



ST. BERNARD'S

CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Priest | Fr. John Paul Mount



Year C

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9th March 2025

40 Days

Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. 40 is a testing period of prayer and sacrifice like Lent. '40' also represents our lifetime on earth. It represents our 'exile', our lifetime of trial and being tested.

The story of Exodus is central to the meaning of 'forty'. Israel was in slavery to Pharaoh. Through Moses and the Passover, Israel passed through the Red (Read) Sea into the desert. Israel spent 40 years wandering in the desert. In that time, God gave His people bread (manna) from heaven, water from the rock, the Commandments, and the Liturgy. Then Joshua crossed the Jordan into the promised land.

This is a whole story of our Redemption in Christ. In Christ, we are freed from slavery to sin. Through the power of Christ's Passover sacrifice, we are freed through the water of baptism. Yet, after baptism, we must take up our cross daily though this life, symbolised by 40 years in the desert. In this struggle, we are given Christ's teachings and Sacraments, until finally Jesus takes us safely over into heaven, the true promised land.

As well as this reference to 'forty' there are many others.

In the story of Noah (*Genesis 7:4, 17*), it rains for 40 days and nights and the flood persists for 40 days. Our Lent, and the '40 days' of our life, bring an end to old sinful ways and give way to a new life.

Moses fasts for 40 days and nights on Mt Sinai (*Exodus 34:28*). Our 40 days are a time for learning prayer and living in the presence of God.

On the strength of a small cake, Elijah travelled 40 days and nights to reach Mt Horeb, the Mountain of God (*1 Kings 19:8*). Through our 40 days, we live on the Bread of Life, the Eucharist, our food for our journey to the Kingdom of God.

The spies Moses sent to inspect the promised land were there for 40 days (*Numbers 14:34*). We, during the 'forty days' of our lifetime, should meditate on the Kingdom of Heaven, and rather than think it is too difficult to achieve, like the Israelites did, trust and hope firmly in God's promise.

Israel was oppressed by the Philistines for 40 years (*Judges 13:1*). We pray that during our life we will have the freedom to live our faith.

Lastly, Jonah told Nineveh they had 40 days to repent or they shall be overthrown (*Jonah 3:4*). Our forty days are an opportunity for us to repent. It is an opportunity given to us by God's mercy.

How did I dig up all these references? Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, Old and New Test. Purchase it from Veritatis.com.au

Fr John Paul Mount

SUNDAY MASSES

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	6:30pm (Vigil)
15 th March	

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon	No Mass
Tue, Thu & Fri	7:30am
Wed	9:30am
Sat	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	9 th	Morning Tea
Mon	10 th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Fri	14 th	Providence & Friends Mass
Mon	17 th	St Patrick's Day
Wed	19 th	Solemnity of St Joseph
Tue	25 th	The Annunciation of the Lord
Sun	30 th	Parish Picnic at Korobeit

April

Tue	4 th	Young Adults Group
Sun	13 th	Palm Sunday
Thu	17 th	Holy Thursday
Fri	18 th	Good Friday
Sat	19 th	Easter Vigil
Sun	20 th	Easter Sunday

**ST. BERNARD'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

61 Lerderderg Street
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

**ST. BERNARD'S
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

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

PARISH NEWS

FUNERAL

Bernard Jongebloed

Date: Wednesday 12th March
Time: 11:00am
Mass: St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Melton South
Burial: Melton Cemetery, 153a Centenary Avenue, Melton

THANK YOU

To everyone who contributed and attended the Pancake Tuesday event, it was a fabulous evening.
We raised \$181 for the parish.

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS Social Night BBQ

This Tuesday 11th February, KSC Members are invited to Ron's place for our annual gathering. Arrive at 6pm for 6:30pm lighting. Please note: BYO offering to burn, and a salad.

PROVIDENCE AND FRIENDS' MASS

Parishioners are invited to the monthly Providence & Friends Mass this Friday 14th February at 11am in Providence Village. Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch. If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know, or call Margot Short on 0419 507438.

PARISH PICNIC

Sunday 30th March at 12midday
Our Lady Help of Christians, Korobeit

Please join us for a Parish Picnic at our beautiful historic sister church 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 SUNDAY RAFFLE

Please leave donations for our Easter Raffle in the baskets provided in the foyer. Your contributions are very much appreciated!

LET US PRAY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Bernard Jongebloed

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Bob Carr, Cristina Kingcott,
Roinal Lebner, Christopher Mallia,
& Nel Shelly.

THE SICK

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

COMMUNITY

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Welfare assistance is available Mon-Fri,
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 Mon, Wed and Fri.

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

First Sunday of Lent – Year C

As a young girl, still at school, Lent was a time when we ate no lollies, but saved them in a jar for Easter feasting. I am sure some of us were tempted to eat one. In these days, we are more likely to do something positive, like giving to Project Compassion, helping someone, praying longer.

Jesus, when tempted three times by the devil, used words that were positive, putting God first. The devil tempted Jesus in a subtle way, with suggestions pleasing to one's ego and testing Jesus as God's Son, e.g. you are hungry, well, get yourself some bread in this desert by a miracle. You can do it! Or you have worked out you are God's Son, so test it out, throw yourself down from this height. Surely, he will look after you! But Jesus wasn't to give in. His prayer and silence in the desert had strengthened him in other ways, and he refused.

Like Jesus, when we are tempted, we turn to God. The devil can make cheating, breaking the law, subtle stealing, avoiding Mass, may seem harmless and hurting no-one. But little by little they break down our relationship with God and each other.

Let us learn to turn our eyes to God at these times for strength.

Sr Mary Fermio

LITURGICAL LIVING

What is "liturgical living" or "living the Liturgical Year"? These are unofficial labels of popular piety, which are ways of living the liturgy and feasts of the Liturgical calendar in ways that might be more tangible and accessible, incorporating the different senses, since we are not just spiritual beings. This is often seen done with cooking, crafting, reading, playing, praying, etc. The faithful have been doing this for centuries, so living the Liturgical Year might be a culmination of older traditions and recipes mixed in with new fun ideas, and ideally intertwined with the liturgy of the Church.

It is wonderful that many families want to follow along the Church's calendar and celebrate their faith more deeply within their homes. But I am also seeing a negative side. Peer pressure abounds—the obligation to celebrate in ways that can be photographed, recorded and posted on social media—picture perfect partying. All this exponentially increases mom guilt; Martha Stewart has nothing on this extra burden many Catholic mothers feel. I hear from many parents who step away and decide to do nothing because they cannot reach this new standard of liturgical living.

This new column in our newsletter will feature contributions from our parishioners, telling stories of how they celebrate the liturgical life of the church in their own home. It's a place to share customs and traditions - both old and new.

Contribution from Monica Russell

MINISTERS

15th & 16th March

Mass	Reader	Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Vicki Benson	Henry Gasior	Dianne Shelly
8:30am	Margaret Love	Colm Carragher	Marg Tung
10:30am	Dominic van der Linden	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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory.
I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING *Deuteronomy 26:4-10*

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the pannier from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us; they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 90:1-2, 10-15*

R: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: 'My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!'

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.'
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

SECOND READING *Romans 10:8-13*

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek; all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Matthew 4:4*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL *Luke 4:1-13*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said to him, 'throw yourself down from here, for Scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you
to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him to return at the appointed time.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

———— NEXT SUNDAY ————

Second Sunday of Lent – Year C

<i>First Reading</i>	<i>Genesis 15:5-12</i>
<i>Responsorial Psalm</i>	<i>Psalms 26:1, 7-9, 13-14</i>
<i>Second Reading</i>	<i>Philippians 3:17 - 4:1</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Luke 9:28-36</i>

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