



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

12th April 2026

— DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY —

This Sunday is traditionally called Low Sunday. It is the last day in the celebration of the Easter Octave. The Gospel today says, "eight days later the disciples were in the house again". The disciples were gathered the next Sunday.

This Sunday, today, is the eighth day in the Easter Octave. An Octave, meaning 'eight', is basically a week – if you count the first as well as the last day inclusive. This way of counting is the same way we count Jesus' resurrection after 'three days' even though those three days are from Friday to Sunday. Therefore, from Easter Sunday to Low Sunday is eight days.

Starting with Easter, major Solemnities in the Church's calendar used to be celebrated over a week, or an 'Octave'. There remains the Christmas Octave, but there was also the Pentecost Octave, and many more like the Epiphany, the Assumption and Corpus Christi.

With the resurrection of Christ on a Sunday, the Lord's day, or Sabbath, has now become the Sunday. The disciples have already started the practice of gathering on the Sunday. Sunday is now the first day of the week, as stated at the beginning of today's Gospel, but now also the eighth day of the week. God created the world in seven days, but the resurrection of Christ is a new day of creation – an eighth day of creation. This is why you will notice that a baptismal font has eight sides. Baptism is a new day of creation for us, an eighth day of creation for us, as we are born anew (Jn 3:7). In the past, the Sabbath was a day of rest, culminating in the rest of death that Christ spent in the tomb. Now the Sabbath, while still resting from work, is a day dedicated to the fullness of life in the Christ.

Recently, this Sunday has been given the name Divine Mercy Sunday. Inspired by revelations given to St Faustina Kowalska, the Church celebrates God's mercy that is poured out upon us by the power of Jesus' death and resurrection. Through St Faustina, Jesus reminds us that His mercy is extended to us in our times in a renewed and particular way. Perhaps we can see this as we see many in our world coming back to God, despite all the troubles in our world.

Jesus is risen and alive. The Apostles are now walking with Our Lord for the next forty days before He ascends into heaven. In forty days, we will celebrate the Ascension. Let us walk with Our Lord over these forty days as He walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus – speaking with Him, listening to Him, inviting Him into our homes, and recognising Him alive and risen in the Eucharist.

Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday
18th Apr & 2nd May 6:15pm (Vigil)

— WEEKDAY MASSES —

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri no Masses 13th, 15th-17th
Tue 14th Apr 9:30am
Sat 18th Apr 9:30am

*During school holidays (7th-18th Apr),
weekday Masses will be held at 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 —

April
Sun 12th Baptism Preparation – 11:30am
Sun 12th Divine Mercy Sunday
at St Anthony's, Melton South
Sat 18th Parish Outdoor Cinema at Korobeit
Mon 20th Term 2 commences
Thu 30th Eucharist Parent Child Reflection
6:30pm in the Parish Centre

May
Sat 2nd Eucharist Commitment Mass
Fri 8th Providence & Friends Mass
Sun 10th Mother's Day
Sun 10th Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Tue 19th Sacrament of Confirmation
5pm and 7pm Masses

— 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

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Please note that weekday Masses during the school holidays (7th-18th April) will be at 9:30am.

There is no morning weekday Masses next week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday as Fr John Paul will be away.

Mass will be held on Tuesday 14th April at 9:30am.

PARISH OUTDOOR CINEMA

Saturday 18th April at 7:00pm

Our Lady Help of Christians Church

309 Myrniong-Korobeit Road, Korobeit

Join us under the stars on the grounds of the Korobeit church for an outdoor screening of 'The King of Kings' (2025), inspired by the children's book, "The Life of Our Lord" (Charles Dickens).

BYO picnic rugs, chairs, blankets and snacks. Sausage sizzle, popcorn and a can of drink included with your ticket. 'eXpresso Alfresco' will be on site for coffee purchases.

Mass to be celebrated at 6:15pm with the movie following immediately afterwards (approximately 7:00pm).

Bookings essential for catering purposes: trybooking.com/DLCHA, or follow the QR code.

Adults – \$10.

Children – \$5.

Any questions, please reach out to Lucas Ekerbicer on 0418 465 892.



THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Thanksgiving envelopes are still available for collection in the Gathering Space. For those parishioners who contribute electronically, statements will be emailed soon. Thank you for your patience.

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

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Death Anniversaries

Barbara Cywinski, Maree Gleeson, Ada Judge,
Bob McGregor, Margaret Moloney, Melva O'Brien,
Sam Reale, Doris Storey, Theo van Alkemade,
Molly Whiting.

The Sick

Kathleen Brennan, 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

— DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY —

Sunday 12th April 2026

St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 67-77 Exford Road, Melton South

2:00pm Adoration
2:00pm-4:00pm Confessions and Rosary
3:00pm 3 O'Clock Prayer and Chaplet
followed by Benediction, Holy Mass, and Blessings of Images
Celebrant Fr Alex Clemente

— KSC —

The Knights of the Southern Cross April meeting will be held in the Parish Centre meeting room at 8pm on Tuesday 14th April.

— COUPLES FOR CHRIST —

Christian Life Program

The Christian Life Program is a 6-week series designed to help individuals and families grow in their relationship with God, deepen their understanding of the Christian faith, and experience renewed spiritual life within a supportive community.

Dates: 11th April to 16th May 2026 (6 Saturday sessions)

Time: 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Venue: Padua Hall, St Anthony of Padua, Melton South

For more information, contact:

- Ruban & Heizyl – 0481 048 589
- Dikz & Sarah – 0478 143 534

Admission is free, and refreshments will be provided.

— PERMANENT DIACONATE INFORMATION SESSION —

Saturday 2nd May 2025, 10:00am–11:30am

University of Divinity, Catholic Theological College

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and the 50s, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service. The annual May information session is open to everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate. If you have attended any previous session, you are also welcome to attend this session. It is an opportunity to further discern your vocation. Wives are most welcome.

The session will be held in person at Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne. If you are interested, email Deacon Kevin Pattison at Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au with full name and parish, or just turn up on Saturday morning.

— 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.

— ROSTERS —

Flowers : April – Rosabella

Ministers : 18th & 19th April

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Sonia Smith	Henry Gasior	Nuala Beatie
8:30am	Gerard O'Shea	Maira Ross	Jan & Colm Carragher
10:30am	Rosabella Tuala	Jenny Kearney	Neida Funina

— 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

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

First Reading Acts 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 117:2-4, 3-15, 22-24

R: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.'

Response

I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just.

Response

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.

Response

Communion Antiphon

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving, but believing. Alleluia.

NEXT SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading	Acts 2:14, 22-33
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 15:1-2, 5, 7-11
Second Reading	1 Peter 1:17-21
Gospel	Luke 24:13-35

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those you have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this, he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me,
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.