



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

25th January 2026

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is at the beginning of His public ministry and calls some of the Apostles to follow Him. These will be the new heads of the tribes of the new Israel – the Church. Jesus begins teaching and preaching repentance, calling His Apostles and gathering disciples, and miraculously healing people and casting out demons from the afflicted.

He begins all this in Galilee, in the region around the Sea of Galilee, otherwise called the Sea of Tiberius. Nazareth, where Jesus grew up, is close by. Galilee is the northern part of the Holy Land. And it is the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.

The Patriarch Jacob was the son of Isaac, and Isaac was the son of Abraham. Jacob was renamed 'Israel' by God. Jacob, or Israel, had twelve sons, two of whom were Zebulun and Naphtali. These sons were then the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel. The land of the old Israel is divided between these twelve tribes.

In the year 722BC, the land of Zebulun and Naphtali, in the north, fell to the Assyrian Empire and many were taken captive. The Prophet Isaiah, a prophet of that time, in the first reading gives a message of hope that salvation will eventually come to this place.

Perhaps some might wonder why Our Lord began and conducted so much of His ministry in this region. Yet just as the fall of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah began in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, so the beginning of salvation and establishment of the new Kingdom would begin in this region.

First Friday Holy Hour

In Capernaum, a town on the coast of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus teaches about the Eucharist. In a synagogue there He says, "I am the living Bread which came down from heaven." (Jn 6:51)

The Eucharist, or often called the Blessed Sacrament, is Jesus truly present with us under the appearance of bread. In a 'Holy Hour', the priest takes the Eucharist and places Our Lord in a 'monstrance' – from the Latin word 'monstrere' meaning 'to show'. This is called 'exposing' the Eucharist. Jesus in the Eucharist, in the monstrance, is placed on the altar for us to look upon and adore. We celebrate Holy Hours in order to adore Our Lord Jesus and spend time with Him. During Holy Hour, we also pray prayers and rites such as the Liturgy of the Hours and the rite of Benediction. Many of the prayers for Benediction were written by St Thomas Aquinas and have been sung for many centuries.

At St Bernard's, we have a Holy Hour every Tuesday at 7:00pm. And now we will also have a Holy Hour on the First Friday of each month at 7:00pm. At the beginning of Holy Hour, we sing O Salutaris Hostia – O Saving Victim – as the priest exposes and incenses the Blessed Sacrament. Then we spend most of the time in silent adoration and you can pray however you like. During that time, the Sacrament of Confession is offered. It can be a good opportunity to spend some time to examine your conscience, asking God to help you, and go to Confession. At a Holy Hour, after a period of prayer, often a Liturgy of the Hours will be prayed. At St Bernard's, we pray Compline/Night Prayer at 7:40pm. After this, we pray the Rite of Benediction. Benediction is a beautiful ceremony. The Benediction itself is when the priest holds the monstrance and blesses those present with the Eucharist. The priest covers his hands with the 'humeral veil' at this time to show all the more that this is Jesus, not the priest, who is giving His Benediction/blessing.

I encourage you to come to Holy Hour and spend time with Our Lord.

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 27th Jan 8:30am
Wed 9:30am
Thu, Fri 7:30am
Sat 9:30am

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
Fri 24 hours First Friday Adoration
Fri 7:00pm First Friday Holy Hour
Sun 10:00am Rosary (Chapel)

DIARY

January 2026

Mon 26th Australia Day Public Holiday
Tue 27th School Teachers' Mass – 8:30am
Fri 30th Start of School Term 1 (*all students*)

February 2026

Tue 3rd Young Adults Group Gathering
Fri 6th First Friday Holy Hour
Sun 8th Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun 8th Baptism Preparation
Fri 13th Providence & Friends Mass
Wed 18th Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Mass
Thu 26th Sacrament of Confirmation
Reflection Evening
Sat 28th Sacrament of Confirmation
Family Commitment Mass

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

This Tuesday 27th January, the morning weekday Mass has been moved to 8:30am, and will be attended by all teachers from St Bernard's Primary School.

Other weekday Masses this week have now returned to the usual schedule – Wednesday at 9:30am, Thursday and Friday at 7:30am.

FUNERAL

Funeral prayers will be offered for Doreen Burns on Thursday 29th January at 11:00am, followed by burial at Altona Memorial Park, Altona North.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR

Friday 6th February 7:00pm

On the First Friday of each month, there will be a 7:00pm Holy Hour at St Bernard's Church. Confession will be offered until 7:40pm when we pray Night Prayer/Compline and Benediction.

SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN 2026

To obtain a list of all the preparation classes for these Sacraments, please contact the Parish Office.

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

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

Doreen Burns

Death Anniversaries

Rodney Arnold, Janet Bourke, Mary Griffith,
Ronald Knight, Denis Lennox, Joe Marshall,
Margaret Rose, Joan Welsh.

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

We read of families who decide to completely change their way of life and move to another country to work as a missionary, doctor, medical person, caring for orphans or refugees. It is a new way of life, often has its risks, its dangers, separation from family, its challenges and deprivations.

In today's Gospel, we read of brothers, with a steady livelihood of fishing, their lives possibly planned out, secure, with a family, possibly children. Yet, the attraction of Jesus calls them to leave it all, live the life of a gypsy, and the Gospel says AT ONCE! The first reading refers to "a people who have seen a great light". For these men, Jesus seemed to have been that great light, that drew them to Him, attracted them like moths and who stayed with Him. Here was the risk of: What do we eat? Where do we sleep? Yet none of that seemed to have worried them, trusting in the presence of Jesus.

Can I ask myself – How strong is my trust in Jesus? Does Jesus attract me to prayer, Mass, other people, to a different way of life? In prayer, sit with Jesus and ask Him: What do you want of me? And LISTEN for His reply.

Sr. Mary Fermio

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

PIETY STALL

Our Piety Stall is seeking parishioners to join our roster manning the stall.

The time commitment is about 15 minutes once a month after weekend Masses.

If you would like to volunteer, please put your name on the clipboard in the gathering space. For more information, contact Margot Short at margotmshort@gmail.com

FLOWERS

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

MINISTERS

31st January & 1st February

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Maureen Zahra	Jackie Tabone	Carmel Shea
8:30am	Samantha Butler	Dominican Sisters	Margot Short
10:30am	Rosabella Tuala	Shannon Harvie	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

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading *Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3*

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun
and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he
will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far
side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the
spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 26:1, 4, 13-14*

R: *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

Response

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

Response

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

Response

Communion Antiphon

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17*

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus
Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead
of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your
belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been
telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious
differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans
that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollo', 'I am for
Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out?
Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in
the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the
Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of
philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be
expressed.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 4:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 4:12-23*

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to
Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in
Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and
Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be
fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the
message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at
hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two
brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother
Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net,
for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me
and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets
at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw
another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his
brother John; they were in their boat with their father
Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once,
leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.
He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their
synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and
curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

———— **NEXT SUNDAY** ————

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading	<i>Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13</i>
Responsorial Psalm	<i>Psalms 145:7-10</i>
Second Reading	<i>1 Corinthians 1:26-31</i>
Gospel	<i>Matthew 5:1-12</i>