



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

13th September 2026

— ST GREGORY THE GREAT —

St Gregory the Great was made Pope in the year 590AD. The following is a sermon from him that is very human. If you research his life, he was something of a genius, and achieved so much in his time as Pope. Yet we hear him lamenting that he has been taken from his monastery to take up such an enormous responsibility:

‘Son of man, I have appointed you as watchman to the house of Israel.’ Note that Ezekiel, whom the Lord sent to preach his word, is described as a watchman. Now a watchman always takes up his position on the heights so that he can see from a distance whatever approaches. Likewise, whoever is appointed watchman to a people should live a life on the heights so that he can help them by taking a wide survey.

These words are hard to utter, for when I speak it is myself that I am reproaching. I do not preach as I should nor does my life follow the principles I preach so inadequately.

I do not deny that I am guilty, for I see my torpor and my negligence. Perhaps my very recognition of failure will win me pardon from a sympathetic judge. When I lived in a monastic community, I was able to keep my tongue from idle topics and to devote my mind almost continually to the discipline of prayer. Since taking on my shoulders the burden of pastoral care, I have been unable to keep steadily recollected because my mind is distracted by many responsibilities.

I am forced to consider questions affecting churches and monasteries and often I must judge the lives and actions of individuals; at one moment I am forced to take part in certain civil affairs, next I must worry over the incursions of barbarians and fear the wolves who menace the flock entrusted to my care; now I must accept political responsibility in order to give support to those who preserve the rule of law; now I must bear patiently the villainies of brigands, and then I must confront them, yet in all charity.

My mind is sundered and torn to pieces by the many and serious things I have to think about. When I try to concentrate and gather all my intellectual resources for preaching, how can I do justice to the sacred ministry of the word? I am often compelled by the nature of my position to associate with men of the world, and sometimes I relax the discipline of my speech. If I preserved the rigorously inflexible mode of utterance that my conscience dictates, I know that the weaker sort of men would recoil from me and that I could never attract them to the goal I desire for them. So I must frequently listen patiently to their aimless chatter. Because I am weak myself, I am drawn gradually into idle talk and I find myself saying the kind of thing that I didn't even care to listen to before. I enjoy lying back where I once was loath to stumble.

Who am I — what kind of watchman am I? I do not stand on the pinnacle of achievement; I languish rather in the depths of my weakness. And yet the creator and redeemer of mankind can give me, unworthy though I be, the grace to see life whole and power to speak effectively of it. It is for love of him that I do not spare myself in preaching him.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
19 th Sept & 17 th Oct	6:30pm (Vigil)
Sat 4 th Oct	no Mass

— 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 —

September

Sun	13 th	Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun	13 th	Baptism Preparation Session
Fri	18 th	Last Day of School Term 3
Sun	20 th	eXpresso alfresco coffee van
Fri	25 th	Men's Poker Night

October

Mon	5 th	School Term 4 commences
Wed	14 th	Combined Churches prayer meeting
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

November

Sat	7 th	St Bernard's Parish Bush Dance
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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

MORNING TEA

Morning tea will be held after 8:30am Mass this Sunday 13th September.

FUNERAL

The funeral for Joan Coughlan will be held in the Sacred Heart Cathedral, 80 Wattle Street, Bendigo on Thursday 17th September at 1:00pm, followed by burial at 3:00pm, Elmore Cemetery, Elmore-Raywood Road, Elmore.

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

EXPRESSO ALFRESCO

Next weekend, we welcome Maria and Lucas, who will be serving hot drinks from their coffee van after the morning Masses on Sunday 20th September.

MEN'S POKER NIGHT

Friday 25th September

Our annual men's poker night is taking place on Friday 25th September. This is an opportunity to enjoy a fun night and form connections with other men in the parish.

Please get in touch with Thomas Halloran on 0431 504 402 if you'd like to attend (strictly 18+).

COMBINED CHURCHES

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday 14th October

Together with St Bernard's, this prayer meeting is a gathering of the local Christian churches in Bacchus Marsh – Catalyst Baptist Church, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, and Bacchus Marsh Christian Church.

When: Wednesday 14th October at 7:30pm

Where: Bacchus Marsh Christian Church
222 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh

Like the parable of the Good Samaritan, let us come together in solidarity to prayerfully participate in recognising others in our community, and understanding how we live and interact with our neighbours, and giving them equal dignity.

All parishioners are invited to attend and most 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

Sr Helen Reid RSJ

Death Anniversaries

Frank Doyle, Nellie Hosemans, Joe O'Brien,
Damian van der Linden, Michael Williams.

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

DEFIBRILLATORS AT ST BERNARD'S PARISH

The date for the training has been set for Tuesday 15th September at 10:00am. All those who signed up for this training have been contacted to confirm the date and time. Sue from DeFib for Life will conduct the session which will take about an hour and will take place in the Parish Centre.

If you would like to attend the training but did not sign up last weekend, we invite you to contact Vicki Benson on 0448 966 120 by Monday 14th September so that numbers can be confirmed with Sue.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

13th September 2026 – “Love Protects”

Safeguarding is a culture. It must be lived, going beyond the written policies and procedures. Policies matter but culture is what people experience.

Safeguarding is more than a policy, a training requirement or a compliance task. It is how a community puts safety, dignity and wellbeing at the heart of how people lead, serve, participate and belong. In our Catholic setting, we strive to have safeguarding visible in relationships, ministry, governance, decisions and everyday practice.

As we gather to mark Safeguarding Sunday, we are encouraged to reflect on the example of Jesus, who welcomed and protected the vulnerable and marginalised. His ministry inspires the Church's commitment to care, respect and justice.

A Message from the Most Reverend Peter A. Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne

What begins with a conversation can change a life. This year's Safeguarding Sunday theme, “Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversations to Action”, reminds us that listening, speaking up and responding with care are vital steps in building a culture of safety and trust. As we celebrate Safeguarding Sunday on 13th September, at the conclusion of National Child Protection Week, we renew our commitment to ensuring our Parishes, Communities and Ministries are places where children, young people and adults at risk are welcomed, valued and protected.

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.

CATHOLIC SUMMER FAMILY CAMP

Dromana, 23rd - 25th January 2027

Parishioners at St Bernard are warmly invited to join a Catholic Summer Family Camp for families in the west, 23rd-25th January 2027 at Don Bosco Camp in Dromana. Join us for a relaxed weekend with daily Mass, fellowship with families and lots of time at the beach!

For more information, contact Leeanne and Osta Surjadi or Meg Kennedy via the parish office.

ROSTERS

Church Cleaning Teams

Saturday 19th September – Adrian, Allan, Veronica, Brendan, Yenny
Monday 28th September – Anne, Paul, Denise, Maddie, Lisa D, Nuala

Flowers

September – Jenn Costin

Ministers : 19th & 20th September

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Lisa Dolin	Vicki Benson	Nuala Beatie
8:30am	Evana Carragher	Moir Ross	Jan & Colm Carragher
10:30am	Beatrice Younger	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 Procession

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

First Reading *Sirach 27:30 – 28:7*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 102:1-4, 9-12*

**R: *The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.***

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

Response

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

Response

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

Response

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Response

Second Reading *Romans 14:7-9*

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation *John 13:34*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
Love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 18:21-35*

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Next Sunday

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

First Reading	Isaiah 55:6-9
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18
Second Reading	Philippians
Gospel	Matthew 20:1-16