



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

22nd February 2026

— THE TEMPTATIONS IN THE DESERT —

On Ash Wednesday we began Lent, and today we celebrate the first Sunday in Lent. Lent is a period of 40 days spent in preparation to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

In the Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent, Jesus enters the desert, or wilderness, to fast for 40 days. The Devil tempts Jesus in three ways in the desert or wilderness. Firstly, Jesus is tempted with bread; secondly, He is tempted to cast Himself down and be dramatically rescued; and thirdly to He is tempted with all the world and its splendour.

We see similar threefold temptations elsewhere in the Scriptures. In the first reading, Eve is tempted by the devil to eat what was forbidden and she saw that the fruit was 'good for food, a delight to the eyes, and made one wise' (Gen 3:6). St John the Apostle in his letter speaks of "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." (1 Jn 2:16) Solomon fell from wisdom and, turning to concubines, money, and chariots/armed power, he began worshipping false gods.

In the first of all these temptations, we see the 'lust of the flesh' as St John puts it. The dominance of bodily pleasures over the priority of God, satisfying these bodily appetites in a manner contrary to God's will. The second, we see the 'delight of the eyes' as Eve puts it. This is vanity. 'Cast yourself down, put on a spectacular, miraculous show and mankind will gasp in amazement and adore you!' says the Devil (...and also the chief priests when Jesus is on the cross. Mt 27:41). We want to be seen and admired and adored by mankind, and we want to possess treasures and vain things, and make them part of our vision of ourselves. The third is power or simply pride. We want to have our life our own way and get what we want, and we're willing to make a compromise with evil to get it.

Notice that the Devil is only too happy to give us all these if it leads us away from God. God Himself loves us too much to always give us whatever we want.

Our Lenten observance, focusing on *prayer, fasting and almsgiving*, is our remedy for these temptations. In different order to the temptations, prayer humbles our pride and worships God alone, fasting disciplines our flesh and gives our spirit control over its wayward desires, and almsgiving combats the avarice of the 'lust of the eyes'.

On Holy Thursday, Our Lord will be tempted again in the Garden of Gethsemane for three hours. He will again be victorious and angels will comfort Him. We often struggle with temptation and anxiety of our troubles, and yet we ourselves are greatly comforted knowing that Our Lord Himself has been through such trials. He knows our anxieties and sympathises with us, and He accompanies us every step in overcoming them.

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

Thu	26 th	Sacrament of Confirmation Reflection Evening
Fri	27 th	Soup & Stations of the Cross
Sat	28 th	Sacrament of Confirmation Family Commitment Mass

March

Fri	6 th	First Friday Holy Hour
Sat	7 th	Cor Jesu – Women's Vocational Discernment Group Meeting
Sun	8 th	Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun	8 th	Baptism Preparation session
Mon	9 th	Labour Day
Fri	13 th	Providence & Friends Anointing Mass
Sat	14 th	Parish Men's Retreat
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

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.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This Thursday 26th February, there is a parent and child Reflection Evening for the children receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation later this year. It will be held in St Bernard's Primary School library at 6:30pm.

There is a family Commitment Mass at 5:00pm on Saturday 28th February.

PARISH MEN'S RETREAT

Men of Bacchus Marsh, join us for a retreat on Saturday 14th March. Starting with 9:30am Mass at St Bernard's Catholic Church, we will then proceed to St Bernard's Primary School for the remainder of the retreat, led by Fr Nicholas Pearce — a gifted speaker and pastor. There will also be opportunities for Confession and Eucharistic Adoration as we seek to deepen our faith together.

Bookings can be made via the QR Code, or at

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1542567>



EASTER RAFFLE

Parishioners are kindly asked to donate items for our upcoming Easter Raffle to help raise funds for our parish. Any items suitable for an Easter hamper are greatly appreciated. These can be placed in the marked basket in the foyer.

Cash donations can be placed in the donation box (please use the envelopes labelled 'Easter Raffle'). Thank you for your generosity.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026

Please 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

Joyce Camilleri, Leli Camilleri, Anit Rosado.

Death Anniversaries

Joseph & Josephine Camilleri, Blanche Chapman, Wilma Fowler, Lily Freeman, Chris Heslington, Margaret Jephson, Brooke Lovel, Andrew Monteith, Caryll Pereira, Carmela Pinti, Kevin Punshon.

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

First Sunday of Lent

Most of us would have been on some kind of journey, so we know the preparation needed to make it enjoyable and successful. The preparation is often the secret to the enjoyment of our trip.

On Ash Wednesday, we began our journey through Lent, our preparation for celebrating the joy of Easter. During this time, we are moving slowly and reflectively towards what is the pinnacle of our faith, Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus spent long, lonely hours alone prepare himself for his ministry. We are given these Lenten days to allow us to prepare for our ministry, living as children of God and all that this implies.

I need to ask myself: How am I preparing myself to celebrate Easter? Lent is our time of prayer, reflection, fasting. Even if we fail one time, we just pick ourselves up and start again. Happy Lenten days!

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

The program includes time for Reflection, Adoration, testimonies and small group conversations.

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

JAM ON THE MAT

JAM on the Mat for little ones (babies, toddlers and preschoolers) held at St Bernard's Primary School on Thursdays at 10:45am. Cost \$15 per family. To find out more, contact darleyjamsession@gmail.com.

ROSTERS

Church Cleaning

Saturday 28th February, 10:00am : Team C – Adrian, Allan, Shantal, Yenny
Monday 9th March, 9:30am : Team A – Anne, Paul, Denise
Monday 23rd March, 9:30am : Team B – Maddie, Lisa, Nuala

Flowers

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

Prayers of the Faithful

March – Cheryl Stevens

Ministers – 28th February & 1st March

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Jeremy Toledo	Jackie Tabone	Jan Farmelo
8:30am	Margaret Love	Maira Ross	Jan & Colm
10:30am	Allan McManus	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

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

First Reading *Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 50:3-6, 12-14, 17*

R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned!

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

Response

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Response

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Response

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips

and my mouth shall declare your praise. **Response**

Second Reading *Romans 5:12-19*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 4:4*

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 4:1-11*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Communion Antiphon

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

———— **NEXT SUNDAY** ————

Second Sunday of Lent

<i>First Reading</i>	<i>Genesis 12:1-4</i>
<i>Responsorial Psalm</i>	<i>Psalms 32:4-5, 18-20, 22</i>
<i>Second Reading</i>	<i>Timothy 1:8-10</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Matthew 17:1-9</i>