



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23rd August 2026

— ST BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX —

This Sunday, we celebrate the feast of our spiritual patron, St Bernard of Clairvaux (1090AD - 20th August 1153). St Bernard is truly one of the great saints of the Church. He is a spiritual master of the Church, and also a giant in terms of his influence on the Church and the history of our world. For instance, after St Bernard, and with the enlivening of the faith and life in Europe following his life, came great saints like St Dominic (and the Dominicans), St Francis of Assisi (and the Franciscans). These two saints would not have come about without St Bernard. Last year, I wrote much about his influence, but this year I wish to simply let him speak for himself. The following is from the Office of Readings (Hour of Matins).

From a sermon of St Bernard of Clairvaux

"Love is sufficient of itself, it gives pleasure by itself and because of itself. It is its own merit, its own reward. Love looks for no cause outside itself, no effect beyond itself. Its profit lies in its practice. I love because I love, I love that I may love. Love is a great thing so long as it continually returns to its fountainhead, flows back to its source, always drawing from there the water which constantly replenishes it. Of all the movements, sensations and feelings of the soul, love is the only one in which the creature can respond to the Creator and make some sort of similar return however unequal it may be. For when God loves, all he desires is to be loved in return; the sole purpose of his love is to be loved, in the knowledge that those who love him are made happy by their love of him.

The Bridegroom's love, or rather the love which is the Bridegroom, asks in return nothing but faithful love. Let the beloved, then, love in return. Should not a bride love, and above all, Love's bride? Could it be that Love not be loved?

Rightly then does she give up all other feelings and give herself wholly to love alone; in giving love back, all she can do is to respond to love. And when she has poured out her whole being in love, what is that in comparison with the unceasing torrent of that original source? Clearly, lover and Love, soul and Word, bride and Bridegroom, creature and Creator do not flow with the same volume; one might as well equate a thirsty man with the fountain.

What then of the bride's hope, her aching desire, her passionate love, her confident assurance? Is all this to wilt just because she cannot match stride for stride with her giant, any more than she can vie with honey for sweetness, rival the lamb for gentleness, show herself as white as the lily, burn as bright as the sun, be equal in love with him who is Love? No. It is true that the creature loves less because she is less. But if she loves with her whole being, nothing is lacking where everything is given. To love so ardently then is to share the marriage bond; she cannot love so much and not be totally loved, and it is in the perfect union of two hearts that complete and total marriage consists. Or are we to doubt that the soul is loved by the Word first and with a greater love?"

May St Bernard pray for our Parish and all those in particular need. By his intercession, may our Parish, School and families be protected from every evil, and be filled with the Holy Spirit's gifts of faith, hope and love.

Happy feast day to all.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday

5th & 19th Sept 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

Sun	23 rd	St Bernard's Feast Day celebration Pot Luck Lunch
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September

Fri	4 th	First Friday Holy Hour
Sun	6 th	Father's Day
Fri	11 th	Providence & Friends Mass
Sun	13 th	Baptism Preparation Session
Fri	18 th	Last Day of School Term 3

October

Mon	5 th	School Term 4 commences
Thu	15 th	Sacrament of Reconciliation Reflection Evening – 6:30pm
Sat	17 th	Sacrament of Reconciliation Commitment Mass – 5:00pm
22 nd - 25 th		Christus Rex Pilgrimage Ballarat to Bendigo

— 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

EXPRESSO ALFRESCO

Thank You

Many thanks to Maria and Lucas for serving hot drinks from their coffee van last Sunday, and for the \$407 which was raised for the Parish.

Also, it was great to have the lovely volunteer, Scarlett, who helped to run things more smoothly on the day.

ST BERNARD'S FEAST DAY

Pot Luck Lunch – Sunday 23rd August 2026

A Pot Luck Lunch will be held in the Parish Centre after the 10:30am Mass this Sunday 23rd August to celebrate the feast day of our patron saint. If you are attending, we ask you to bring a plate to share to ensure there is enough food to go around.

FUNERAL

Funeral Prayers for Bernice Light will be held this Tuesday 25th August at 11:00am. Sincere condolences to all her family.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace †

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Every Monday at 3:00pm, the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed in the church. All welcome.

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

Joan Coughlan

Death Anniversaries

Harper Button, Terrence Delahey, Alice Doolan,
Phillip Lennox, Antonio Schembri, Brian Ward.

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, 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

— 2026 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN —

Sunday 23rd August 2026 – Special Collection

This is the final weekend of the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign, and everyone is asked to consider a one-time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Information brochures can be found around the church.

Online donations (via direct debit or credit card) are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made using the QR code provided. You can also donate through the supplied campaign envelopes, or anonymously with cash directly into the Special Collection this weekend.

— PERMANENT DIACONATE —

Online Information Meeting via ZOOM

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session via ZOOM is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

When: Tuesday 22nd September 2026, 7:00pm-8:00pm

Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison at Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

In the week before the session, the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

— EUCHARIST28 —

In 2028, Sydney will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress – one of the largest Christian gatherings in the world which began in the 1880s to promote reverence for Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. It is coming to Australia after the Congress was first hosted here a century ago.

With the Pope expected to visit and hundreds of thousands of pilgrims anticipated from around the globe, it will be an historic moment of Christian witness, uniting people in faith, worship and reflection to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist.

Sign up to follow the journey and be part of the story. Go to www.eucharist28.org

— 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 7th September – Anne, Paul, Denise, Lisa D, Nuala

Flowers

August – Rosabella

September – Jenn Costin

Ministers : 29th & 30th August

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Maureen Zahra	Colin Remedios	Margot Short
8:30am	Evana Carragher	Tup Shea	Denise O'Gorman
10:30am	Thomas Halloran	Adrian Alimic	Cheryl Stevens

— 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

St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor
Mass of the Saint

Entrance Procession

Filled by the Lord with a spirit of understanding,
blessed Bernard ministered streams of clear teaching
to the people of God.

First Reading *Sirach 15:1-6*

Whoever fears the Lord will act like this,
and whoever grasps the Law will obtain wisdom.
She will come to meet him like a mother,
and receive him like a virgin bride.
She will give him the bread of understanding to eat,
and the water of wisdom to drink.
He will lean on her and will not fall,
he will rely on her and not be put to shame.
She will raise him high above his neighbours,
and in full assembly she will open his mouth.
He will find happiness and a crown of joy,
he will inherit an everlasting name.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 118:9-14*

R: Lord, teach me your decrees.

How shall the young remain sinless?
By obeying your word.
I have sought you with all my heart:
let me not stray from your commands.

Response

I treasure your promise in my heart
lest I sin against you.
Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes.

Response

With my tongue I have recounted
the decrees of your lips.
I rejoiced to do your will
as though all riches were mine.

Response

Second Reading *Ephesians 3:14-19*

This is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every
family, whether spiritual or natural, takes its name:

Out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his
Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live
in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built
on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the
breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until, knowing
the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled
with utter fullness of God.

Gospel Acclamation *John 15:9, 5*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Remain in my love, says the Lord;
all who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel *John 17:20-26*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father,
I pray not only for these,
but for those also
who through their words will believe in me.
May they all be one.
Father, may they be one in us,
as you are in me and I am in you,
so that the world may believe that it was you who sent me.
I have given them the glory that you gave to me,
that they may be one as we are one.
With me in them and you in me,
may they be so completely one
that the world will realise that it was you who sent me
and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

Father,
I want those you have given me
to be with me where I am,
so that they may always see the glory
you have given me
because you loved me
before the foundation of the world.
Father, Righteous One,
the world has not known you,
but I have known you,
and these have known
that you have sent me.
I have made your name known to them
and will continue to make it known,
so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,
and so that I may be in them.'

Communion Antiphon

As the Father loves me, so I also love you;
remain in my love, says the Lord.

———— Next Sunday ————

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

First Reading	Jeremiah 20:7-9
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 62:2-6, 8-9
Second Reading	Romans 12:1-2
Gospel	Matthew 16:21-27