



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



Year C

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

23rd March 2025

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Tuesday is the Feast of the Annunciation. It is called this because the Angel Gabriel 'announced' to Mary that she would conceive a child. And when Mary said 'fiat', let it be done, she conceived Jesus in her womb. This feast therefore celebrates the Incarnation, when God become a man. It also marks nine months until Christmas!

As well as being connected to Christmas, the Annunciation is also connected to the Crucifixion, as some traditions hold that Jesus was crucified and died on the same day that he was conceived.

There are traditions that hold 25th March to be the central day of the year. The Spring equinox (Northern Hemisphere) marking the beginning of life. 25th March celebrates the 'day of creation', and also the creation or even the fall of Adam and Eve, the sacrifice of Isaac, the Passover or Exodus, the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, and even the Last Judgment. Some obviously more verifiable than others!

In any case, we know that in the story of humanity and the story of our own life, the Incarnation and Paschal Mystery, are central.

One of my favourite mottos is that of the Carthusians, "Stat crux dum volvitur orbis" (The Cross stands while the world turns). This evokes the centrality of the Cross of Christ even in history. The Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery are the central point of history (whether mathematically or not). It is the centre of our story, the story of humanity, and of God's work of creation. It is the centre of our own lives.

Our world is pretty crazy. Our lives can be pretty crazy! In the Carthusian motto, rather than to say our world 'turns', you could say it is 'spinning'. In our life, we can feel like we are spinning- sometimes spinning out of control! Jesus is our centre. Jesus is a rock of stability in our life.

25th March, feast of the Angel's Announcement, moment of the Incarnation, same day our Lord was Crucified, is the central day of our lives and our life story.

Stat crux dum volvitur orbis. No matter what is going on in our life through the years, the constant in our life is the presence of Jesus. Our coming to Mass week after week. We and our families celebrating the Sacraments. Celebrating these yearly liturgical feasts and seasons. His constant Presence in the Tabernacle and the unwavering red light of the sanctuary lamp. Our daily prayers. Uniting our daily crosses with the Cross. Our meditating on the Scriptures. The centrality of Jesus' presence in our life.

Fr John Paul Mount

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00pm (Vigil)
Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday
5th April 6:30pm (Vigil)

WEEKDAY MASSES

March

Mon 24th no Mass
Tue 25th 7:30am & 7:00pm
Wed 26th 9:30am
Thu 27th 7:30am
Fri 28th 7:30am
Sat 29th 9:30am

CONFESSION

30 minutes prior to each Mass
& during Holy Hour

DEVOTIONS

Mon 3:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Tue 6:00pm Holy Hour (25th March)
Fri 6:15pm Soup & Stations
7:00pm Stations of the Cross
Sun 10:00am Rosary (Chapel)

DIARY

March

Tue 25th The Annunciation of the Lord
Sun 30th Parish Picnic at OLHC, Korobeit

April

Tue 1st Young Adults Group
Sat 12th Women's Lenten Retreat
Sun 13th Palm Sunday
Thu 17th Holy Thursday
- Lord's Supper
- Altar of Repose
Fri 18th Good Friday
- Stations of the Cross
- Passion of the Lord
Sat 19th Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil
Sun 20th Easter Sunday – Resurrection
(See page 2 for Easter timetable)
Fri 25th Anzac Day Public Holiday
Sun 27th Divine Mercy Sunday

ST. BERNARD'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

61 Lerderberg Street
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

PARISH OFFICE

Tuesday - Friday, 9:30am – 1:30pm
(03) 5367 2069
bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au

OUR LADY
HELP OF CHRISTIANS

309 Myrning-Korobeit Road
Korobeit VIC 3341

PARISH NEWS

PARISH PICNIC

Sunday 30th March at 12midday

Please join us for a Parish Picnic at our beautiful historic sister church Our Lady Help of Christians, Korobeit, built on a small hill surrounded by lovely farmland. Only a fifteen minute drive from Bacchus Marsh, it's beauty and easy access makes for a great picnic spot. BYO picnic lunch, drinks, chairs, picnic rugs, games and sports equipment for the young and old.

EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday 17th April 7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Altar of Repose
Good Friday 18th April 10:00am Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Passion of the Lord
Holy Saturday 19th April 7:00pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 20th April 8:30am & 10:30am Resurrection of the Lord

Sign-up sheets are now in the Gathering Space for Readers and Eucharist Ministers needed during the Easter services this year.

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

Faces of Hope – Saturday 12th April

Take some time out from the busyness of your lives; come and reflect on the Jubilee theme of Hope at St Bernard's Parish, Bacchus Marsh. Starting with the 9:30am Mass and ending at 3:00pm. Bring a plate to share for morning tea. Lunch will be provided. Talks by Anna Krohn OAM and Sr Mary Sarah OP. This event is free. Donations always greatly appreciated. Book to attend here: <https://www.trybooking.com/DAEQH>

PROVIDENCE VILLAGE BOOK LAUNCH

You are invited to "The Life of Providence Village Book Launch". Join us for an afternoon teach in their Community Centre to celebrate this exciting occasion on Monday 14th April, from 2:00pm onwards. Guest speaker and author – Andrew Schoenmaekers
RSVP by Monday 31st March to margaret.west@vmch.com.au

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Enrolments

Let us help you enrol your child for Year 7 in 2027 at Melton & Cobblebank. Tuesday 25th March, between 1:30pm – 6:30pm
109-141 Bulmans Road, Melton West (enter via Gate 4)

Recruitment Evening & Tour

Employment opportunities for teaching and support staff, visit us on Wednesday 2nd April, 5:30pm at Melton and 7:00pm at Cobblebank. To reserve a place, visit <https://sfcc.vic.edu.au/join-us/employment>

LET US PRAY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Mark Mroz

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Leigh Gray, George Hamm, Thomas Monaghan, Christopher Mugavin, Troy Saliba, Frank Shanahan & Bill Shea.

THE SICK

Brendan Coburn, Kathleen Dally, Dean Elms, Robert Elms, Frances, Caleb Silas Ginger (baby), Michael Johnston, Jenny Kearney, John & Patricia Kelly, Michael Larkin, Joanne Mumford, Chinenye Victoria Oriaku Nwalozie, Peter Roberts, Kevin Shelly, Liz Shelly, Anne Sloan (Delahey) and all those who need our prayers.

COMMUNITY

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Welfare assistance is available Monday - Friday, 10:00am - 3:00pm on 1800 305 330. Vinnies Store is located at 164-190 Main Street. Donations can be dropped off 7 days a week. New members most welcome to our Conference. Contact President, Peter Kennedy on 0407 778 119.

THE NEIGHBOUR'S PLACE

The Neighbour's 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 offer a No Interest Loans Scheme.

77 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh

(03) 5367 6222 office@neighboursplace.org.au
9:30am – 12:30pm, Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

INFANT BAPTISM

Baptisms are held on the second & fourth Saturdays of the month at 11:00am. Preparation sessions are facilitated on the second Sunday of the month at 11:30am. Application forms can be downloaded from our website.

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.

BECOMING CATHOLIC

For adults wishing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation, you can register your interest on our website or speak directly to Fr John Paul.

Our parish is committed to the safety of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Vicki Benson

Ron Geurts

Margaret Love
0437 247 779

Jennifer Costin

Marj Tung

REFLECTION

Third Sunday of Lent – Year C

We can look at people who are arrested, jailed etc and say: They deserve it for their crimes. There is a sense of judgement in our thoughts and attitude. Do the crime, do the time!

In this Sunday's Gospel, there is the call for all of us to repent. Those killed by Pilate were not greater sinners than other Galileans, so Jesus says. He warns us not to judge others by these events, as all of us must repent or we will perish as well. But, like the fig tree, God gives us the time to look at ourselves and change our ways; he sends someone to "water" us, teach us, books, etc we can read and learn from, homilies we can listen to.

And, we need to remember, as we may look at others and judge them, they are doing the same to us!

THIS LENT is the time God gives me now to look at my life, to dig around, add some manure of goodness and love in my thoughts and actions. Otherwise, I too may perish!

Sr Mary Fermio

LITURGICAL LIVING

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross play a large part in the prayers offered during Lent, but what is the history behind this prayer?

In the beginning of the Church and its practice of the faith, the Christians would go to the holy sites around Jerusalem in a pilgrimage of prayer, remembering Christ's sacrifice, especially in the lead up to Easter. This became known as the "Via Dolorosa" (Sorrowful Way) and, as the Church grew in number across the lands and Jerusalem became more difficult to get to, people started creating replications of the holy sites to pray. In 1731, Pope Clement XII set the number of this form of prayer to 14, and Churches began installing them in and around their Churches.

In our parish, we say this ancient prayer of the church every Friday during Lent, doing the same pilgrimage as those first Christians. We are also blessed to have two families, the van der Lindens and Brennans, who have, for three years, served parishioners a soup dinner before the prayer begins.

Dagmar said that she came across the idea when she was living in an overseas parish and when they moved near their friends, they were so happy to share their love of practising their faith with each other. For Rachel, family traditions, eating and praying together comes naturally, so why not include the whole faith family in it! They both find it so very rewarding to serve our community in this way and to see how much enjoyment people get out of it.

The Stations of the Cross are a beautiful way of bringing a community together; above all, it reminds us that "In the Cross there is suffering, in the Cross there is salvation, in the Cross there is a lesson of love." (*St JP II Via Crucis prayer on April 21, 2000*)

Contribution from Monica Russell

MINISTERS

29th & 30th March

Mass	Reader	Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Sonia Smith	Maria Wina Tunogbanua	Jackie Tabone
8:30am	Sam Butler	Colm Carragher	Lyn Shea
10:30am	Beatrice Younger	Cheryl Stevens	

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,

[all 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

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 the
Parish Office.

Phone: (03) 5367 3427
Mon - Fri, 9:00am - 6:00pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING *Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight', Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt'. Now, the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am', he answered. 'Come no nearer', he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father', he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this, Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This', he added, 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 102:1-4, 6-8, 11*

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12*

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Matthew 4:17*

Glorify and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glorify and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL *Luke 13:1-9*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down; why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied, "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it; it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

NEXT SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year C

First Reading *Joshua 5:9-12*

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 33:2-7*

Second Reading *2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

Gospel *Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

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