



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

15th March 2026

— ST JOSEPH —

Thursday this week, the 19th of March, is the feast of St Joseph. I pray that St Joseph guide and protect our Parish and School, and in particular that he look over all the men and fathers in our Parish and School. We had about 40 men come to the men's retreat on Saturday which is wonderful to see.

St Joseph is often depicted as an old man. Some traditions hold that St Joseph was older than Mary. There are some speculative reasons for this, such as that he was a widower. It seems also perhaps an attempt to depict his chaste marriage to Mary. However, some recent saints and teachers have argued otherwise, I think quite convincingly.

Mother Angelica, founder of EWTN (a TV network with some 260 million subscribers), said that she had never heard of an old man walking from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and then to Egypt and back, finding lodging and work to support his family, all the while evading authorities. The travel and tribulation that St Joseph led the Holy Family through was the work of a man who was young and fit.

St Josemaria Escriva as well as Bishop Fulton Sheen, soon hopefully to be Beatified, likewise thought of St Joseph as young and in the prime of his life. Addressing the argument of chastity, they said that youth is no obstacle to chastity, for chastity comes from love, and for love St Joseph made an offering of his life to his wife and child in the full vigour of his life. (When you think about it, the idea of St Joseph being old to depict his chastity is fairly ridiculous if you ask me)

St John Paul II, and indeed perhaps expressing the modern consensus (I would hope..?), would also speak of a young St Joseph. Indeed, at the time of the Annunciation, Mary was a late teenager, so, even if St Joseph was in his early or mid 20's, he was still quite older than Mary, and yet a young man.

Ok, so we've established that St Joseph was a young man. That took 400 words. And we're out of time. But just quickly....

St Joseph traditionally shown holding a lily. This represents his purity, his holiness, and being a "just man" (Mt 1:19). In the liturgical celebrations for St Joseph, we read, "The just man shall blossom like the lily". (Hosea 14:5)

We also hear sometimes, "The Lord made him lord over his house and the ruler of all his possessions." His household, His Kingdom, His people, His treasures, into the hands of St Joseph. Here we see a type of St Joseph in the Patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob/Israel. Though the Patriarch Joseph was the least, he was indeed raised to highest in authority to govern, to provide, and be a means of salvation for His people.

Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
21 st Mar & 18 th Apr	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 —

March

Sat	14 th	Parish Men's Retreat
Tue	17 th	St Patrick's Feast Day
Thu	19 th	St Joseph's Feast Day
	16 th -22 nd	Harmony Week
Fri	20 th	Soup & Stations of the Cross
Sat	21 st	Women's Lenten Retreat
Sun	29 th	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April

Wed	1 st	Last day of School Term 1
Thu	2 nd	Thursday of the Lord's Supper
Fri	3 rd	Friday of the Passion of the Lord
Sat	4 th	Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil
Sun	5 th	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection
Fri	10 th	Providence & Friends Mass
Sun	12 th	Baptism Preparation 11:30am

— 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.

FUNERAL

The funeral for Mary Delahey will be held on Thursday 19th March in St Bernard's Church at 1:00pm, followed by burial at Maddingley Cemetery. The Celebrant will be Fr Brian Glasheen.

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.

EASTER RAFFLE

Tickets for our Easter Raffle are now on sale after each weekend Mass. \$2 each or three for \$5. Please support this fundraiser for our parish. Good luck!

Donations for the raffle can still be placed in the baskets in the Gathering Space up until Sunday 22nd March. A big thank you to all who have chipped in. Also, cash donations can be placed in the donation box (please use the envelopes labelled 'Easter Raffle').

Winners will be drawn after 10:30am Mass on Palm Sunday.

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

Mary Rebecca Delahey

Death Anniversaries

Michael Brady, Angela Brennan,
Lara Paige Cameron, Nazarena Casha,
Wendy Diacono, Joan Shanahan, Peter Ward,
Bernard Wilkie.

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

—— LAETARE SUNDAY ——

Today is Laetare Sunday, meaning 'Rejoice', from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon. We are approaching Holy Week and so we are reminded that our salvation is near. We rejoice that soon we will celebrate what Our Lord has accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

Next Sunday is traditionally called 'Passion' Sunday where images and crucifixes in the Church are veiled or covered with violet cloth. The Sunday following that is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week.

—— PARISH CENSUS ——

We are currently taking our Parish Census to update our database. This information is only used for Parish purposes. Thanks to those who filled out a census card. If you haven't filled out a census card, please fill one out and put in a collection basket or give it to Fr John Paul after Mass. Thank you.

—— CHURCH CLEANING BEE ——

Join us to give our beautiful church a thorough clean before Holy Week and Easter on Saturday 28th March from 10am to 1pm. There will be a sausage sizzle lunch provided for volunteers at 1pm. No need to register, just come for as long as you're able.

Any questions, please contact Paul Miesen on 0419 834 991 or Madeleine McManus on 0434 945 598.

—— PROJECT COMPASSION 2026 ——

Our support for Project Compassion is a sign of the love of God for all people, especially vulnerable communities who thirst for justice and security. 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.

—— 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 ——

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

Ministers – 21st & 22nd March

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Jeremy Toledo	Colin Remedios	Carmel Shea
8:30am	Dominican Sisters	Maira Ross	Margot Short
10:30am	Thomas O'Halloran	Vanina Isah	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

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 22

**R: The Lord is my shepherd:
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

Response

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

Response

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Response

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Response

Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet', replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

NEXT SUNDAY

Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading	Ezekiel 37:12-14
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 130.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7b-8
Second Reading	Romans 8:8-11
Gospel	John 11:1-45