



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR C

COMMEMORATION OF FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS) 2nd November 2025

— ALL SOULS —

During November, we pray for those who have died, especially our family and loved ones. The month starts with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. We are reminded that the Church is not just on earth, but also in Heaven and Purgatory. Purgatory being a place of preparation on our way to heaven.

On Saturday, we celebrate All Saints. We lift up our eyes to where God made us to be forever – heaven. He made us to live in perfect communion with Christ and the rest of His Mystical Body. I believe there is a story about St Thomas Aquinas where his sister asked him, "What do I need to do to go to heaven", and he said, "to want it" (Of course, the hagiography has him answer her in Latin actually, "velle illud" lol!). How true that is. And keeping our eyes on heaven, and all the saints there, is a sure way to continue to 'want it'.

On Sunday, we celebrate All Souls and pray for those who have died. On this feast, we often read from the Books of Maccabees. This is because after a victory in battle, Judas Maccabeus sent two thousand drachmas to Jerusalem for a sin offering for those who were killed. In doing so, he did what was "holy and pious" (2 Macc 12:45).

The two books of Maccabees are a thrilling read. After Alexander the Great conquered much of the world, he left men to govern the different areas after he had died. Antiochus Epiphanes III ruled over Israel/Palestine. He is now remembered as one of those legendary villains that deified himself. When he took charge of this area, he profaned the Temple and was forcing the Jews to transgress God's laws and commit idolatry. Finally, Mattathias and his sons led a revolt to free Israel from tyranny. Mattathias soon died, and one of his sons, Judas Maccabeus led the people. He freed the people and restored the Temple – the feast of Hanukkah celebrates the Temple's Dedication.

In one battle against Gorgias, Judas and his army were victorious, however under the tunics of their brothers who had fallen in the battle, they found amulets or token of an idol, Jamnia. Judas' reaction was to ask the people to pray for these dead that their sin be blotted out; then he took up a collection and sent it to Jerusalem for a sin offering.

I would think that Judas Maccabeus would have been fairly upset and angry at his brothers wearing amulets, given that the very reason they were fighting was to be free from idolatry! Yet his reaction was of charity towards them and concern for their souls. Indeed, he was anxious that they should share eternal life with him when his own time comes. This lesson for us fills us with hope and charity. When we pray for the faithful departed, we're not praying for sinless angels, yet we pray with great hope. We pray for our dead with great hope, despite their sinfulness. Who knows what 'amulets' the departed wore 'under their garments' during their life. All the more should we pray, offer Masses, and act with merciful love towards those who have died, just as we would like others to pray for us – poor sinner that we are!

Lastly, praying for the dead reminds us that our loved ones who have died, are in fact alive, and we look forward to a joyful reunion with them and all the saints. This weekend therefore, we celebrate the entire communion of saints, whether on earth, in heaven, or on the way, and we look forward to our final unification.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday

1st & 15th Nov, 6th 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

Sat 1st St Bernard's Parish Bush Dance
at St Bernard's Primary School, 6pm
Sun 2nd All Souls' Day – Ballan (midday)
Sun 9th Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun 9th Baptism Preparation Session
Tue 11th Remembrance Day
Tue 11th Young Adults Group
Fri 14th Providence & Friends Mass
Thu 20th Sacrament of Reconciliation & Liturgy
in Church at 6:30pm
Sun 23rd Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe
Thu 27th Enrol for Sacraments 2026
in Parish Centre at 6pm

December

Sun 7th Baptism Preparation Session
Thu 11th Whole School End of Year Mass 9am
Sun 14th 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

KSC RAFFLE

The Knights of the Southern Cross (KSC) is raising money to continue their annual scholarships at St Bernard's Primary School.

Raffle Tickets will be on sale in the Gathering Space following all weekend Masses over the next few weeks, with four local prizes to be won.

Tickets – \$2 each, or 3 for \$5.

ST BERNARD'S PARISH BUSH DANCE

Saturday 1st November
6:00pm at St Bernard's Primary School

St Bernard's is hosting our second bush dance this 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 would like to thank all those who provided donations for the raffle prizes. All proceeds will go towards supporting our parish.

THANKSGIVING

Thank you to all those who collected their Thanksgiving envelopes. The remaining packs have 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

Beryl Bellin, Marjorie Pertzelt

Death Anniversaries

Eileen Closter, Janet Henderson, Mario Kovacevic,
Patricia May, James Tellis, Mary Walsh,
Paul Wheelahan.

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 —

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Today we remember those who have died, especially our loved ones – friends and relations. We pray for them and ask them to pray for us. Those who were close to us, we remember them especially, and consciously miss their presence.

Over the years, the question: “Where is heaven?”, I am sure puzzles people, as well as me. We know that beyond earth seems to be endless space, yet we are taught there is endless life after death. People, like St Mary MacKillop who has died, have been seen by people, whom have been helped or spoken to. For me, heaven is here with us, another dimension, where those who have died, live in another way in joy and peace. After my mother died, I had a “vision” of mum and dad together, looking over a fence in the country, a place they both dearly loved, and I thought: “You are okay!”

During this month, pray as a family the simple prayer: “Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.”

Sr. Mary Fermio

— COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS —

Sunday 2nd November, Ballan Cemetery

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

— 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.

— MINISTERS —

8th & 9th November

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Maureen Zahra	Henry Gasior	Margot Short
8:30am	Peter Kennedy	Tup Shea	Carmel Shea
10:30am	Dominica van der Linden	Shannon Harvie	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

Just as Jesus died and has risen again,
so through Jesus God will bring with him
those who have fallen asleep;
and as in Adam all die,
so also in Christ will all be brought to life.

First Reading 2 Maccabees 12:42(43)-45

Judas, the leader of the Jews, took a collection from the people individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmae, and sent it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an altogether fine and noble action, in which he took full account of the resurrection. For if he had not expected the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. This was why he had this atonement sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 62(63):2-6, 8-9

R: My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

Response

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

Response

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

Response

You have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast

Response

Second Reading Philippians 3:20-21

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

Gospel Acclamation cf Philippians 3:20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Our true home is in heaven,
and Jesus Christ, whose return we long for,
will come from heaven to save us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 7:11-17

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town, it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her.

When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry,' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up'. And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people'. And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

Communion Antiphon

I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord.
Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever.

———— NEXT SUNDAY ————

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica – Year C

First Reading	Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 45:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17
Gospel	John 2:13-22