



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8th February 2026

PROPOSED CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

Last year, conversations and initial plans began around a possible Catholic Secondary School in Bacchus Marsh. There have been discussions between Dr Edward Simons and MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools), Sr Mary Sarah and myself about meeting the educational needs of the Catholic families in Bacchus Marsh. Recently, a financial feasibility study conducted by MACS was passed – which is great news. There are still many steps to go in making this a reality over the next 6 months, including negotiations for MACS to purchase the Convent land from the Parish. The initial progress is wonderful news for our Parish and School even though there is a long way to go. Please pray for this continuing process so that our Parish and School may be a place where all our families may flourish. St Bernard of Clairvaux, pray for us.

St Paul Miki and the Japanese Martyrs (Feast Day 6th February)

Unfortunately, I ran out of time to write a reflection this week, so here is an edited version of something I wrote last year on the Japanese martyrs.

Japan is a popular tourist spot for Australians. People love that it is clean, very safe, organised, and the people courteous, helpful and honest. Even in Tokyo with a huge population, it is quite quiet and peaceful.

However, the story of the Catholic Church in Japan is anything but quiet and peaceful. It is brutal. Japanese Catholics exemplify that fruit of the Holy Spirit often called 'long-suffering'. There is a lot to learn in the history of Japanese Catholics. We can only mention a few things:

St Francis Xavier landed in Kagoshima, Japan, south of Nagasaki, in 1549. The faith spread quickly, but so did persecution. St Paul Miki and 25 others were martyred in 1597. They were marched some 800km from Kyoto to Nagasaki and then crucified on Nishizaka hill – where many martyrs will be killed over the coming years.

In 1619, was the Kyoto martyrdoms; 1622 the Nishizaka great martyrdoms; 1627-31 Unzen martyrdoms; 1628 the start of the 'fumei' trampling ceremonies; and so on.

In 1637, farmers led by a young Catholic warrior, Amakusa Shiro, staged the Shimabara Rebellion against their exploitation. They barricaded themselves into an ancient stronghold. The Dutch bombarded the castle with heavy canon. Finally, 120,000 samurai led by Nobutsuna Matsudairu, overran and killed some 37,000 Catholics there.

St Lorenzo Ruiz is a Filipino, yet he was martyred along with 15 others (9 Japanese) of the Dominican order, including St Thomas Nishi, at Nagasaki, also in 1637.

In 1860's, French missionaries, including Fr Petitjean, entered Japan to discover Christians who had been in hiding for some 200 years. Please research that story! They saw the statue of Our Lady and told Father, "Our hearts are the same as yours." Unfortunately, this started yet another persecution!

St Maximillion Kolbe visited Nagasaki and established a Franciscan Friary there and a beautiful grotto to Our Lady. This survived the atomic blast that happened a couple of years after his death.

I also recommend to you 'The Song of Nagasaki', a biography of Takashi Nagai, by Paul Glynn. Nagai was a Catholic convert and radiologist who lived and died through the horror of the atomic bomb dropped in the middle of Nagasaki city.

Fr. John Paul Mount

SUNDAY MASSES

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
7 th & 21 st Feb	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
Sun	10:00am	Rosary (Chapel)

DIARY

February

Sun	8 th	Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun	8 th	Baptism Preparation session
Tue	10 th	KSC Meeting
Fri	13 th	Providence & Friends Mass
Tue	17 th	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes
Wed	18 th	Ash Wednesday
Thu	26 th	Sacrament of Confirmation Reflection Evening
Sat	28 th	Sacrament of Confirmation Family Commitment Mass

March

Sat	7 th	Cor Jesu – Women's Vocational Discernment Group Meeting
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

— VALE FR JOHN TURNER RIP —

Long-time parishioners will remember with gratitude Fr John Turner. Fr John's ministry was valued as was his practical ability in many fields. He carefully crafted the beautiful free-standing wooden altar we now use. St Bernard's parish supported Fr John's ministry with goods and finances when he went on mission to New Guinea. We pray for his soul and the consolation of his family. May he rest in peace. †

— OUR THANKS TO MARGARET LOVE —

After many years of service, Margaret Love has decided to retire from our Parish Safeguarding Committee. Margaret has a deep commitment to our Parish Safeguarding, serving as our Parish Safeguarding Officer and as Chair of the Committee. She leaves the role knowing that our Parish Safeguarding is in a good position for the future. On behalf of our Parish, I thank Margaret for all her hard work.

I have asked Vicki Benson to take up the role, and she has been generous enough to agree. The Committee looks forward to another year of serving our safe and flourishing Parish.

— KSC —

The Knights of the Southern Cross next meeting to be held on Tuesday 10th February, will be a BBQ, commencing at 6:00pm. For further information, contact Stuart Robertson on 0415 061 990.

— PROVIDENCE & FRIENDS MASS —

Parishioners are invited to the monthly Providence and Friends Mass this Friday 13th February at 11am.

Please bring a plate to share for morning tea/lunch.

If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know or call Margot Short on 0419 507 438.

— 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 Fr John Turner

Death Anniversaries

Alma Dowsett, Marija Magdic, Samara Vereker,
Noelene Wadey, Stanley Walsh.

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

One story about my Italian great grandfather involved selling salt over the border into France. Salt was a very valuable trading item, because it would flavour and preserve food. My mother salted green beans, so we would have them all the year.

Jesus uses salt to describe the kind of Christian life we should lead. Our lives should make a difference, just as salt does to our food and our ways of preserving food in the past. On our tables, we always have salt-shakers in case the food is not salted to our liking. Jesus also refers to the importance of light. Imagine going to bed when the sun set, because we had no candles or artificial light! So, salt and light are essential to our lives.

By the way we live – goodness, compassion and justice – we are light-carriers and are salt to our world. There is a song, “You’re the Voice”. Jesus’s song would be “You’re the salt. You’re the light.” What can you do?

Sr. Mary Fermio

OLD PALMS

In preparation for the season of Lent, if you still have any blessed palms from last year, would you 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.

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

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday 21st March – By His Wounds we are Healed

What is the connection between the wounds we experience in this life and the wounds of Christ? How does Christ's humanity actually heal us and restore us to ourselves? Join Anna Krohn and the Dominican Sisters for a day of prayer and reflection on Saturday 21st March, 9am–4pm, in St Bernard's Parish Centre. Please book in for catering purposes at www.trybooking.com/DJDZT or 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 – 14th & 15th February

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Sonia Smith	Henry Gasior	Jackie Tabone
8:30am	Dominican Sisters	Tup Shea	Marj Tung
10:30am	Allan McManus	Cheryl Stevens	Volunteer

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 come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading *Isaiah 58:7-10*

Thus says the Lord:
Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'
If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 111:4-9*

R: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. **Response**

The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **Response**

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. **Response**

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any
show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you
what God had guaranteed. During my stay with
you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was
about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified
Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I
came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in
my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there
were none of the arguments that belong to
philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the
Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not
depend on human philosophy but on the power of
God.

Gospel Acclamation *John 8:12*

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 5:13-16*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth.
But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty
again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out
to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-
top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it
under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it
shines for everyone in the house. In the same way
your light must shine in the sight of men, so that,
seeing your good works, they may give the praise to
your Father in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

————— NEXT SUNDAY —————

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading	<i>Sirach 15:15-20</i>
Responsorial Psalm	<i>Psalms 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34</i>
Second Reading	<i>1 Corinthians 2:6-10</i>
Gospel	<i>Matthew 5:17-37</i>