



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)

25th December 2025

— CHRISTMAS —

Happy Christmas to you all. Firstly, I want to thank you all for your faith! Thank you for loving Jesus Christ and living your Catholic faith visibly in the world. Thanks to all in our Parish for your life of prayer and for all you do for God and His Church. I'm sure many of you don't realise the great impact you have on those around you, but I see it daily here in our Parish. Just as the Holy Family brought Jesus into this world, you too are bringing Jesus Christ to those around you. May the peace and joy of the Christ Child be with you and your families.

Nine months ago, on 25th March, we celebrated the feast of the Annunciation. With the annunciation of the Angel Gabriel, and Mary's 'fait' or 'yes', she conceived a child in her womb and God became a man — a moment we call the 'Incarnation'. Nine months later we are celebrating the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, in a stable and laid in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. Let us think about a couple of things God is teaching us from the stable.

Firstly, His birth is compared to Caesar Augustus (Lk 2:1). Augustus has everything the world has to offer — power, fame, wealth, pleasure, excitements and entertainments. God Himself is King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 19:16) and could have all these and more, and yet He shunned all these worldly glories. Indeed, we who so often seek the life of an Augustus should blush and feel a little foolish at considering the poverty of the Nativity Scene as Jesus had no interest in these things. God teaches us that the Holy Family, who possess nothing, possess God Himself, and so possess everything! And despite their troubles have peace and joy. Who cannot see the happiness of the Nativity Scene? God is inviting us into His family in the stable and to enter into His happiness. Indeed, the lives of the Holy Family are lives full of real meaning, purpose, true identity, moral goodness, love and the assurance of eternal life.

Secondly, in order to bring Christ into this world, the Holy Family endured many difficulties. Have you suffered much this year? Has your faithful following of Christ meant many crosses for you? God knows this. Thank you for your courage! Thank you for your faith! Take strength knowing that the Holy Family also had great struggles. With Mary pregnant, St Joseph trying to care for his wife and child, they travelled over 100km from Nazareth to Bethlehem. When they arrived, with Mary close to her time to deliver, there was no room for them in their desperate need. Joseph and Mary had every justification, by our thinking, to be resentful, bitter and angry at everyone. And yet they had each other, they had God with them, and relying on His providence, they endured. And their endurance brought Christ into this world for us. In your sufferings, which are real, be strengthened knowing that, like Mary, you carry the life of Christ inside you and are bringing Him into the lives of others.

Thank you all at St Bernard's for your faith and love of Jesus Christ, and for bringing Him to those around you. Thanks to all of you who support our Parish by your presence, your prayers, your help and volunteering, and financial support. Merry Christmas once again. May the peace and joy of the Holy Family be with you this Christmas.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday
3rd & 17th Jan 6:30pm (Vigil)

— WEEKDAY MASSES —

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

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

Please note the following cancellations:

Sat 27th Dec no 9:30am Mass
Wed 31st Dec no 9:30am Mass
Fri 2nd Jan no 9:30am Mass
Tue 6th – Sat 10th Jan no 9:30am Masses

— CONFESSION —

30 minutes prior to each Mass
& during Holy Hour

— DEVOTIONS —

Mon 3:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
resuming Feb 2026
Tue 7:00pm Holy Hour
Tue 30th Dec no Holy Hour
Tue 6th Jan no Holy Hour
Fri 24 hours First Friday Adoration
Sun 10:00am Rosary (Chapel)

— DIARY —

December 2025

Wed 31st New Year's Eve Mass – 6:00pm

January 2026

Thu 1st New Year's Day Mass – 9:30am
Sun 11th Baptism Preparation Session
Mon 26th Australia Day Public Holiday
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.



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. —

Entrance Antiphon

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading *Isaiah 52:7-10*

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 97:1-6*

**R: All the ends of the earth
have seen the saving power of God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

Response

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

Response

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy.

Response

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.

Response

Communion Antiphon

All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God.

Second Reading *Hebrews 1:1-6*

At various times in the past and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our
own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his
Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and
through whom he made everything there is. He is the
radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature,
sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now
that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to
take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty.
So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he
has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I
have become your father, or I will be a father to him and he a
son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the
world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.
Alleluia!

Gospel *John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of
men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could
not overpower.
A man came, sent by God. His name was John.
He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.
The Word was the true light that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept
him.
But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children
of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not
out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God
himself.
The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his
glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of
grace and truth.
John appears as his witness. He proclaims:
'This is the one of whom I said:
He who comes after me ranks before me
because he existed before me.'
Indeed, from this fullness we have, all of us, received - yes,
grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given
through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus
Christ.
No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to
the Father's heart, who has made him known.