



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

18th October 2026

— ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH —

I'm back from my holiday and I'm very thankful to those priests who filled in while I was away. When in Rome, I was with an estimated 35,000 others at a Wednesday public audience with the Pope who was truly happy and joyous amongst the people, which was great to see. Please pray for him as he has recently been diagnosed with cancer and been operated on. Jet-lag has hit me hard since returning – can't sleep at night and can't stay awake during the day! – so it'll take a few days to adjust.

Saturday was the feast of St Ignatius of Antioch. He is an 'Apostolic Father' which means he was one of the immediate successors of the Apostles and whose writing we still have. He wrote seven letters to the Churches. They are important because they show how much of the Church and its teachings, as we know them today, were already established.

For instance, the letter to the Smyrneans refers to the 'Catholic' Church. The letter to the Ephesians refers to the virginity of Mary, and the 'Breaking of the one Bread'. And this letter, as well as the letters to the Magnesians, Trallians, Philadelphians, speaks of the structure of the Church in Bishops, Priests and Deacons already being established. And these, plus letters to the Romans and Smyrneans for instance, speak of the Eucharist being the Body and Blood of Christ.

In the letter to the Philadelphians, Ignatius writes, "Take care, therefore, to participate in the one Eucharist – for there is one flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one cup that leads to unity through His blood; there is one altar, just as there is one bishop, together with the council of presbyters, and the deacons." Again, in the letter to the Smyrneans when speaking of heretics he says, "They abstain from the Eucharist and prayer because they refuse to acknowledge that the Eucharist is the flesh of our saviour Jesus Christ."

The following is part of his letter to the Romans. In this letter, he is speaking of his upcoming martyrdom by being fed to the lions. What I find particularly powerful in this letter is that he describes his martyrdom in Eucharistic terms. Which also means that we participate in the death of Christ though our participation in the Eucharist. And by participate, we also mean contribute – we contribute our part to the work of salvation.

St Ignatius of Antioch to the Romans

I am writing to all the churches to let it be known that I will gladly die for God if only you do not stand in my way. I plead with you: show me no untimely kindness. Let me be food for the wild beasts, for they are my way to God. I am God's wheat and shall be ground by their teeth so that I may become Christ's pure bread. Pray to Christ for me that the animals will be the means of making me a sacrificial victim for God.

No earthly pleasures, no kingdoms of this world can benefit me in any way. I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth. He who died in place of us is the one object of my quest. He who rose for our sakes is my one desire.

For though I am alive as I write to you, still my real desire is to die. My love of this life has been crucified, and there is no yearning in me for any earthly thing. Rather, within me is the living water which says deep inside me: "Come to the Father." I no longer take pleasure in perishable food or in the delights of this world. I want only God's bread, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, formed of the seed of David, and for drink I crave his blood, which is love that cannot perish. Pray for me that I may obtain my desire.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

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

OLHC, Korobeit

1st & 3rd Saturday
17th Oct & 7th Nov 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 20th Oct cancelled
Fri 24 hours First Friday Adoration
Fri 7:00pm First Friday Holy Hour
Sun 10:00am Rosary (Chapel)

— DIARY —

October

Sat 17th Sacrament of Reconciliation
Commitment Mass – 5:00pm
22nd - 25th Christus Rex Pilgrimage
Ballarat to Bendigo

November

Sun 1st All Saints
Sun 1st Morning Tea after 8:30am Mass
Mon 2nd The Commemoration of all the
Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)
Tue 3rd Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday
Sat 7th St Bernard's Bush Dance
Sun 8th Baptism Preparation Session
Fri 13th Providence & Friends Mass
Thu 26th Sacrament of Reconciliation
Celebration

— 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

SERVICES CANCELLED

Next weekend, as Fr John Paul will be attending the Christus Rex Pilgrimage, the following Masses have been cancelled:

9:30am Friday 23rd October, and 9:30am Saturday 24th October.

Also, Holy Hour on Tuesday 20th October is cancelled.

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/>

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Commitment Mass – Saturday 17th October

Today, let us pray for the children who have been preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and for their families as they continue to support their child's faith journey.

Dear Lord,

*As these children prepare to receive their First Reconciliation,
fill their hearts with peace and confidence in Your unfailing love.*

*May they come to know the beauty of Your mercy, the joy of forgiveness,
and the freedom that comes from being reconciled with You.*

Guide them always in Your light,

that they may grow in faith and trust in Your goodness. Amen.

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

...

Death Anniversaries

Kevin Bridges, Kevin Cummins, Patricia Knight,
Maureen Orr, Margaret Scott, Patricia Shanahan.

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, Peter Roberts, Krystal Shea,
Rosanna Tejedor, Carmel Welsh,
and all those who need our prayers.

(This Sick List will be reviewed every 3 months.)

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

ST BERNARD'S BUSH DANCE

Saturday 7th November 2026

St Bernard's Bush Dance will be held on Saturday 7th November at 6:00pm in the St Bernard's Primary School Recreation Centre. Bring your family and friends to enjoy traditional Australian Bush tunes and guided dances by the Slip Slide Bush Band. No skills needed!

Please bring a plate to share for supper. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided.

Book by scanning the QR code, or by going to <https://www.trybooking.com/DQCUS>

Adults (18+) - \$30

Teens (13-17) - \$10

Child (6-12) - \$5

Child under 6 - Free



Donations for Bush Dance Raffle

The Social & Fundraising Committee would like to ask for donations to help create wonderful raffle prizes to be won at the upcoming bush dance. The proceeds will go towards supporting our parish. Donations can be left in the Gathering Space of the church after each Mass until Sunday 1st November.

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food Program Inc has seen a huge increase in our number of guests over the last few years. Last year, we provided Christmas gifts for 150 children in need. Soul Food are once again looking for generous people to be a Sponsor for one of our children this Christmas.

You will be given a first name and age, and asked to buy some presents for the child, to put into a gift bag (unwrapped) and deliver to Soul Food for distribution. The present will be handed to your child at our Christmas function, or to the parent for use on Christmas Day.

For many of our children, these are the only gifts they will receive for Christmas. We would like to collect the presents in the last week of November, so we can be organised early. If this is something you would like to do, please call Jenny on 0408 104 155, and you will be allocated a local child in need of a little help.

SICK LIST UPDATE

Chinenye Victoria Oriaku Nwalozie contacted our Parish Office to let us know that she has been in good health and very well since early 2025, but she thanks the Parish for all our prayers.

The Sick List will now be reviewed every quarter. Please advise the Parish Office if you have any queries.

HYMN BOOKS

Could anyone who has taken a hymn book from the church please return it as soon as possible? For those who wish to continue providing music, please use the online resources on the parish website. Contact the parish office for details on how to access these resources.

ROSTERS

Church Cleaning Teams

Monday 26th October – Anne, Paul, Denise, Maddie, Lisa D, Nuala

Saturday 7th November – Adrian, Allan, Veronica, Yenny

Flowers

October – Rosabella Tuala

Ministers : 24th & 25th October

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Vicki Benson	Henry Gasior	Carmel Shea
8:30am	Dominican Sisters	Margot Short	Denise O'Gorman
10:30am	Thomas Halloran	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 Antiphon

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading *Isaiah 45:1, 4-6*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 95:1, 3-5, 7-10*

R: Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Response

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.

Response

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Response

Worship the Lord in his temple,
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king,'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

Response

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 1:1-5*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation *Philippians 2:15-16*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 22:15-21*

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he replied, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

Communion Antiphon

Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

— Next Sunday —

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

First Reading	Exodus 22:20-26
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 17:2-4, 47, 51
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
Gospel	Matthew 22:34-40