



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR C

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

14th September 2025

— PAYING A VISIT TO THE CHURCH —

A couple of weeks ago we spoke about the Church being a house of prayer. Today, I'd like to encourage you all to make paying a visit to the Church a part of your week.

Our Lord cried out, "My house shall be a house of *prayer for all the nations*." (my emphasis). A Church is therefore, in a very particular way, God's house. It is not ours – not mine, not yours – but God's. And therefore, properly understood, *everyone's*! It is a place where everyone and anyone can come to pray, to encounter God, to visit the Lord Jesus who dwells in the Tabernacle. Catholic or not, saint or sinner, rich or poor, everyone can come and sit in the beauty of this House. "Domine, dilexi decorem domus tuae" – "O Lord, I have loved the beauty of thy house, and the dwelling of thy glory" (*Psalms* 25)one of my favourite lines in the psalms.

Therefore, I have always believed an important purpose of a Church is to keep it open for people to pay a visit and pray. This provides the opportunity for God to inspire anyone to come visit Him in the Church and spend some time with Him. In my experience, this is common. Whether it is to give thanks to God, to ask God for help in a time of desperation, to pray for – or light a candle for – the soul of a recently deceased or on an anniversary, or simply moved to desire God in their life, or even as they walk past, keeping the Church open provides an opportunity for God to transform lives. Such a simple thing for us to do.

I also encourage you, if possible, to pay a visit to the Church yourself over the week or weekend – outside of Mass. Perhaps if you go for a walk, add the Church to your route and sit for a while. If you're going shopping to the plaza, first pop into the Church. If you come into town once a week, make a Church stop like a place of pilgrimage to visit. Have you ever experienced sitting in a Church on your own, in the silence, with only two people present, you and Jesus in the Tabernacle? It is very beautiful, and provides an opportunity really like no other for God to work in us. He will often make His presence known; speak to us; teach us; enlighten our mind and inflame our heart; give us trust that he will show a path through tough problems; or work His healing us. When you are in His Presence, in the quiet, after your mind settles, you may experience what St Teresa of Avila calls 'the prayer of quiet' – you would be perfectly content to remain in His Presence interminably. May you be so blessed to experience this grace from God.

Some of us can be concerned about security when leaving the Church open during the day. This is understandable because we love our Church. However, the best way to provide security is if we have parishioners frequently paying a visit to the Church. Please pray that God will inspire '*all the nations*' to come and find God here.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
20 th Sept & 4 th Oct	6:30pm (Vigil)

— WEEKDAY MASSES —

Mon	no Mass
Tue, Thu, Fri	7:30am
Wed & Sat	9:30am
Wed 17 th Sept	9:30am Mass cancelled
Sat 20 th Sept	9:30am Mass cancelled

— 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)

— SCHOOL HOLIDAY —

— MASS TIMES —

September-October

23 rd - 26 th	Weekday Masses at 9:30am
30 th - 3 rd	Weekday Masses at 9:30am

— DIARY —

September

Sun	14 th	Morning Tea (<i>after 8:30am Mass</i>)
Sun	14 th	Baptism Preparation Session (<i>after 10:30am Mass</i>)
Wed	17 th	Parish Office closed
Fri	19 th	Last day of School Term 3
Fri	26 th	Grand Final Public Holiday

October

Mon	6 th	School Term 4 commences
Tue	7 th	Young Adults Group
Sat	11 th	Reconciliation Commitment 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

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

30th November – 2nd December 2025

This weekend, we have a guest speaker, Christian Bergman, presenting at all Masses to talk about this year's Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) being hosted in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The Festival is a national gathering of young Catholics across Australia, which provides youth and young adults with the opportunity to connect with each other, deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to live their faith in the world, and experience the breadth of the Church in Australia.

In the Jubilee Year of Hope, this is an opportunity for the next generation to encounter the living Christ and experience the joy of a life of faith.

Whether it is developing a living relationship with God, or going deeper and discerning their unique vocation and mission in the Church, we pray for growth in our Archdiocese – for existing ministries to be strengthened, and for new leaders and groups to be formed.

MORNING TEA

Morning tea is available this Sunday 14th September after the 8:30am Mass. All welcome.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Dear Parishioners, please note that the Parish Office will be closed this Wednesday 17th September.

MASS CANCELLATIONS

The following weekday Masses are cancelled:

9:30am – Wednesday 17th September

9:30am – Saturday 20th September

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Next Friday 19th September is the last day of school Term 3.

During the school holidays, weekday Mass times will be at 9:30am.

When school Term 4 commences on Monday 6th October, weekday Masses will resume at 7:30am on Tue, Thu & Fri, and 9:30am on Wed.

PARISH DONATIONS

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

2nd Collection: Church – supports our Parish.

A 'Tap & Go' device for donating to the Church account is 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

Fr Andrew Wise

Death Anniversaries

Elaine Brook, Frank Doyle, Nellie Hosemans, Brian Lewis, Joe O'Brien, Damien van der Linden.

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

The Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

We have read news items where a parent has raced into a burning house to rescue a child at the risk of their own lives. Their love for their child giving them the necessary courage to face the flames and the risk of death themselves.

Today's feast celebrates the love God has for us, allowing Jesus, who was named "this is my Son, the beloved", to suffer the death of a criminal, the horrible public death of crucifixion. This death was a public disgrace, the person at the mercy of taunts and cruelty. So why do we exalt in this cross?

We know that the cross was the means by which God would bring a world back, would restore to us all that had been lost through sin. It was an outpouring of love for us weak, sinful people who continually turned their back on God.

The only response worthy of this love, is to return that love in full measure.

Sr. Mary Fermio

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is deeply committed to the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a key responsibility of the Church. This commitment is founded in the teachings and mission of Jesus Christ, and lived out with love and justice to ensure the dignity of each human person.

When the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse commenced, it had three tasks: to bear witness to what had happened; to provide just responses to those who had experienced and suffered abuse; and to recommend ways to ensure that institutions were child-safe. This period opened a great wound for many, but also became the catalyst to the intentional building of practices and behaviours that would centre always on the safety and care of the most vulnerable.

Our safeguarding commitment articulates our recognition of the need for, and action towards, a culture of safety that ensures children and young people can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community.

Pope Francis reminds us in his encyclical *Fratelli tutti* (2020) that through the light of the Gospel, Christians are compelled to recognise Christ in each of our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable: 'Faith has untold power to inspire and sustain our respect for others, for believers come to know that God loves every man and woman with infinite love and "thereby confers infinite dignity" upon all humanity' (§85).

Our young people are our present and our future. How we value them today will nurture a generation confident in the knowledge that each individual person matters and is cared for, and will prepare them to carry this legacy forward for their own children and beyond. May our commitment today, as followers of Christ, be the shared responsibility that celebrates, empowers and protects our young people always.

*Most Rev. Peter A. Comensoli,
Archbishop of Melbourne*

In June this year, when Pope Leo XIV met with the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM), the meeting renewed the Church's unwavering commitment to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people.

Our Parish also renews our commitment to Safeguarding founded in the teachings and mission of Jesus Christ, and lived out with love and justice to ensure the dignity of each human person.

I want to take the chance on this Safeguarding Sunday to thank all our volunteers and Parishioners for their co-operation and commitment to Safeguarding in our Parish. We truly have a wonderful Parish community, so many families, so many people of all backgrounds and situations desiring for Jesus to be in their life. Your help in Safeguarding our Parish enables us to continue to flourish. Building on the work done in previous years, we have accomplished a lot this year to set us on a good path for the future.

Thanks to everyone again, and may God bless our Parish.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

MINISTERS

20th & 21st September

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	John Thorne	Vicki Benson	Marj Tung
8:30am	Evana Carragher	Colm Carragher	Dianne Shelly
10:30am	Dominic van der Linden	Jenny Kearney	

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

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9

On the way through the wilderness the people lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this, God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 77:1-2, 34-38

R: Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Give heed, my people, to my teaching;
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and reveal hidden lessons of the past.

Response

When he slew them then they would seek him,
return and seek him in earnest.
They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer.

Response

But the words they spoke were mere flattery;
they lied to him with their lips.
For their hearts were not truly with him;
they were not faithful to his covenant.

Response

Yet he who is full of compassion
forgave their sin and spared them.
So often he held back his anger
when he might have stirred up his rage.

Response

Second Reading Philemon 2:6-11

The state of Jesus was divine,
yet he did not cling to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.

But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your cross you have redeemed the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven
except the one who came down from heaven,
the Son of Man who is in heaven;
and the Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes
may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not be lost
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.'

Communion Antiphon

When I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

————— NEXT SUNDAY —————

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

First Reading Amos 8:4-7
Responsorial Psalm Psalms 112:1-2, 4-8
Second Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-8
Gospel Luke 16:1-13