



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR C

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

31ST AUGUST 2025

CHURCH ETIQUETTE V

My House is a House of Prayer

Welcome back to our series on Church Etiquette. Today is our 5th instalment and our topic is keeping prayerfully quiet in Church.

Our Lord acted in quite a dramatic way in a scene called the 'cleansing of the Temple'. Overcome by zeal for God's house (*Jn 2:17*), Jesus drove out the profiteers calling out, "My house shall be a house of prayer for all the nations" (*Mk 11:17*) and "you shall not turn my Father's house into a market place" (*Jn 2:16*). So, the main point for us today is to always remember that a Church is a house of prayer for all.

A Church is a building especially dedicated or consecrated to the worship of God (more specifically it is dedicated to Catholic worship). Since this building is dedicated or consecrated to this purpose, and this alone, we do not therefore use it for other purposes. That's why we don't hold other events in the Church, such as a social function etc, but rather we have those things in the hall or just outside. This is also why, for instance, you'll find many priests insisting on things like only having sacred music being played in a Church and not secular/popular music.

We have every building and space in the rest of the entire world to conduct other activities, but the Church is the one place kept just for God and prayer. Perhaps when we realise this, we can understand Jesus' emotion for keeping this one place just for God, this one place where all peoples can find sanctuary from the world, a sanctuary for time with God.

So, the etiquette lesson for today is to keep a prayerful quiet in the Church. The Church is for prayer, so we should be considerate of others who are trying to pray in the Church. From what I have seen so far, our Parish is quite good with this – thanks be to God. Nevertheless, it is always good to have a reminder (even I can become a bit casual in this regard, sometimes). I also need to remind myself not to get too boisterous in the Sacristy but to prayerfully prepare for Mass). After learning this general rule about keeping prayerfully quiet, we must be reasonable and keep our common sense. If we need to speak for whatever reason, we should be respectful of the place we're in and of others who are trying to pray. So, we keep a low voice or whisper. We do not spend time in Church in conversations or to catch up with people when that can wait until we leave the Church. Sometimes, and often before or after Sunday Mass, certain preparations, practices and works need to be done in Church, and so common sense prevails.

Lastly, as we have said many times before, we strive to be charitable and tolerant of those who aren't behaving in these ways. Sometimes people in our Church are new and don't know these things, or sometimes they've come from a community that hasn't had the practice of keeping prayerfully quiet in the Church. Let's lead by example and be patient with others. By our actions in Church let us always bear witness that we are in the presence of the King of Kings in the Tabernacle.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

SUNDAY MASSES

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday
6th & 20th Sept 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)

FEAST DAYS

& SPECIAL MASSES

September

Fri 5th Father's Day
7:30am Mass in Church
8:10am Paraliturg at School

DIARY

August

Sat 30th Trivia Night
Sun 31st Baptism Preparation Session

September

Tue 2nd Funeral 11am – Pat Clancy
Tue 2nd Young Adults Group
Fri 5th Men's Poker Night (*Father's Day*)
Thu 11th First Reconciliation
(*information & preparation session*)
Fri 12th Providence & Friends Mass
Sun 14th Morning Tea (*after 8:30am Mass*)
Sun 14th 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

MEN'S POKER NIGHT

Friday 5th September at 7:00pm

To celebrate Father's Day, we are hosting a men's social night in the Parish Centre on Friday 5th September. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a fun night of poker and also form connections with other men in the parish. If you'd like to attend (Strictly 18+), please get in touch with Thomas Halloran on 0431 504 402 for more details.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The next gathering of St Bernard's Young Adults group will be held on Tuesday 2nd September. Holy Hour will begin at 7:00pm and this will be followed by social activities and a formation talk in the hall. A meal will be provided at 6:00pm for those interested. For catering purposes, if you are coming for the meal, please text the number of people in your group to 0423 965 819. Also include the words "Young Adults Group" in the text.

PROVIDENCE & FRIENDS MASS

Parishioners are invited to the monthly Providence and Friends Mass to be held on Friday 12th September at 11am.

Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch.

If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short on 0419 507 438.

2025 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2025 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated. If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. These are outlined in the campaign brochures and envelopes available in the Gathering Space. This year specifically focuses on seminarian education and supporting our retired priests.

Donations can still be made via the QR code, via the supplied campaign envelopes, or anonymously via cash directly into the special collection this campaign weekend. You can also make a gift online at

www.melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

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

Gerard Duck

Death Anniversaries

Angelina Baiti, Vittoria de Bortoli, Br Jason Duck, Harry Grixti, Joan Kervin, Denis Leahy, Kathleen Martin, Noreen Matthews, Rosa Pollino, Nathan Prince, Peg Shanahan, Robert Taylor, Jim White.

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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Remember the days of debutante balls where the places of honour were for the official party, usually including the Priest of the Parish. They welcomed the debs and their partners, and had special tables at supper. We still have places of honour at certain events and celebrations, eg weddings, 21st birthdays, State functions.

In this parable, Jesus is telling us we are all invited to the Kingdom, no matter what our standing in society. Kings and Queens will be on equal footing with the beggar on the street. And this banquet is the only one that counts. No greater tragedy can happen to us than to miss out. So, we must beware of "turning our nose up" at others whom we consider of lesser importance.

So, am I working to make sure I have a place at the banquet table? Do I go out of my way to welcome strangers at Mass? If not, why not?

Sr. Mary Fermio

THE IRISH HERITAGE OF ST BERNARD'S

Our church turned 151 this year, having opened for service on Sunday 28th June 1874. Yet the history of Catholicism in Bacchus Marsh stretches back to the 1840s, when Melbourne itself was still in its infancy. As the first Catholic priests began visiting the Bacchus Marsh region, barely 40,000 people lived in the whole of Victoria; more people turn up to the average game of footy these days. And – like so much of the church in Australia – we owe a debt of gratitude to the countless Irish priests who answered the call to travel halfway around the world, often in appalling conditions, to cater to the needs of the growing Catholic population.

Between the late 1840's and the turn of the 20th century, no fewer than twenty-eight priests served the fledgling Catholic population of Bacchus Marsh. Of these, twenty-five had come on missionary journeys from Ireland, and two were from England. In 1898 – more than half a century after the first pioneer priests had ventured through our region – we were finally appointed our first Australian-born priest, Father Joseph King. This marked a turning point, after which most of our priests were home-grown (although missionary priests from Ireland continued to arrive right up until the 1940's).

The influence of the Irish on the church in Australia cannot be over-stated. The Irish brought with them their own style of worship, church etiquette, architecture and cultural celebrations. Many of the hymns we continue to sing today either have their origin in Ireland or have deep connections to the Irish struggle against the dominant Protestant church of the day. Examples include Be Thou My Vision, Christ Be Beside Me, and Faith of Our Fathers.

A look back through newspaper reports of the day sheds light on the strong Irish character of our parish. Annual St Patrick's Day sports carnivals, special collections for the church back 'home' in Ireland, priests preaching in support of Home Rule, and regular visits from Irish bishops and priests.

While most St Bernard's parishioners can still trace their roots back to Ireland, in recent years we've been blessed with the service of priests from much further afield: Philippines, Myanmar, India, New Zealand, Netherlands and even Belgium. But there's no denying the strong Irish roots of our parish (and the wider church in Australia), a living tradition that continues to shape our worship – and our identity – here in 2025.

Thomas Halloran
Excerpts from "Peopling our Parish"

MINISTERS

6th & 7th September

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Vicki Benson	John Thorne	Jackie Tabone
8:30am	Meg Kennedy	Colm Carragher	Lyn Shea
10:30am	Dominic van der Linden	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

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading *Sirach 3:17-20, 29-29*

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business,
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.
The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly,
and then you will find favour with the Lord;
for great though the power of the Lord is,
he accepts the homage of the humble.
There is no cure for the proud man's malady,
since an evil growth has taken root in him.
The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables,
an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 67:4-7, 10-11*

R: **God, in your goodness,
 you have made a home for the poor.**

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,
they shall exult and dance for joy.
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence.

Response

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,
such is God in his holy place.
God gives the lonely a home to live in;
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom.

Response

You poured down, O God, a generous rain:
when your people were starved you gave them new life.
It was there that your people found a home,
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor.

Response**Second Reading** *Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24*

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a
blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or
trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made
everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them.
But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living
God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have
gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone
is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God
himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the
saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator
who brings a new covenant.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 11:29***Alleluia, alleluia!**

Take my yoke upon you; learn from me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Alleluia!**Gospel** *Luke 14:1, 7-14*

On a sabbath day, Jesus had gone for a meal to the
house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they
watched him closely. He then told the guests a
parable, because he had noticed how they picked the
places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites
you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the
place of honour. A more distinguished person than
you may have been invited, and the person who
invited you both may come and say, "Give up your
place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment,
you would have to go and take the lowest place. No;
when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest
place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he
may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way,
everyone with you at the table will see you honoured.
For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and
the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a
dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or
rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by
inviting you in return. No; when you have a party,
invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that
they cannot pay you back means that you are
fortunate, because repayment will be made to you
when the virtuous rise again.'

Communion Antiphon *Psalm 30:20*

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.

NEXT SUNDAY**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**

<i>First Reading</i>	<i>Wisdom 9:13-18</i>
<i>Responsorial Psalm</i>	<i>Psalms 89:3-6, 12-14, 17</i>
<i>Second Reading</i>	<i>Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Luke 14:25-33</i>