



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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD-YEAR C

29th May 2022

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Fabian Smith
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint /Father Marcus Goulding

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 10.30am-1.00pm Wed & Thu 9.00am-1.00pm
Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au
Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

St Bernard's School **Principal:**
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	9747 0078
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Fabian Smith PP, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint,
Fr Marcus Goulding, 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 Marcus Goulding

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 30/5/22-5/6/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 30/5	6.30pm
Tuesday 31/5	9.30am
Holy Hour	5.30pm
Week 12 of the St Antony's Novena	6.15pm
followed by Mass at	6.30pm
Wednesday 1/6	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 2/6	9.30am
Friday 3/6	7.30am & 9.30am
First Friday Devotion	7.30pm & Midnight
First Saturday Devotion	8.30am
<u>Sunday Masses</u>	
Saturday 4/6	5.00pm
Sunday 5/6	8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

No Confession on Monday

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 30/5/22-5/6/22

MASS TIMES:

Monday 30/5	No Mass	Rosary	7.30pm
with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour.			
Tuesday 31/6			7.30am
Holy Hour			7.30pm
Wednesday 1/6			9.30am
Thursday 2/6			7.30am
Friday 3/6			9.30am
Saturday 4/6			9.00am
<u>Sunday Masses</u>			
Saturday 4/6			5.00pm
Sunday 5/6			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 0456 718 965

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 ASCENSION SUNDAY– SR MARY FERMIO rsj

Some years ago, I was sitting with one of our Sisters, and her sister, knowing her death was near, as she was unconscious. Her sister was telling her it was okay, it was time to go, and I then realised she had stopped breathing. What amazed us the most was that travelling home we both felt the most intense joy.

The disciples also knew this joy after Jesus left them. They had experienced his presence with them over several weeks and now he was gone forever from their sight. The Gospel accounts vary in some ways, but they were given a commission to go out to the world, to return to Jerusalem to wait to be clothed in power from on high. Sadness did not seem to be present, but a joy that took them to the temple to praise God.

This power, the Holy Spirit, has been given to each of us. Each of us has been missioned from that day to go out. Like the Disciples we are sent to give God's love to all, while we wait to move from one life to the next, and meet our God face to face. One person in our parish who has recently left us, was Val Dickson, a woman of faith who certainly lived out this mission with joy.



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST APPOINTED

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Our Archbishop has appointed Fr. Samuel Kapani as assistant priest to the parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's. Fr Samuel was born in 1976 and brought up in Manipur, Northeastern part of India. He was Ordained in 2005 for the Archdiocese of Imphal, Manipur. Fr Samuel has done his scriptural studies in Austria where he lived for six years. He arrived in Australia on 15 January 2022 and is currently residing at St. Anne's church, Kew East with Fr. John Salvano. I have spoken to Fr Samuel who is looking forward to taking up his appointment on Wednesday 6th July.

Many blessings, Fr Fabian

FATHER MARCUS'S FAREWELL

Just a reminder Fr Marcus will celebrate his last weekend Masses at St Anthony's on the 25th & 26th June, we will have a cuppa and farewell for him after Masses that weekend. Please bring a plate to share.

He will celebrate his last weekend Masses on the 2nd & 3rd July at St Bernard's. We will have refreshments after the 10.30am Mass that weekend and the opportunity to wish him well in his new appointment as assistant priest in Malvern East.

*Dear Jesus, I thank you that you came in human form and lived on earth.
You always did what your Heavenly Father desired. Today we celebrate the day
when you left the earth by being taken up into Heaven, where you sit on the throne.
I remember and believe you will fulfill your promises to us. So I wait for your return to
the earth, when sin and death will finally be defeated. Jesus, I need your presence in my
life, your direction and help. Amen.*



Source: [PRAYER FOR THE ASCENSION OF JESUS \(prayray.com\)](http://PRAYER.FOR.THE.ASCENSION.OF.JESUS.prayray.com)

ST ANTHONY'S

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

Our International Food Festival will be held on Sunday 5th June after the 10.30am Mass. Lots of delicious meals from a variety of cuisines will be available. Funds raised will go towards the extension of Padua Hall.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THANKSGIVING VIA THE ONLINE PLATFORM

First, thank you for your generous contributions. To make accounting with regard to your Thanksgiving Contributions, easier to reconcile, we kindly ask that you place your surname and your Thanksgiving number in the reference so it can be reflected on your Statement. If you don't know your number or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lesley at the Parish Office.

CUPPA WEEKENDS ARE BACK- THIS WEEKEND

Parishioners please join us for a cuppa and a chat after the 5.00pm Vigil, 8.30am and 10.30am Masses, this weekend.

PROPAGATION APPEAL-LAST WEEKEND

We raised \$488.35 in last weekend's special collection. The funds raised will go to providing life changing programs which aim to help prevent malnutrition in disadvantaged families in Ethiopia and support mission programs around the world. Thank you for your generosity.

ST BERNARD'S

PARISH POTLUCK LUNCH

After 10.30am Mass Sunday, 5th June 2022 All parishioners are invited to a potluck lunch in St Bernard's Parish Centre on Sunday 5th June following the 10.30am Mass. Bring a plate to share - preferably with something on it! Food can be left in the Parish Centre prior to Mass. BYO drinks alcohol permitted. Tea & coffee provided.

ST BERNARD'S SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS:

All clergy, employees and volunteers (groups and individuals) who have responsibility for any activity in a parish facility are requested to obtain from our church gathering space the following safeguarding forms -

1. Parish building usage form to be completed by person in charge
2. Code of Conduct and declaration sheets to be signed by all
3. Risk assessments sheets

These forms are to be completed and returned to the box in the church or to the parish office by June 12th, 2022. Thank you to those folk who have already done so. A reminder to all volunteers to have their WWCC submitted to the parish office by May, 31st. Margaret Love

WORSHIP NEWS

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

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 4th & 5th June

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: Aloysious Dacunha

8.30am: Leonia Jessop

10.30am: Karina Dunne

5.00pm: Rebecca Comini

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Geoff Sutton

10.30am: George 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: Coleen & Godwin

8.30am: Lillian & Godwin

10.30am: Leonia & Godwin

5.00pm: Annonica & Olen

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Angela Aquilina, Raymond Borg, Emmanuel & Jane DeBrincat, Philip Giordamanja, Alfred Grech, Makaua Jessop Eugene Julien, Heather 'Rose' Marslew & Romeo Miranda.

Please pray for the Sick: Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Jamie Coghlan, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Reg Marslen, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Maiava Kuno Nickol, Paul Nowak, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Catherine Roberts, Peter Roberts, Pat Roberts, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Uatoa Tuigamala, Clint Abela Wadge, and 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: Moira Ross

10.30am: Dominic Van Der Linden

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 4th & 5th June

5.00pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Dominican Sisters

10.30am: Beatrice Younger

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

June: Margaret Love

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Denis (Jim) Barry, Merv Dillon, Stan Douglas, Francis Farrugia, Christine Hansen, Leo Ryan, Keith Selvidge, Elaine Wooller, & James Younger.

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, Jack DeLuca, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, 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: 4th & 5th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Ineke Allen
10.30am: Elizabeth Underwood

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS—28th & 29th May

5.00pm Vigil: Marthese, Gavin & Alison
8.30am: Sam & Pat Chiles
10.30am: Doris & Emily Bonello

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: Ana



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. Thank you.

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

ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 4th & 5th June

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday: To be advised

CHURCH FLOWERS

June: Francis McDaid



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

June: Colm Carragher & Ron Geurts

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

***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.***

Amen



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 Baptism 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 Marcus or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

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

Group 1: Stephen & Liza Fernandes 0439 743 533

Group 2: Pat Fernandez 0416 191 766

Group 3: Angela Saliba 0431 095 885

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

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 46

Commentator: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 24:46-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS- **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

First Reading:	Acts 2:1-11;
Second Reading:	Rom 8:8-17;
Gospel:	Jn 14:15-16,23-26



St Bernard of Clairvaux XI

Life of St Bernard, Part 5

The last years of Bernard's life were saddened by the failure of the Crusade he had preached, the entire responsibility for which was thrown upon him. He had accredited the enterprise by miracles, but he had not guaranteed its success against the misconduct and perfidy of those who participated in it.

Lack of discipline and the over-confidence of the German troops, the intrigues of the Prince of Antioch and Queen Eleanor, and finally the avarice and evident treason of the Christian nobles of Syria, who prevented the capture of Damascus, appear to have been the cause of disaster.

Bernard considered it his duty to send an apology to the Pope and it is inserted in the second part of his "Book of Consideration". There he explains how, with the crusaders as with the Hebrew people, in whose favour the Lord had multiplied his prodigies, their sins were the cause of their misfortune and miseries.

The death of his contemporaries served as a warning to Bernard of his own approaching end. The first to die was Suger (1152), of whom the Abbot wrote to Eugenius III: "If there is any precious vase adorning the palace of the King of Kings it is the soul of the venerable Suger."

Thibaud, Count of Champagne, Conrad, Emperor of Germany, and his son Henry died the same year.

From the beginning of the year 1153, Bernard felt his death approaching. The passing of Pope Eugenius struck the fatal blow by taking from him one whom he considered his greatest friend and consoler.

Bernard died in the 63rd year of his age, after 40 years spent in the cloister. He founded one hundred and sixty-three monasteries in different parts of Europe; at his death, having continued to expand under their own initiative, they numbered three hundred and forty-three.

He was the first Cistercian monk placed on the calendar of saints and was canonised by Pope Alexander III on January 18, 1174. Pope Pius VIII bestowed on him the title of Doctor of the Church. The Cistercians honour him as only the founders of orders are honoured, because of the wonderful and widespread activity which he gave to the Order of Citeaux.

The works of St Bernard are as follows: *De Gradibus Superbiae* ("On the 12 Steps of Pride"), his first treatise; "Homilies on the Gospel *Missus est*" (1120); "Apology to William of St Thierry" against the claims of the monks of Cluny; "On the Conversion of Clerics", a book addressed to the young ecclesiastics of Paris (1122); *De Laudibus Novae Militiae* ("In Praise of the New Military Order"), addressed to Hughes de Payns, first Grand Master and Prior of Jerusalem (1129). This is a eulogy of the military order instituted in 1118, and an exhortation to the knights to conduct themselves with courage in their several stations.

De amore Dei ("On the Love of God"), wherein St Bernard shows that the manner of loving God is to love Him without measure and gives the different degrees of this love; "Book of Precepts and Dispensations" (1131), which contains answers to questions upon certain points of the Rule of St Benedict from which the abbot can, or cannot, dispense; *De Gratia et Libero Arbitrio* ("On Grace and Free Will") in which the Catholic dogma of grace and free will is proved according to the principles of St Augustine; "Book of Considerations", addressed to Pope Eugenius III; *De Officiis Episcoporum* ("On the Tasks of Bishops"), addressed to Henry, Archbishop of Sens. His sermons are also numerous: "On Psalm 90, *Qui habitat*" (about 1125); In his "On the Canticle of Canticles", St Bernard explains in 86 sermons only the first two chapters of the Canticle of Canticles and the first verse of the third chapter.

There are also 86 "Sermons for the Whole Year"; and his Letters number 530.