



St Mary's, Bairnsdale

THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

East Region – Diocese of Sale

BAIRNSDALE, PAYNESVILLE, LINDENOW, OMEO, SWIFTS CREEK AND BENAMBRA

OUR VISION

We are a welcoming community where the word of God, through the message of Jesus Christ, is made known and lived.

OUR MISSION

Live the message of Jesus Christ taking inspiration from Mary, the Mother of God.
Empower our community to activate their gifts to build a better world. To strengthen and grow our faith.

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Willemsen

Assistant Priest: Fr Mark Hughes

Presbytery: 23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale

Phone: 5152 3106

Parish Pastoral Centre: 135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale

Phone: 5152 2942

Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net

Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, July 30, 2023

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging, and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.



Support Your Priest Sunday

**The Novena to St John Vianney
started on July 27 and concludes on August 4.**

We pray for the intentions of our Priests
Father Michael, Father Mark and Father Hiep.

The liturgical commemoration of the feast of
St John Vianney is August 4.

Support Your Priest Sunday will be celebrated on
Sunday August 6.

WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am
Tuesday: 9.10am
Wednesday: 9.10am
Thursday: NO MASS
Clergy Reflection Day
Friday: 9.10am or
St Mary's PS (Yr 5's): 9.10am
St Patrick's, Paynesville
Wednesday Rosary: 10.00am

RECONCILIATION

Friday:
After 9.10am Mass

Saturday:
9.30am to 10.00am
5.30pm to 5.50pm

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Mary's, Bairnsdale: Saturday: 6.00pm
Sunday: 9.30am
St Patrick's, Paynesville: Sunday: 8.00am
St Canice's, Lindenow: Sunday: 11.00am
Swifts Creek, Omeo and Benambra
Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek: 4th Saturday: 6.30pm
Immaculate Conception, Omeo: 4th Sunday: 9.00am
St Francis', Benambra: 4th Sunday: 11.00am

The Transfiguration of the Lord, Year A, August 5-6, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	N Light	J de Boer	S Gibson	P Elliott	
9.30am Sunday	T Kosmer	G Neeson	L Urban	G Neeson	M Owen, P Brown-Graham, H Sampson

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: August 5 - B Mahony Please find a replacement if unable to fill your spot.

Our Parish of The Immaculate Conception (also known as St Mary's) is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people, with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Kath Cassidy who can be contacted through the Parish Centre: 5152 2942.

Alternatively contact Bairnsdale Police: 5150 2600 or Towards Healing: 1800 816 030.



Alpha FAITH, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, and FUN

Registration is open for Alpha. Starts Wednesday August 2, 6.00-8.00pm in the Parish Hall. Dinner is included.

This is the beginning of a journey to explore God and the meaning of life as we move toward a deeper relationship with God our Father through our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Everyone is welcome, from all faith backgrounds and at all points on their faith journey.

We listen, and we love

All welcome to register for the first week to try Alpha with no commitment.

FAITH, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP and FUN that's Alpha

To book your place or find out more contact: Pattie **0427 232 682**, Madelaine **0400 576 291** or Michael at the Parish Centre **5152 2942**

You are invited to our Youth Group

GLOW

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART: PROVERBS 3:5

Join us for Food, Music, Games, Singing

@ St Mary's Parish Centre

(entry via McDonald's car park)

1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month

(excluding school holidays)

Time: 5pm to 7pm

5pm Youth Group - Games, Singing, Dancing, Food

6pm Church Mass - Children's Choir &

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Ages: 8 - 13 years (however, all are welcome)

Our gatherings will occur on the following dates:



- * 5th & 19th August 2023
- * 2nd & 16th September 2023
- * 7th & 21st October 2023
- * 4th & 18th November 2023
- * 2nd & 16th December 2023



Contact Fr Mark Hughes or Michelle Grimsted

St Mary's Parish, Bairnsdale

on 5152 2942 for more information



Prayer for St Mary's Alpha



Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank you Lord God on high.

We thank you for bringing Alpha to our Community and thank you Lord God for the team and all our participants.

Bless us with an open heart to hear and respond to your voice of love during the Alpha journey and beyond.

We pray that we may meet you, Sweet Jesus and are filled to the measure with the Holy Spirit through Alpha.

**We give thanks and praise to you, sweet Jesus,
Our Lord and King. Amen.**



Morning Tea after 9.30am Mass at

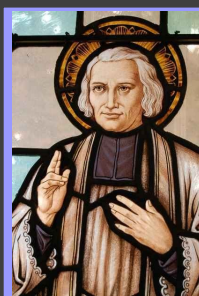
St Mary's Bairnsdale

and after 8.00am Mass at

St Patrick's Paynesville

Sunday August 6

Come and join us for a cuppa and a natter



NO MASS on Thursday August 3

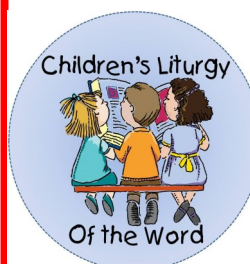
Father Michael and Father Mark will be away at the annual Clergy Reflection Day in Maryknoll, which will honour the feast of their Patron Saint, St John Vianney.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS - JULY For a Eucharistic life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and their brothers and sisters.

Worksheets Available for Collection



Dear Parent/Carer,

Please collect a worksheet for your child to help them deepen their understanding of the Word during celebration of the Mass. A beginning point for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:

READINGS: August 5-6, 2023

Readings: The Transfiguration of the Lord

1st Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 9

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

COLLECTIONS: July 22-23, 2023

Envelopes \$ 1427 .00

DD & Cards \$ 730 .00

1st Collection \$ 980.70

2nd Collection \$ 846.75

Pay Wave \$ 80.00

- ♦ In today's Gospel what precious things did the people find?
- ♦ What did they do when they found them?
- ♦ When you care for a plant, the weeds still grow.
- ♦ Why do you think they sold everything to buy their treasure?
- ♦ Jesus says God's kingdom is like a treasure that makes you happy.
- ♦ What makes you happy about being part of God's kingdom?
- ♦ How can we share this happiness with others?

Entrance Antiphon

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Opening Prayer

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A reading from the first book of the Kings 3:5, 7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130

R. Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. **R.** Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. **R.**

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. **R.** Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They said 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Jerusalem Bible ©Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Reflection

Jesus shares with us today in Matthew's Gospel, three parables about the Kingdom of heaven which include the hidden treasure in a field, the fine pearls and the dragnet cast into the sea. The spiritual truths veiled within these stories are an invitation which lead us into a deeper, more intimate personal relationship with Jesus as his disciples. We are encouraged to spend this life searching, as if we are on a treasure hunt. Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of will and focus. Do you know the date of your Baptism? The door which gives access to the other Sacraments. Do you long to seek a more personal intimate relationship with Jesus? Eucharist and adoration are ways to encounter Him more deeply and to abide in His presence. Do you know how to share, like one beggar telling another beggar, where to find bread? Be encouraged to tell your story and may your own personal treasure hunt lead you to the prize more precious and valuable in this life...seeking the Kingdom of God. As spoken in the words of Jesus to his disciples, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven".

Michelle Grimsted

Full version on the Sale Diocese Website: <https://www.cdsale.org.au/news/sunday-gospel-reflections>