



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



Year C

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

6th April 2025

DATING OF EASTER

Our lives are regulated by the calendar and the annual observance of various occasions, including birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. Amongst the occasions marked each year, Easter stands out by not neatly falling on the same day or week each year. Interestingly, the method used to date Easter has evolved over time and has been considered a matter of significant importance throughout the Church's history.

Jesus rose from the dead three days from the Jewish feast of Passover, which is celebrated on the 14th day of the Jewish month of Nisan. Initially, Easter was dated by Christians directly using the Jewish calendar, which is largely lunar but periodically uses additional months to keep it in sync with the solar year. At that time, controversy existed around when additional months were added, with Christians concerned that Jewish authorities were erroneously dating Passover before the equinox on occasion. Additionally, disputes within the Church existed around whether Easter should be held on 14 Nisan or the following Sunday.

In 325, the Council of Nicaea endorsed calculating Easter independently from Jewish authorities and sought a uniform date for celebration across the entire Church. Over the next two hundred years, broad consensus was reached that Easter was to be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after 21st March (the approximate date of the equinox). This method is what Catholics and other Christians still use today.

Across the medieval era, it was realised that the true equinox was drifting earlier than 21st March because of a slight discrepancy between the length of the calendar year (on average 365.25 days, with 1 leap day every 4 years) and the timespan of the Earth's orbit around the Sun (approximately 365.2425 days). By 1582, the error had accumulated to 10 days, which prompted the Catholic Church to correct the calendar by having a year with 10 less days and later removing leap days for every year divisible by 100 but not 400. This 'Gregorian' calendar was eventually adopted by Protestant churches and most national governments. However, it has not been adopted by the Orthodox, explaining why they often celebrate Easter on a different date.

Whilst the dating of Easter may appear to be of academic interest only, the fact that it was widely debated by the early Church suggests a deeper symbolism relevant to Catholics today. The link to the date of Passover reminds us that, through the Eucharist and the Cross, Christ is the Passover Lamb sacrificed for us so that death may pass over us. The placement on a Sunday reminds us that Our Lord rose from the dead on a Sunday ('the first day') as attested to in Scripture. This ushered in the new creation directly after a day of rest on the seventh day of the week, symbolising the end of the original creation. Finally, Easter comes after the Northern Spring Equinox, with Spring being a symbol of victory of life over death through Christ.

Contributed by Allan McManus

SUNDAY MASSES

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
19 th April	No Mass
3 rd May	6:30pm (Vigil)

WEEKDAY MASSES

April

Mon	7 th	no Mass
Tue	8 th	9:30am
Wed	9 th	9:30am
Thu	10 th	9:30am
Fri	11 th	9:30am
Sat	12 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

April

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

May

Tue 6 th	Young Adults Group (18-35 years)
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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

Children are to be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times.

PARISH NEWS

— EASTER TRIDUUM —

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

— PALM SUNDAY CROSSES —

The Craft & Cuppa group are inviting any parishioners interested to help us make crosses from palm leaves for Palm Sunday.

Meet us in the Parish Centre at 10:00am on Thursday 10th April.

Morning tea provided.

— KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS —

The Knights of the Southern Cross meeting for April will be held in the Parish Centre meeting room on Tuesday 8th April at 8:00pm.

— 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 & FRIEND'S MASS —

Parishioners are invited to the monthly Providence & Friends Mass to be held on Friday 11th April at 11am. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea/lunch. If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short on 0419 507 438.

— 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

LET US PRAY

RECENTLY DECEASED

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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Marjorie Long, Maria Maher, George Maver,
Gerry Reilly, Heather Ryan, Marie Sommerfeld.

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). Previously held at the Uniting Church, this community service will now continue in St Bernard's Parish Centre from Wednesday 23rd April. This is a free event and all are welcome. 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, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

— SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS —

Vicki Benson
Jennifer Costin

Ron Geurts

Margaret Love
0437 247 779

Madeleine McManus
Marj Tung

REFLECTION

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year C

Have you ever been asked to do something you considered stupid, a waste of time, utterly ridiculous? That, you knew differently! The wrong place, the wrong time, wrong person.

Peter must have felt like that when Jesus suggested they go fishing in the daylight – didn't he know you fished at night? Oh, well, let's play along – the fish won't be around. How surprised he must have been, after risking his reputation, to have the net filled with fish. How his mouth must have gaped open. Realising this was Jesus' doing, a miracle, he acknowledged his unworthiness. Peter's whole way of life changed. He took a risk and followed Jesus.

What might Jesus call you to do? Can you trust Jesus enough to embark on a new or different venture? A way of praying? A stranger to help? A new neighbour?

Sr Mary Fermio

LITURGICAL LIVING

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage

A key aspect of a Jubilee Year is pilgrimage. Pope Benedict XVI said of pilgrimages that they "are not merely about visiting places, but about stepping out of oneself to encounter God where He has revealed Himself, seeking deeper faith and holiness".

Archbishop Comensoli, in order to help us partake in this encounter with Christ, has designated churches across the Archdiocese as places of pilgrimage which will have extended hours, additional Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration. You can also obtain a pilgrim "passport" where you can have your book stamped at each church you visit during the Holy Year. On the Archdiocesan website, there is a list of all these churches. When he announced them, Archbishop Comensoli reminded us that "The Holy Father has called the universal Church to this special time of grace, a time to focus on reconciliation and forgiveness, prayer and reflection, sojourn and pilgrimage."

Pilgrimage is also a very Lenten practice as even Lent itself can be seen as a time of personal spiritual pilgrimage. One such tradition is that of the Visitation of Seven Churches. This is a centuries old tradition where during holy week, encouraged especially by St Philip Neri, usually on Holy Thursday, pilgrims would walk around to seven of the key basilicas in Rome, praying in front of the altars of repose, or saying a few stations of the cross between the churches.

Because Holy Week is during the school holidays this year, perhaps this is a perfect time to take up this idea, perhaps not 7! But perhaps visiting one or two over the course of the week, helping us to recollect ourselves for what we are really celebrating. Remembering what Pope St Gregory the Great said, "Let us, therefore, during this holy season, become pilgrims in our own hearts, leaving behind our worldly cares, and walking the road of penitence and prayer, so that we may reach the joy of the Resurrection."

Contribution from Monica Russell

MINISTERS

Palm Sunday – 12th & 13th April

Mass	Readers	Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Sonia Smith & John Thorne	Vicki Benson	Dianne Shelly
8:30am	Margaret Love & Peter Kennedy	Colm Carragher	Marj Tung
10:30am	Beatrice Younger & 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 43:16-21*

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before.

See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?

Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink.

The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 125*

**R: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

SECOND READING *Philippians 3:8-14*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Joel 2:12-13*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL *John 8:1-11*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus, 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

— NEXT SUNDAY —

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – Year C

First Reading *Isaiah 50:4-7*

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24*

Second Reading *Philippians 2:6-11*

Gospel *Luke 22:14 – 23:56*

DONATE

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Parish electronically

