



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

21st June 2026

— FIRST HOLY COMMUNION —

It was beautiful to see the children receive their First Holy Communion last Saturday. For many Catholics it is a moment that they long remember as a truly joyful day. The boys and girls, particularly the girls, dress up as if for their wedding day. And indeed, it is a wedding. At Holy Communion we are wed to Christ. We the Church are the Bride and Christ is the Groom in this mystical nuptial union. At Holy Communion, we become one with Christ – yes the two become one flesh. *Communion* means just that, *com*=with and *union*=become one. At Communion we become one with Christ.

Last week, I mentioned that 5,000 Catholics from the Archdiocese of Melbourne turned out for a Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession through the streets of Melbourne. Meanwhile, Pope Leo XIV was visiting Spain. On Corpus Christi, the Pope led a procession of 1.2 million people. At this the Pope said, "We are gathered around the Eucharist, the gift of Christ's living presence among us. He who wished to offer us his life so that we might enter into communion with the Father and become his children, is here as the living Bread come down from heaven, to nourish us with the very life of God, with a love stronger than death.... Just as Christ gives himself as food in the Eucharistic celebration, the procession shows that he is not confined to the church, but comes out to meet us". Then he added, "Jesus travels the streets, crosses the squares and visits our neighbourhoods, dwelling in the settings of our daily lives."

As a side point, is this not newsworthy? 1.2 million people gather for a procession led by the Pope and it is not mentioned at all in the news? It reminds me of something Pope John Paul II said in a reflection called 'The Threshold of Hope'. The question posed to Pope John Paul II was, 'why does God seem absent and not show himself?' But the Pope basically replies that there is another question, 'Why do people keep hiding from God and hiding God from others?' More specifically, Pope John Paul II said that history is not the story of God's conspiracy against man, but of man's conspiracy against God. So true. In any case, we take great inspiration from such a show of faith.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is forming the Apostles for leadership. They must be courageous witnesses. They must speak the truth of Christ's teachings. In our world today, we could say we have a great crisis in leadership. Perhaps the Procession in Spain, led by the Pope, is a sign that we want strong and virtuous leaders – we are like sheep without a shepherd, as Jesus says, and we look for true shepherds to lead us. Pope John Paul II for instance was incredibly courageous in proclaiming and explaining the truth about many moral issues – indeed, he was ahead of his time. From him, the Church still has a clear teaching on the difficult moral issues of our time. However, being a courageous voice like that is not popular, as the Prophet Jeremiah experienced.

In the first reading, Jeremiah laments the role of being a courageous leader. Often that role entails correcting people and teaching things people do not like and will react angrily against. 'Terror from every side', this prophet keeps saying! And so many leaders are not prepared to be the prophet they are called by God to be, for fear of the backlash – which is quite understandable.

We pray for our Pope and all our leaders in the Church, that they be as courageous as the Apostles.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
20 th June & 4 th July	6:30pm (Vigil)

— WEEKDAY MASSES —

Mon	no Mass
Tue, Fri	7:30am
Wed	9:30am
Thu 25 th July	No Mass
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 —

June

Sun	21 st	eXpresso alfresco Coffee Van
Wed	24 th	The Nativity of St John the Baptist
Fri	26 th	School Term 2 finishes
Mon	29 th	Sts Peter & Paul, Apostles

July

Fri	3 rd	First Friday Holy Hour
Fri	3 rd	Catechesis by Fr John Paul Mount
Fri	10 th	Providence & Friends Mass
Sun	12 th	Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Mon	13 th	School Term 3 commences

August

Thu	6 th	The Transfiguration of the Lord
Fri	7 th	St Mary MacKillop Feast Day whole school Mass – 9:30am
Sat	8 th	Parish Trivia Night
Sun	23 rd	St Bernard's Feast Day celebration

— 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

COFFEE VAN

This Sunday 21st June, Marie and Lucas from "eXpresso alfresco" will be offering hot drinks after both Masses. All welcome.

NO WEEKDAY MASS

Please note that Fr John Paul will not be available on Thursday 25th June, so there is no morning Mass on that day.

OFFERTORY GIVING PROGRAM

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue our parish offertory renewal, we invite those who have not yet returned their Pledge Cards to do so. You may place your completed card in the offertory collection, in the designated boxes in the church foyer, or drop it off at the Parish Office.

If you were unable to collect a Pledge Pack, generic Pledge Cards are available on the pews this weekend. These can be filled out and returned immediately during Mass.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our parish community. Every offering, no matter the amount, is an expression of love and gratitude to God. Your support ensures that our parish can continue to serve and grow in faith together.

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Save the date – Saturday 8th August 2026

Our Parish Trivia night is returning in 2026. Get a team together and join us for a night of fun and games. More details in the coming weeks.

PARISH DONATIONS

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

Direct transfers can also be made into the Presbytery account.

Account Name: St Bernard's Parish Presbytery Account

BSB: 083 347 Account No.: 909353145

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

Oscar Lewis

Death Anniversaries

Fairy Bellman, Maria de Freitas, Dorothy Elmer,
Henry Hocking, Gloria Jones,
John "Rodger" Patterson, Dorothy Shelly, Ted Shelly,
Debbie Pace Vella, Josephine Vella, Jean Young.

The Sick

Kathleen Brennan, Charles, Kathleen Dally,
Dean Elms, Robert Elms, Reg Farnell, Frances,
Nola Franklin, Caleb Silas Ginger, Hannah & Molly,
Michael Johnston, Karen & Astrid Karenpaula,
John & Patricia Kelly, Michael Larkin, Bernice Light,
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

Christian Bergmann

Jennifer Costin

Ron Geurts

Peter Kennedy

—— ‘IN THE BEGINNING’ ——

Catechesis with Fr John Paul Mount

Friday 3rd July – Friday 7th August 2026

During July, Fr John Paul will hold Catechesis each Friday evening at 6:15pm in the Parish Centre. Starting 3rd July each Friday and ending on Friday 7th August.

Involving both Philosophy and Theology, this will cover the introductory first lessons in coming to know the Catholic faith, looking at the first three chapters of Genesis. Each week will include a talk from Fr John Paul, time for questions and contributions, and then a biblical guided meditation in the Church. All welcome.

—— PROCLAIM26 ——

Friday 26th & Saturday 27th June 2026

Parishioners are invited to join world-renowned Catholic author Sherry Weddell and Archbishop Peter A Comensoli to Proclaim26, an inspiring two-day gathering to equip, form and send clergy, lay leaders and all who want to share Jesus Christ into their community.

Before his Ascension, Jesus entrusted us with this mission: *‘Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Gospel to all creation.’* How will we respond to his invitation and to this moment?

With keynote presentations exploring discipleship and practical workshops covering a range of topics from RCIA, real-life stories of parish renewal, youth and young adults, music and more, you will be equipped with the heart and tools to begin the journey.

Full program and registration details at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/proclaim26>

Cost per person – \$30 (one day), \$50 (two days)

Tickets include lunch and refreshments, access to presentations and workshops.

To be held at Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne.

Registrations close Monday 22nd June.

For any queries, contact proclaim@cam.org.au, or call 9926 5761.

—— MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND ——

St Dominic's Parish, Melton – 26th-28th June 2026

Marriage Encounter is a world-wide volunteer movement of married couples and priests who provide special weekends for couples and priest to nurture their sacraments. It has been active in Australia for more than 50 years. The encounter commences on Friday night at 7:00pm and finishes on Sunday at approximately 4:30pm.

Contact: Mercy and James Bvirakare on 0409 183 676.

—— HOME COMMUNION ——

If parishioners know of anyone who has expressed a wish to receive communion because of the inability to attend Mass, please contact the Parish Office.

—— ROSTERS ——

Church Cleaning Team

Saturday 4th July – Adrian, Allan, Veronica, Brendan, Yenny

Flowers

June – Jenn Costin

Ministers : 27th & 28th June

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Vicki Benson	Henry Gasior	Nuala Beatie
8:30am	Evana Carragher	Tup Shea	Denise O’Gorman
10:30am	Beatrice Younger	Shannon Harvie	Neida Funina

PRAYERS

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen

Nicene 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 by any parishioners and Parish Groups. Bookings through our Hall Manager – Marie Casey.

Phone: (03) 5367 3427

Mon - Fri, 9:00am – 6:00pm

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord is the strength of his people,
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage,
and govern them for ever.

First Reading *Jeremiah 20:10-13*

Jeremiah said:
I hear so many disparaging me,
"Terror from every side!"
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
'Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him and take our revenge!'
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 68:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35*

R: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me.

Response

This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me.

Response

The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needs
and does not spurn servants in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures.

Response

Second Reading *Romans 5:12-15*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

Gospel Acclamation *John 15:26, 27*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 10:26-33*

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon

The eyes of all look to you, Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

Next Sunday

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

First Reading	2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 88:2-3, 16-19
Second Reading	Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
Gospel	Matthew 10:37-42