



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR C

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

19th October 2025

— EUTHANASIA AND THE APOSTOLIC FATHERS —

Euthanasia

We have received word from the Archdiocese that there is a bill before Parliament to amend Victoria's euthanasia laws, called Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD). These amendments would allow doctors and medical practitioners to suggest euthanasia to a patient, and also obligate doctors and nurses to provide information on euthanasia to patients. The Archbishop, as well as many other Church and religious groups, have voiced their opposition.

Summarising the teachings of the Church, the Catechism states that "Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons. It is morally unacceptable." (2277)

The Archbishop and the Bishops of Victoria have issued a letter encouraging us to write to our local State MP to ask them to oppose this bill. We have made copies of their letter available in the foyer. Perhaps you could attach a simple cover letter to this saying that you agree with the Bishops and ask our MP to vote against the bill.

St Ignatius of Antioch and the Apostolic Fathers

Last week, I ran out of room to speak on St Ignatius of Antioch. St Ignatius is considered an 'Apostolic Father' of the Church. This is because he lived so close to the time of the Apostles, being martyred in the year 107AD. We can learn about the Apostolic Fathers from their writings which have survived. They are also mentioned by others like St Irenaeus (125-202) who lived and wrote soon after them.

These Apostolic Fathers are St Clement, who succeeded St Peter as Pope after Linus and Cletus (as named in the Canon or 'Anacletus' by St Irenaeus). We have two of Clement's letters. Another Apostolic Father is St Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, believed to have been the disciple of St John the Apostle himself. We have a letter from him and also the short story of his martyrdom which is particularly beautiful. Also is a document called the 'Didache', a short 1st Century catechetical document for the early Church. There are also some other early works including a story called the Shepherd of Hermas which I have mentioned in homilies.

From St Ignatius, we have seven short letters written to different 'Churches' – meaning the Church in different places. These are easy to read and I encourage you to look them up. They are beautiful and inspiring, and exhort us to be faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Apostles and the Bishops.

These writings are important for us to read since they show that the Church was already well formed and alive in the time immediately after the Apostles. For instance, the Church is called 'Catholic' by Ignatius and Polycarp, and these two as well as Clement speak of bishops, priests and deacons. We hear many other matters of the faith such as the Eucharist: "The Eucharist is the flesh of our saviour Jesus Christ which suffered for our sins and which the Father by his goodness raised up." (letter to the Smyrnians, paragraph 6).

Profoundly, the martyrdoms of both St Ignatius and Polycarp is spoken about in terms of the Eucharist. St Ignatius says, "I am God's wheat and I am being ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, so that I may prove to be pure bread." (letter to the Romans, paragraph 4). And in the Martyrdom of Polycarp, who was burned, "For the fire, taking the shape of an arch... completely surrounded the body of the martyr; and it was there in the middle, not like flesh burning but like bread baking... [and a] scent of incense or some other precious spice." (paragraph 15).

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
18 th Oct & 1 st Nov	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 —

October

Mon	20 th	Funeral for Carmel Berry at Crawford's
Fri	24 th	St Bernard's School Fete
Fri	31 st	St Bernard's Primary School All Saints whole school Mass 9:30am

November

Sat	1 st	St Bernard's Parish Bush Dance
Sun	2 nd	All Souls' Day
Sun	9 th	Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun	9 th	Baptism Preparation Session
Tue	11 th	Young Adults Group
Fri	14 th	Providence & Friends Mass
Thu	20 th	Sacrament of Reconciliation & Liturgy 6:30pm
Sun	23 rd	Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

December

Thu	11 th	Whole School End of Year Mass 9am
Sun	14 th	St Bernard's Christmas Family Day

— 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

ST BERNARD'S SCHOOL FETE

Friday 24th October, 4pm - 8pm

St Bernard's School is seeking donations of good quality pre-loved books and toys for re-sale at the School Fete. Donations can be left at the school front office until close of the day on Wednesday 22nd October. Also, if you can bake and would like to donate something for their stall, please contact Ruth at ruth.baas@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au or call 5366 5800. Please see notices in the foyer for more information and a chance to win a \$3,000 travel voucher. All proceeds go toward school improvements. Thanks for your support! All parishioners are welcome to the School Fete.

ST BERNARD'S PARISH BUSH DANCE

Saturday 1st November

6:00pm at St Bernard's Primary School

St Bernard's will host our second bush dance on Saturday 1st November at 6pm in St Bernard's Primary School hall. Bring your family and friends to enjoy traditional Australian Bush tunes and guided dances by the Bakery Hill Band. No skills needed!

Please bring a plate to share for supper. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided.

Children are encouraged to dress as their favourite saint to celebrate All Saints Day. There will be a fashion parade with prizes to be won!

Book now by scanning the QR code, or by going to www.trybooking.com/DFVFJ

Adults (18+) – \$20

Youth (13-17) – \$10

12 and under – FREE



The Social Committee is asking for donations to help create wonderful raffle prizes to be won at the bush dance. The proceeds will go towards supporting our parish. Donations can be left in the church Gathering Space after each Mass until Sunday 26th October.

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: Archdiocese of Melbourne Catholic Development Fund
St Bernard's Parish Bacchus Marsh

BSB: 083 347 Account No.: 651663131

LET US PRAY

Recently Deceased

Carmel Berry

Death Anniversaries

Kevin Cummins, Patricia Knight, Teresa Laszcz,
Maureen Orr, Margaret Scott,
Patricia Shanahan (nee Vallence), John Schifferle.

The Sick

Barry Anderson, Brendan Coburn, Kathleen Dally,
Dean Elms, Robert Elms, Nola Franklin,
Frances, Caleb Silas Ginger, Karen & Astrid
Karenpaula, Hannah & Molly, Michael Johnston,
John & Patricia Kelly, Michael Larkin,
Vivian Malubay, Joanne Mumford,
Chinenye Victoria Oriaku Nwaloze,
Peter Roberts, 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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer is something we can do at any time – washing up, driving, walking, etc. St Teresa of Avila describes prayer as “having a conversation with one by whom we know we are loved”.

The Gospel of this Sunday describes the persistence of a woman who wants the judge to give her justice. She apparently has a grievance against somebody and wants the judge to act. The judge has the power to solve her problem and acts, not out of a desire to help the woman, but to get rid of her. If the judge will do the right thing by this woman, surely, we can trust that a loving God will hear our prayer and do the right thing by us.

We often think our prayer goes unanswered, but we never give up on God. Bring God into your daily activities and you will find God as a friend.

Sr. Mary Fermio

NOVEMBER MASSES FOR THE HOLY SOULS

As we approach November, we have the opportunity to honour our departed loved ones in a special way. There is a clipboard in the Gathering Space for parishioners to enter the names of their cherished departed family and friends.

Parishioners are also encouraged to use the dedicated “Mass for the Holy Souls” envelopes to inscribe the names of those departed, and to show their support by including a donation. These envelopes will be placed before the altar, and Masses will be offered for all the faithful departed throughout the entire month of November.

Your participation and support in this meaningful initiative are greatly appreciated. Let us come together as a community to remember and honour our departed loved ones.

CHURCH CLEANING : VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thank you to the parishioners who are already assisting with the cleaning of our church. However, we are still in need of more volunteers!

Whether you currently volunteer at the Parish or not, would you consider putting your name and contact down to occasionally help clean the Church?

We are hoping to set up an annual or 6 monthly roster. The more cleaners we have, the less frequently you will be scheduled.

There is a clipboard in the foyer, or call or email the Parish Office

Phone: 5367 2069. Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.com.au

COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS

2026 Columban Art Calendars are now available to purchase from the Piety Stall for \$11 each.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving envelopes are available to collect in the Gathering Space.

To save on postage, all statements have now been emailed.

If you are unable to find your envelopes, have not received your statement, or have any queries in regards to Thanksgiving, please contact the Parish Office.

MINISTERS

25th & 26th October

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	John Thorne	Henry Gasior	Jan & Colm Carragher
8:30am	Maira Ross	Volunteer	Jan Farmelo
10:30am	Shannon Harvie	Cheryl Stevens	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

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading *Exodus 17:8-13*

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm until sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 120*

**R: Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. Response

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard. Response

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night. Response

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. Response

———— NEXT SUNDAY ————

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

First Reading *Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19*
Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 32:2-3, 17-19, 23*
Second Reading *2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18*
Gospel *Luke 18:9-14*

Second Reading *2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:2*

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

Gospel Acclamation *Hebrews 4:12*

Alleluia, alleluia!
The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 18:1-8*

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town', he said who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town, there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

Communion Antiphon

Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.