



St Bernard's Parish

61 Lerderberg Street, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Our Lady Help of Christians

309 Myrning-Korobeit Road, Korobeit VIC 3341

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.

Newsletter items must be submitted by Wednesday midnight. Please email to

bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

St Bernard's Parish acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land.

The Baptism of the Lord – Year C

12th January 2025

MASS & DEVOTION TIMES – 13th to 19th January

St Bernard's

Monday	no services
Tuesday	7:00pm – Holy Hour
Tuesday to Friday	9:30am Masses
Saturday	9:00am Mass 5:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	8:30am and 10:30am Masses 10:00am – Rosary in the Chapel

Confession available 30 minutes prior to each Mass.

Our Lady Help of Christians

first & third Saturday of the month – 18th Jan. & 1st Feb.

Saturday 6:30pm – Vigil Mass

MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Today Our Lord is baptised by John in the Jordan. Many Church Fathers comment that by this act, He 'sanctifies the waters'. This means that today Christ gives water the incredible power to sanctify. Just think how amazing that is. If you pour water and say the words, then the Holy Trinity dwells in a person!

Baptism does a supernatural work. However, water has many astonishing natural properties too.

Eric Metaxas wrote a book called 'Is Atheism Dead' in 2021. In this book, he has a short chapter on water and its amazing properties. I only have room here for one of these. Metaxas points out a remarkable modern discovery about water's relationship with the sun.

Single celled organisms, algae, in the sea are essential to life on earth. They turn sunlight into energy, a process called photosynthesis, so they need seawater to transmit sunlight...something we take for granted...

The sun emits an enormously wide spectrum of electromagnetic energy. The spectrum is actually so wide that, if a playing card represented one type, you would need a line of cards that stretches from earth to beyond the Milky Way to the next Galaxy, the Andromeda. Sunlight represents just a few of those cards. Fortuitously, 70% of the sun's energy that it emits, falls within that range of a few cards.

Seawater absorbs almost all of that vast spectrum. Except for sunlight. In an amazing coincidence, water allows sunlight to pass through it. In the deck of cards that spans to the next galaxy, sunlight is two or three cards, which happens to be 70% of the energy the sun emits and basically only what water transmits. This allows biological life, like single-celled algae, to live in the sea.

Anyway, to give that a theological interpretation: By the water of baptism, may the light of Christ penetrate our innermost being and give us life.

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 – 18th & 19th January

Ministers of the Word

5:00pm Sonia Smith
8:30am Margaret Love
10:30am Beatrice Younger

Extraordinary Ministers

5:00pm Vicki Benson
8:30am John Wilson
10:30am Jenny Kearney

Prayers of the Faithful

January Jan Carragher

Piety Stall Volunteers

5:00pm Margot Short
8:30am Carmel Shea
10:30am Natalia Klenkowski

Church Flowers

January Jenn Costin

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

Barrie Cowman, Tony de Lorenzo.

Death Anniversaries

Kathleen Adair, Steven Barnes, Margaret Bolger, Katherine Caldwell, Cynthia Camilleri, Lisa Closter, Pat Cooper, Bohdan Cywinski, Zoe Egan, Raymund Hare, Catherine Hynes, Yvonne Kelekis, Pamela King-Eason, Maree Maitland, Roy Ryder, Coral Sharpe, Lorraine Turner.

We pray for the Sick

Brendan Coburn, Kathleen Dally, 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.

FIRST EUCHARIST – 2025

Sacramental preparation classes for children receiving their First Eucharist in 2025 will commence on Saturday 1st March 2025.

Parents of these children are requested to attend an information session on this day at 3:00pm in St Bernard's Parish Centre.

This first class will then commence at 3:45pm, followed by a Commitment Mass to be held at 5:00pm.

Other important dates to note are:

Sat 17th May 2025 – Retreat & Reconciliation Day
Sat 24th May 2025 – First Holy Communion Day

For further details and the full list of preparation classes, please contact the Parish Office.

Also note, children are required to attend all classes to be able to receive this sacrament.

PIETY STALL

Columban Calendars
are still available \$11 each

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

Feast of The Baptism of the Lord

Anyone present at the Baptism of a child or an adult, can see clearly the love shared between those present. This child or adult is certainly loved and has now become the "beloved of God."

Jesus presented himself to John the Baptist for his own personal Baptism. Luke writes that Jesus heard, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him". Was Jesus surprised to realise this and so left to spend time alone to ponder what this meant for him, for the future? When he returns after being tempted to think of himself, not God's work, he begins to gather his disciples around him and teach them. He has now begun his mission, a mission that would lead to crucifixion!

Each of us is called, through our Baptism, to be disciples, to share this mission. I need to continually ask myself: "What is the mission I have through my Baptism?"

Let me listen to God's voice, the voice of the loving Father.



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

The Baptism of the Lord – Year C

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*

'Console my people, console them,' says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Reader: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

ALL: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill.

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

ALL: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING *Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *cf Luke 3:16*

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Luke 3:15-16, 21-22*

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.



Next Sunday's Liturgy – 19th January 2025

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
Resp. Psalm: Psalms 95:1-3, 7-10
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel: John 2:1-11