

Catholic Parish of Bacchus Marsh

St Bernard's Bacchus Marsh / Our Lady Help of Christians, Korobeit

61 Lerderderg Street, Bacchus Marsh 3340

309 Myrningong-Korobeit Road, Korobeit 3341

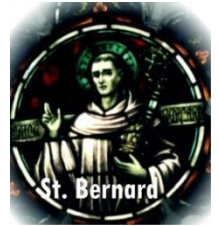


St B

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Parish Priest: Fr Fabian Smith
Assistant Priests: Fr Patrick Bradford & Fr John Paul Mount
Parish Office Staff: Dolores Turcsan & Naim Chdid
Parish Office Hours: Tues–Thu 9:00am–1:00pm, Fri 10:00am–2:00pm



Third Sunday of Advent – Year B 17th December 2017

REJOICING IN GOD, OUR SAVIOUR. Christmas is a feast of joy and light. We celebrate God who comes to dwell among us and save us. With the prophet Isaiah, we exult for joy in the Lord. With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our saviour. We do not deny the pain and evil that exist in the world, but we rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus.

MASS & DEVOTION TIMES THIS WEEK

St Bernard's

1 hour Adoration before every *weekday* Mass

Monday 18th no Mass
Tuesday 19th 5:30pm
6:15pm *Advent Reflection on "Obedience"*
Wednesday 20th 9:30am
Thursday 21st 9:30am
Friday 22nd 9:30am
Saturday 23rd 5:00pm (Vigil)
Sunday 24th 8:30am & 10:00am
7:00pm Vigil Family Mass
10:30pm Mass

Our Lady Help of Christians

Saturday 23rd 6:30pm Mass
Sunday 24th 8:00pm Vigil Mass

RECONCILIATION – 1ST RITE

Thursday 21st 6:30pm *St Anthony's*
Friday 22nd 6:30pm *St Bernard's*
Saturday 23rd 4:15pm *St Bernard's*

ROSARY is held every *Monday* at 7:30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour, **except over the Christmas/New Year break.** It will resume on 15th January 2018.

Rosary is also held on the **first Friday** of the month following morning Mass.

Next First Friday: 5th January 2018

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is held on the **first Friday** of the month (**except January**) from 10:00am to 7:00pm. All are welcome to come along and spend some time with the Lord.

Next Adoration: 2nd February 2018

CHILDREN'S LITURGY is held every **Sunday** during 10:00am Mass.

Please Note: Children's Liturgy *will not* be held in January, but will **resume in February 2018.**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

FIRST READING ISAIAH 61:1-2, 10-11
Exult for joy in the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM LUKE 1:46-50, 53-54, R. ISAIAH 61:10
R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24
May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ISAIAH 61:1 (LUKE 4:18)
Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28
There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON ISAIAH 35:4
Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

St Bernard's (continued)

SENIOR PARISHIONERS' MASS is held on the **second Friday** of the month (except **January**) in the Parish Centre at **11:00am**. Everybody is welcome, not just the seniors.
Next Seniors' Mass: 16th February 2018

PROVIDENCE MASS

The Village, 5-7 Griffith Street, Maddingley
Mass is held on the **first Friday** of the month (except **January**) at **11:00am**.
Next Mass: 2nd February 2018

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM

is held on the **fourth Sunday** of the month in the Parish Centre at **11:15am**.
Next Program: 28th January 2018
Registration forms can be downloaded from our website: www.pol.cam.org.au/bacchusmarsh. Bring completed Registration Form with a copy of Birth Certificate to the program.
Please note: Both parents are required to attend the program.

MORNING TEA is held on the **first Sunday** of the month (except **January**) in the Parish Centre after **10:00am Mass**.

Next Morning Tea: 4th February 2018
Host: Parish Pastoral Council

Parish Centre Bookings

Tel: 5367 3427 Mon-Fri 9:00am to 6:00pm
Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

Hopetoun Catholic Cemetery

Bacchus Marsh Road, Bacchus Marsh

Catholic Museum

88 Main Street West
Convent Lane, Bacchus Marsh

St Vincent de Paul Society

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330

The new Vinnies store is now open and we are calling for more volunteers. If you would like more information, please ring **0417 525 617**.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION
\$441.30 was collected at last weekend Masses.
Thank you for your generous support, especially at this time of year.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the church and the foyer.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES
Readers, Eucharist Ministers and Altar Servers for **Christmas Eve 7:00pm** Vigil Family Mass and **10:30pm** Mass, and **Christmas Day** Masses at **8:30am** and **10:00am**. Please put your name on the clipboard in the church foyer.

To the lady who lost her shopping on Saturday 9th December at the 5:00pm Mass. Please call into the Sacristy.

MINISTRIES 16th & 17th December 2017			
Mass Times	5pm Sat Vigil	8:30am Sun	10:00am Sun
Min/s of the Word	Sandra Ibrahim	Peter Lafranchi / Margaret Love	James Waters
Min/s Eucharist	Colin Remedios	Colm Carragher	Jennifer Taylor
Gifts Procession	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Altar Servers	(as noted in the roster)		
Piety	16th December 17th December	Jan & Colm Carragher Mandy Harrington	
Counters #7	Denis Everard, Bernard Coburn, Mary Flanagan, Patrick Flanagan		

ADVENT REFLECTION in the Parish Centre at **6:15pm**
This year's Advent Reflections will be on Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.
Tuesday 19th December – "Obedience" talk by Fr Patrick

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2017
St Bernard's, Bacchus Marsh
Christmas Vigil – **Sunday 24th December 2017**
7:00pm Vigil Family Mass (preceded with Carols at 6:30pm)
10:30pm Mass (preceded with Carols at 10:00pm)
Christmas Day – **Monday 25th December 2017**
8:30am and **10:00am** Mass
Our Lady Help of Christians, Korobeit
Christmas Vigil – **Sunday 24th December 2017**
8:00pm Vigil Mass (preceded with Carols at 7:30pm)
Reconciliation First Rite (Confession)
6:30pm – 7:30pm (4 priests available)
St Anthony's, Melton South – **Thursday 21st December 2017**
St Bernard's, Bacchus Marsh – **Friday 22nd December 2017**

MINISTRIES 23rd & 24th December 2017			
Mass Times	5pm Sat Vigil	8:30am Sun	10:00am Sun
Min/s of the Word	Trish Davine	Moira Ross	Carole Ryder / Mira Foxford
Min/s Eucharist	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Gifts Procession	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Altar Servers	(as noted in the roster)		
Piety	23rd December 24th December	Jan Farnelo Carmel Shea	
Counters #8	Colm Carragher, Maggie Carragher Jill Braithwaite, Marj Tung		
Church Grounds December	Front Garden: Volunteer Back/Side Garden: Volunteer Parish Centre/Carpark/Pines: Ron Geurts Back Paddock: Colm Carragher		
Church Flowers Fri 22 nd December	Deborah Hosking	POF December	Dolores Turcsan

RECENTLY DECEASED

Christian Zahra

ANNIVERSARIES

Otylia Adamczyk, Kathleen Dillon, Kevin Fernandez, Marie Graham, Rae Graham, Patrick Green, Phillip McLaughlin, Luigi Albina Nardella, Winnie O'Keefe, Normie Tisdell, Mick Twoomey.

Prayers for the Sick & Frail

(please let us know when your loved one is no longer required on this list)

John Anderson, Noah Barlow, Dudley Baddeley, Michael Barrett, Steven Braszel, Kevin Bridges, John Canty, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Teresa Darlington-Canty, Judy Delahey, Jack DeLuca, Ian Dominquez, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Andree Greenwood, Onnie Greenwood, Joe Gristi, Raymund Hare, Brian Harrison, Adam Hillier, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Loretta Kervin, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Maryo, Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, Marcus Meno, Tess Mercieca, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Arabella Periera, Bev Pickett, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Julie Scott, Ken Shaw, Marian Smith, Frank & Elizabeth Stehmann, Mitchell Tung, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Mary & Michael Walsh, Carol Wells, Cath Wheelahan, Jayne Wilkins, Nils Wyren, Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young, Hannah Young, Jessica Yue.

THANK YOU, FROM THE JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

From Sister Helen Saunders RSJ, on behalf of Mary MacKillop International, thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. 2017 was another successful year, raising approx. **\$58,000**. A great effort from many people! From 2001 till now, our total is almost **\$244,000**. It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today.

"THE JOURNEY" CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM

airs this **Sunday 17th December 2017**.

For a reflection on the Third Sunday of Advent on the Gospel of John, go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

SUMMER SCHOOL MELBOURNE

7-14th January 2018 – Registrations closing SOON!

Speakers include Fr Rob Galea, Dr Brendan Triffett, Fr Max Vodola, Leeanne Grima, Sr Katherine Stone & Fr Dan Serratore. **Registrations close 26th December 2017**. Go to <http://summerschool.org.au>, or contact Berna 0467 092 091, or melbourne@summerschool.org.au, for more info.

Majellan Christmas Cards

Now in stock in the Piety Stall
\$7.50 pack of 10

2018 Columban Calendars

Now available from the Piety Stall – **\$9.00** each

Melbourne Catholic, December 2017

Now available from the Piety Stall – **\$4.00** each

If you wish to receive the weekly Bulletin electronically, please leave your email address on the clipboard in the foyer of the church.

NICENO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN 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, *[bow during the next two lines:]* 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.

MOORABOOL LIGHT ORCHESTRA

presents a pleasant Sunday afternoon of selected Christmas music

"Sounds of the Season" – Christmas Concert

Sunday 17 December 2017 at 2:00pm

Bacchus Marsh Public Hall

40+ Musicians: Barry Wilkins OAM (Musical Director)

Special Guests: Carolyn Bennett (Soprano)

Geelong Handbell Choir, directed by Gwyn Gillard

Compered by Radio Presenter Frank Clark from 3BA 102.3FM (Ballarat).

General Admission: \$25 at the door after 1:00pm on the day, or

Tickets are available from Bacchus Marsh Florist & Nursery 5367 2070

185 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is in the gathering space. You are asked to select a tag and to donate by the **Monday 18th December**. The donated items will help to make up the Christmas hampers.

Many thanks from the St Vincent de Paul Society.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2018

Dear Parents, we would like to bring to your attention changes to our enrolment process for 2018 for children who attend either government or other private schools.

Preparation and active participation in these Sacraments is very important for the development of the spiritual journey of your child. Therefore, for the benefit of your child, it is crucial for you to make it a priority to enrol your child in the Parish Sacramental Program.

If you haven't already done so, please arrange a meeting time as soon as possible with **Naim Chdid**, our new **Sacramental Coordinator**, through the Parish Office to enrol your child. All information and dates will be given to you at the Sacramental Enrolment Meeting.

2018 is the Year of Youth: Introducing the Virtues II

The virtue of courage - no pain, no gain

Fear causes us to withdraw from a perceived difficulty. We fear to suffer some evil or to lose something we desire, and so we allow fear to dictate our actions, rather than act according to what is right in keeping with God's will and law.

Fear can be so strong as to prevent people from acting because of some difficulty or threat. So, some people may fear to fly, and thus their fear keeps them from travelling. Imagine if St Paul had been overcome by fear of sailing (travelling by ship in his day was far more dangerous than by plane in our own) and decided not to evangelise much of the Roman Empire? Or, what if Beethoven had given in to fear and stopped writing symphonies after he went deaf? Much good can be lost through fear.

All our daily challenges require the firmness of mind and will that the virtue of courage provides. A student may fear to take the best course in his field, because the professor is demanding. A man may be afraid to evangelise a co-worker out of fear for how he will be regarded or out of fear of not being able to answer every objection. Some are afraid to use a computer or learn a new skill because it may be too complicated for them. We fear to say "no" to others because we want to be liked.

In the home, how many fathers fail to discipline their children for fear that their children will not like them? People fail to be honest out of fear. Whenever we lie, it is because we fear that telling the truth will cause us some kind of grief.

Fear hinders us from taking action; it is much safer to be a spectator in life. But, nothing ventured, nothing gained. This virtue gives us the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1808).

As compared with all other people, Christians have the most reason to take courage, because our God is God of all creation and has redeemed us and freed us from the powers of evil. In Joshua 1:9, God tells Joshua: "Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." The reason God gives Joshua for taking courage is that He, God Himself, will be with Joshua.

Like Joshua, we too have been given a mission and, if we call upon the God who is present to us, we shall succeed. All our obstacles will fall, as did the walls of Jericho before Joshua.

Courageous to the end

Courage also entails that we be ready to die for the sake of what is right. Our Christian faith makes it clear that we must be willing to die rather than sin. This is what the martyrs have done in laying down their lives for Christ.

A classic example of this aspect of courage is found in the story of Eleazar (cf. 2 Maccabees 6:18-31). During a pagan persecution of the Jews, the old man Eleazar is told to sacrifice to the gods and eat pork, which is forbidden to Jews. But Eleazar took courage, as men should, and refused to break the law of God, even under threat of torture and death.

Some of the officials give Eleazar the option of faking his homage to the gods, but he replies: "For even if for the present I should avoid the punishment of men, yet whether I live or die I shall not escape the hands of the Almighty. Therefore, by manfully giving up my life now, I will show myself worthy of my old age and leave to the young a noble example of how to die a good death willingly and nobly for the revered and holy laws" (2 Maccabees 6:26-28).

Eleazar is an exceptional model of how even the good of this life must not be held dearer than God and His law.

To navigate well the stormy seas of our lives, we need the firmness of character that comes through the virtue of courage. Without courage, we will shrink back from acting, and our many fears of wind and waves will keep us from persevering in our arduous journey. Values will not keep our minds and hearts steeled against the storm, but the habit of courage will give us the strength to sail ahead, come what may, by God's grace.

Fear creates cowards, men and women who give up the truth or some good for fear of suffering. Courage, on the other hand, empowers us to take on life's challenges, and this gives us solid character. Let's examine some of the Scriptural examples of courageous men:

- 1 Samuel 17:32-49 (David goes up against Goliath, trusting in God's deliverance.)
- Daniel 3:8-28 (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to deny their faith by worshipping a false god and are cast into a burning furnace.)
- Matthew 14:3-4 (John the Baptist speaks the truth even though it lands him in jail and costs him his life.)
- Mark 15:43 (Joseph of Arimathea gives public witness to Jesus by asking to care for His body.)