



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

22nd March 2026

— PASSION SUNDAY —

This week we cover the statues and crucifixes with violet cloth. This serves to create a sorrowful, sombre and uneasy feeling in the Church – dare I say ‘spooky’. The passion and death of Our Lord, though the supreme act of God’s love for us, was truly a horrifying sight. It was a time of the seeming reign of darkness. At His birth, the Light of the World entered our world in the deepest darkness, symbolised by being born at midnight in the middle of winter. Christ’s victory over sin and death was won after enduring the deepest darkness. It begins on Holy Thursday, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Our Lord is in agony before being arrested at midnight, “This is your hour, when darkness reigns.” (22:53) Darkness will have its hour, but God will have His day – and His day will be a day that never sets again.

Have you ever been through a dark time? A time of suffering that has brought you low, when God has felt far away and you have felt isolated from others? Jesus felt like this in the Garden and an angel comforted Him (Lk 22:43). Let us accompany Our Lord through Holy Week; let us be the comforting angel that never leaves His side.

We can accompany Our Lord through Holy Week. This starts with Palm Sunday and Our Lord’s entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, and the people laying palms before Him. Then we celebrate the ‘Triduum’, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Let us make time to come to these ceremonies.

— ADULTS RECEIVING SACRAMENTS AT EASTER —

At the Easter Vigil, Saturday Evening 4th April at 7:00pm, there will be seven adults receiving Sacraments. Please pray for Lynda Davidson, James Newton, Lisa Scudmore, Vincent Stoffels, Aleisha Alimic, Raphael Guillaumier, and Michael Attard, as they prepare to receive Christ in His Sacraments.

— WOMEN’S RETREAT —

Yesterday, we had 90 women at our Parish women’s retreat. Both our men’s and women’s retreats have shown the desire and need to spend some time with our God away from our busy schedules. We hope that these opportunities can continue to be offered regularly in our Parish.

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

Fri	27 th	Soup & Stations of the Cross
Sun	29 th	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April

Wed	1 st	Last day of School Term 1
Thu	2 nd	Mass of the Lord’s Supper – 7pm followed by Altar of Repose
Fri	3 rd	Stations of the Cross – 10am followed by Confessions and Hot Cross Buns The Passion of the Lord – 3pm
Sat	4 th	Easter Vigil in the Holy Night – 7:30pm
Sun	5 th	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection
Fri	10 th	Providence & Friends Mass
Sun	12 th	Baptism Preparation – 11:30am
Sat	18 th	Parish Outdoor Cinema

— 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.

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 this 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.

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00pm
Holy Thursday – followed by Altar of Repose	until midnight
Good Friday – Stations of the Cross	10:00am
Good Friday – Confessions	10:30am
Good Friday – Celebration of the Passion of the Lord (Mass of the Presanctified)	3:00pm
Holy Saturday – The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night	7:30pm
Easter Sunday – Sunday of the Resurrection	8:30am & 10:30am

HOT CROSS BUNS

Hot Cross Buns will be available on Good Friday after Stations of Cross. Other Christian communities have also been invited. Please make them feel welcome.

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

Death Anniversaries

Neville Gonsalvez, Leigh Gray, George Hamm,
Nancy Holloway, Hala Krizmanic,
Thomas Monaghan, Christopher Mugavin,
Troy Saliba, Frank Shanahan, Bill Shea.

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

CHURCH CLEANING BEE

Please note that the Church Cleaning Bee which was scheduled for next Saturday has been postponed. It will now be held after Easter – new date to be advised.

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

PARISH OUTDOOR CINEMA

Save the Date – Saturday 18th April

We are hosting a parish outdoor movie night on Saturday 18th April on the grounds of the Korobeit church.

Bring your picnic rugs and chairs. More details in the coming weeks.

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026

Our donations to Project Compassion this Lent will make a positive difference to people in need, especially those coping with humanitarian emergencies in many countries 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.

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

The annual collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday 3rd April. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday, and keep them in your prayers.

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.

EASTER SERVICES VOLUNTEERS

If you are a Reader or a Eucharist Minister and wish to assist, there are clipboards in the Gathering Space for the Easter services. Please sign-up if you are available.

ROSTERS

Flowers : April – Rosabella

Ministers : 28th & 29th March

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Sonia Smith	Jackie Tabone	Jan & Colm Carragher
8:30am	Margaret Love	Colm Carragher	Jan Farmelo
10:30am	Beatrice Younger	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

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading *Ezekiel 37:12-14*

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall settle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 129*

R: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ear be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.)

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.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Response**Response****Response****Response****Response****Second Reading** *Romans 8:8-11*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation *John 11:25,26*

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

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

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

Gospel *John 11:1-45*

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'...

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling
because he has the light of this world to see by;
but if he walks at night he stumbles,
because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Communion Antiphon

Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

NEXT SUNDAY**Palm Sunday**

First Reading *Isaiah 50:4-7*
Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24*
Second Reading *Philippians 2:6-11*
Gospel *Matthew 26:14 – 27:66*