



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

17th May 2026

It was a busy week, so the following is a homily given by St Augustine (354-430) on today's feast, the Ascension, taken from the Hour of Matins or Office of Readings.

Fr. John Paul Mount

— THE ASCENSION —

Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: *If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth.* For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.

Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: *Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?*, and when he said: *I was hungry and you gave me food.*

Why do we on earth not strive to find rest with him in heaven even now, through the faith, hope and love that unites us to him? While in heaven he is also with us; and we while on earth are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.

He did not leave heaven when he came down to us; nor did he withdraw from us when he went up again into heaven. The fact that he was in heaven even while he was on earth is borne out by his own statement: *No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.*

These words are explained by our oneness with Christ, for he is our head and we are his body. No one ascended into heaven except Christ because we also are Christ: he is the Son of Man by his union with us, and we by our union with him are the sons of God. So the Apostle says: *Just as the human body, which has many members, is a unity, because all the different members make one body, so is it also with Christ.* He too has many members, but one body.

Out of compassion for us he descended from heaven, and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace. Thus, no one but Christ descended and no one but Christ ascended; not because there is no distinction between the head and the body, but because the body as a unity cannot be separated from the head.

from a sermon by Saint Augustine

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
16 th May & 6 th June	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	no Holy Hour 19 th May
Fri	24 hours	First Friday Adoration
Fri	7:00pm	First Friday Holy Hour
Sun	10:00am	Rosary (Chapel)

— DIARY —

May		
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

June

Fri	5 th	First Friday Holy Hour
Sun	7 th	The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
Mon	8 th	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Thu	11 th	Eucharist Preparation Day
Sat	13 th	Sacrament of Eucharist 9:30am and 11:30am 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

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This Tuesday 19th May, the following children will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Abel Abbott	Montana Chetcuti
Hamish Miller	Charlotte Thompson
Alana Atterbury	Mila Davies
Tyler Moser	Serena Regan
Charlotte Baker	Logan Lobosco
Abby Pilmore	Hamish Rivett-Carnac
Daisy Bowen	Shane Maynes
Isabella Raptopoulos	Riley Rivett-Carnac
Oliver Dearing	Millie McClure
Akihiro Rios	Liana Schembri
Silas Farley	Therese McCumstie
Thomas Russell	Nash Schlink
Darcy Guy	Joseph McCumstie
William Shea	Hamish Taylor
Charli Laing	Owen Pettifer
Daniel Smith	Sofia Tiricola
Harlan Marechal	Skye Pineda

Parishioners please note, there is no Holy Hour on this evening.

MASS COUNT : WEEKEND 3

The National Count of Attendance at Mass for 2026 continues. During the Masses this weekend, counters will be in the church counting the number of attendees.

As in 2021, parishes will again be asked to provide estimates of the age and sex of attendees. This weekend, the counters will be making a note of the number of males and females in attendance. Next weekend, the ages of attendees will be noted.

Thank you for your patience.

PARISH DONATIONS

1 st Collection:	Presbytery – supports our Parish Priest and priests of the Archdiocese.
2 nd 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

John Carr, Sheila Coburn, Gwyneth Davies,
Gloria Rogers, Ray Stevens.

The Sick

Kathleen Brennan, Charles, 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,
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

— CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION —

Sunday 7th June 2026

Parishioners are warmly invited to participate in the annual Corpus Christi Procession to be held on Sunday 7th June 2026, commencing at 2:00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.

Following a time of Eucharistic adoration within the Cathedral, the procession with the Blessed Sacrament will make its way through the streets of the city to Federation Square for Benediction.

— ANNUAL SEMINARY ENQUIRY DAY —

Corpus Christi College – Saturday 23rd May 2026

Corpus Christi is the place where young men discern and study for the priesthood. You may or may not be considering a vocation, however, you are invited to join us and hear more about a vocation and enjoy lunch with current Seminarians.

For catering purposes, please RSVP by Tuesday 19th May via vocations@cam.org.au

If you have questions, the Vocation Director, Father Dishan Candappa, would be pleased to assist you. Please be in touch via vocations@cam.org.au

More details are available on the noticeboard in the Gathering Space.

— NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK —

18th – 24th May 2026

National Volunteer Week stands as the biggest yearly tribute to volunteering across Australia. It honours the invaluable efforts of countless volunteers nationwide, and inspires people everywhere to explore how sharing their time and skills can foster belonging, meaning, and thriving communities.

The Parish is most grateful for the contributions and participation of all volunteers. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you each day. We thank all those who already give their time, and invite others to discover how volunteering can create connection, purpose and lasting positive change.

— LADIES' NIGHT AT HANDEL'S MESSIAH —

We are making plans for anyone wanting to attend Handel's Messiah on Friday 4th December at 7:30pm, Costa Hall in Geelong with dinner before at a nearby restaurant. If you are interested or would like more information, please email Sr Mary Sarah at melbourne@op-tn.org

— ROSTERS —

Church Cleaning Team

Saturday 30th May – Adrian, Allan, Veronica, Brendan, Yenny

Flowers : May – Tup Shea

Ministers : 23rd & 24th May

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Maureen Zahra	Colin Remedios	Carmel Shea
8:30am	Dominican Sisters	Colm Carragher	Denise O'Gorman
10:30am	Allan McManus	Cheryl Stevens	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 Manager – Marie Casey.

Phone: (03) 5367 3427

Mon - Fri, 9:00am – 6:00pm

Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 46:2-3, 6-9

**R: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

Response

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

Response

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

Response

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Communion Antiphon

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

———— NEXT SUNDAY ————

Pentecost Sunday

First Reading	Acts 2:1-11
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
Gospel	John 20:19-23