



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

4th January 2026

— THE EPIPHANY —

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. Traditionally this feast was always celebrated on the 6th January, but we have moved to the Sunday.

There are many things happening on this feast.

Epiphany means a manifestation or an enlightening. Our Lord has made Himself known, manifested Himself, to the nations. The arrival of the Magi (three kings or wise men), signal God revealing Himself to all the world. All the Kings of the earth come before the King of Kings and adore Him.

They are guided by a star. This star we take to mean the light of truth. The Magi, guided by the star, search for the source of all that is true and good, God Himself. And when they find Him, they rejoice exceedingly! We see ourselves in this journey of the Magi, and we see all peoples who journey to finding Jesus. So many have taken a long and painstaking journey to finding Him, and when they have found Him, have rejoiced truly in the depth of their souls.

The Magi, Melchior, Balthasar and Casper, bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. By these gifts the Magi worship Jesus as the King (gold), and both God and also Priest (frankincense or incense) and Sacrifice (myrrh or oil to anoint His body). He is the promised King of Israel whose Kingdom shall have no end. He is also the Eternal High Priest who offers perfect worship of the Father, and who offers Himself as the sacrifice that will save His people from their sins.

This feast of Epiphany also celebrates the manifestation of Our Lord at two other occasions at the beginning of His ministry. This is more apparent in Eastern Churches. It celebrates the wedding at Cana when Jesus "manifested His glory" (Jn 2:11), and also the Baptism in the Jordan when, through a 'Theophany', Jesus announced His ministry. This is why Eastern Churches and Orthodox will have traditions on this feast day of blessing bodies of water, then throwing in a crucifix and, for a fun tradition, the young men dive in the be first to retrieve it.

Therefore, on this feast we also have a blessing of water, 'Epiphany water'. It is also traditional to bless our homes. In the past a priest would make a walking tour of the entire town, enter each home and bless it. For us, you can take your own Epiphany water home along with the blessed chalk. On this day we give our homes an Epiphany blessing with the blessed chalk, by writing an inscription above the front door with a prayer of blessing.

Happy Feast of the Epiphany.

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

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

— WEEKDAY MASSES —

*During school holidays,
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:
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 <i>resuming Feb 2026</i>
Tue	7:00pm	Holy Hour
Tue	6 th Jan	no Holy Hour
Fri	24 hours	First Friday Adoration
Sun	10:00am	Rosary (Chapel)

— DIARY —

January 2026

Sun	11 th	Baptism Preparation Session
Mon	26 th	Australia Day Public Holiday
Tue	27 th	School Teachers' Mass – 8:30am
Fri	30 th	Start of School Term 1 (<i>all students</i>)

— 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

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.

WEEKDAY MASSES

During the school holidays, weekday Masses will be held at 9:30am.
 Regular weekday Mass times will resume on Wednesday 28th January 2026.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Saturday 3 rd January	9:30am no Mass
Tuesday 6 th – Saturday 10 th January	9:30am no Masses
Tuesday 6 th January	7:00pm no Holy Hour

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

Steven Barnes, Katherine Caldwell, Pat Cooper, Zoe Egan, Yvonne Kelekis, Pamela King-Eason

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

The Epiphany of the Lord

The Feast of the Epiphany often gets overlooked during the holidays, etc. But for us it is a very important feast, celebrating when God revealed that Jesus came to bring Good News to all peoples.

The coming of the Magi stirred up a hornet's nest – Herod feared for his position when he heard a King had been born and set about destroying the lives of young boys. Interested in astronomy, the Magi had followed this star, as for them it foretold of the birth of a king, and they wanted to honour him. Mary and Joseph would have welcomed them with open arms, just as every new parent loves to show their child. They gave gifts of great value which was to honour this baby as a King.

Here, God is revealed to people of good will and humble hearts. We too can recognise God in people who share their lives, their goods, their time and talents. We too can reveal God to others the same way. Let us treasure this ability we have as a precious gift.

Sr. Mary Fermio

MINISTERS

10th & 11th January

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Jeremy Toledo	Colin Remedios	Marj Tung
8:30am	Nathan Costin	Tup Shea	Dianne Shelly
10:30am	Thomas Halloran	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

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,
the wealth of the nations come to you;

Camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13*

R: *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

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. **Response**

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. **Response**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. **Response**

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. **Response**

———— **NEXT SUNDAY** ————
The Baptism of the Lord

First Reading *Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7*
Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 28:1-4, 9-10*
Second Reading *Acts 10:34-38*
Gospel *Matthew 3:13-17*

Second Reading *Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 2:2*

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
And have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 2:1-12*

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Communion Antiphon
We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.