



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR C

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7th September 2025

— FATHER'S DAY —

On this first Sunday of September, we celebrate Father's Day which gives us a chance to give thanks to God for the gift of fatherhood. We take a moment to appreciate and thank our own fathers and the impact they have had on our lives.

Everyone's father is different, but we can speak generally about fatherhood too. I'd like to offer some thoughts of mine on the topic. Generally every boy is called to fatherhood, or to strive for it and prepare for it, whether it ends up happening or not. Fatherhood is masculinity expressed as self-giving. If we try to prepare ourselves for fatherhood, we are preparing ourselves for self-giving. It points us beyond ourselves, to take up responsibility and leadership, to be mature, to strive for wisdom, to be a man of virtue, discipline, self-control and purpose. Even quite practically, it makes us prepare to financially provide for a family and not just ourselves. Getting our head around this future early will hopefully mean that when the time comes to get married, a young man will not be totally overwhelmed by the prospect and fear making the commitment – which is not rare in our day. And so, whether we actually become a father or not, we are heading in the right direction when aiming for fatherhood. With the help of God's grace at work in us, we are being formed in virtue and holiness and growing from a boy and becoming a man.

Let's think of our own fathers now or those who have been a fatherly influence on us. As I get older, I tend to reflect more on my early years. My brothers and sisters and I were very blessed to have loving parents. My father was a teacher and so lived on our schedule in regards to holidays which was great. There was plenty of football and golf and cricket. And our Catholic faith was just part of life too. I think fun and faith go well together. They are both 'higher' things. Dads can powerfully bring fun and faith to a family. Anyway, I actually wanted to mention something else that our father would very often do. He would often give us a hug and tell us, "Mum and Dad love you, and God loves you." Thinking back, this must have been deliberate and intentional from my father. And as much as we would wriggle away and think 'alright, take it easy', that gesture was very powerful and I'm thankful for it. Perhaps you can think of different impactful moments with your father.

Some of us have been deprived of a father for one reason or another. Some have had negative experiences of fatherhood. Yet God can use every experience for good. Even in that lacking, that negative experience, we have a unique knowledge of how important and impactful a loving, present father can be. For any lacking in fatherhood, we have God the Father to fill the void. We also have such a treasure in the Saints, in that through them we can have many spiritual fathers in our life, such as St Joseph.

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)

— SCHOOL HOLIDAY —

— MASS TIMES —

September-October

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

— DIARY —

September

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
(after 10:30am Mass)
Fri 19th Last day of School Term 3

October

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

FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

Loving Father,

You trusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation.

Amen

THANK YOU

Trivia Night – and – Coffee after Mass

A huge 'Thank You' to Thomas Halloran and the Social Committee for organising the Trivia Night last Saturday. This was a great event for our Parish, having raised \$1,215 and enjoyed by all those who participated.

Also, once again, 'thanks' to Maria and Lucas from 'eXpresso alfresco' for providing hot coffees after Masses last Sunday, with \$456.65 being raised for our Parish.

PROVIDENCE & FRIENDS MASS

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

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.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

7th – 13th September

"Protecting children is everyone's business."

Child Protection Week is an important time for us to consider how we, as adults, can address issues affecting children and young people, and how we can make a difference. Together, through awareness, conversation and prayer, we can build a safer, more supportive community for our children and young people.

MORNING TEA

Morning tea will be held after the 8:30am Mass on Sunday 14th September. All welcome.

PARISH DONATIONS

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

2nd Collection: Church – supports our Parish.

'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

...

Death Anniversaries

Sr Mary Coburn RSJ, Gerard Condon, Veronica Dally, Fr Peter Sinnema, Monica "Bon" Steele, Michael Williams.

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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

During this time of footy finals, we see hundreds of dedicated followers travelling distances to see their team play, hopefully to win a place in the finals. This seems to me a costly experience, but apparently worth it for the reward of cheering on your team towards a win.

Jesus tells his disciples that following him will be a costly experience, not in monetary terms, but in "taking up the cross". Jesus is not talking about a wooden cross, like the one he carried, but the crosses of everyday life, of living and working with others as a Christian. The invitation to "take up your cross" is not a good selling point one would think, but the point is, Jesus does not want half-hearted followers, wishy-washy Christians.

How would you rate yourself as a follower of Jesus from 1-10? Think about it.

Sr. Mary Fermio

UPDATE ON FORMER CONVENT AND CHAPEL

As most of you will know, the former convent has been broken into many times since becoming vacant a few years ago. The Convent Museum Committee and Finance Committee representatives all met for a clean out of the historically valuable items in 2023, and it has since been broken into quite a few more times. The windows and doors have been boarded up each time. A group of volunteers also removed the external sheds, garage and undergrowth to make the buildings more 'visible' to neighbours. This stemmed the damage frequency a little. Extra special precautions were made to secure the Chapel/Oratory, as we saw this as then being the most important aim.

The extra security actions have been supported by the Parish Priests over this time. Unfortunately, despite best efforts, many break-ins to the Convent have still occurred, with the police being called on many occasions and reports being made. Neighbours to the Convent have also been helping, for which we are thankful. Until now, we have managed to prevent entry to the old Chapel part of the Convent. Last week the Chapel was broken into and what remained of the contents were extensively damaged. The police attended the scene and a report made. Fr John Paul attended with some members of the parish to assess the damage. Please note that almost all holy items and items of value had already been removed.

Fr John Paul decided that an immediate professional cleanout of the Convent contents and an extra-secure boarding up of all lower-level windows and doors to the Convent to try to prevent further entry. Entering the building is now a safety and liability concern, as the parish could be liable for anyone (entering legally or otherwise) injuring themselves on the premises. Due to the destruction that vandals have caused to the inside of the Convent, we could not safely have volunteers clean the site, so for safety reasons, professional help was necessary.

In the meantime, our Parish is in discussions with MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools) about the purchasing of the Convent and land. Please pray for this process.

The parish owes a debt of gratitude to committee members – Carmel Shea, Lucille Wheelahan, Kim Kukavac, Mandy Le Huray, Chris Bronchinetti, John Hannah, Marg Closter, Mary Flanagan and Ron Geurts for the years of service given to maintaining and having the museum open for visitors as well as acting as guides for tour groups.

Especially in recent times, Fr John Paul, on behalf of the Parish, would like to thank Ron Geurts for the considerable time and effort he has spent looking after the Convent and protecting it from vandals.

The Parish Finance Council, the Parish Pastoral Council and our recent Resource Working Group, which is helping us progress through the Archdiocese planning process for optimising our resources, have all been helping to manage looking after the Convent. Thanks for all their work.

Fr. John Paul Mount and Finance Council

MINISTERS

13th & 14th September

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Sonia Smith	Colin Remedios	Margot Short
8:30am	Margaret Love	Tup Shea	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

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading *Wisdom 9:13-18*

What man can know the intentions of God?
Who can divine the will of the Lord?
The reasonings of mortals are unsure
and our intentions unstable;
for a perishable body presses down the soul,
and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.
It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,
laborious to know what lies within our reach;
who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?
As for your intention, who could have learnt it,
had you not granted Wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from above?
Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened
and men been taught what pleases you,
and saved, by Wisdom.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 89:3-6, 12-14, 17*

R: *In every age, O Lord,
you have been our refuge.*

You turn men back in to dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.

Response

You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades.

Response

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

Response

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

Response

————— NEXT SUNDAY —————

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 77:1-2, 34-38

Second Reading

Philemon 2:6-11

Gospel

John 3:13-17

Second Reading *Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17*

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more,
still a prisoner of Christ Jesus.
I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I
became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I
am sending him back to you, and with him - I could say -
a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him
with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help
me while I am in the chains that the Good News has
brought me. However, I did not want to do anything
without your consent; it would have been forcing your act
of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you
have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was
only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a
slave any more, but something much better than a slave,
a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more
to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord.
So if all that we have in common means anything to you,
welcome him as you would me.

Gospel Acclamation *Psalms 118:135*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 14:25-33*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he
turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me
without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers,
sisters, yes, and his own life too, he cannot be my
disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come
after me cannot be my disciple.
'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower,
would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he
had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the
foundation and then found himself unable to finish the
work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and
saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was
unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war
against another king would not first sit down and consider
whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the
other who advanced against him with twenty thousand?
If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he
would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same
way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up
all his possessions.'

Communion Antiphon

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.