



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st February 2026

— ST THOMAS AQUINAS —

On Wednesday, we celebrated the feast day of St Thomas Aquinas.

Dr Edward Feser became popular a few years ago for his renewed explanations of the writings of St Thomas Aquinas, particularly the so-called five ways of proving God's existence. Dr Feser is a teacher of Philosophy. Before he converted (or re-verted) to Catholicism, he would teach an introduction to philosophy course, and in this he would give a cursory overview of these five ways of St Thomas Aquinas. He said he never thought much of it, would give the usual popular overview and counter arguments and move on to the next topic. Dr Feser then started thinking about them a little more, and before he knew it, he realised that St Thomas was right. This was the catalyst in a long story of conversion. He realised that he, and other modern philosophers, had been ignoring and misunderstanding St Thomas. He has gone on to write many books, including one on the five ways of St Thomas. You can find many interviews with him online too explaining the five ways.

Aquinas 101 is a series of short YouTube videos by the Dominicans of the Thomistic Institute, just 2 to 4 minutes long, explaining the philosophy and theology of St Thomas Aquinas. It has been very popular in recent years, and I highly recommend it to anyone wanting to learn and take seriously the teachings of St Thomas Aquinas. As a side note, some of these Dominicans, such as Fr Joseph White, rector of the *Angelicum* in Rome, started a band, *The Hillbilly Thomists* - horrifyingly they are incredibly popular - check them out online.

Pints with Aquinas is a podcast by Matt Fradd, an Australian from Adelaide living in the United States. Matt started this podcast while he was studying Thomism and wanted to share his journey of reading and learning the *Summa Theologiae*...whilst having a pint. His podcast quickly became popular and is now one of the most well-known Catholic podcasts in the world. He has long since branched out to including any Catholic topic. His last episode, interviewing Dr Brant Pitre, was excellent - I highly recommend listening to it.

It has been 801 years since St Thomas Aquinas was born in Sicily, Italy, in 1225. He joined a new religious order called the Dominicans (St Dominic died in 1221). We wish our Dominican Sisters a happy feast day for last Wednesday. If they ever wished to extol the wisdom of St Thomas at our Parish, that would be most welcome....any Hillbilly antics would not be...!

St Thomas' teachings, particularly his *Summa Theologiae*, as well as his saintly life, have had a profound and lasting impact on the Church. The three examples I gave above show that he remains eminently relevant and a God-given guide to our lives. Indeed, with modern man's current confused grasp on reality, I think that St Thomas is even more powerful now than ever.

Feast of Presentation / Candlemas

Monday is the 2nd of February and the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, otherwise known as Candlemas. We will have Mass at 7:00pm with the usual ceremony for the blessing of candles before Mass. If you would like your candles blessed, please bring them. Candlemas also traditionally brings the Season of Christmas to a close....just in time for Lent...

Septuagesima

Those who observe the Traditional Church Calendar will be celebrating *Septuagesima*. This means 'seventy' and marks a period of preparation for Lent. For us, this is a reminder that Lent is indeed approaching! Can you believe that?! Time waits for no man.

Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday
7th & 21st Feb 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
Fri 7:00pm First Friday Holy Hour
Sun 10:00am Rosary (Chapel)

— DIARY —

February

Mon 2nd Presentation of the Lord – 7pm Mass
Fri 6th First Friday Holy Hour
Sun 8th Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun 8th Baptism Preparation
Fri 13th Providence & Friends Mass
Tue 17th Shrove Tuesday Pancakes
Wed 18th Ash Wednesday
Thu 26th Sacrament of Confirmation
Reflection Evening
Sat 28th Sacrament of Confirmation
Family Commitment Mass

March

Sat 7th *Cor Jesu* – Women's Vocational
Discernment Group Meeting
Sat 21st Women's Lenten Retreat

— 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

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

This Monday 2nd February, Mass will be held at 7:00pm in the church.

FUNERAL

Funeral prayers will be offered for Eugena Ginnane at 11:00am on Friday 6th February in St Bernard's church.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR

This Friday 6th February, Holy Hour will be held at 7:00pm in the church. Please join us for this devotion.

MORNING TEA

Morning Tea will be held after the 8:30am Mass next Sunday 8th February. All welcome.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

To the parents of children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, there will be a Reflection Evening held at 6:30pm on Thursday 26th February at St Bernard's Primary School.

Parents and children are also asked to attend the family Commitment Mass at 5:00pm on Saturday 28th February.

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday 21st March – By His Wounds we are Healed

What is the connection between the wounds we experience in this life and the wounds of Christ? How does Christ's humanity actually heal us and restore us to ourselves? Join Anna Krohn and the Dominican Sisters for a day of prayer and reflection on Saturday 21st March, 9am–4pm, in St Bernard's Parish Centre. Please book in for catering purposes at www.trybooking.com/DJDZT or for more information, contact Sr Mary Sarah @ melbourne@op-tn.org

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 into 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

Antonia Buttigieg, Eugena "Gena" Ginnane.

Death Anniversaries

Olive Andrews, Doreen Blood, Mary Cassar, Thelma Crowley, Gary Dodd, Richard Evans, Joseph Gonsalvez, Mercy Kumar, Jane Reiley, Peter Shea, Dorothy "Jill" Smith, Tom Thompson, Betty Tregurtha, Milutin Zupan.

The Sick

Charles, 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 in Ordinary Time

Our world continues to look for ways of being happy – a better house, better job, getting married, getting divorced...looking for ways to make more money. We find it hard to understand what real happiness is.

Jesus tells us how to find happiness, by seeking justice and peace with integrity and humility. In this Gospel, Jesus gives us nine invitations to turn our lives around and change our attitudes and ways of living. They may not be easy, and others may ridicule us for living that way. But unless we understand where true happiness comes from, we will miss out on our reward, which Jesus says, "your reward will be great in heaven".

Let us reflect on how we seek God in our everyday life. Do I truly believe that God has chosen me to make a difference in the lives of others?

Sr. Mary Fermio

COR JESU

For women aged 18-35 who are considering a possible vocation to the consecrated life, **Cor Jesu** is a women's vocational discernment group that meets throughout the year to pray, discern and support one another. Our first meeting will be on Saturday 7th March at St Mary's Church in St Kilda, 9:00am-11:30am. Join us for morning of prayer, discussion and fellowship. For more information, contact Sr Mary Sarah at melbourne@op-tn.org

OLD PALMS

In preparation for the season of Lent, if you still have any old palms from last year, would you please place them to the box in the Gathering Space. They will be burnt on Shrove Tuesday 17th February, and the ashes will be used during the Ash Wednesday Masses.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen

ROSTERS

Church Cleaning

Monday 2nd February, 9:30am : Team A – Anne, Paul, Denise (& Nuala some weeks)

Monday 16th February, 9:30am : Team B – Maddie, Lisa (& Nuala some weeks)

Saturday 28th February, 10:00am : Team C – Adrian, Allan, Shantal, Yenny

Flowers

18th January to 15th February – Beatrice Younger & Tup Shea

Ministers – 7th & 8th February

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Vicki Benson	Colin Remedios	Dianne Shelly
8:30am	Peter Kennedy	Moir Ross	Marj Tung
10:30am	Adrian Alimic	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

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading *Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13*

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in
the name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 145:7-10*

**R: Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

Response

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

Response

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Response

———— **NEXT SUNDAY** ————

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading *Isaiah 58:7-10*
Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 111:4-9*
Second Reading *1 Corinthians 2:1-5*
Gospel *Matthew 5:13-16*

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation *John 8:12***Alleluia, alleluia!**

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia!**Gospel** *Matthew 5:1-12*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.