



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

26th April 2026

— ANZAC DAY —

A few weeks ago, we spoke about the stained glass window under the staircase which featured the name of eight men, including Thomas O'Leary. These young brave souls died in World War I. Thomas was killed at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915.

This Anzac Day we remember Gallipoli, that tragic moment in our history. We remember and pray for the souls of those who fought and gave their lives for our country. We also pray for those who have served in our armed forces and suffer from their experiences – we let them know that we support them and hope they receive every help that they need. We pray for those currently serving in our armed forces and that the Lord keep them safe. We pray also for peace in our world and that wars be avoided, remembering the devastation caused by warfare.

Perhaps it is worth taking the opportunity to say that our prayers and support for those who serve in our armed forces does not depend on whether we believe this or that conflict is just and right. We might believe that a particular war is unjust and wrong, or simply unwise. However, our servicemen should still be respected and honoured, and should have our support and prayers.

It is well known that after the Vietnam War, for instance, many soldiers were treated very poorly when they returned home. This was incredibly traumatic for those soldiers. Regardless of whether we support the cause of the Vietnam War or not, our soldiers should never be treated in that way.

Moreover, our prayers and honouring of our fallen soldiers does not depend on their religion and their saintly lives either. A particular example of praying for the deceased is given to us in the book of Maccabees. After a battle, many Jews fell, and Judas Maccabeus discovered that those who died were wearing amulets of false gods under their garments. He sent an offering to the Temple that prayers and sacrifices be made to pray for their souls. This is true of all of us – many of us metaphorically wear 'hidden amulets' under our clothes. We pray for our deceased, who are imperfect sinners in need of our mercy, and we ourselves are slow to judge them.

I would like to briefly mention Ben Roberts Smith. He received our highest honour and was awarded the Victoria Cross. He has recently been in the news for being accused of war crimes. I know little about the case. All I would say is that we ourselves should be very slow to judge – if at all. We should let the courts operate as they should and hope that the court's judgement is just, impartial, and respectful of our honoured soldier. We don't know what is like to be at war – to kill and be killed. Would not killing another man, even in the most just circumstances of warfare, be indescribably traumatic to our own conscience? Our SAS are known to carry the bulk of the burden in our armed forces; they carry an enormous burden for our country. Something none of us could ever do. Our soldiers shouldn't be made a public spectacle for tabloid papers, but rather treated with respect and seriousness. We pray for him, the court, and all our armed forces.

Lest we forget.

Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
2 nd & 16 th May	6:15pm (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 —

April		
Thu	30 th	Eucharist Parent Child Reflection 6:30pm in the Parish Centre
May		
Fri	1 st	First Friday Holy Hour
Sat	2 nd	Eucharist Commitment Mass
Fri	8 th	Providence & Friends Mass
Sun	10 th	Mother's Day
Sun	10 th	Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun	17 th	The Ascension of the Lord
Sun	17 th	Baptism Preparation – 11:30am
Tue	19 th	Sacrament of Confirmation 5pm and 7pm Masses
Sun	24 th	Pentecost Sunday
Mon	25 th	Our Lady, Help of Christians
Sun	31 st	The Most Holy Trinity

— 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

MANY THANKS

Last Saturday, the Parish Outdoor Cinema was held at Korobeit.

A huge thank you to Maria and Lucas who were also there serving us with hot chocolates and coffee from their eXpresso alfresco van during the screening of "King of Kings".

In their words, "We had a wonderful evening. Everything came together beautifully, the weather, the bonfire, the movie, the popcorn".

It was a great turnout and through sales and donations, a total of \$370 was raised which has been generously donated to our Parish.

Many thanks also to Thomas, Lucas, the Dominican Sisters, and all other volunteers who assisted on the night.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

This Sunday 26th April, we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, pray for yourself to know if God is calling YOU to be a Priest, Sister or Brother. Or, you might know of someone in the parish, in your family, or an acquaintance whom you think would make a good priest or religious. Why not pray for them during this week? Sometimes the Lord uses us as his instruments to encourage vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

The annual Seminary Enquiry Day will be held on Saturday 23rd May at Corpus Christi College.

MASS COUNT

Parishioners, please note that the National Count of Attendance for 2026 will take place over the first four weeks of May, commencing on 2nd & 3rd May 2026. The 2026 results will provide valuable insights into long-term trends, particularly in understanding the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which influenced attendance patterns in 2021.

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

Muriel Burt, Carmen Calvito, William (Bill) Coburn,
Nell & Paddy Flanagan, Patrick Leonard,
Paul Micallef, Michael O'Keefe, Val Ratkowski,
Neville Thompson.

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,
Rosanna Tejedor, 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

— FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR —

Friday 1st May, 7:00pm

On the First Friday of each month, there will be a 7:00pm Holy Hour at St Bernard's Church. Confession will offered until 7:40pm when we pray Night Prayer/Compline and Benediction.

— PERMANENT DIACONATE INFORMATION SESSION —

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

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.

— CATHOLICARE VICTORIA —

Sunday Appeal – 2nd & 3rd May 2026

"For I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)

Next weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. CatholicCare Victoria is the Church's mission in action – empowering communities and building strength and resilience, to enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full. This year, the appeal focuses on homelessness. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those most in need. Your kindness and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community.

You can donate using the appeal envelopes available in the Gathering Space, by donating online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au, or by calling 9967 2515.

— ST MICHAEL'S TROOPS —

Saturday 23rd May 2026

Do you long for authentic brotherhood and a space to grow deeper in faith alongside other men? St Michael's Troops is an event for men aged 18-35 seeking strength, discipline, and purpose rooted in Christ. This morning event in Melbourne includes Holy Mass, physical activity, a talk, and a shared BBQ. Join us, and bring a mate.

Register now at <https://fitforthekingdom.com.au/events/st-michaels-troops-096fdddc>

— CATHOLIC MARRIAGE RETREAT —

Beyond the Vows – Saturday 30th May 2026

A practical, faith-grounded day with real insights, communication tools, and quality couple time. All married couples welcome! This one-day retreat will be

Time: 9:45am – 5:00pm

Where: Catholic Regional College, 10 College Street, Caroline Springs

Cost: \$80 per couple

Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/DLAGK>, or scan the QR code on the poster.

— ROSTERS —

Flowers : May – Tup Shea

Ministers : 2nd & 3rd May

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Sonia Smith	Jackie Tabone	Jan Farmelo
8:30am	Evana Carragher	Margot Short	Jennifer Taylor
10:30am	Beatrice Younger	Cheryl Stevens	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

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading Acts 2:14, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered, 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 22:1-6

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

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

Response

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

Response

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Response

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Response

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

————— NEXT SUNDAY —————
Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading	Acts 6:1-7
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
Second Reading	1 Peter 2:4-9
Gospel	John 14:1-12