



Parish Priest
Fr John Paul Mount

Parish Secretary
Dolores Turcsan

Bookkeeper
Naim Chdid

Parish Office Hours
Tuesday–Friday, 9:30am–1:30pm

Telephone
03 5367 2069

Email
bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

Website
www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

Facebook link
<https://www.facebook.com/stbernardsbacchusmarsh>

St Bernard's Primary School
19a Gisborne Road
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Principal
Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith

Telephone
03 5366 5800

Email
principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

Website
www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

COLLECTIONS

First Collection for the Presbytery supports our Parish Priest and priests of the Archdiocese.
Second Collection for the Church supports our parish.

Parishioners who normally give cash but wish to pay online, can go to this link:
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/donate?id=0012w00000LOj42AAD>
As a reference, please include your name & Thanksgiving number (if you know it). Thank you.

*St Bernard's Parish
acknowledges and respects
all Indigenous Australians.*

Newsletter items must be submitted by Wednesday midnight. Please email to
bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

St Bernard's Parish

61 Lerderderg Street, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Our Lady Help of Christians
309 Myrniong-Korobeit Road, Korobeit VIC 3341

Third Sunday of Advent – Year C 15th December 2024

MASS & DEVOTION TIMES – 16th to 22nd December

St Bernard's

Monday	16 th	3:00pm – Divine Mercy Chaplet
Tuesday	17 th	7:30am 7:00pm – Holy Hour
Wednesday	18 th	9:30am
Thursday	19 th	7:30am
Friday	20 th	7:30am
Saturday	21 st	9:00am 5:00pm – Vigil Mass
Sunday	22 nd	8:30am 10:00am – Rosary in the Chapel 10:30am

Confession available 30mins prior to each Mass and ceases 5mins before Mass

Our Lady Help of Christians

first & third Saturday of the month – 21st December & 4th January

Saturday 21st 6:30pm – Vigil Mass

MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

This Sunday is Gaudette Sunday, named after the first word of the Introit/ Entrance Antiphon, 'Rejoice'. Although we haven't arrived at Christmas yet, we experience the joy of receiving God's promise, knowing that He is faithful to His word.

In Advent, God prepares us for the coming of Christ just as He prepared Israel for His coming. We live again Israel's expectation of the fulfilment of the prophets. 'Blessed is she who believed the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.' (Lk 1:45). Our Blessed Mother embodies the joyful expectation of faithful Israel. May we have such strong faith to also live in the joyful expectation of the coming of Christ.

Thank you all so much for the welcome you gave me last weekend. The lunch in the Parish Centre was a wonderful occasion. Thanks to all who planned and prepared it.

Fr John Paul Mount

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve – Tuesday 24th December

St Bernard's	6:30pm
Our Lady Help of Christians	8:30pm
St Bernard's	midnight

Christmas Day – Wednesday 25th December

St Bernard's	10:30am
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New Year's Day – Wednesday 1st January

St Bernard's	9:30am
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Carols – half an hour before each Mass

SAFEGUARDING

Bacchus Marsh Parish is committed to the safety of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.
Safeguarding Officers – Margaret Love on 0437 247 779, Ron Geurts, Vicki Benson, Jenn Costin and Marj Tung.

MINISTRIES – 21st & 22nd December

Ministers of the Word

5:00pm	Maureen Zahra
8:30am	Samantha Butler
10:30am	Rita Marshall

Extraordinary Ministers

5:00pm	John Thorne
8:30am	Tup Shea
10:30am	Jenny Kearney

Prayers of the Faithful

December	Jan Carragher
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Piety Stall Volunteers

5:00pm	Marj Tung
8:30am	Dianne Shelly

Church Flowers

December	Tup Shea
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Presbytery & Church Grounds

Colm Carragher, Ron Geurts & Michael Love

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Baptism of Infants

Baptisms are held on the second & fourth Saturdays of the month at 11:00am.

Baptism Preparation sessions are held on the second Sunday of the month at 11:30am in our Parish Centre.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website under “Faith Formation – Baptism of Infants”.

Sacraments for Children

If your child does not attend a Catholic school but would like to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation, application forms are available on our website under “Faith Formation – Sacraments for Children”.

Adults Becoming Catholic

For Adults wishing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation, you can register your interest on our website under “Faith Formation – Becoming Catholic”.

If you need assistance with any of the above sacramental programs, please contact the Parish Office.

ST BERNARD’S PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre is available for hire and can be booked through our Hall Managers – Marie & Terry Casey.

All use must be authorised by either the Parish Office or the Hall Managers.

Phone: 03 5367 3427, Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 6:00pm

COMMUNITY SERVICES

St Vincent de Paul, Bacchus Marsh

Welfare assistance is available Mon-Fri 10am-3pm on 1800 305 330.

New members most welcome to our Conference.
Contact President, Margot Short on 0419 507 438.

Vinnies Store is located at 164-190 Main Street.
Donations can be dropped off 7 days a week.

The Neighbour’s Place

The Neighbours’ Place is a Christian not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to serve people of the Moorabool Shire, who are disadvantaged, at risk or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family.

They also offer NILS, a No Interest Loans Scheme.

They are located at 77 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh.

Phone: 03 5367 6222

Email: neighbourspl@inet.net.au

Open: 9:30am to 12:30pm, Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Closed public holidays.

Soul Food

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

VALUABLE LINKS

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope.html>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news>

JUBILEE 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The Holy Father has announced that “2025 will be a Jubilee Year, something which happens every 25 years. The theme for Jubilee 2025 is ‘Pilgrims of Hope’, and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis.”

Pope Francis calls us to be pilgrims of hope, carrying the light of Christ on our journeys so that it might illuminate the places and situations we encounter along the way.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop used to say, “We are but travellers here.”

For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be pilgrims of hope; a people who are not only travellers here but walking in joyful anticipation of ‘the heavenly goal to which we have been called’ (SNC §25).

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

PASTORAL CARE

Recently Deceased

Death Anniversaries

Wendy Diacono, Patrick Green, Kevin Long, Myra O'Leary, Robert Taggart, Joan Younger.

We pray for the Sick

Brendan Coburn, Kathleen Dally, Dean Elms, Frances, Caleb Silas Ginger (baby), Michael Johnston, John & Patricia Kelly, Michael Larkin, Joanne Mumford, Peter Roberts, Liz Shelly, and all those who need our prayers.

Please let us know when your loved one is no longer needed on this Sick List.

BIG THANK YOU

A big thank you from the **Social & Fundraising Team** and the **Craft & Cuppa Group** for all the support and contributions from our awesome community over the past year. Last weekend's Craft Stall raised \$423.50 for the parish. Thank you!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Blessed and joyful Christmas and we look forward to organising more fun, community-building events next year!

PIETY STALL

Columban Calendars
are now in stock \$11 each

Christmas Cards
are also available

pack of 5	\$3
pack of 10	\$6

TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL

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

REFLECTION

Third Sunday of Advent – Year C

Some of you may have watched the TV program on the Tsunami of 2004 and the wonderful response from the world, and especially Australia, to help find the victims, provide housing for the survivors, and medical attention for the injured.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist calls us to share what we have, take only what we need, be honest in our dealings, heralding Jesus who calls us to love our neighbour, as we love ourselves. Our Baptism and Confirmation commit us to follow Jesus, not just with our heart, but with our lives and our actions, for unless we produce good works, we will not find happiness with our God.

The Church calls us to *REJOICE* this Sunday – the Lord is near! Let us rejoice in the goodness around us, of people who, as in 2004, selflessly gave their all to help devastated countries, who today give of their time and goods to help those in need. The aid workers and reporters who returned in 2024 rejoiced in meeting those they helped in those very difficult days, and seeing their lives renewed.

As Christmas approaches, ask the Baptist your own question – **What must I do?**

Listen for his answer.



NICENO-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 two lines]
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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Third Sunday of Advent – Year C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING *Zephaniah 3:14-18*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Isaiah 12:2-6*

Reader: Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

ALL: Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

ALL: Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING *Philippians 4:4-7*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord;
I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your
tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very
near. There is no need to worry; but if there is
anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with
prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God,
which is so much greater than we can understand,
will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ
Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Luke 3:10-18*

When all the people asked John 'What must we do?',
he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must
share with the man who has none, and the one with
something to eat must do the same'. There were tax
collectors too who came for baptism, and these said
to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them,
'Exact no more than your rate'. Some soldiers asked
him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?'
He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be
content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the
people, who were beginning to think that John might
be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I
baptise you with water, but someone is coming,
someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am
not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise
you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan
is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to
gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will
burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this,
there were many other things he said to exhort the
people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.
ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



Next Sunday's Liturgy

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year C

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Resp. Psalm: Psalms 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44