



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR C

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

26th October 2025

— FICTION OR NON-FICTION? —

Having failed to finish the last few books that I started, I thought I'd start on a few more. I just started reading Tony Abbott's, *Australia: A History*. I'm heading up to Sydney on Monday and look forward to getting into it.

I heard someone in an interview recently say that men at around the age of 40 lose interest in fiction and move toward non-fiction. I have certainly found that to be the case myself. I've been trying to think why this might be the case – so the following might be more of a personal reflection.

Is it a deeper love for truth? Yet, love for truth I think was a main reason I always loved classic fiction. Early 20th Century moderns I think were a great time for literature. I've never read a Graham Green novel I didn't like.

Good fiction gives us insights into human life. Every novel is about the conscience of man, if we take 'conscience' as simply meaning the inner life of a man. We are persons, we have an inner life, a conscience, and the best fiction stories tell of the inner struggles of an incarnate spiritual soul being pushed and pulled, drawn and repelled, by justice, love, friendship, ambition, passion, loyalty, truth and tangled lies, fate and happenstance, suffering and sacrifice, and everything from the glorious triumphs to daily annoyances. However, as much as I loved these stories of souls, now I'd much rather only read *The Story of a Soul*.

Good fiction tends to be hard work – like long Russian novels with impossible names. So many of the best books I've read only reveal themselves as such after it is finished and perhaps only after meditating on it. The first time I read *The Leopard* by Giuseppe de Lampedusa, I thought it a story where nothing had even happened. After the second time, all I wanted to do was read it again, which I did, then watch the movie. 'Beware cheap wisdom' is a good phrase. Good fiction tends to be hard won wisdom that lasts. I think therefore good fiction is more like life: Life is not full of movie like action drama, but rather true wisdom, progress, and yes transforming grace, is the hard work of ordinary daily crosses. Perhaps now I'd just rather the real thing? At the end, we will look back and see the great story that God wrote with our real lives.

Bishop Fulton Sheen once warned that movies and overly dramatic novels can desensitise us to the subtle joys of real life. There's a lot of truth in this. We find life mundane. Real relationships, spending time with real people, we find boring and hard work. We would rather escape into fantasy, into drama, to feel our souls emotionally come alive. We can prefer a kind of vicarious living.

The last novel I read was this year, *Journey to Midnight* by Antel Szerb, a Hungarian novel, and typical 20th Century modern style. I persevered through it, and yes it was good, but I just found it so depressing and felt like it was a huge waste of my life – I should've spent the time in Adoration I felt. Time with Christ is never a waste. These days I tend to only want to read the Scriptures, classic theological works, the teaching of saints, and primary resources of one sort or another. Is it just me?

Why do men over 40 tend toward non-fiction? Perhaps when we get older we are bored of vicarious living? Perhaps we want less drama rather than more? Or a deeper longing for *real connection*? You can't have real connection with fictitious characters. Perhaps this also explains why 'real crime' podcasts are popular, and also live radio, and live stream podcasts? I'm sure there's more to it, but in the meantime, I look forward to reading *Australia: A History*.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
1 st & 15 th Nov	6:30pm (Vigil)

— WEEKDAY MASSES —

Mon	no Mass
Tue, Wed & Thu	
28 th , 29 th & 30 th Oct	Masses cancelled
Fri	7:30am
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

Fri	31 st	St Bernard's Primary School All Saints whole school Mass 9:30am
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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

Sun	7 th	Baptism Preparation Session
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

MASS CANCELLATIONS THIS WEEK

As Fr John Paul will be away 27th–30th October, the following weekday Masses are cancelled:

7:30am – Tuesday 28th

9:30am – Wednesday 29th

7:30am – Thursday 30th

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.

THANKSGIVING

Thank you to all those who collected their Thanksgiving envelopes. The remaining packs have now been posted out.

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

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

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Death Anniversaries

Mary (Kath) Doran, Mark Henry, Mary (Maree) Larkin, Veronica McGregor, Ingrid Middlemast, Joan Pickin, Carmela Provenzano, William Vallenge, James Wilkie.

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 Nwalozie, 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.

Bacchus Marsh

St Vincent de Paul Conference

We support people in need within our community by providing practical assistance such as food parcels, food vouchers, bill relief, clothing, furniture as well as offering person to person support.

Welfare assistance is available Monday - Friday, 10:00am - 3:00pm on 1800 305 330.

New members most welcome.

Contact 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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Would you laugh if someone gave you a Free ticket: HEAVEN admit one? Actually, it is not a joke, because when we think about it, salvation is a free and total gift of love – from God.

Some people, like the tax collector in today's Gospel, realise this – know they need God and ask for God's mercy. Others feel they have no need of God and try to save themselves by their own efforts. We don't save ourselves. No number of Masses, Rosaries, Novenas, or indulgences can achieve salvation for us. You ask: Why do we do all this then?

We pray and act generously as a THANK YOU to the God who has given us the gift of Jesus, not because we are perfect, but because we need him. How often do I thank God for this gift of eternal life?

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.

COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS

Sunday 2nd November

Please join us in praying for the souls in purgatory around midday at the Ballan State Cemetery, 5112 Geelong-Ballan Road, Ballan.

For more detailed directions, contact Sr Mary Sarah at melbourne@op-tn.org

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.

MINISTERS

1st & 2nd November

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Jeremy Toledo	Jackie Tabone	Jackie Tabone
8:30am	Evana Carragher	Colm Carragher	Lyn Shea
10:30am	Beatrice Younger	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

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

First Reading *Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19*

The Lord is a judge
who is no respecter of personages.
He shows no respect of personages to the
detriment of a poor man,
he listens to the plea of the injured party.
He does not ignore the orphan's supplication,
nor the widow's as she pours out her story.
The man who with his whole heart serves God will
be accepted,
his petitions will carry to the clouds.
The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds,
until it arrives he is inconsolable,
nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him,
acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.
And the Lord will not be slow,
nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 32:2-3, 17-19, 23*

R: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Response

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.

Response

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Response

———— **NEXT SUNDAY** ————

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
All Souls' Day – Year C

First Reading *2 Maccabees 12:42-45*
Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 62(63):2-6, 8-9*
Second Reading *Philippians 3:20-21*
Gospel *Luke 7:11-17*

Second Reading *2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18*

My life is already being poured away as a libation,
and the time has come for me to be gone. I have
fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race
to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to
come now is the crown of righteousness reserved
for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give
to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all
those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there
was not a single witness to support me. Every one
of them deserted me – may they not be held
accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and
gave me power, so that through me the whole
message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to
hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth.
The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on
me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.
To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation *2 Corinthians 5:19*

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has
entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 18:9-14*

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people
who prided themselves on being virtuous and
despised everyone else.

'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a
Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee
stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank
you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous
like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am
not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I
pay tithes on all I get."

The tax collector stood some distance away, not
daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat
his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a
sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at
rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who
exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who
humbles himself will be exalted.'

Communion Antiphon

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.