



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



Year C

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

30th March 2025

Firstly, you might have seen that George Foreman died during the week. George Foreman was from the glory days of boxing, and had perhaps the most famous boxing fight ever with Mohammed Ali, called the Rumble in the Jungle. From there, they become great life-long friends. George was renowned for his hard hitting. Even later in his career, he had a famous 12 round battle against world champion Evander Holifield. Remarkably, he suffered very little long term physical effects from his career. Most importantly, he was totally devoted to Jesus Christ. George had a spiritual experience, an encounter with Jesus, when he was young, during his boxing career. It was an experience of dying, though he was perfectly awake and lucid. He experienced death and judgement which put all his life in perspective. He became passionate about preaching Jesus Christ to people, since he said, "nothing else was worthy of my time than to be an evangelist". It's no surprise he became an effective Pastor – if you wanted to see Jesus, I promise George Foreman could arrange that, and it wouldn't take the full three minute round!

Secondly, Holy Week is quickly approaching. In the fifth week of Lent, called Passion Sunday, the statues in the Church will be covered, giving the Church a solemn, sorrowful mood. The next week will be Palm Sunday, celebrating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem for the last time. We will bless palms and process to the Church for Mass. That will mark the beginning of Holy Week. Tuesday of Holy Week at St Patrick's Cathedral, the Archbishop will bless the sacred oils and the priests will renew their promises of ordination. Thursday then begins the 'Triduum' – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Lastly, this week, from Tuesday through Sunday, I have swapped Parishes with Fr Anthony Robbie from Bondi Parish in Sydney (I suspect I got the better deal but don't tell him that). Please make him welcome. My sister, Alice, lives in his Parish so it'll be a great chance for me to visit her. One of the purposes of this Parish swap is so we can hear confessions at the other's Parishes. It can help to have a visiting priest to go to for confession. I encourage you to take the opportunity to go to confession while Fr Robbie is here. Prepare for Holy Week by coming to this great Sacrament of God's mercy.

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 / April

Mon	31 st	no Mass
Tue	1 st	7:30am
Wed	2 nd	9:30am
Thu	3 rd	7:30am
Fri	4 th	7:30am
Sat	5 th	9:30am

CONFESSION

30 minutes prior to each Mass
& during Holy Hour

DEVOTIONS

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

DIARY

March

Sun 30th Parish Picnic at OLHC, Korobeit

April

Tue	1 st	Young Adults Group
	5 th to 21 st	School Holidays
Sat	12 th	Women's Lenten Retreat
Sun	13 th	Palm Sunday
Thu	17 th	Holy Thursday - Lord's Supper - Altar of Repose
Fri	18 th	Good Friday - Stations of the Cross - Passion of the Lord
Sat	19 th	Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil
Sun	20 th	Easter Sunday – Resurrection (see page 2 for Easter Triduum timetable)
Fri	25 th	Anzac Day Public Holiday
Sun	27 th	Divine Mercy Sunday

ST. BERNARD'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

61 Lerderderg 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 Myrniong-Korobeit Road
Korobeit VIC 3341

PARISH NEWS

PARISH PICNIC

OLHC Korobeit – Sunday 30th March

For parishioners attending the Parish Picnic this Sunday, please note that there are no bins or drinkable water at Korobeit, so please bring your own water and ensure all rubbish from the picnic is taken home with you.

Easter Raffle Tickets will be sold at all Masses on the weekends of 5th/6th April and 12th/13th April. Donations for the raffle are greatly appreciated and can be left in the foyer up until Wednesday 9th April.

The raffle prizes will be drawn after 10:30am Mass on Palm Sunday.

EASTER TRIDUUM

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

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.

This event is free. Donations always greatly appreciated.

Book to attend here: <https://www.trybooking.com/DAEQH>

MARRIAGE RETREAT

Beyond the Vows – Saturday 12th April

A one day Catholic marriage retreat designed to help couples navigate life and draw closer together, will be held at St Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 28 College Street, Caroline Springs.

TIME: 9:45am to 5:00pm

COST: \$50 per couple

For further details, email beyondthevowsmelb@gmail.com

PROVIDENCE VILLAGE BOOK LAUNCH

You are invited to "The Life of Providence Village Book Launch".

Join us for an afternoon tea in their Community Centre to celebrate this exciting occasion on Monday 14th April, from 2:00pm onwards.

RSVP by Monday 31st March to margaret.west@vmch.com.au

SOUL FOOD

Commencing from 23rd April, Soul Food will provide each Wednesday a free community meal in St Bernard's Parish Centre. All welcome.

LET US PRAY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Doris Portelli

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Nazzareno Azzopardi, Br Brendan, Franca Cinel,
Wally Elmer, Irene Gaynor, Neville Gonsalvez,
Myrna Jones, Brenden Love, Brice Lummis,
Daphne Pocock.

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 meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays) in the Uniting Church Hall, Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh. Their last meal here will be served up at 12noon on Wednesday 2nd April. This community service will continue at St Bernard's Church hall from Wednesday 23rd April.

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, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Vicki Benson

Ron Geurts

Margaret Love
0437 247 779

Jennifer Costin

Marj Tung

REFLECTION

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year C

In many families, there is often one member who is a bit wilder, more unorthodox than the rest of the family, who may consider themselves “better” people.

In this parable we know so well, the older brother thought he deserved more than his younger brother. He had stayed home, cared for his father, worked the farm, brought in the money; surely, he deserved a party, a night out with his friends! But in his wastrel brother, his father recognised a beloved “son”, one he had dearly missed, had kept watch for, knowing, sometime, he would come home penniless. Hence the welcome home party.

God treats us the same because of his love for us. No matter how lost we may be, how distant we feel from God and the Church, open arms are always there to welcome us home.

I am the Church – am I a welcoming member of the Church family?

Sr Mary Fermio

LITURGICAL LIVING

Our Easter Wall

Lent can be hard. It's a time of penance and reflection. And it can often feel like a struggle to persevere with our commitments to fasting, prayer and almsgiving. But Lent is also a time of excitement, as we look forward to the most important liturgical celebration of the year - Easter.

In our family, one of the ways we express that excitement is with our 'Easter Wall'. During the six and a half weeks of Lent, our children are given free rein to decorate our living room wall with anything and everything Easter related. It gives them the chance to show off their craft skills, and by the time Easter Sunday arrives the wall is usually chock-a-block full of their creations. (Mum and dad get involved too).

Last year's finished wall



Colouring sheets, dot-to-dots, stations of the cross, dioramas, colourful eggs, hot cross buns, and – of course – the Easter Bunny makes an appearance too.

It's a fun and engaging way to get the children involved with the Easter story, learning as they go.

Identifying a suitable Lenten 'penance' for young children can be difficult. Too young to fast; not old enough to fully grasp the concept of almsgiving. We find that giving up all screen-time on specific days during Lent can be an easy one for children of all ages. And what better way to spend that extra time than helping each other with Easter craft projects. It certainly adds a bit of colour and joy to our household.

Contribution from Thomas Halloran

MINISTERS

5th & 6th April

Mass	Reader	Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	John Thorne	Jackie Tabone	Margot Short
8:30am	Evana Carragher	Peter McPhan	Carmel Shea
10:30am	Shannon Harvie	Volunteer	Natalia Klenkowski

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Wednesday midnight via email to parish office

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING *Joshua 5:9-12*

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover, they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 33:2-7*

R: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

SECOND READING *2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Luke 15:18*

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man', they said, 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You must rejoice, my son,
for your brother was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and is found.

— NEXT SUNDAY —

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year C

First Reading *Isaiah 43:16-21*

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 125*

Second Reading *Philippians 3:8-14*

Gospel *John 8:1-11*

DONATE

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our Parish electronically

