



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

30th November 2025

— FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT —

Happy New Year! Today we begin the season of Advent and a new liturgical year. At Mass during this year, we will be reading from the Gospel of Matthew (In the Traditional Latin Mass, the readings are the same each year, but now we have a cycle of reading a different Gospel each year).

During Advent, we prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus in Bethlehem at the celebration of Christmas. However, the Gospel for today refers to Our Lord's Second Coming at the end of time, at the Resurrection. This is because during Advent we are not only looking towards celebrating His birth in Bethlehem, but also we look forward to His Second Coming. In Bethlehem, and during His earthly life, Our Lord comes to us humbly and in weakness, but when He comes again it will be with power and glory.

Our Lord first enters this world in humility and weakness in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is born in Bethlehem, and later suffers His Passion. He enters this world humbly because this is how He comes to us until the end of time when He comes in power. To every generation, and to us, Jesus comes to us humbly, asking us to accept Him into our lives, and into our souls. He comes to us in the Sacraments, in His teachings, in our prayer life, indeed in the fullness of the Tradition of the Church. In this our earthly life, Jesus comes to us as 'grace', or 'sanctifying grace'. Sanctifying grace could simply be said to be the life of Jesus Himself coming into our souls or increasing in our souls. And as we live out our faith, His life continues to increase in our souls as He comes to us anew each day and in so many moments throughout our life. Some of those moments when He comes to us during our earthly life are more powerful than others – such as when we receive Sacraments or participate in celebrations like Christmas and Easter. These celebrations, like Christmas, are therefore immeasurable opportunities given to us for Christ to come and increase in our souls. So, in Advent, we are preparing to receive Christ anew, as 'grace', in our souls at the celebration of Christmas.

Last week was the feast of Christ the King. This week I caught a headline in the Sydney Archdiocese *Catholic Weekly* that not only made me chuckle but is so profound. For background, about 100 years ago, (actually almost exactly 100 years ago!), was the Christero resistance in Mexico. The dictator government in Mexico was violently anti-Catholic and anti-clerical. Catholicism was outlawed and priests were hunted down. There were many great martyrs – too many to be counted – like Miguel Pro and Jose Sanches del Rio – may they pray for us! Their cry, their motto, was 'Viva Christo Rey!' 'Long live Christ the King!' Well, early this month, the newly crowned *Miss Universe* (what a title lol), apparently said, 'Viva Christo Rey!'. Furthermore, two years ago, apparently the winner was from Nicaragua – currently under an anti-Catholic dictator – also said similar Catholic proclamations. If even pageant winners can be courageous witnesses to Christ, so can we. Viva Christo Rey! Viva!

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	Mass cancelled 2 nd Dec
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	no Holy Hour 2 nd Dec
Fri	24 hours	First Friday Adoration
Sun	10:00am	Rosary (Chapel)

— DIARY —

December 2025

Sun	7 th	Baptism Preparation Session
Sun	7 th	Combined Bacchus Marsh Churches Christmas Celebration
Thu	11 th	Whole School End of Year Mass in School Gym at 9am
Fri	12 th	Providence & Friends Anointing Mass
Sun	14 th	Parish Christmas Family Day Lunch
Wed	17 th	Last day of School Term 4
Sat	20 th	School holidays commence
Thu	25 th	Christmas Day (see Mass Timetable p.3)
Fri	26 th	Boxing Day

January 2026

Thu	1 st	New Year's Day
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— 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

CANCELLATIONS

This Tuesday 2nd December, as Fr John Paul will be attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, the 7:30am Mass is cancelled, there will be no Holy Hour, and no Young Adults Group gathering.

NOVEMBER MASSES FOR 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.

COFFEE AFTER MASS

Two of our local parishioners, Maria and Lucas from 'eXpresso alfresco', will once again be serving hot drinks from their coffee van after both the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses this Sunday 30th November.

They have generously offered their time and resources, and the receipts from all sales will be donated back to St Bernard's Parish.

KSC RAFFLE

The Knights of the Southern Cross are raising money to continue their annual scholarships at our St Bernard's Primary School. Raffle tickets are for sale in the Gathering Space following Masses over this weekend. Four local prizes to be won.

Tickets are \$2 each, or three for \$5. Thank you for your support.

COMBINED CHURCHES CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

A gathering of all the Bacchus Marsh Church congregations this Christmas will be held on Sunday 7th December at 5pm in the outdoor grasslands behind the Anglican Church.

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

PROVIDENCE & FRIENDS ANOINTING MASS

Parishioners are invited to the monthly Providence and Friends Mass on Friday 12th December at 11am. This will be an Anointing Mass. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea/lunch.

If transport is required, please call Margot Short on 0419 507 438.

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

...

Death Anniversaries

Guiseppe Bacchin, Chaiel Balcombe, Ann Bourke, Bill (Emanuel) Cassar, Laurie Cumper, John Dodd, Nora & Martin Fanning, John Glide, Gladys Gonsalvez, Marita Miesen, Peter Mullins, Helen Rayner, Con Rigby, Gavan Shea, Anna Spacapan.

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.

St Vincent de Paul Conference Christmas Appeal

This Christmas Appeal directly supports our Conference to provide hampers to families in need in the local area. We are 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 this Sunday 30th November. 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

First Sunday of Advent

What is your first thought when you see the word "ADVENT"? Does it excite you, or do you feel dread at the days ahead and what has to be done? One way of looking at this time is as an ADVENTURE.

Advent can be an invitation to embrace an adventure with Jesus Christ, answering his call to live the Christian faith fully. This adventure means surviving the daily challenges of following Jesus and taking every opportunity to grow in my faith. I can then accept the ups and downs of daily life, of disappointments, illness, loss; enjoy the friendships, good times and times with family. In all this, we are being fashioned and formed by God.

Let us welcome this ADVENT adventure, finding joy and peace living with God's creative action in my life.

Sr. Mary Fermio

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAMILY DAY LUNCH

Our annual Christmas Family Day Lunch will be celebrated after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 14th December. All parishioners welcome.

Please bring a plate to share. Coffee, tea and soft drinks provided.

Children should be on the lookout for a special visitor!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

Christmas Eve	Wednesday 24th December
6:00pm	Carols & Children's Pageant at St Bernard's
6:30pm	Mass at St Bernard's
8:00pm	Carols at Korobeit
8:30pm	Mass at OLHC, Korobeit
Midnight	Mass at St Bernard's
Christmas Day	Thursday 25th December
8:30am	Mass at St Bernard's
10:30am	Mass at St Bernard's
Boxing Day	Friday 26th December
9:30am	Mass at St Bernard's
New Year's Day	Thursday 1st January
9:30am	Mass at St Bernard's

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

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 procession, please provide the name/names of your child/children by contacting Loretta on 0418 575 814 by this Sunday 30th November and we can chat further.

MINISTERS

6th & 7th December

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Jeremy Toledo	Vicki Benson	Carmel Shea
8:30am	Maira Ross	Colm Carragher	Margot Short
10:30am	Dominic van der Linden	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 lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading *Isaiah 2:1-5*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning
Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and they
will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9***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

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David.

Response

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!'

Response**Second Reading** *Romans 13:11-14*

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up
now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when
we were converted. The night is almost over, it will
be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we
prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm
ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live
decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken
orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no
wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord
Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation *Psalms 84:8***Alleluia, alleluia!**

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!**Gospel** *Matthew 24:37-44*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day,
so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in
those days before the Flood people were eating,
drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to
the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected
nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It
will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then
of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two
women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one
left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day
when your master is coming. You may be quite
sure of this that if the householder had known at
what time of the night the burglar would come, he
would have stayed awake and would not have
allowed anyone to break through the wall of his
house. Therefore, you too must stand ready
because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you
do not expect.'

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall
yield its increase.

———— NEXT SUNDAY ————**Second Sunday of Advent**

<i>First Reading</i>	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>
<i>Responsorial Psalm</i>	<i>Psalms 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17</i>
<i>Second Reading</i>	<i>Romans 15:4-9</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>