.30am:

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Joseph Aquilina, Archiebald Arandez, Michael Azzopardi, Fay Blake, Angelo Borg, Leslie Butler, Francis Cochrane, Gerard Cochrane, Phillip DeBrincat, Campbell Dodemaide, Christopher Doyle, Darren Grech, Colleen O'Meara, Joseph Saliba & Charlie Zammit.

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, 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: Margaret Love

10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 1st & 2nd October

5.00pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Gerard O'Shea

10.30am: Dudley Rodrigues

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

October: Greta & Grace Kratochvil

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Mary & Zvonko Benac, John Davine, Frank McMahon, Lesley James Noonan, Bryan Stewart, Edna Thorne, Edward Wilkison.

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 Gagliardi, 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, Cathy-Sue Nuelist, 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, Colin Taffe, Catherine Time, Susan Trist, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young and all those who have requested our prayers.

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: 1st & 2nd October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS –THIS WEEKEND

5.00pm Vigil: Cristal D'Souza & Marion Muller
8.30am: Ineke Allen & Mary Saliba
10.30am: Bonello family & Gerard Anderson

CHURCH FLOWERS

October: Regina & Richella Tuala



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 : 1st & 2nd October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Jan & Colm
Sunday: 8.30am Jan Farmelo
10.30am Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

October: Beatrice Younger



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

October: Stephen Millington

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare Number is 1800 305 330.
The Vinnies Store is now located at Shop 19, The Village, 164-190 Main 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.

[Baptism of Infants | St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish](#) If you have any questions please call the Parish Office.



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: Aloysious & Michelle Dacunha 0469 863 253

Group 2: Leonia Jessop 0450 419 654

Group 3: Dragica Mladen Soldo 0466 482 035

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

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

FIRST READING Amos 6:1, 4-7

The almighty Lord says this:

Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion
and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of
Samaria.

Lying on ivory beds
and sprawling on their divans,
they dine on lambs from the flock,
and stall-fattened veal;
they bawl to the sound of the harp,
they invent new instruments of music like David,
they drink wine by the bowlful,
and use the finest oil for anointing themselves,
but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all.
That is why they will be the first to be exiled;
the sprawlers' revelry is over.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 145

Commentator: Praise the Lord, my soul!

All: Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

He upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Praise the Lord, my soul!

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Hab 1:2-3, 2:2-4;

Second Reading: 2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14

Gospel: Lk 17:5-9



SECOND READING 1 Timothy 6:11-16

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. 'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours." 'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham, "let them listen to them." "Ah, no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,
by which you have given me hope.
This is my comfort when I am brought low.

The Crusades VII

The Real History of the Crusades (Part 3)

It is often said that the roots of the Holocaust can be seen in the medieval pogroms against the Jews. That may be. But if so, those roots are far deeper and more widespread than the Crusades. Jews perished during the Crusades, but the purpose of the Crusades was not to kill Jews. Quite the contrary: Popes, bishops, and preachers made it clear that the Jews of Europe were to be left unmolested.

In a modern war, we call tragic deaths like these “collateral damage”. Even with smart technologies, the United States has killed more innocents in wars than the Crusaders ever could. But no one can seriously argue that the purpose of American wars is to kill women and children.

By any reckoning, the First Crusade was a long shot. There was no leader, no chain of command, no supply lines, no detailed strategy. It was simply thousands of warriors marching deep into enemy territory, committed to a common cause. Many of them died, either in battle or through disease and starvation. It was a rough campaign, one that seemed always on the brink of disaster. Yet it was miraculously successful.

By 1098, the Crusaders had restored Nicaea and Antioch to Christian rule. In July 1099, they conquered Jerusalem and began to build a Christian state in Palestine. The joy in Europe was unbridled. It seemed that the tide of history, which had lifted the Muslims to such heights, was now turning.

But it was not. When we think about the Middle Ages, it is easy to view Europe in light of what it became rather than what it was. The colossus of the medieval world was Islam, not Christendom. The Crusades are interesting largely because they were an attempt to counter that trend. But in five centuries of crusading, it was only the First Crusade that rolled back the military progress of Islam. It was downhill from there.

When the Crusader County of Edessa fell to the Turks and Kurds in 1144, there was an enormous groundswell of support for a new Crusade in Europe. It was led by two kings, Louis VII of France and Conrad III of Germany, and preached by St Bernard himself.

It failed miserably. Most of the Crusaders were killed along the way. Those who made it to Jerusalem only made things worse by attacking Muslim Damascus, which formerly had been a

strong ally of the Christians. In the wake of such a disaster, Christians across Europe were forced to accept not only the continued growth of Muslim power but the certainty that God was punishing the West for its sins. Lay piety movements sprouted up throughout Europe, all rooted in the desire to purify Christian society so that it might be worthy of victory in the East.

Crusading in the late 12th century, therefore, became a total war effort. Every person, no matter how weak or poor, was called to help. Warriors were asked to sacrifice their wealth and, if need be, their lives for the defence of the Christian East. On the home front, all Christians were called to support the Crusades through prayer, fasting, and alms.

Yet still the Muslims grew in strength. Saladin, the great unifier, had forged the Muslim Near East into a single entity. In 1187 at the Battle of Hattin, his forces wiped out the combined armies of the Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem and captured the precious relic of the True Cross. Defenceless, the Christian cities began surrendering, culminating in the surrender of Jerusalem on October 2. Only a few ports held out.

The response was the Third Crusade. It was led by Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa of the German Empire, King Philip II Augustus of France, and King Richard I (the Lion Heart) of England. By any measure it was a grand affair, although not quite as grand as the Christians had hoped. The aged Frederick drowned while crossing a river on horseback, so his army returned home before reaching the Holy Land. Philip and Richard came by boat, but their incessant bickering only added to an already divisive situation on the ground in Palestine. After recapturing Acre, the king of France went home, where he busied himself carving up Richard's French holdings.

The Crusade, therefore, fell into Richard's lap. A skilled warrior, gifted leader, and superb tactician, Richard led the Christian forces to victory after victory, eventually reconquering the entire coast. But Jerusalem was not on the coast, and after two abortive attempts to secure supply lines to the Holy City, Richard at last gave up. Promising to return one day, he struck a truce with Saladin that ensured peace in the region and free access to Jerusalem for unarmed pilgrims. But it was a bitter pill to swallow. The desire to restore Jerusalem to Christian rule and regain the True Cross remained intense throughout Europe.