



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



Year C

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

20th July 2025

Holy Communion

Today, I would like to speak on Holy Communion. Basically, the 'etiquette' rule for today is that whether others choose to receive Communion or not, or how they receive Communion, is no one else's business. Indeed, we should intentionally not take notice of such things. I will preface this with some Canon Law (the law of the Church) for the sake of interest and also it will help to understand the etiquette practices.

To receive Holy Communion, one must be a baptised Catholic (Canon 912), of the age of reason to know the Sacrament one is receiving (Canon 913), and have confessed any mortal/serious sins one might have on his or her conscience (Canon 916). One should fast/abstain from food for one hour before Holy Communion, except for water and medicine, or if one is elderly or sick (Canon 919). However, even if one is able to receive Holy Communion, one might choose to come to Mass and not to receive Communion for many reasons.

All the Catholic faithful are obliged to go to Mass on Sundays and days of obligation (such as Christmas and the feast of the Assumption) (Canon 1247). However, we are only **obliged** to receive Holy Communion once a year (Canon 920). Therefore, obviously one can come to Mass and not receive Communion if one chooses. We "**should** receive the sacrament with great devotion and **frequently**, and should reverence it with greatest adoration" (Canon 898. My emphasis). Yet, it is not necessary to receive Communion at each Mass we attend.

Before becoming a priest for instance, I used to practice 'Eucharistic fasting'. I did this because I attended Mass daily and occasionally wanted to increase my desire for Communion by abstaining. I didn't want my reception to become automatic and to become desensitised to it. I do not, as a general rule, recommended this practice, but it can be helpful properly understood.

All of this Canon Law that I have just cited is simply to say that there are many reasons why others might come to Mass and choose not to receive Holy Communion. And whether another person chooses to receive Holy Communion or not is **no one else's business**.

The Church also gives a few ways that a person can receive Holy Communion. A person can receive kneeling or standing, and on the tongue or in the hand. (Note: those who receive in the hand should consume the Host before walking away from the minister, so the minister knows you have begun to consume it). From those ways of receiving, how a person chooses to receive Holy Communion is their own choice and no one else's business.

If you choose not to receive Holy Communion, you have the option to either simply remain in your pew/seat, or if you wish you can approach the minister for a blessing, indicating you'd like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

So, we should intentionally **not notice** who goes up for Communion and who doesn't, nor should we notice how others choose to receive. We should learn the wisdom of being discreet about such things.

Communion is not a spectator sport. Without thinking, we can spend our Communion preparation or thanksgiving watching others receive Communion. We should make a concerted effort not to do this and to focus on prayer instead. The only exception is that it can be helpful sometimes if a parishioner makes sure someone doesn't, just by innocent ignorance, walk away with Communion without consuming the Host.

Note: If you are unsure about how and when to receive Communion, simply come and ask me!

Fr John Paul Mount

SUNDAY MASSES

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
19 th July & 2 nd August	6:30pm (Vigil)

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

July

Sun	20 th	Baptism Preparation Session
Tue	22 nd	School Term 3 commences
Fri	25 th	Grandparent's Day (Mass at School)

August

Tue	5 th	Young Adults Group (18-35 years)
Wed	6 th	The Transfiguration of the Lord
Thu	7 th	Craft & Cuppa Group
Thu	7 th	KSC – "God & Beer"
Fri	8 th	St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop)
Fri	15 th	Providence & Friends Mass
Fri	15 th	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (7pm Mass)
Wed	20 th	St Bernard of Clairvaux (7pm Mass)
Sat	30 th	Trivia Night
Sun	31 st	Baptism Preparation Session

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 Lerderberg Street
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to Stephanie Szabo who is receiving her First Holy Communion this weekend.

Please pray for her, and for the many others who are currently preparing to receive Sacraments in our Parish.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL

This weekend, there is a special collection to support vulnerable mothers and newborns in Zambia. Let us join hands in hope for them so that they receive the proper medical care during childbirth which they desperately need to prevent maternal deaths.

Catholic Mission envelopes are available in the Gathering Space. Donations can also be made online at:

<https://catholicmission.org.au/see-our-work-in-action/mission>

TRIVIA NIGHT 2025

St Bernard's trivia returns again in 2025.
Please save the date – Saturday 30th August.
More details next week.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday 23rd July.

PARISH THANKSGIVING

1st Collection: Presbytery – supports our Parish Priest and priests of the Archdiocese.

2nd Collection: Church – supports our Parish.

The 'Tap & Go' device is now permanently available in the Gathering Space for any financial contributions to the Church/Parish.

Also, direct transfers can be made to the Church account:

Account Name: St Bernard's Bacchus Marsh Church Account
BSB: 083 347 Account No.: 651663131

LET US PRAY

Recently Deceased

...

Death Anniversaries

Dolores & Victor Carter, Bill Fanning,
John Farrugia, Irene Wojcicki.

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,
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
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
Peter Kennedy

REFLECTION

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We have all experienced the influx of visitors and someone puts the kettle on, gets the mugs out, while someone else sits down with them and talks to them. In this story, Martha is the one looking after everyone. (I have wondered, were the apostles there as well needing a cuppa?)

On Sundays, we are reminded of the need for times when we focus on God alone. Each of us is invited to put God at the centre of our lives, not just on Sundays, but on each day in all we are doing and being. As children, we were encouraged to say a Morning Offering each day, giving to God all we were going to do for that day. We could not think of God all the time, so this prayer expressed the intention, that what we did during the day, we did with and for God, no matter how busy we were.

Maybe it is a good time to renew that daily offering if we have let it go.
Have a cuppa as you thank God and spend five minutes chatting.

Sr Mary Fermio

ANNIVERSARY OF NICENE COUNCIL (325)

This month marks 1700 years since the end of the First Council of Nicaea, a pivotal moment in the history of the Church. Amongst other things, the council is notable for condemning Arianism and for harmonising the date of Easter across the whole Church.

Convened by Emperor Constantine, the council attracted more than 200 bishops from around the Christian world, who descended on the city of Nicaea (located 100km south-east of modern-day Istanbul). With some of the harshest Roman persecutions of Christians still fresh in memory – and with Constantine himself on the way to becoming a Christian – the council's immediate priority was to settle a major theological dispute over the nature of Jesus Christ that would later come to be known as the Arian controversy.

On one side were those who believed Jesus was a created being who is not eternal – a somewhat Unitarian view that had been gaining traction across the Roman Empire. In opposition were the Trinitarians, who believed Jesus to be co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit – three divine persons existing as one God. Following much debate, the council deemed it necessary to formulate a definitive statement of Christian belief in the form of the Nicene Creed. We continue to recite this creed at every Sunday Mass – having changed little since the fourth century.

Also on the agenda was the dating of Easter, which up to that point had been celebrated at different times in different churches. The council decreed that the dating of Easter should be independent of the Jewish calendar and that all Christians worldwide should celebrate on the same day. This largely held until the adoption of a new calendar in the 16th century once again resulted in a divergence in date calculations (a divergence that remains between Catholic and Orthodox churches to this day).

Twenty Canons (church laws) are attributed to the council, covering diverse topics ranging from rules concerning clergy dwelling with women, restrictions on priests moving freely between churches, and even guidance on when we should be kneeling during Mass.

The Council of Nicaea was a defining event in the history of the Catholic Church – a true demonstration of the Holy Spirit continuing to guide us. Today, as we recite the creed passed down to us through the centuries, let us take a moment to pray in gratitude for all those who came before us, defending and shaping the faith we now inherit.

After all, it's not every day you get to celebrate a 1700th anniversary!

MINISTERS

26th & 27th July

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Maureen Zahra	Vicki Benson	Margot Short
8:30am	Margaret Love	Colm Carragher	Carmel 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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

FIRST READING *Genesis 18:1-10*

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My Lord,' he said 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.'

Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. 'Hurry,' he said 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree.

'Where is your wife Sarah?' he asked him. 'She is in the tent' he replied. Then his guest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail, and your wife will then have a son.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 14:2-5*

R: *The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue.

Response

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord.

Response

He who keeps his pledge come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.

Response

SECOND READING *Colossians 1:24-28*

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my own body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church.

I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints.

It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *cf Luke 8:15*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Luke 10:38-42*

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Ps 110: 4-5*

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

————— NEXT SUNDAY —————

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

<i>First Reading:</i>	<i>Genesis 18:20-32</i>
<i>Responsorial Psalm:</i>	<i>Psalms 137:1-3, 6-8</i>
<i>Second Reading:</i>	<i>Colossians 2:12-14</i>
<i>Gospel:</i>	<i>Luke 11:1-13</i>