



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15th February 2026

— LENT —

Wednesday this week is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Is a time of 40 days of preparation for celebrating the death and resurrection of Christ.

The death and resurrection of Jesus is called the Paschal Mystery. The word Paschal comes from the Hebrew word for *Passover* (not to be confused with the word *Passion*, as in the Passion of the Christ, which comes from the Latin word for *suffering*). The Passover covenant ceremony comes from the story of Moses freeing Israel from slavery to Pharaoh in Egypt. The last plague in Egypt was the death of the first born. To save them from this, God told the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb and put its blood on the doorposts of their houses. When the angel of death saw the blood, he would *passover* that house. Jesus Himself is the sacrificial lamb of God and, by the power of His blood, we are saved from spiritual and eternal death and brought into life.

Lent is a time to focus on our relationship with God and renew its priority in our life. Our lives are very full and busy and stressful. Daily life can sweep us up, carry us with it and, before you know it, we realise at some point our relationship with God was left behind and we don't even know how. Lent is great time to reset, make God a priority, and make some adjustments. A good summary of how we can do this is in *Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving*.

Prayer

Let's make a plan for our prayer life during Lent. If we are struggling with the basics, let's get back on track. Come to Sunday Mass. Perhaps we can also try to make a weekday Mass or Holy Hour. During Lent, we can plan to come to Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 7:00pm. And what daily prayer routines do we have? Perhaps a routine of morning and evening prayer; grace before meals; family prayer; the Rosary; pray in silence; pray with the Scriptures; meditate on the life of Christ and particularly His Passion during Lent. Perhaps we can pay a visit to the Church - which is open during the day. And we can build an habitual awareness of God's presence during the day and try to remain in conversation with Him.

Fasting

Lent is a God-given time to try to simplify our life and make room for God. Perhaps we can remove some time-consuming habits and give more of that time to God. We can lessen or cut out screentime for instance. In Lent, in union with Our Lord's sacrifice, we can make some sacrifices and offerings. We can deny ourselves of something during Lent and offer it up. Lent is a time of regaining the strength of a disciplined life. Lent is a particular time of making a renewed effort to give up bad habits (vices) and build good ones (virtues).

Almsgiving

A disciplined life includes the renewed effort of forming ourselves according to the love or charity of Christ. Acts of *almsgiving* means acts of love, generosity, charity to our neighbour. To choose to deny ourselves for the sake of others is a work of forming ourselves in the likeness of Christ. This is the disciplined daily striving of growing in virtue and holiness.

Let us give some thought to how we can spend our Lent with a renewed focus on our relationship with God.

Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
21 st Feb & 7 th Mar	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
Fri	6:15pm	Soup & Stations
Sun	10:00am	Rosary (Chapel)

— DIARY —

February

Tue	17 th	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes
Wed	18 th	Ash Wednesday Masses
Fri	20 th	Soup & Stations of the Cross
Thu	26 th	Sacrament of Confirmation Reflection Evening
Sat	28 th	Sacrament of Confirmation Family Commitment Mass

March

Fri	6 th	First Friday Holy Hour
Sat	7 th	<i>Cor Jesu</i> – Women's Vocational Discernment Group Meeting
Sun	8 th	Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun	8 th	Baptism Preparation session
Fri	13 th	Providence & Friends Anointing Mass
Sat	21 st	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

OLD PALMS

If you still have any blessed palms from last year, please place them in the box in the Gathering Space. They will be burnt on Shrove Tuesday 17th February, and the ashes will be used for the Ash Wednesday Masses.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES

Please join us for pancakes in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 17th February from 6pm. Tea, coffee, pancakes and toppings provided for a gold coin donation.

After pancakes, there will be a ceremonial burning of last year's palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday. Holy Hour to follow from 7pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY

At the 9:30am Mass on Ash Wednesday 18th February, St Bernard's Primary School students from Years 3-6 will be joining us.

There will also be a Mass held at 7:00pm that day.

SOUP AND STATIONS

Every Friday during the season of Lent, soup will be served at 6:15pm in the Parish Centre.

This will be followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm in the church.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need around the world.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, or a single envelope (which covers six weeks of giving), or by scanning the QR code, or online at www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate, or by calling 1800 024 413.

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

Peter Grima

Death Anniversaries

Freddie Borg, Rini Dominguez, Stanley McGonegal, Eileen Mullane, Patrick Shanahan, Tom Thompson, Sydney Vas, Laurie Wheelahan.

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 COMMITTEE

Vicki Benson - Officer
0448 966 120

Jennifer Costin

Ron Geurts

Madeleine McManus

Peter Kennedy

REFLECTION

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We are all familiar with the scene in a classroom of children sitting around the teacher. A very good way of getting their full attention, and attentive listening.

Jesus gathers his disciples around him and teaches them as part of Israel's traditional method of teaching. Jesus's way of life was not just living according to the rules, eg the commandments, and he assures them he is not abolishing their scriptures. Jesus' teaching confirms the teaching of Moses, but takes it further. It is a matter of having a right heart and living virtuously, living up to the ideals of love, forgiveness and generosity – not just keeping the rules!

At the end of the day, I could ask: Do I need to forgive someone? Was I generous to those in need whom I met? Did I make someone's life better today? For Jesus, we do the best we can.

Sr. Mary Fermio

ACYF REUNION

If you were at ACYF, it's time to gather together again and continue the adventure at the biggest ACYF reunion ever!

Saturday 28th February 2026

10:00am – 3:00pm

Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy

Cost : \$10

We will gather as the young Church in Melbourne and spend time together in prayer, praise and worship, reflecting on those memories that stayed in our heart and what's next on our journey as disciples.

The program includes time for reflection, Adoration, testimonies and small group conversations. And the incredible people we met at ACYF will help us figure it all out: including Louisa Daniels, ACYF presenter!

Register today at: [ACYF Reunion Tickets, Mary Glowrey Building, Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy | TryBooking Australia](#)

For any enquiries, contact proclaim@cam.org.au

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

ROSTERS

Church Cleaning

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

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

Monday 9th March, 9:30am : Team A – Anne, Paul, Denise (& Nuala some weeks)

Flowers

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

18th February to 3rd April – no flowers during Lent

Ministers – 21st & 22nd February

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Maureen Zahra	Vicki Benson	Margot Short
8:30am	Nathan Costin	Colm Carragher	Carmel Shea
10:30am	Thomas Halloran	Adrian Alimic	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

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading *Sirach 15:15-20*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a men likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34*

R: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts.

Response

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes.

Response

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of you law.

Response

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart.

Response

————— NEXT SUNDAY —————

First Sunday of Lent

First Reading *Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7*
Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 50:3-6, 12-14, 17*
Second Reading *Romans 5:12-19*
Gospel *Matthew 4:1-11*

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 2:6-10*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation *Cf Matthew 11:25*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones
the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 5:17-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Communion Antiphon

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.