

Catholic Parish of Bacchus Marsh

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

61 Lerderderg Street, Bacchus Marsh 3340

309 Myrniong-Korobeit Road, Korobeit 3341



St B

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Parish Priest:
Assistant Priests:
Parish Office Staff:
Parish Office Hours:

Fr Fabian Smith
Fr Patrick Bradford & Fr John Paul Mount
Dolores Turcsan & Naim Chdid
Tues–Thu 9:00am–1:00pm, Fri 10:00am–2:00pm



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – Year B 31st December 2017

SEE THIS CHILD! Many parents have looked at their newborn child and wondered: what will this child turn out to be? Parenting is always a journey in faith in which there will be occasions of joy, and also times of pain, as Abraham and Sarah, and Mary and Joseph, discovered. On this feast of the Holy Family, let us pray for all families.

MASS & DEVOTION TIMES THIS WEEK

St Bernard's

1 hour Adoration before every **weekday** Mass (except January).

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| Monday 1 st | 9:00am | Mary, the Holy Mother of God |
| Tuesday 2 nd | 5:30pm | |
| Wednesday 3 rd | 9:30am | |
| Thursday 4 th | 9:30am | |
| Friday 5 th | 9:30am | followed by Rosary |
| | | Epiphany of the Lord |
| Saturday 6 th | 5:00pm | Vigil |
| Sunday 7 th | 8:30am | |
| | 10:00am | |

Our Lady Help of Christians

Saturday 6:30pm Mass

RECONCILIATION – 1ST RITE

Saturday 4:15pm *St Bernard's*
Saturday 4:45pm *St Anthony's*

ROSARY is held **every Monday at 7:30pm** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour, **except over Christmas/New Year break**. It will resume on **Monday 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** (except January). Children's Liturgy will resume in **February 2018**.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON LUKE 2:16

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

FIRST READING GENESIS 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Your own son shall be your heir.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALMS 104:1-6, 8-9. R. vv. 7, 8

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works!

Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose.

He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

SECOND READING HEBREWS 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HEBREWS 1:1-2

Alleluia, Alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL LUKE 2:22-40

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON BARUCH 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

St Bernard's (continued)

SENIOR PARISHIONERS' MASS is held on the **third 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 **second Friday** of the month (except **January**) at **11:00am**.

Next Mass: 9th 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**.

**St Vincent De Paul
CHRISTMAS HAMPERS**

The Society would like to thank all those people who donated items for the Christmas hampers. The gifts were very generous and well chosen. Many families will be grateful for your support.

Happy Christmas!

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

Is closed over the Christmas/New Year break. It will re-open on **Monday 22nd January 2018**. We wish you all a safe and harmonious Christmas and New Year.

MINISTRIES 30th & 31st December 2017

| Mass Times | 5pm Sat Vigil | 8:30am Sun | 10:00am Sun |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Min/s of the Word | Vikki Benson | Carole Ryder / Marj Tung | Cathy Belcher / T Taylor |
| Min/s Eucharist | M Salvatore | Roy Ryder | Volunteer |
| Altar Servers | (as noted in the roster) | | |
| Piety | 30th December 31st December | Margot Short Kay Lafranchi | |
| Counters #9 | Roy & Carole Ryder Henry & Chris Gasior | | |

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Christmas Dues are a significant way of supporting your priests. Support for the priest comes from the regular Presbytery Collection. This is assisted by Stole Fees from Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings and Easter and Christmas Dues.

The following deductions, e.g. 5% to the Archbishop, 25% to the Priests' Remuneration Fund and Priests' Retirement Fund, Domestic Salary, food, and motor vehicle, have to be made before the priest is paid his minimum living allowance. NB: No claim is made on the Stewardship Giving envelopes to support the priests.

Christmas Offering envelopes are available at the church entrances and may be placed on the collection plates any time.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR
PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS
ROSTER 2018**

Calling for new volunteers to be included on the 2018 roster for maintenance of the presbytery and the church grounds. If you would like to participate, please put your name, email address and telephone number on the clipboard in the church foyer. Please join a team and help maintain your church property. The support of past and present volunteers is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

MINISTRIES 6th & 7th January 2018

| Mass Times | 5pm Sat Vigil | 8:30am Sun | 10:00am Sun |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Min/s of the Word | Volunteer | Jan Carragher / Allan Comrie | Sr Mary |
| Min/s Eucharist | Vikki Benson | Colm Carragher | Mira Foxford |
| Altar Servers | (as noted in the roster) | | |
| Piety | 6th January 7th January | Trish Davine Carol Ryder | |
| Counters #10 | Kath Connell, Val Dickson, Michael Duffy, Mary Delahey | | |
| Church Grounds January | Front Garden: Volunteer Back/Side Garden: Volunteer Parish Centre/Carpark/Pines: John Tung Back Paddock: Ron Geurts | | |
| Church Flowers | | POF January | Dolores Turcsan |
| Readings | First Reading Isa 60:1-6 | Psalm Ps 71:1-2, 7-13 | Second Reading Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 |

RECENTLY DECEASED

ANNIVERSARIES

Jim Craig

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, 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.

CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF YOUTH

The Year of Youth is off and rolling. The Australian Church is celebrating the Year of Youth throughout 2018. We are called to 'open new horizons for spreading joy' with and for the young Church. Parishes are also encouraged to form Action Teams and to recruit Year of Youth Ambassadors. For more information about the Year of Youth, or to register an Action Team or Ambassador, visit <http://www.cam.org.au/youth/YearOfYouth>

"THE JOURNEY"

CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM

"The Journey" is a weekly program developed by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong aired on a growing number of Christian Radio Stations around Australia.

Each week, there is a reflection on the Sunday Gospel reading. Add to that some great music and interviews with people doing amazing things right around the globe and you've got a show that is all about faith, hope, love and life. "The Journey" is produced and hosted by Mr Jude Hennessy in partnership with Pulse 94.1FM. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

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.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

A Gift for the World

The Nuns of Jamberoo Abbey are offering a two and a half day workshop for women of any age and any experience, women in formal leadership positions, and for those who exercise leadership without a formal title ... in business, schools, homes, offices, parishes, anywhere.

The aim is to support women to explore their unique gifts. Participants will develop the confidence and the skills to understand their value for the world by leading in a range of contexts.

Date: **13th – 15th April 2018**

Venue: Benedictine Abbey
695 Mountain Road, Jamberoo

Time: Arrive afternoon of Thursday 12th April 2018
Leave after lunch on Sunday 15th April 2018

Cost: \$200.
Accommodation fee depends upon type of room selected

Bookings: 02 4236 0533 or cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au

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: The Theological Virtues II – Faith

Faith first, because it is first. It is the root, hope is the stem, and charity is the flower. The flower is the fairest, the stem does the growing, but the root must come first. What is faith?

We can speak of faith (1) in a very wide, general sense, as the world speaks of it; or (2) in a biblical sense, as saving faith, or the condition for salvation; or (3) in its most technical theological sense as one of the three theological virtues.

1. Faith in the most general sense is simply a feeling of trust in or reliance on someone (or even sometimes on no one, as in the poster where a tiny knight with a tiny sword tremblingly confronts an enormous dragon, and the caption says, “Have faith”). This is naivete. Have faith in me, says the used-car salesman or the presidential candidate.
2. Faith in the biblical sense of saving faith is the act by which we receive God’s own eternal life (or sanctifying grace, in technical theological terms). It is our fundamental option of saying “Yes” instead of “No” to God with our heart, our will, our personal centre. To believe in this sense is to receive (John 1: 12 parallels the two terms): to receive God himself.

Saint Paul argues in Romans that faith (in this sense) was even in Old Testament times the condition for salvation, for our justification with God. Abraham was justified by his faith. Go back even farther: the Fall was first of all a fall of faith. Eve believed the serpent when he told her she would not die if she ate the forbidden fruit, rather than believing God when he told her that she would die. Faith is the root of obedience; the lack of faith is the root of disobedience. If we totally believed that obedience always worked to our blessedness, we would not disobey.

Saint Paul contrasts faith with sin when he says, “Whatever is not of faith is sin”. We usually think of sin as the opposite of virtue, and faith as the opposite of doubt. But virtue is a moral term, and doubt is an intellectual term. The opposite of moral virtue is moral vice, and the opposite of intellectual doubt is intellectual belief. Faith is deeper than either moral virtue or intellectual belief. Sin is deeper than either moral vice or intellectual doubt. Faith is a fundamental “Yes” to God with the centre of our being, and sin, the state of sin, as distinct from particular acts of sin, is the fundamental “No” to God with the centre of our being. Faith is the opposite of sin. Faith is to sin what light is to darkness.

Belief is an intellectual matter. I believe the sun will shine tomorrow: I believe I am in good health, I believe my textbooks. This is mere opinion. Faith is not mere opinion. Opinions do not save us. Trust is an emotional matter. I trust my surgeon or my psychiatrist or my children. This is a precious feeling, but it is a feeling. Faith is not feeling. Feelings do not save us. Faith, however, results in or expresses itself in both belief and trust, for the root that is the very essence of the self expresses itself in the two branches or functions of the intellectual (belief) and the emotional (trust). But faith is deeper. That is why even some people who seem on an intellectual level to be unbelievers may on this deeper level be believers, and we may be surprised to see some famous so-called atheists in heaven. And, it is why some people who seem to have very little emotional faith, little trust, serenity, or consolation, may nevertheless be people of great, even heroic, faith. Only God sees hearts.

3. The third and most specific, most technical sense of faith is that faith is the act of the intellect, prompted by the will, by which we believe the truth of all that God has revealed on the basis of the authority of the one who has revealed it. This is essentially the definition used by Saint Thomas Aquinas and medieval scholastic theology.

At the time of the Protestant Reformation, each side used a different language system, and the most important and tragic split in the Church’s history resulted. Protestant reformers, using faith in the biblical sense, as saving faith, insisted that the Bible clearly taught that faith alone was sufficient for salvation. They formulated their slogan, *sola fides* (faith alone), on the basis of Romans and Galatians. They believed that the Catholic Church’s insistence that good works were also necessary for salvation was a pagan doctrine, a compromise of the very essence of the Gospel. Most evangelical and fundamentalist Protestants to this day justify their disagreement with the Catholic Church more fundamentally on this basis than on any other. They sincerely believe that Catholicism is another gospel, as Paul called Galatian legalism, and many wonder whether Catholics are even Christians.

But James clearly says in his Epistle that faith without works is dead and that we are justified by works (good works, the works of love) as well as faith, working together with faith. James and the Catholic scholastic theologians were using faith in its third, narrowest sense: as one of the three theological virtues. In this sense, hope and charity must be added to faith for salvation. Paul and the Protestants were using faith in its second, broader sense: as the root or centre of all three theological virtues, not as an act of the intellect but as an act of the heart (in the biblical sense) or spirit or personal centre. Both sides were (and are) right. In other words, the essence of the Protestant Reformation was a misunderstanding. What hope for reunion lies in that fact!