



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



Year C

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

17th August 2025

FEAST OF SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

WEDNESDAY 20TH AUGUST

St Bernard was born in 1090 in Fontaines, near Dijon, France, his father being Tecelin, Lord of Fontaines, and his mother Aleth (Alice) of Montbard.

Both his parents and indeed his brothers and sister are regarded as saints by the Church. Not many can say that about their family, but in one way it's all you need to know about St Bernard, to know what an incredible influence he was – not only on his immediate family, but on his family the Church and the world. Indeed, so great is this saint, that you could say that no one has since been untouched by St Bernard's influence.

FYI, St Alice's relics were lost after the French revolution (not sure about the rest of the family) – just wanted to add that because I enjoy kicking the Revolution whenever I can.

St Bernard joined the Cistercians in 1112 which had only been formed about a decade before. No doubt God formed it in preparation for St Bernard. By the end of his life, under the incredible influence of St Bernard, the Cistercians grew to a further 343 monasteries. Perhaps that is the second fact which is 'all you need to know' about how influential this saint was.

It's difficult to overestimate the importance of St Bernard in the history of the Church. He was of course only an instrument of God's grace and the creative power of the Holy Spirit. However, St Bernard truly enlivened the Church, in the manner of a Big Bang, an explosion in the Church and Western civilisation. He was the seed that brought the flowering of the High Middle Ages and gave the Church enough spiritual strength to endure and flourish after the Protestant movement.

The core of this enlivening was the spiritual life. St Bernard is one of the spiritual masters of the Church and we still have his writings. In his writings is the perennial wisdom of the Church, beautifully explained to guide us through the ways of purgation, illumination and unification. Yet also an essential spiritual foundation that brought this explosion of life into the Church, was renewed devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary brought into the Church a heart-felt passion for charity to God and neighbour, and a desire to express our faith in beautiful works for God. It brought an explosion in art – architecture, painting, music – that would continue into the high middle ages and beyond.

The great Cathedrals of France were constructed following his influence on the Church and many are named Notre Dame (Our Lady). Notre Dame in Chartres was begun in 1194; Notre Dame Paris was begun in 1163; Notre Dame Amiens was begun in 1220; St Stephen's Bourges begun in 1195; Notre Dame Assumption in Rouen began a Gothic reconstruction in 1185; etc, etc.

Just search for the great Cathedrals of France and just wonder how it could be possible to build such structures a thousand years ago. Well, they were motivated by true faith and love. All contributed their time and efforts, from greatest to least in society.

We mustn't think everything was perfect in Christendom, but here under the influence of St Bernard, we had a true flourishing of Christian civilisation. We see in these monuments still standing today, testimonies of a society ruled by the charity of Christ. This is the power of one Catholic Saint, truly wielding the power of Christ and His Holy Spirit.

Rev Fr John Paul Mount

SUNDAY MASSES

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday
16th Aug & 6th Sept 6:30pm (Vigil)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon no Mass
Tue, Thu, Fri 7:30am
Wed & Sat 9:30am
(See page 2 for weekday Masses next week)

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)

FEAST DAYS

& SPECIAL MASSES

August

Wed 20th St Bernard of Clairvaux (no 9:30am Mass)
9:00am School Mass at school and
7:00pm Mass in church (tea/coffee/cake after)
Sun 24th Sacrament of Confirmation
2:00pm Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral

DIARY

August

Sat 30th Trivia Night
Sun 31st Baptism Preparation Session

September

Tue 2nd Young Adults Group
Fri 12th Providence & Friends Mass
Sun 14th Morning Tea (after 8:30am Mass)

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

19th – 22nd August

Next week, 7:30am Masses on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday have been cancelled due to the Clergy Conference which Fr John Paul will be attending. Also, the 9:30am Mass on Wednesday is cancelled.

To celebrate the Feast Day of St Bernard of Clairvaux, the following Masses will be held on Wednesday 20th August:

9:00am Mass in the Recreation Centre at School, and
7:00pm Mass in the Church
followed by tea, coffee and cake in the Parish Centre

ST BERNARD'S TRIVIA NIGHT 2025

Saturday 30th August at 6:30pm

Tickets are now available for our annual parish trivia night. Come and enjoy a fun-filled evening as you challenge fellow parishioners. Book a whole table (8 players), or buy individual tickets and we'll find a team for you. BYO food & drinks. Adults \$20. Youth \$10.

Scan the QR code to secure your tickets.
Contact person: Thomas Halloran – 0431 504 402



2025 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

Beginning next weekend, the Archdiocese has introduced a single annual collection to reduce the number of special collections throughout the year. Posters, Frequently Asked Questions, brochures and envelopes are available in the Gathering Space.

Everyone is asked to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese which are outlined in the campaign brochure. Donations can be made via the QR code, via the supplied campaign envelopes, or anonymously via cash directly into the special collections during the next two weekends.

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 available in the Gathering Space.

Direct transfers can also 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

Liz Shelly

Death Anniversaries

Patricia Cooper, Maurice Clancy, Maureen Grogan, Roy Mabill, Paddy O'Leary, Jack Shelley, Norma Stevens, James Symmons, John Thorneycroft.

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, Peter Roberts, Laurie 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

Australians are well acquainted with fire, its uses and its destructive forces. Europe is at present experiencing terrible fires unknown to them, with homes lost, people killed and destruction of country. Fire is also used to harden metals, cleanse and purify.

Jesus uses the image of fire to explain the cleansing power of fire. His words are to cut like a sword, burn and purify like a fire. People will have to choose which way to go – whether discipleship is too costly, worth fighting for, worth giving up things for. Each of us will have to make our own choice. To obtain the highest good, my salvation, I will have to pay a price. Division of families and friends, a less opulent lifestyle, a simpler way of living – what will be the price I have to pay?

The choice I have to make: is discipleship too costly for me? Will total dedication to Jesus be too large a price to pay? Only I can decide that.

*The cost of discipleship is to live the life
God has given me, serving in mundane ways
the people God has put in my path.*

Sr Mary Fermio

LITANY IN HONOUR OF SAINT BERNARD

St Bernard, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, who in giving thyself to God, drew many souls to Him, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, prodigy of the eleventh age, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, ornament of the clergy, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, terror of heretics, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, oracle of the Church, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, light of bishops, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, most humble, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, burning with zeal for the glory of God, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, most ardent for the honour of Mary, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, most beloved son of the Queen of Angels, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, most pure in body and mind, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, perfect model of poverty and mortification, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, most ardent in charity to all, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, who feared God and not earthly powers, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, whose whole exterior breathed holiness, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, whose very look spoke of God, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, flower of religious, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, who never lost sight of the presence of God, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, angel of Clairvaux, **pray for us.**

St Bernard, always absorbed in God, **pray for us.**

MINISTERS

23rd & 24th August

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Jeremy Toledo	John Thorne	Carmel Shea
8:30am	Margaret Love	Colm Carragher	Margot Short
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

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading *Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10*

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered, 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this, the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 39:2-4, 18*

R: Lord, come to my aid!

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.

Response

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm.

Response

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord.

Response

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay!

Response

Second Reading *Hebrews 12:1-4*

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started.

Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne.

Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

Gospel Acclamation *John 10:27*

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 12:49-53*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Communion Antiphon *Psalms 129:7*

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

———— NEXT SUNDAY ————

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

First Reading	Isaiah 66:18-21
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 116
Second Reading	Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Gospel	Luke 13:22-30