



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR C

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 23rd November 2025

— CHRIST THE KING —

In 1925, Pope Pius IX wrote the Encyclical *Quas Primas* and started the feast day of Christ the King. He wrote this after WWI where the rule of Jesus Christ in society had been rejected and he said that without the rule of the charity of our Saviour, no true and lasting peace could be hoped for. The feast day was initially celebrated on the last Sunday of October – and still is in the Traditional Latin Mass. In the new liturgical calendar, it is celebrated after the last week of Ordinary Time, immediately before Advent – as we are celebrating it today.

The change in the time of celebrating this feast is theologically meaningful. The traditional emphasis of the feast was on the 'social' Kingship of Christ. The move of the feast to the end of the liturgical year emphasises the 'eschatological' Kingship (eschatological refers to the next life, and the end of this world). The 'social' Kingship means how Christ is King of this world. The 'eschatological' means how Christ is King of His Kingdom in the world to come. So, for our feast day, both the 'social' and 'eschatological' go together as two important and complementary aspects of Christ's Kingship. It can be a complex topic and a lot can be said about it. In any case, both these aspects are addressed by Christ in His conversation with the Roman authority of His day, Pontius Pilot.

Our Lord speaks to the eschatological dimension when He says to Pilot, "Mine is not a Kingdom of this world." (Jn18:36). So, the emphasis is on the full and eternal realisation of Christ's Kingship in heaven. Our hope is not in the establishment and enforcement of a permanent yet temporal earthly Kingdom in this world ruled over by a messiah present in some locality. His Kingdom "is not of this kind". Nevertheless, it is worth meditating on how Christ's authority is exercised in heaven. In heaven, there will be no army or police force or law courts needed. There will be no voting and change of governments. His law will be written on their hearts. Christ's will is perfectly and freely accomplished by the citizens of heaven, as He lives and reigns within them.

The 'social' Kingship of Christ refers to His sovereignty over human society, over individuals, institutions and organisations in this world. 'Sovereignty' meaning the jurisdiction of an authority. How does Christ reign in this world? All men have a conscience. All have an intellect and will, therefore all are governed by truth and goodness. Every individual or body of men, no matter how powerful on this earth, all know in their conscience they must strive to be just, good, moral, true. Therefore, all know they are servants of a higher, sovereign authority. And that authority is Christ who says to Pilot, "All who hear the truth listen to my voice." (Jn 18:37). Yet, Pilot's response repeats throughout history, 'Quod est veritas?' (What is truth?). Indeed, with the revelation of Jesus Christ entering this world, society is not only called to live out justice, but the wisdom of our Saviour's Charity too.

Meditating on these two aspects of Christ's Kingship, we can see how Christ's reign in the next life, from within us, is consistent with how He reigns in this life. The voice of Jesus Christ is speaking to each of us, calling us to personal conversion. In our conscience, He is prompting us to not only seek what is true and good, but to seek *Him*, and finding Him, seek communion with Him – a communion that lasts in His Kingdom forever. "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them; ... And He who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." (Rev 21:3-5).

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday

6th & 20th Dec 6:30pm (Vigil)

— WEEKDAY MASSES —

Mon	no Mass
Tue, Thu, Fri	7:30am
Wed	9:30am
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 —

November

Sun	23 rd	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Feast of Christ the King) Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Thu	27 th	Enrolment / Information Evening for all Sacraments for 2026 in Parish Centre at 6pm

December

Sun	7 th	Baptism Preparation Session
Tue	9 th	Young Adults Group
Thu	11 th	Whole School End of Year Mass in School Gym at 9am
Fri	12 th	Providence & Friends Mass
Sun	14 th	St Bernard's Christmas Family Day
Wed	16 th	Last day of School Term 4

— 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

MORNING TEA

Feast of Christ the King

– and –

First Holy Communion Celebrations

There will be a morning tea in the Parish Centre after the 8:30am Mass this Sunday 23rd November to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King as well as the First Holy Communion of three children in our parish. Please bring a plate to share. All welcome.

KSC RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are for sale in the Gathering Space following Masses over the next few weekends.

The Knights of the Southern Cross are raising money to continue their annual scholarships at our St Bernard's Primary School.

Four local prizes to be won. Tickets are \$2 each, or three for \$5.

Thank you for your support.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAMILY DAY LUNCH

Sunday 14th December

Save the date for this year's Christmas Family Day.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

Christmas Eve 6pm Carols

For the Christmas Eve carols at 6pm, before the 6:30pm Mass, we will be having a procession that leads to a nativity scene at the front of the altar. Children from the parish are welcome to participate and we also invite older children to be Readers. Each family is responsible for sourcing their children's costumes.

If you would like your child/children to participate in the process, please provide the name/names of your child/children by contacting Loretta on 0418 575 814 by next Sunday 30th November and we can chat further.

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

Ian Halfhide, Shina Rios.

Death Anniversaries

Andrew Connell, Guinness Connell, William Delahey, Jean McGregor, Marie O'Connor, Sheila Rice, Jean Tobin, Kevin Unthank, Roma Webster.

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

We know that the kingdoms of this earth are transitory, not everlasting. They are ruled by just rulers or rulers who only consider themselves using the power they hold over others.

Today's world seeks power through atomic warfare, threats of invasion. These values lead to the horrors of Hiroshima, Gallipoli, Cambodia, when thousands suffered pain and death. Jesus seeks power through the Cross, and it is from the Cross that Jesus reigns as King. So instead of greed and selfishness, the peace of this Kingdom begins with generosity, forgiveness and concern for others. These are the breath of a life lived with God.

We belong to this Kingdom. May we bring life, joy and peace to all those we meet.

Sr. Mary Fermio

NOVEMBER MASSES FOR THE HOLY SOULS

During 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.

COMBINED CHURCHES CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Sunday 7th December, 5pm

A gathering of all the Bacchus Marsh Church congregations this Christmas.

Bring a picnic to enjoy, rug or chairs. Sausage sizzle provided.

Outdoor grasslands behind the Anglican Church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Christmas appeal directly supports our Conference to provide hampers to families in need in the local area.

St Vincent de Paul is asking for your support through either cash donations to the poor box, gift vouchers to allow parents to buy presents (which can be left with Piety Stall volunteers), OR tins of ham, plum pudding, chocolates or bonbons that can be left in the labelled box in the Church Gathering Space. All donations gratefully requested by Sunday 30th November.

PIETY STALL

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

Christmas cards are also now in stock – \$4 for a pack of 5.

READING MINISTRY 2026

We are calling for parishioners to join the Reading Ministry for 2026. If you would like to volunteer to read at Mass, you are invited to record your name and contact details on the clipboard in the Gathering Space. You will then be contacted to discuss further. Thank you.

Liturgy Ministry

MINISTERS

29th & 30th November

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	John Thorne	Vicki Benson	Jackie Tabone
8:30am	Nathan Costin	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

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

First Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron.
'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood.
In days past when Saul was our king, it was you
who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said
to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of
my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."
So all the elders of Israel came to the king at
Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at
Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they
anointed David king of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 121:1-5

R: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Response

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

Response

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgment
of the house of David.

Response

Communion Antiphon

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading Colossians 1:12-20

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible
for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the
light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out
of the power of darkness and created a place for us in
the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we
gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation;
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominions, Sovereignities, Powers -
all things were created through him and for him.
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.

As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he should be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection to be found in him
and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace by his death on the cross.

Gospel Acclamation Mark 11:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our
Father;
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 23:35-43

The people stayed before the cross watching Jesus.
As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved
others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the
Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked
him too, and when they approached to offer him
vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save
yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is
the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are
you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as
well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have
you no fear of God at all?' he said, 'You got the same
sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we
are paying for what we did. But this man has done
nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when
you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,'
he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

NEXT SUNDAY

First Sunday of Advent – Year A

First Reading	Isaiah 2:1-5
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9
Second Reading	Romans 13:11-14
Gospel	Matthew 24:37-44