



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

21st December 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We are now just a few days from celebrating the birth of Our Lord in Bethlehem. The Holy Family will find that there is no room for them at the inn and Jesus will be born in a stable and laid in a manger. It is a lesson we need to keep re-learning. Is our 'Inn' full? Are we poor enough like the stable so that we have room for Our Lord? Our world is so busy, so full, so distracted, it is positively spinning as it attends to so many priorities other than God. Let's be like the poor stable and make room for the Lord. A good idea at this time is to open the Scriptures to the first two Chapters of both Matthew and Luke to fill our minds with the nativity story.

BONDI SHOOTINGS

We pray for the souls of those who were killed last week in Bondi and we pray for their families. Last week in Bondi we witnessed some heroic courage from those who risked their lives to defend others. Indeed, there were some who lost their lives attempting to save others. It is truly Christ-like, sacrificial love to give one's life for others. May we also be so brave in such circumstances. Boris and Sofia Gurman, an older couple, were killed trying to stop one of the gunmen. In every way they seem a regular, unremarkable, couple in their 60's. With no particular physical strength, weapons, fighting capabilities, what hope could they have of overpowering a man with a gun? Yet they did what they could in a moment of courage, disregarding their own lives for the sake of others – and who knows who else still lives now because they distracted the gunman long enough for them to get to safety. They died in an act truly in the image of God who Himself is sacrificial self-gift. May God grant them eternal happiness.

When we see this sort of violence, we should look with renewed appreciation on the meaning of Christmas. God has revealed Himself. By revealing Himself, He reveals the ultimate truth about life, about who we are, and about how to live. There are many false ideas about God, as well as atheistic or agnostic false ideas about what life is about. God shattered these by being born in a manger. This is why Our Blessed Mother exclaimed, "He has cast the mighty from their thrones and raised up the lowly." (Lk 1:52). In the name of a false idea of God, men murdered innocent people. Yet we also saw those brave men and women sacrifice their lives in an act of true imitation of the true God. May God reward them for ever! We Catholics have, as St Paul says, the supreme advantage of knowing Jesus Christ (Phil 3:8). Yet here we have some brave souls acting in true imitation of Him, even without knowing Him. May we be inspired by them. I pray that we who have the advantage of knowing Jesus may be shining examples of imitating of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, both in life and death.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

SUNDAY MASSES

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
20 th Dec & 3 rd Jan	6:30pm (Vigil)

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

During school holidays, from Tue 23rd Dec 2025, weekday Masses will be held at 9:30am.

Please see Page 3 for more information relating to other weekday services.

CONFESSION

30 minutes prior to each Mass
& during Holy Hour

DEVOTIONS

Mon	3:00pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet <i>resuming Feb 2026</i>
Tue	7:00pm	Holy Hour
Fri	24 hours	First Friday Adoration
Sun	10:00am	Rosary (Chapel)

DIARY

December 2025

Sat	20 th	School holidays commence
Thu	25 th	Christmas Day
Fri	26 th	Boxing Day Public Holiday

January 2026

Thu	1 st	New Year's Day
Sun	11 th	Baptism Preparation Session
Tue	27 th	School Teachers' Mass – 8:30am
Fri	30 th	Start of School Term 1 (<i>all students</i>)

Please see Page 3 for Christmas & New Year Mass Timetable.

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION

This weekend, there is a special collection to help towards Christmas flower arrangements in our church. Please give generously.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Bacchus Marsh St Vincent de Paul would like to thank our parishioners who have supported our Christmas hamper appeal.

WEEKDAY MASSES

During the school holidays, weekday Masses will be held at 9:30am. Please see Page 3 for more information relating to other services.

SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN 2026

Reconciliation

Reflection Evening – Thursday 15th October at 6:30pm

Family Commitment Mass – Saturday 17th October at 5:00pm

Preparation Day – Thursday 19th November, 9:30am-3:00pm

Celebration of Reconciliation – Thursday 26th November at 6:30pm

First Eucharist

Reflection Evening – Thursday 30th April at 6:30pm

Family Commitment Mass – Saturday 2nd May at 5:00pm

Retreat Day & Reconciliation – Thursday 11th June, 9:30am-3:00pm

Celebration of First Eucharist – Saturday 13th June, 9:30am & 11:30am

Confirmation

Reflection Evening – Thursday 26th February at 6:30pm

Family Commitment Mass – Saturday 28th February at 5:00pm

Retreat Day & Reconciliation – Thursday 14th May, 9:30am-3:00pm

Celebration of Confirmation – Tuesday 19th May, 5:00pm & 7:00pm

To obtain a list of all the preparation classes for the above Sacraments, 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

Matilde Vella

Death Anniversaries

Wally Ibbs, Chaiel Jackson, Michael Marshall,
Eddie Mullane, Pat Pigott, Brian Shanahan,
Alice Sloan.

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, Krystal Shea, 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 Holy 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

This Christmas will be one when many members of families will be missing, either through sickness, death or violence. And in all of this, "God is with us" in the joys, the pain and the loss.

This Sunday we read the joyful story of the Birth of Jesus Christ, son of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph. Imagine the excitement of Mary and Joseph as they awaited the birth of Jesus. Joseph had some trepidation about taking Mary as his wife, maybe thinking she loved someone else, who had fathered her child. But listening to God's voice assured him that all was as God had planned. But even in their lives, evil was lurking and threatening danger that sent them to Egypt.

But one thing God did not plan, and that was the violence of Bondi. This was the work of evil, and God would have wept at the pain and suffering of his people. Let us thank God for the love and goodness in our lives and pray for the people of Sydney.

Sr. Mary Fermio

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 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 OLHC, 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 Eve	Wednesday	31st December
	6:00pm	Mass at St Bernard's
New Year's Day	Thursday	1st January
	9:30am	Mass at St Bernard's

Please note that all ministers have been assigned for the Christmas Masses and a copy of these are on display in the Gathering Space.

WEEKDAY SERVICES CANCELLED

Saturday 27 th December	9:30am no Mass
Tuesday 30 th December	7:00pm no Holy Hour
Wednesday 31 st December	9:30am no Mass
Friday 2 nd January	9:30am no Mass
Tuesday 6 th January	7:00pm no Holy Hour
Tuesday 6 th – Saturday 10 th January	9:30am no Masses

MINISTERS

27th & 28th December

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Vicki Benson	John Thorne	Jackie Tabone
8:30am	Evana Carragher	Volunteer	Lyn Shea
10:30am	Dominic van der Linden	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

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading *Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.'
'No,' Ahaz answered, 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Emmanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 23:1-6*

R: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Response

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

Response

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Response

Second Reading *Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 1:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'

Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

———— **NEXT SUNDAY** ————

The Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

First Reading Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 127:1-5

Second Reading Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23