



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

20th September 2026

— OUR LADY OF SORROWS —

Last Monday was the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. We always follow that feast with Our Lady of Sorrows. The following is a sermon from our beloved Patron, St Bernard, on this feast day. For the front page of the newsletter while I am on my holidays, there will be selections of the Catholic Compendium on prayer. The *Compendium* is a summary of the *Catechism* in 'question and answer' form.

A Sermon of St Bernard of Clairvaux on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

"The martyrdom of the Virgin is set forth both in the prophecy of Simeon and in the actual story of our Lord's passion. The holy old man said of the infant Jesus: "He has been established as a sign which will be contradicted." He went on to say to Mary: "And your own heart will be pierced by a sword." (Lk 2:34,35)

Truly, O blessed Mother, a sword has pierced your heart. For only by passing through your heart could the sword enter the flesh of your Son. Indeed, after your Jesus – who belongs to everyone, but is especially yours – gave up his life, the cruel spear, which was not withheld from his lifeless body, tore open his side. Clearly it did not touch his soul and could not harm him, but it did pierce your heart. For surely his soul was no longer there, but yours could not be torn away. Thus the violence of sorrow has cut through your heart, and we rightly call you more than martyr, since the effect of compassion in you has gone beyond the endurance of physical suffering.

Or were those words, "Woman, behold your son" (Jn 19:26), not more than a word to you, truly piercing your heart, cutting through to the division between soul and spirit? What an exchange! John is given to you in place of Jesus, the servant in place of the Lord, the disciple in place of the master; the son of Zebedee replaces the Son of God, a mere man replaces God himself. How could these words not pierce your most loving heart, when the mere remembrance of them breaks ours, hearts of iron and stone though they are!

Do not be surprised, brothers, that Mary is said to be a martyr in spirit. Let him be surprised who does not remember the words of Paul, that one of the greatest crimes of the Gentiles was that they were without love. That was far from the heart of Mary; let it be far from her servants.

Perhaps someone will say: "Had she not known before that he would not die?" Undoubtedly. "Did she not expect him to rise again at once?" Surely. "And still she grieved over her crucified Son?" Intensely. Who are you and what is the source of your wisdom that you are more surprised at the compassion of Mary than at the passion of Mary's Son? For if he could die in body, could she not die with him in spirit? He died in body through a love greater than anyone had known. She died in spirit through a love unlike any other since his."

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday
19th Sept & 17th Oct 6:30pm (Vigil)
Sat 3rd Oct 6:30pm Mass cancelled

— WEEKDAY MASSES —

Mon no Mass
Tue 22nd Sept 9:30am
to Fri 2nd Oct during school holidays
Sat 26th Sept & 3rd Oct 9:30am cancelled

— CONFESSION —

30 minutes prior to each Mass
& during Holy Hour

— DEVOTIONS —

Mon 3:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Tue 7:00pm Holy Hour cancelled
22nd & 29th Sept & 6th Oct
Fri 24 hours First Friday Adoration
Fri 7:00pm First Friday Holy Hour
2nd Oct cancelled
Sun 10:00am Rosary (Chapel)

— DIARY —

September

Sun 20th eXpresso alfresco coffee van
Fri 25th Grand Final Public Holiday
Fri 25th Men's Poker Night

October

Mon 5th School Term 4 commences
Sun 11th Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun 11th Baptism Preparation Session
Wed 14th Combined Churches prayer meeting
Thu 15th Sacrament of Reconciliation
Reflection Evening – 6:30pm
Sat 17th Sacrament of Reconciliation
Commitment Mass – 5:00pm
22nd - 25th 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

AMENDMENT TO SERVICES

21st September to 12th October

Weekday Masses during the school holidays will be held at 9:30am, Tuesday-Friday, 22nd September to 2nd October.

9:30am Masses on Saturday 26th September and 3rd October are cancelled. Also, 6:30pm Mass at Korobeit on Saturday 3rd October is cancelled.

Holy Hour on Tuesday evenings on 22nd & 29th September and 6th October are cancelled, as well as First Friday Holy Hour on Friday 2nd October.

EXPRESSO ALFRESCO

This 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

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Death Anniversaries

Elaine Brooke, Lindsay Dally, Brian Lewis,
Francis McGlinchey, Kerry Mullane, Leslie Scott,
Edna Thorne, Gwen Tottle, Jack Walta.

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

— UPDATE ON DEFIBRILLATOR UNITS —

A very successful training session was held on Tuesday 15th September, and two units will be installed shortly – one in the Parish Centre and one in the Church. A 'thank you' letter has been sent to Community Bank Bacchus Marsh acknowledging our gratitude for the grant provided to our Parish.

— SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY —

This Sunday 20th September, we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day, we invite all to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 43 member organisations.

— 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.

— MARCH FOR THE BABIES —

Saturday 10th October

This is the 17th Annual March for the Babies and, every year since 2009, thousands of Victorians have gathered peacefully with grief and hope to remember the victims of abortion, and to support a change in laws and culture.

Come and show your support and march for the babies at 1:00pm on Saturday 10th October at Treasury Gardens, cnr Spring Street and Wellington Parade, Melbourne.

Wear pink and blue for the Babies! www.marchforthebabies.com

A free bus is being offered for your parish – if you can recruit 58 people, a number required by those who are financing this offer. Departure from your church or similar location, and return after the event. Details to follow soon.

— 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

Monday 28th September – Anne, Paul, Denise, Maddie, Lisa D, Nuala

Saturday 17th October – Adrian, Allan, Veronica, Brendan, Yenny

Flowers

September – Jenn Costin

October – Rosabella Tuala

Ministers : 26th & 27th September

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Jeremy Toledo	Colin Remedios	Jan Farmelo
8:30am	Nathan Costin	Margot Short	Denise O'Gorman
10:30am	Adrian Alimic	Vanina Isah	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

Entrance Procession

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading *Isaiah 55:6-9*

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18*

R: The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.

Response

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

Response

Second Reading *Philippians 1:20-24, 27*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation *cf Acts 16:14*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 20:1-16*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us", they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too."

In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?"

Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

— Next Sunday —

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

First Reading	Ezekiel 18:25-28
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 24:4-9
Second Reading	Philippians 2:1-11
Gospel	Matthew 21:28-32