



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6th September 2026

— FATHER'S DAY —

Perhaps my favourite TV series over the last many years has been *Alone*. Ten contestants are dropped off in a remote wilderness – usually in Vancouver, Canada, or some seasons are in Alaska or even Patagonia – many miles separating them so they won't encounter each other. They are alone, very limited in their gear, but with 10 chosen items, such as a tarp, a ferro rod (to start fires), wire for snares, fishing wire, a saw, a knife, and in some seasons a bow and arrow. They film their journey themselves. The winner of \$500,000 US is the person that survives the longest without tapping out or being pulled out by the medical team.

As well as trying to survive by building a shelter and finding food, the contestants spend a lot of time alone and reflecting. A large percentage will tap out not because of hunger, but from loneliness and wanting to be with their family. Generally, it is the longest time they have spent alone and in silence. Silence and hardship really define *Alone*. After many weeks and sometimes months, contestants can become very reflective. As you can imagine, many will examine themselves, their past, what is important for the future and examine their relationships – including their relationship with God and their family.

In Season 13, there is an Australian from New South Wales, named Nero, who reflects on his relationship with his father. He came into *Alone* saying that he didn't have the best relationship with his father growing up but that he wanted to be a better father himself. The following are not his exact words, I'm going from memory, but it's pretty close. At around day 55, after much reflection, Nero says, "I wish that my father had spent more time with me growing up. To this day, I have a narrative of my childhood that my father was working so much that he was too busy to spend time with me. I realise that, perhaps unconsciously, I have been carrying around resentment towards my father for this. But reflecting on this now, I have been unfair. My dad would do anything for me. Even now if I ask for help, he'd be there immediately. I realise now that as I was growing up, he was actually working hard for his family, sacrificing for me." He said all this through many tears, and continued, "...I haven't been grateful to my father. Thank you, dad, I love you... I came on this show hoping to become a better father. I've ended up becoming a better son."

It's impossible not to be moved by such a reflection from a grown man. Nero himself is not a religious man. However, there is a lot of power in silence and hardship. Silence and carrying the cross make it possible for God to speak to us in ways that are impossible any other way.

A happy Father's Day to you all. I think all of us can strive to be better sons/daughters, and better fathers. Perhaps our prayer today is that God can speak to us in the silence of our hearts, and through the adversity we daily face, to make our families closer and more united.

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 —

September

Sun 6th Father's Day
Tue 8th Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Fri 11th Providence & Friends Mass
Sun 13th Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Sun 13th Baptism Preparation Session
Fri 18th Last Day of School Term 3
Fri 25th Men's Poker Night

October

Mon 5th School Term 4 commences
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

November

Sat 7th St Bernard's Parish Bush Dance

— 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

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Thank you to all fathers and father figures for their love, guidance, and role in shaping families and communities. With gratitude, we honour dads, grandads, stepfathers and mentors who provide their support and care.

PROVIDENCE & FRIENDS MASS

Friday 11th September

Parishioners are invited to the monthly Providence & Friends Mass on Friday 11th September, 11:00am at Providence Village. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea/lunch. If transport is required, please let the Parish Office know, or call Margot Short on 0419 507 438.

MORNING TEA

Sunday 13th September

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

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

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

Angelina Baiti, Gerard Condon, Harry Gixti,
Peg Shanahan, Fr Peter Sinnema, Bon Steele,
Edward Thorne, Jim White.

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

We are delighted to communicate that we have been successful in obtaining a grant from Community Bank Bacchus Marsh to purchase two defibrillator units. These will be installed in the Parish Centre and in the Church.

We are in the process of organising a session for training of the use of these. If you are interested in attending the initial training session, could you please record your name and contact details on the clipboard in the Gathering Space. We will then arrange a date and time with the provider, and be in contact with all those who have indicated their interest to attend the training.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

6th -12th September 2026

Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversations to Action

NCPW is a national campaign that brings Australians together to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

NCPW reminds us that protecting children is everyone's responsibility – not just the role of specialists or government services. It encourages parents and carers, community leaders, service providers, policymakers, neighbours and young people to consider how our everyday actions and decisions can contribute to children's safety and wellbeing.

Find out how you can be involved at <https://www.napcan.org.au/ncpw-2/>

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.

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

Saturday 19th September – Adrian, Allan, Veronica, Brendan, Yenny

Flowers

September – Jenn Costin

Ministers : 12th & 13th September

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Sonia Smith	Jackie Tabone	Margot Short
8:30am	Dominican Sisters	Dominican Sisters	Carmel Shea
10:30am	Adrian Alimic	Cheryl Stevens	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

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading *Ezekiel 33:7-9*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 94:1-2, 6-9*

**R: O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Response

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

Response

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Response

Second Reading *Romans 13:8-10*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation *2 Corinthians 5:19*

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 18:15-20*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Communion Antiphon

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

———— Next Sunday ————

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

First Reading	Sirach 27:30 – 28:7
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 102:1-4, 9-12
Second Reading	Romans 14:7-9
Gospel	Matthew 18:21-35