



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8th March 2026

— SAMARITAN WOMAN —

"He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street, he will not crush the bruised reed or quench the smouldering wick." (Isaiah 42:2,3). I was thinking of this passage, quoted also in Matthew's Gospel, when reading today's Gospel. Our Lord comes not only, or even primarily, to speak to the general masses, but comes to speak directly to individual souls.

When the Samaritan woman at the well is on her own, perhaps feeling the burden of daily life, Jesus appears and speaks to her. And He reveals Himself to her, reveals some of the inner mystery of who He is to her, in a way rarely revealed elsewhere. It is indeed an intimate encounter. We should never cease to be amazed that the King of Kings should think that this woman, and indeed any of us, would be worth his time. And yet He does. The woman says, "He told me all I ever did." (Jn 4:29). Yes, Jesus truly knows us. He's been paying attention. He has been leading us towards Him as best he could. He knows our history, our story, our situation.

Often, we think our lives are a bit of a complicated mess, and therefore we are unable to have such an encounter with the Lord. Perhaps we just need to trust Him, surrender to Him, and let Him, in His time, sort out the mess by the power of His grace and wisdom.

— PRAY FOR PEACE —

"Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes... because you did not recognise the time of your visitation." (Lk 19:42/44). Yet another war in the Middle East. And to my observations it doesn't look like there is a clear idea/plan of how it might come to an end. It might well also escalate a great deal. As some continue to try to establish their kingdom on earth, many will suffer terribly.

Please pray for peace in our world.

— NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH —

A novena is praying a particular prayer or for a particular intention for nine consecutive days. The Feast of St Joseph on Thursday 19th March is approaching. Perhaps you would like to pray a novena to St Joseph leading up to this feast starting from Wednesday 11th March. Given that St Mary Mackillop entrusted her order to the protection and guidance of St Joseph, let us ask St Joseph's intercession for our Parish and School.

Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday
7th & 21st 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 —

March

Sat 7th Cor Jesu – Women's Vocational
Discernment Group Meeting
Sun 8th Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun 8th Baptism Preparation 12pm midday
Mon 9th Labour Day Public Holiday
Fri 13th Providence & Friends Anointing Mass
Fri 13th Soup & Stations of the Cross
Sat 14th Parish Men's Retreat
Sat 21st Women's Lenten Retreat
Sun 29th Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April

Sacred Paschal Triduum

Thu 2nd Thursday of the Lord's Supper
Fri 3rd Friday of the Passion of the Lord
Sat 4th Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil
Sun 5th Easter Sunday of the Resurrection

— 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.

MORNING TEA

Morning tea this month will be held after the 8:30am Mass this Sunday 8th March. All welcome.

PROVIDENCE & FRIENDS

Parishioners are invited to the monthly Providence & Friends Mass next Friday 13th March at 11am. This will be an Anointing Mass. Please bring a plate for morning tea/lunch.

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

PARISH MEN'S RETREAT

Men of Bacchus Marsh, join us for a retreat next 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>



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.

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 Litchfield

Death Anniversaries

Gerard Bailey, Bob Carr, Cristina Kingcott,
Ronald Lebner, Christopher Mallia,
Nick Sgarbossa, Greg Whelan.

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

MELBOURNE SYNOD

This weekend, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The Synod will consult with the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne about three themes: *Young Discipleship*, *Missionary Leadership*, and lastly *Formation and Participation*. A Synod Assembly will be held over the weekend of 4th-6th December 2026.

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 last week. 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.

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 baskets in the foyer.

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

Please donate by Sunday 22nd March. The Easter Raffle will be drawn on Palm Sunday 29th March.

KSC MEETING

The Knights of the Southern Cross March meeting will be held in the Parish Centre at 8pm on Tuesday 10th March.

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 – 14th & 15th March

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Vicki Benson	Henry Gasior	Jackie Tabone
8:30am	Gerard O'Shea	Margot Short	Volunteer
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

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

First Reading Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 94:1-2, 6-9

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Response

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

Response

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Response

Second Reading Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

———— NEXT SUNDAY ————
Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
Responsorial Psalm Psalms 22
Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel John 9:1-41

Gospel Acclamation cf John 4:42, 15

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

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

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

Gospel John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered, 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus, 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.