



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2nd August 2026

— ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP —

St Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne on 15th January 1842. She was the eldest of eight children. When she was 14 years old, she went to Penola, South Australia, to be a governess. It was here in Penola that she would later begin her religious order of teaching nuns, which she would name after St Joseph and thus they become known as the 'Josephites'. Their brown religious habits would soon become known all over Australia.

Fr Paul Gardiner SJ, a Jesuit priest, wrote what is regarded as the official biography of Mary MacKillop's life. He did a lot to help the cause of her Canonisation which happened in 2010 (when she was declared a Saint). I was blessed enough to meet Fr Gardiner in my first year of the seminary when we made a trip to Penola. God rest his soul. The Jesuit priests in the life of St Mary MacKillop, such as Fr Tappeiner who was her Spiritual Director, were an incredible help to her, especially in advising her during difficult times. Last week, we spoke of the founder of the Jesuits, St Ignatius of Loyola. (Now that I mention it, in the life of Teresa of Avila, the Jesuits priests were so important in their Spiritual Direction and guidance to her too.) Anyway, I recommend reading Fr Paul Gardiner's biography; it is simply called "Mary MacKillop".

St Mary MacKillop insisted on poverty for her religious order, relying on charity and Divine providence. As the Josephites grew, started many schools and also orphanages, St Mary went through countless difficulties. She endured and navigated these difficulties with a wisdom that was truly a supernatural gift from God – this was her sainthood. As well as the daily difficulties of financing schools and governing them, she and her sisters endured lies and gossip, unjust opposition from Bishops and priests, and even a fraudulent and troublesome Josephite sister claiming to have visions from God.

There are no glamorous stories of miracles and apparitions in the life of St Mary MacKillop. Her sainthood is the heroic virtue of a steadfast faith, hope and charity in her real life struggles. The central mystery of our faith in the Incarnation, God became a man. So, in our life, God works His supernatural grace in us in our day-to-day, incarnate, real life. St Mary MacKillop's sainthood shone out in her supernatural wisdom that was lived out in the real world and in real prudential acts. We see in St Mary acts that seem so natural to her, yet were in fact supernatural wisdom. If I were G.K. Chesterton, I would say that what we find so natural to St Mary is her supernatural wisdom, and what seemed ordinary to her was grace-infused prudence.

As much as we can focus on her difficulties and mistreatments, St Mary MacKillop also had remarkable friends and support from Bishops – including Cardinals and the Pope – priests, Sisters, friends both Catholic and Protestant, from Australians and those abroad, and of course from family. There were so many blessings that filled her life. She committed her life to Christ, and as much as she shared His cross, He showered her with love and blessings also.

I know I haven't provided details in this reflection on Mary MacKillop – just generalities – however, perhaps it can motivate you to read "Mary MacKillop" by Fr Paul Gardiner SJ. Then, if you're ever in North Sydney, it will become a special occasion for you to visit and pray at her tomb, as I have many times. MacKillop died on 8th August 1909 in the Josephite convent in North Sydney. Her body remains there as a place of pilgrimage.

St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
1 st & 15 th Aug	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
Sun	10:00am	Rosary (Chapel)

— DIARY —

August

Tue	4 th	Ladies Morning Tea Rosary
Tue	4 th	Holy Hour – spend time with Jesus!
Thu	6 th	The Transfiguration of the Lord
Fri	7 th	St Mary MacKillop Feast Day School Mass – 9:30am
Fri	7 th	Catechesis by Fr John Paul Mount
Fri	7 th	First Friday Holy Hour
Sat	8 th	Parish Trivia Night
Sun	9 th	Baptism Preparation Session
Fri	14 th	Feast of the Assumption School Mass – 9:30am
Fri	14 th	Providence & Friends Anointing Mass
Sat	15 th	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thu	20 th	St Bernard of Clairvaux Feast Day
Sun	23 rd	St Bernard's Feast Day celebration

September

Sun	6 th	Father's Day
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— 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

TUESDAY HOLY HOUR

Come spend time with Jesus. Each hour with Him will deepen His divine peace in your heart. Visit Him in Adoration.

Tuesdays 7pm-8pm. Whether you come for the full hour or 15mins, you won't leave empty. Confession also available.

'IN THE BEGINNING'

Catechesis with Fr John Paul Mount

Friday 3rd July – Friday 7th August 2026

Each Friday evening in July, Fr John Paul is holding Catechesis commencing at 6:15pm in the Parish Centre. The final session will be held on Friday 7th August. All welcome.

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.

ST BERNARD'S PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday 8th August 2026 at 6:30pm

Dust off your thinking caps and enjoy the fun and excitement of our annual parish trivia night. Bring your friends, form a team, and win some prizes! BYO food and drinks.

Tickets now available via the QR code.

\$20 – Adults

\$10 – Youth (13-17 years)

Free – Children 12 years & under

Contact person: Thomas Halloran – 0431 504 402



trybooking.com/DNMTV

PARISH DONATIONS

To make a donation, scan the QR code:

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 Bernards 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 Bernards Parish Bacchus Marsh

BSB: 083 347 Account No. 651663131



LET US PRAY

Recently Deceased

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Death Anniversaries

Brian Blood, Ian Dominguez, Bishop Emeritus Peter Elliott, Mary Evans, David Fava, John McMahon, Kevin O'Brien, Audrey Peasley, Mary Shea, Gerard Wheelahan.

The Sick

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

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.

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

— LADIES MORNING TEA ROSARY —

Ladies young and old are warmly invited to come to a casual get together in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 4th August from 9:15am onward. We will aim to pray the Rosary around 9:30am (amid many playing toddlers), followed by morning tea. Bring a plate if you like. Children of all ages welcome. Come along and enjoy a morning of fellowship.

— 2026 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN —

9th, 16th & 23rd August 2026

The Archbishop's Campaign will run over three weekends in August, commencing next weekend. We are invited to reflect on what a vibrant faith community means for us and our families, and to consider making personal, recurring gifts in support of the vital ministries that serve our Archdiocese.

Campaign materials will be available throughout the parish and further information will be shared in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we are encouraged to begin prayerfully discerning our support. Thank you for the difference you are making.

— NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK —

2nd - 9th August 2026

Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

— AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL CENSUS —

Shape the Future: Be Counted as Catholic this Census

Australia's national Census will be held on Tuesday 11th August 2026. Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the question on religion. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services – guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.

— CHRISTUS REX PILGRIMAGE —

Ballarat to Bendigo, 22nd-25th October 2026

The Christus Rex Pilgrimage usually takes place each year on the last weekend of October in honour of the Kingship of Christ. This year, the pilgrimage begins with morning Mass on Friday 23rd October at St Patrick's Cathedral in Ballarat, and concludes with Solemn Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo on Sunday 25th October. During the pilgrimage, participants walk approximately 90 kilometers, engaging in prayer, song, sharing meals, with reflection and fellowship along the way.

Registration includes meals, accommodation, resources and support.

For more information, see <https://crex.org/>

— ROSTERS —

Church Cleaning Teams

Monday 10th August – Anne, Paul, Denise, Maddie, Lisa D, Nuala (if available)

Flowers

August – Rosabella Tuala

Ministers : 8th & 9th August

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Sonia Smith	Vicki Benson	Margot Short
8:30am	Maira Ross	Dominican Sisters	Jan & Colm Carragher
10:30am	Adrian Alimic	Jenny Kearney	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. All bookings through Marie Casey, Hall Manager.

Phone: (03) 5367 3427

Mon - Fri, 9:00am – 6:00pm

Entrance Antiphon

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

First Reading *Isaiah 55:1-3*

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 144:8-9, 15-18*

**R: The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

Response

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live.

Response

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts.

Response

Second Reading *Romans 8:35, 37-39*

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.
For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 4:4*

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 14:13-21*

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death, he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.
When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves, he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

Communion Antiphon

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

———— Next Sunday ————

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

<i>First Reading</i>	<i>1 Kings 19:9, 11-13</i>
<i>Responsorial Psalm</i>	<i>Psalms 84:9-14</i>
<i>Second Reading</i>	<i>Romans 9:1-5</i>
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Matthew 14:22-33</i>