



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

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR C

2nd October 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

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 **Principal:** Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith
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 Tuesday 6.00pm. Please email judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 3/10/2022-9/10/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 3/10	6.30pm
Tuesday 4/10	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 5/10	7.30am & 9.30am
Thursday 6/10	9.30am
Friday 7/10	7.30am & 9.30am
First Friday Devotion 7/10	7.30pm & Midnight

Rosary 9.00am before 9.30am weekday Mass.



Sunday Masses

Saturday 8/10	5.00pm
Sunday 9/10	8.30am & 10.30am

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

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 3/10/2022-9/10/2022

MASS TIMES:

Monday 3/10	No Mass
Tuesday 4/10	7.30am
Holy Hour	7.30pm
Wednesday 5/10	9.30am
Thursday 6/10	7.30am
Friday 7/10	9.30am
Saturday 8/10	9.00am

Sunday Mass

Saturday 8/10	Grade 2 Family Mass	5.00pm
Sunday 9/10		8.30am & 10.30am

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

KOROBET

VIGIL MASS	8/10	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.

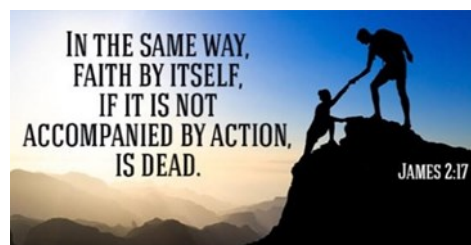
REFLECTION 27TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME-Sr Mary Fermio

When a man or woman confesses their love for the other, they are ready to do what they can to make that person happy, not expecting any return. They have faith in their love for each other and their actions reveal that love and strengthen it.

Our faith in God is like that, one of love and service. This can be a bit difficult for some as we cannot see God. But we have Jesus who lived among the people and said: "Those who see me see the Father!" So, my faith in God's love for me calls me to love and service of God's people as Jesus did.

The lives of Saints and holy people around me, like Mary MacKillop and Val Dickson, show me simple and ordinary ways of love and service, the fruits of our faith. The example of the faith of Queen Elizabeth has been much in evidence, and her commitment to love and service of her people flowed from her faith in God.

So faith isn't just a static state to keep me safe for when I die – faith is the active, ever-ready attitude to serve others, as the expression of my love and faith. And this can be in simple, ordinary ways, which often develop into deep friendships to the benefit of both.



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

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE-ROSTER

The roster for hosting our Lady of Fatima statue will be compiled in the 1st week of December. Any **NEW** family who wishes to go on the roster, must put their details on the clipboard in the Church foyer. Thank you.

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.

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.

BINGO

Bingo is held every Tuesday night at 7pm in the Padua Hall, St Anthony's. Canteen services available and complimentary tea and coffee provided.

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)

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

MORNING TEA

Please join us for the monthly morning tea on October 9th, after both the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses.



RELIGIOUS ITEMS-STALL

Next weekend 8th & 9th October we will have a stall selling religious items, after all Masses.

St Vincent de Paul-Observance

On Sept. 27, the Catholic Church remembers Saint Vincent de Paul, the French, 17th century priest known as the patron of Catholic charities for his apostolic work among the poor and marginalized.

During a September 2010 Angelus address, Pope Benedict XVI noted that St. Vincent "keenly perceived the strong contrast between the richest and the poorest of people," and was "encouraged by the love of Christ" to "organize permanent forms of service" to provide for those in need.

Source: [St. Vincent de Paul \(catholicnewsagency.com\)](http://St.Vincent.de.Paul.catholicnewsagency.com)

FORMED

Just a reminder that we have a parish FORMED subscription

FORMED is a Catholic streaming service. We have purchased a parish subscription that you can access for free at home.

Please limit yourselves to one account per household.

To register under our subscription, follow these steps:

1. Visit <https://signup.formed.org/>
2. Input *St Anthony's & St Bernard's Catholic Parishes* in the "Find your Parish" box.
3. Input your name and email address.
4. Visit formed.org on your preferred device to begin watching.

If you enjoy using FORMED, consider making a donation to our parish to help us keep providing this service.

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: 8th & 9th 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: Aloysious Dacunha
8.30am: Mercy Seufatu
10.30am: Anastasia Mavaega

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm Vigil: Gavin Pereira
8.30am: Ron Howard
10.30am: Doris Bonello

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

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Godwin & Coleen
8.30am: Godwin & Lillian
10.30am: Leonia & Lillian

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

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

Francisco Alatrasta, Avelino Asube Jnr, Fr Peter James, William Kelly, Dominic Ariel Santa Maria & Keith Harry Williams.

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: Sonia Smith
8.30am: Gerard O'Shea
10.30am: Dudley Rodrigues

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: 8th & 9th October

5.00pm: Vikki Benson
8.30am: Maggie Kratochvil
10.30am: Chloe Lindorff

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

October: Greta & Grace Kratochvil

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for the recently deceased:

Kerry Mullane

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

Domenica Amato, Justin Callaway, Mark Densley, Brian Dobson, Carmen Farrugia, William Lang, John William McDonald, Lesley James Noonan, Patricia Pidoto, Patricia Readman, Ida Suban, Alma Trask & Ted Wilkinson.

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, 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: 8th & 9th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Kim Barton
8.30am: Pat Chiles
10.30am: Geetha Vincent

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS –22nd & 23rd October

5.00pm Vigil: Joe Perera & Gavin & Allison Pereira
8.30am: Geoff & Debra Sutton
10.30am: Dwi Rochfort

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 : 8th & 9th October

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 5.00pm Jackie Tabone
Sunday: 8.30am Sean Giani
10.30am Dagmar Van der Linden

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](#) [Baptism of Infants | St Bernard's Catholic Parish](#)
(stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au) 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

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

FIRST READING Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help
while you will not listen;
to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear
and you will not save?
Why do you set injustice before me,
why do you look on where there is tyranny?
Outrage and violence, this is all I see,
all is contention, and discord flourishes.
Then the Lord answered and said,
'Write the vision down,
inscribe it on tablets
to be easily read,
since this vision is for its own time only:
eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive;
if it comes slowly, wait,
for come it will, without fail.
See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights,
but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 94

Commentator: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

All: If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever;
it is the word given to you, the Good News.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.'

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately?" Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS-

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2Kg 5:14-17;
Second Reading: 2 Tim 2:8-13;
Gospel: Lk 11:29-32



The Crusades VIII

The Real History of the Crusades (Part 4)

The Crusades of the 13th century were larger, better funded, and better organised. But they too failed. The Fourth Crusade (1201-1204) ran aground when it was seduced into a web of Byzantine politics, which the Westerners never fully understood.

They had made a detour to Constantinople to support an imperial claimant who promised great rewards and support for the Holy Land. Yet once he was on the throne of the Caesars, he found that he could not pay what he had promised. Thus betrayed by their Greek friends, in 1204 the Crusaders attacked, captured, and brutally sacked Constantinople, the greatest Christian city in the world.

Pope Innocent III, who had previously excommunicated the entire Crusade, strongly denounced the Crusaders. But there was little else he could do. The tragic events of 1204 closed an iron door between Roman Catholics and Greek Orthodox, a door that even today Pope Saint John Paul II was unable to reopen. It is a terrible irony that the Crusades, which were a direct result of the Catholic desire to rescue the Orthodox people, drove the two further — and perhaps irrevocably — apart.

The remainder of the Crusades of the 13th century did little better. The Fifth Crusade (1217-1221) managed briefly to capture Damietta in Egypt, but the Muslims eventually defeated the army and reoccupied the city.

King St Louis IX of France led two Crusades in his life. The first also captured Damietta, but Louis was quickly outwitted by the Egyptians and forced to abandon the city. Although Louis was in the Holy Land for several years, spending freely on defensive works, he never achieved his fondest wish: to free Jerusalem. He was a much older man in 1270 when he led another Crusade to Tunis, where he died of a disease that ravaged the camp.

After St Louis' death, the ruthless Muslim leaders, Baybars and Kalavun, waged a brutal jihad against the Christians in Palestine. By 1291, the Muslim forces had succeeded in killing or ejecting the last of the Crusaders, thus erasing the Crusader kingdom from the map. Despite numerous attempts and many

more plans, Christian forces were never again able to gain a foothold in the region until the 19th century.

One might think that three centuries of Christian defeats would have soured Europeans on the idea of a Crusade. Not at all. In one sense, they had little alternative. Muslim kingdoms were becoming more and more, not less, powerful in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries. The Ottoman Turks conquered not only their fellow Muslims, thus farther unifying Islam, but also continued to press westward, capturing Constantinople and plunging deep into Europe itself.

By the 15th century, the Crusades were no longer errands of mercy for a distant people but desperate attempts of one of the last remnants of Christendom to survive. Europeans began to ponder the real possibility that Islam would finally achieve its aim of conquering the entire Christian world.

One of the great best-sellers of the time, Sebastian Brant's *The Ship of Fools*, gave voice to this sentiment in a chapter entitled "Of the Decline of the Faith":

Our faith was strong in th'Orient,
It ruled in all of Asia,
In Moorish lands and Africa.
But now for us these lands are gone
'Twould even grieve the hardest stone ...
Four sisters of our Church you find,
They're of the patriarchic kind:
Constantinople, Alexandria,
Jerusalem, Antiochia.
But they've been forfeited and sacked
And soon the head will be attacked.

Of course, that is not what happened. But it very nearly did. In 1480, Sultan Mehmed II captured Otranto as a beachhead for his invasion of Italy. Rome was evacuated. Yet the sultan died shortly thereafter, and his plan died with him.

In 1529, Suleiman the Magnificent laid siege to Vienna. If not for a run of freak rainstorms that delayed his progress and forced him to leave behind much of his artillery, it is virtually certain that the Turks would have taken the city. Germany, then, would have been at their mercy.