



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year C 22nd December 2024

MASS & DEVOTION TIMES – 23rd Dec. to 1st Jan.

St Bernard's

Monday	23 rd	no services
Tuesday	24 th	no morning Mass & no Holy Hour
Tuesday	24 th	6:00pm – Carols before Vigil Mass 6:30pm – Christmas Vigil Mass Midnight Mass – Christmas Night
Wednesday	25 th	10:30am – Christmas Dawn Mass
Thursday	26 th	9:30am Mass
Friday	27 th	no Mass
Saturday	28 th	no morning Mass 5:00pm – Vigil Mass
Sunday	29 th	8:30am 10:00am – Rosary in the Chapel 10:30am
Monday	30 th	no services
Tuesday	31 st	no morning Mass
Wednesday	1 st	9:30am – New Year's Day Mass

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

Our Lady Help of Christians

first & third Saturday of the month

Tuesday	24 th Dec.	8:00pm – Carols before Vigil Mass 8:30pm – Christmas Vigil Mass
Saturday	4 th Jan	6:30pm – Vigil Mass
Saturday	18 th Jan	6:30pm – Vigil Mass

MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

We are now just a few days from celebrating the birth of Our Lord in Bethlehem. The Holy Family will find that there is no room for them at the Inn and Jesus will be born in a stable and laid in a manger.

It is a lesson we need to keep relearning. Is our 'Inn' full? Are we poor enough like the stable so we have room for Our Lord? Our world is so busy, so full, so distracted, it is positively spinning as it attends to so many priorities other than God.

Let's be like the poor stable and make room for the Lord.

A good idea at this time is to open the Scriptures to the first two Chapters of both Matthew and Luke to fill our minds with the nativity story.

Fr John Paul Mount

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 – 28th & 29th December

Ministers of the Word

5:00pm Vicki Benson
8:30am Peter Kennedy
10:30am Beatrice Younger

Extraordinary Ministers

5:00pm John Thorne
8:30am Peter McPhan
10:30am Cheryl Stevens

Prayers of the Faithful

December Jan Carragher

Piety Stall Volunteers

5:00pm Jan Farnelo
8:30am Jan & Colm Carragher
10:30am Natalia Klenkowski

Church Flowers

December Tup Shea

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: office@neighboursplace.org.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 CATHOLIC 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

Katherine "Faye" Newman

Death Anniversaries

Marie Graham, Margaret Hilbert, Wally Ibbs, Michael Marshall, Eddie Mullane, Imelda Pace, Pat Pigott, Vicki Riddell, Jane Sammut, Brian Shanahan, Alice Sloan.

We pray for the Sick

Brendan Coburn, Kathleen Dally, Tony de Lorenzo, Dean Elms, Robert 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.

ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

We are pleased to share the success of the inaugural Archbishop's Campaign and sincerely thank you for your generosity and support.

Together, parishes across the Archdiocese raised **\$811,178** including **\$1,960** contributed by St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh.

These funds will support vital mission areas such as the Priests' Retirement Foundation, the John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, Corpus Christi College, Catholic Theological College and the Archbishop's Evangelisation Initiatives.

Thank you for being part of this important campaign and for living out your faith with action.

PIETY STALL

Columban Calendars
are still available **\$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

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year C

In my experience, women I have met who were pregnant, had a joy radiating from them; a joy, the source of which came from within. Always, I found myself sharing that joy for the new life growing within them.

This joy enveloped Elizabeth when Mary visited her. I love to sit and compose a story about Mary. After the Angel visited her, did Mary ask herself whether she had dreamt the visit or not. Was it real what the Angel had told her? She decided to visit Elizabeth – firstly probably to help an older woman; secondly, to check out whether what the Angel had said was true – that Elizabeth was expecting a child. Elizabeth's joy and words would have assured Mary that all was as the Angel had said, and that God's plan for her was not what she had planned. This visit would have given both much joy in sharing, and the expectation of both births.

At Christmas, there is a lot of visiting happening – shared stories, meals, family events, etc. May you experience the joy of family visits and become for others the symbol of God's loving hospitality, bringing joy and blessings into your life.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year C

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING *Micah 5:1-4*

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for, from then on,
he will extend his power to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19*

Reader: Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

ALL: Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.

ALL: Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING *Hebrews 10:5-10*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law
lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the
sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices
for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he
says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.
He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second.
And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of
his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Luke 1:38*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Luke 1:39-44*

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could
to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into
Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now, as soon
as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her
womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She
gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most
blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why
should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my
Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears,
the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she
who believed that the promise made her by the Lord
would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel



Next Sunday's Liturgy – 29th December 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – Year C

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Resp. Psalm: Psalms 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52