



# ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



Year C

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

1<sup>st</sup> June 2025

### Ascension Sunday

At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' last words are, "Behold, I am with you always." (Mt 28:20). Today Our Lord ascends into heaven, however He remains with us throughout this life. He remains with us and continues His mission in the Church.

How do we remain united with Jesus and His Church in this life? Usually, to speak about this, I would speak about our personal relationship with Jesus and our constant efforts of deeper conversion and imitating Christ in our lives.

Today I'm taking the opportunity to write about the visible signs of communion with Christ and His Church.

The visible signs of communion are in worship/sacraments, teaching and governance. These correspond to the three 'offices' of Christ which are Priest, Prophet and King. These are also given to the Church to exercise as Her tri munera. So, we are in communion with Christ and His Church through our receiving and participation in the Sacraments, through believing and living the same teaching, and by falling under the governance of the Pope and Bishops.

The first office of Christ is Priest. This corresponds to being united to Christ in His Church through Worship. By Worship we mean participating in the liturgy and receiving the Sacraments. The first Pope Leo, Leo the Great, says, "The visible presence of our Redeemer passed over into Sacraments." Through the Sacraments our Lord is at work, uniting us to Himself and strengthening us to live out his teachings, and so live a life united to Him. His presence is most real in the Eucharist, where He is truly present in His living, glorified Body. May we truly recognise His abiding presence with us in the Eucharist.

Then there is Christ's office of Prophet. This refers to teaching. We are united with Christ and His Church through believing, understanding and living out Jesus' teachings that come to us in the constant Tradition of the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit given to Her at Pentecost. These teachings are that fullness of truth revealed by Christ into which the Holy Spirit has led the Church. Jesus is always at work in us with the gift of faith to enlighten our mind to help us understand the Scriptures and all of His teachings.

Lastly the office of Governance. We are in communion with Christ and His Church by recognising the authority of the Pope and Bishops as successors of St Peter and the Apostles. Our Lord says to Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Mt 16:19). The Pope and Bishops are our called shepherds, called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. It's a big task and they need our prayers to carry out that role in a Christ-like manner. Jesus is always present to us, 'governing' our lives by looking after us by His loving providence.

*Fr John Paul Mount*

### SUNDAY MASSES

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

### OLHC, Korobeit

|                                            |                |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday |                |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> June    | 6:30pm (Vigil) |

### WEEKDAY MASSES

#### May

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Mon           | no Mass |
| Tue, Thu, Fri | 7:30am  |
| Wed & 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 | 24 hours | First Friday Adoration |
| Sun | 10:00am  | Rosary (Chapel)        |

### DIARY

#### June

|     |                  |                                                            |
|-----|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | The Ascension of the Lord                                  |
| Tue | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Young Adults Group (18-35 years)                           |
| Fri | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | First Friday Devotion                                      |
| Sun | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Pentecost Sunday                                           |
| Sun | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass                              |
| Sun | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Baptism Preparation Session                                |
| Mon | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | The Blessed Virgin Mary,<br>Mother of the Church           |
| Fri | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Providence & Friends Mass                                  |
| Sun | 15 <sup>th</sup> | The Most Holy Trinity                                      |
| Sun | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | The Most Holy Body and Blood<br>of Christ (Corpus Christi) |
| Tue | 24 <sup>th</sup> | The Nativity of St John the Baptist                        |
| Fri | 27 <sup>th</sup> | The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus                             |
| Fri | 27 <sup>th</sup> | Fr John Paul's 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary                |

### DONATE

To support our Parish,  
scan the QR code,  
or contact the Parish Office  
to set up recurring contributions.



ST. BERNARD'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
61 Lerderdarg Street  
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

PARISH OFFICE  
Tuesday – Friday, 9:30am – 1:30pm  
(03) 5367 2069  
[bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au](mailto:bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au)  
[www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au](http://www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au)

OUR LADY  
HELP OF CHRISTIANS  
309 Myrniong-Korobeit Road  
Korobeit VIC 3341

Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

## PARISH NEWS

### FR JOHN PAUL MOUNT

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – save the date!

Our wonderful parish priest is celebrating 10 years of priesthood on **Friday 27th June 2025**. Keep that evening free as we'll be having a parish get-together. More details coming soon.

#### ANNUAL GUILD MASS

The Archdiocesan Guild of St Stephen warmly invites all Altar Servers to their Annual Mass which will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7:30pm in St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Admission forms are available in the Gathering Space and should be emailed to [samuel.pearson@cam.org.au](mailto:samuel.pearson@cam.org.au)

#### MORNING TEA

Next Sunday 8th June, there will be morning tea available after the 8:30am Mass. All welcome.

#### VINNIES WINTER APPEAL 2025

We will have a special collection next weekend for the Vinnies Winter Appeal 2025 which aims to address the increasing rates of homelessness across Australia. This year, the appeal emphasizes the urgent need for community support to provide essential services to those at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

#### TAP & GO

Some of you may have already noticed that we have a new EFTPOS terminal which can be used as a "Tap & Go" device to make financial contributions to the Church/Parish (2<sup>nd</sup> Collection).

The device is currently set at the following amounts – \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50 – although other amounts can be keyed-in if required. Please refer to the operating instructions which are kept near the device.

During weekend Masses, it will be available in the Gathering Space so that donations can be made as you enter or when you leave. It will also be used by the Piety Stall.

#### PARISH THANKSGIVING

1<sup>st</sup> Collection – Presbytery. Supports our Parish Priest and the priests of the Archdiocese.

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Church. Supports our Parish.

Church Account for direct transfer:

BSB: 083 347 Account No.: 651663131

Account Name: St Bernard's Bacchus Marsh Church Account

## LET US PRAY

### Recently Deceased

...

### Death Anniversaries

Denis (Jim) Barry, Christine Hansen, Bernadette Ann Lee, Frank O'Malley, Ivan Prkic, Leo Ryan, John Tung, James Younger.

### The Sick

Barry Anderson, Brendan Coburn, Kathleen Dally, Dean Elms, Robert Elms, Frances, (baby) Caleb Silas Ginger, Hannah & Molly, Matthew Hilbert, Michael Johnston, John & Patricia Kelly, Michael Larkin, Joanne Mumford, Chinenye Victoria Oriaku Nwalozie, Noeline Haeday Riaca, Peter Roberts, Kevin Shelly, Laurie Shelly, Liz Shelly, Anthony Tabone, Carmel Welsh, and all those who need our prayers.

## COMMUNITY

### Soul Food

Soul Food provides a free meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays). This community service is held in St Bernard's Parish Centre and is a free event. All are welcome. No need to book – just come along.

### St Vincent de Paul Society Vic

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

## 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.

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

## SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Vicki Benson  
Jennifer Costin

Ron Geurts

Margaret Love  
0437 247 779

Madeleine McManus  
Marj Tung

## REFLECTION

### Ascension Sunday

To be a witness in a court case, can be a difficult experience. Witnessing as a Christian, can also be a demanding one, as it can call forth from us demands not usually made.

Jesus tells his disciples they will be his witnesses "to the ends of the earth". The ends of the earth were very limited in those days, but we have seen the Gospel spread to every part of our world. Jesus says goodbye to the disciples and leaves them. One would think they would be feeling very sad and miserable, but we are told "they went back to Jerusalem full of joy". The next few days were like a retreat getting ready for their mission. "They were continually in the Temple praising God".

At the end of Mass, the priest blesses us and says: "GO, the Mass is ended". We are being sent out on mission to witness to Jesus, by the joyful goodness and generosity of our lives. It is for this mission we are confirmed in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Sr Mary Fermio*

## LITURGICAL LIVING

At today's feast of the Ascension we are tasked by Jesus, like the apostles were, to prepare ourselves for Pentecost in order to be "clothed with power from on high" (Lk 24:49).

"How did [the apostles] prepare for that? With the very first novena. That's right, at Jesus' direction, after the Ascension, Mary, the apostles, the holy women and some of the other disciples went back to Jerusalem and for nine days they "with one accord devoted themselves to prayer" (Acts 1:14).

We can imitate them, in a somewhat abbreviated fashion, with a Novena to the Holy Spirit, prayers from the Friday after the Ascension through the Saturday before Pentecost. It was instituted by Jesus, practiced by Mary and the apostles and officially 'decreed and commanded ... throughout the whole Catholic Church' by Pope Leo XIII in 1897. So, maybe give it a go?

There are many versions of the Novena to the Holy Spirit available. We use one from the website Pray More Novenas. It takes only a couple of minutes each day. You can sign up online to receive daily email reminders, including the prayers for this and other novenas. It is a huge help in remembering to say it each day" (excerpt from Catholic All Year by Kendra Tierney).

Now, as we will all most likely read this on Sunday, two days after the start of the novena, I realise that we are running a touch late for this practice, but it is better to start to pray late than not at all! If you start today you will still finish in the octave of Pentecost (we celebrate big feasts for eight days in the Church, we do know how to celebrate well!), so it still is a good idea to start today. Pray for the thing that is most on your heart, that you need clarity for in order to move forward in your relationship with Christ.

Pentecost is really important for us, it is the birth of our Church that Christ instituted here on earth, let's make sure we really celebrate it. The traditional colour to represent the Holy Spirit is red; it will be worn by Fr John Paul next Sunday, why don't you wear even a splash of red that Sunday at Mass to join with the whole Church to celebrate.

*Monica Russell*

## MINISTERS

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> June

| Mass    | Reader           | Holy Communion | Piety Stall   |
|---------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 5:00pm  | John Thorne      | Vicki Benson   | Marj Tung     |
| 8:30am  | Peter Kennedy    | Peter McPhan   | Dianne Shelly |
| 10:30am | Beatrice Younger | Shannon Harvie |               |

## 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

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING *Acts 1:1-11*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses, not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this, he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *46:2-3, 6-9*

**R: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

SECOND READING *Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23*

It is not as though Christ has entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin, but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

In other words, brothers, through the blood of Jesus, we have the right to enter the sanctuary, by a new way which he had opened for us, a living opening through the curtain, that is to say, his body. And we have the supreme high priest over all the house of God. So as we go in, let us be sincere in heart and filled with faith, our mind sprinkled and free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is faithful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Matthew 28:19, 20*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
**Alleluia!**

GOSPEL *Luke 24:46-53*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.'

Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

———— NEXT SUNDAY ————

**Pentecost Sunday – Year C**

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>First Reading</i>      | <i>Acts 2:1-11</i>             |
| <i>Responsorial Psalm</i> | <i>Psalms 103:1, 24, 29-31</i> |
| <i>Second Reading</i>     | <i>Romans 8:8-17</i>           |
| <i>Gospel</i>             | <i>John 14:15-16, 23-26</i>    |