



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7th December 2025

ACYF

Last Sunday to Tuesday, the Archdiocese of Melbourne hosted the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF). On Sunday, 6,000 young people from around Australia came to St Patrick's Cathedral and then processed to the Melbourne Convention Centre for the rest of the festival.

Each day, all were together for a morning and evening 'plenary session' where they experienced music, talks and testimonies, and prayer. The music, focused on praising God, was very moving, the talks were inspiring, and I dare say everyone had their own tearful moments of knowing the loving presence of Christ. For the rest of the time, groups were free to go to any number of 'workshops' – talks on different topics – that were on offer; or to go to Mass; or to visit the 'expo' where many Church organisations and Religious had a stall; or to wander around getting something to eat and drink and socialise. The whole festival was a powerful experience for all the youth who, in the end, didn't want it to end.

An important factor that made the festival such a success was the Sacrament of Confession and Adoration. In the central courtyard, visible to all who walked around it, there were always a dozen priests or so hearing Confessions, and a steady stream of young people having life changing moments in this great Sacrament. It was powerful to see this – especially when so many of our Australian Bishops were also hearing these Confessions. The Adoration Chapel too was always full of young people spending quiet time in the Presence of Our Lord.

At the Tuesday morning plenary session, there was also a time of Adoration. Bishop Mark Edwards spoke to us before Adoration started. He said that during a trip to Holy Land, he experienced profound moments of being where Our Lord was, but now we can be where Our Lord is. And then many thousands of young Catholics knelt in silence for a time of Eucharistic Adoration and to pray the ancient rite of Benediction.

On the Sunday evening plenary session, Pope Leo spoke to us in a prerecorded message. After the last Mass on the Tuesday afternoon, it was announced to us by the Archbishop of Sydney, Anthony Fisher, that Pope Leo would be joining us in Sydney for the next ACYF in 2028.

Second Sunday of Advent

In the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, God promises that a living shoot shall spring forth from the stump of the Jesse. In the Book of Ruth, Ruth leaves her own people to stay with her mother-in-law, Naomi, and essentially to remain with the God of Israel. Ruth's is a story of a Gentile, leaving her world to come to the God of Israel. She weds Boaz, they have a son Obed, who has a son, Jesse, and Jesse is the father of King David. We never really know how we are part of God's plans for His Kingdom. Jesus is the promised descendant of David that will sit upon his throne and whose Kingdom will be forever. We are all part of that Kingdom and all have some small part to play in building up that Kingdom.

Latin Mass Parts at 10:30am Mass

At the 10:30am Masses during Advent, the parts of the Mass will be sung in Latin. The 'parts' of the Mass are the 'Lord have Mercy', 'Holy Holy Holy' and the 'Lamb of God'. The music we will sing is called Mass XI: Missa Factor Orbis and booklets are available in the Church. I might write more about this in future weeks, but in the meantime, you might like to try and familiarise yourself with the pronunciation try to follow along!

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

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

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 7:00pm Mass 8th Dec
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

December 2025

Sun 7th Baptism Preparation Session
Sun 7th Bacchus Marsh Combined Churches
Christmas Celebration
Mon 8th Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary – 7pm Mass
Thu 11th Whole School End of Year Mass
in School Gym at 9am
Fri 12th Providence & Friends Mass
Sun 14th Parish Christmas Family Day Lunch
Wed 16th Last day of School Term 4
Sat 20th School holidays commence
Thu 25th Christmas Day
(see Mass Timetable p.3)
Fri 26th Boxing Day Public Holiday

January 2026

Thu 1st New Year's Day
Fri 30th Start of School Term 1 (all students)

DONATE

To support our Parish,
scan the QR code,
or contact the Parish Office
to set up recurring contributions.



PARISH NEWS

THANK YOU EXPRESSO ALFRESCO

Many thanks to Maria and Lucas from 'eXpresso alfresco', as they once again generously offered their time and resources last Sunday so that we could enjoy hot drinks from their coffee van after Mass.

The receipts from all sales have been donated back to St Bernard's Parish, and we are pleased to let you know that a total of \$546.00 was raised.

KSC RAFFLE

The Major Raffle for the Knights of the Southern Cross will be drawn after 8:30am Mass this Sunday. Winners will be notified soon after, and results posted next weekend. Thank you for your support.

COMBINED BACCHUS MARSH CHURCHES CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Sunday 7th December, 5pm

A gathering of all the Bacchus Marsh Church congregations this Christmas will be held in the outdoor grasslands behind the Anglican Church. Bring a picnic to enjoy, rug or chairs. Sausage sizzle provided.

PROVIDENCE & FRIENDS ANOINTING MASS

Friday 12th December

Parishioners are invited to the monthly Providence & Friends Mass this 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 CHRISTMAS FAMILY DAY LUNCH

Sunday 14th December

Our annual Christmas Family Day Lunch will be celebrated after the 10:30am Mass next Sunday. 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!

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

Brian Barry, Agnes "Anne" Bourke, Mark Bourke, Betty Condon, Laurie Cumper, Chaiel Jackson, Johnny Lawrence, Kevin Leonard, Gnaire Lockman.

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

Second Sunday of Advent

If John the Baptist appeared in Collins Street today or along the Yarra River preaching, how would I react? Would I consider him a true believer, calling us to follow Jesus, some homeless person on the street, or would I ring the police to have him locked up.

Today, through the Gospel, John the Baptist still calls us to repent, calls us to change our lives, change our heart, to show a change of lifestyle, to change our attitude towards others. We cannot just go through the motions, or some ritual. Rituals are easy. Truth seeking, costs. Changing our lives is left to each of us to decide how, to whom and why. To find time to pray, to listen, to ask myself questions.

As I prepare for the celebration of God's coming, may I approach it honestly, from the heart, even if it costs, e.g. my pride, my pocket, my time.

Sr. Mary Fermio

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 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 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 this procession, please provide the name/names of your child/children by contacting Loretta on 0418 575 814.

MINISTERS

13th & 14th December

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Maureen Zahra	Colin Remedios	Dianne Shelly
8:30am	Margaret Love	Volunteer please	Marj Tung
10:30am	Beatrice Younger	Shannon Harvie	

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

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

First Reading *Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17*

**R: Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.**

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.
In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails:
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.
For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.
May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

Response

Response

Response

Response

Second Reading *Romans 15:4-9*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation *Luke 3:4, 6*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 3:1-12*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said:
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.
This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

————— NEXT SUNDAY —————
Third Sunday of Advent

<i>First Reading</i>	<i>Isaiah 35:1-6, 10</i>
<i>Responsorial Psalm</i>	<i>Psalms 145:6-10</i>
<i>Second Reading</i>	<i>James 5:7-10</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Matthew 11:2-11</i>