



St Patrick's Paynesville

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

Third Sunday of Advent Year B December 17, 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.



6.00pm Tuesday December 19

in St Mary's Church.

ALL are welcome as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ into our lives.

Christmas Message

*To our St Mary's family,
have a blessed, safe and joyous time with your
family and friends. Remember and pray for those
less fortunate than ourselves.
If you are travelling, be safe. God bless you all.
From Fr Michael, Fr Mark, Paul, Michelle, Mark
and Michael.*

Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will close at 4.30pm on

Thursday December 21.

We will reopen on Monday January 22, 2024.

WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am

Requiem Mass-John Ariens 11.00am

Tuesday: 9.10am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Funeral Prayers-Peter Capes 11.00am

Friday: 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

ROSARY

Monday: 7.00pm

via Zoom

Contact the Parish Centre
for a link

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

Masses held 4th weekend of each month.

Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek:

4th Saturday: 6.30pm

Immaculate Conception, Omeo:

4th Sunday: 9.00am

St Francis', Benambra:

4th Sunday: 11.00am

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B, December 24, 2023

MASS

6.00pm Saturday

9.30am Sunday

WELCOMER

C Marriot-Smith

R David

COMMENTATOR

B O'Kelly

G Neeson

READER

D Ball

W Collier

SPECIAL MINISTER

C Marriot-Smith

J Delany

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

B Payne, N Rooney & R David

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: December 23 - H Sampson

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.



Columban Art Calendars

Now available. See Kath Cassidy, or Michael at the Parish Centre. Only \$10.00

Normal Sunday Masses are at the usual times on December 24 Mass Times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Sunday December 24

St Francis', Benambra: 6.00pm

St Mary's Family Mass, Nagle College:
7.00pm

St Mary's Midnight Mass: 12midnight

Monday December 25

St Patrick's, Paynesville: 8.00am

St Mary's: 9.30am

Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek: 10.30am

SVDP Giving Tree

It's that time of year again!
Once again, we are inviting you to take one
or more tags from our giving tree as
suggestions for items you can provide for
our Christmas hampers - toys and
foodstuffs.

We are very aware of those who provide all
manner of support for our companions
through us and thank you
for your generosity and compassion
for those having a difficult time.
Bairnsdale Conference Centre 5152 6687

CONGRATULATIONS TO MADELAINE

Our Parish Pastoral Council member, Madelaine Schumann, has been appointed by Bishop Greg to his new Diocesan Mission Council. The 15 member Council chosen from 30 expressions of interest across the Diocese were commissioned by Bishop Greg at the Cathedral during Mass last Sunday. Congratulations Madelaine, we know you'll make an enthusiastic and willing contribution to the cause at the Diocesan level, as you continue to do here at Parish level.

WE HAVE A NEW OFFICE MANAGER!

We are VERY happy to announce that Mrs Helen Rose will be our new Bookkeeper and Office Manager beginning Tuesday December 19. Paul will continue during a transition period for a few weeks.

Thanks to everyone who has been praying for this important intention.

This is a blessed outcome.

Fr Michael



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, OMEQ

Prayer Group and Liturgy of the Word on Sundays when there is no Mass.

9.00am in the Church, followed by morning tea.

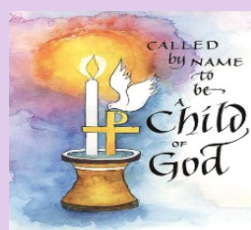
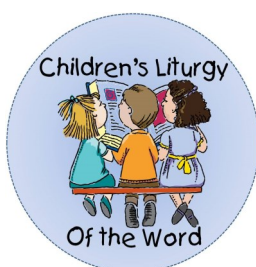
For more information contact Jessica: 0491 706 678

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:

- If someone asked you 'Who are you?' What would be your answer?
- Was one of your answers 'I'm a follower or disciple or friend of Jesus'?
- What are some of the ways we normally get ready for a birthday?
- How is the celebration of Jesus' birthday different from a normal birthday?
- What are some things we all can do to get ready for the celebration of the day Jesus was born?



*We welcome into our Parish
family this weekend*

Elijah

son of Girle and Justan Bautista

Xavier John

son of Rebecca Lancaster and Adam Lucke

Finn James

son of Michelle and Andrew Eldridge

Amelia Catherine

daughter of Rachel and Thomas Freeman.

READINGS:

December 23-24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

1st Reading:

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 88:2-5, 22-29

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

COLLECTIONS:

December 9-10, 2023

Envelopes \$ 985.00

DD & Cards \$ 255.00

1st Collection \$ 668.35

2nd Collection \$ 827.00

Pay Wave \$ 180.00

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS


DECEMBER — For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Our last for the year is
DECEMBER 16
Recommences 2024
St Mary's Youth Group

5.00pm Youth Group in the Parish Hall and
6.00pm Mass for Children's Choir and
Liturgy of the Word.




Caring for Creation

How to have your best eco-friendly Christmas
Here are some tips!

1. Avoid lights or use LED in your decorations to reduce your energy use for the season.
2. Send E-cards instead of traditional cards to save paper.
3. Use recycled wrapping paper or make your own.
4. When it comes to decorations think natural, look outside for materials, and avoid plastic.
5. You can create some amazing eco-friendly decorations that not only look great but don't break the bank.
6. Don't put unwanted gifts in the bin! Donate them or pass them on to another friend.
7. Compost your leftovers or make a worm farm.
8. Buy eco-friendly gifts or donate instead of buying.
9. Choose local and organic when it comes to food.
10. Put out a separate bin for recyclables while entertaining.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Geoff Neeson (Chair), Madelaine Schumann,
Narelle Gibbons, Jacinta Da Costa, Leonie Urban
Ex-officio members: Fr Michael, Fr Mark,
School Principals and Michael Flynn

Parish Directory: available at the Pastoral Centre.
St Mary's Primary School: 5152 3706
Nagle College: 5152 6122
Sacraments: To request information and registration forms email stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com
Baptisms: Call the Sacramental Coordinator to set a date.
Baptisms are celebrated during or after Mass on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.
Weddings: 6 months notice required, schedule dates with Priest.
Anointing of the Sick: Please call the Parish Centre.
Funerals: Please contact your preferred Funeral Director for arrangements.
Communion to the Housebound /Aged Care:
Call Pattie Pruscino: 0427 232 682
Special Wedding Anniversaries: 6 months notice is needed to organise a Papal Blessing for Parishioners.
St Vincent de Paul Conference/Assistance Centre: 5152 6687
St Mary's Op Shop: 5152 2088



Advent Appeal for Ukraine: The Bishops' Conference has asked all Australian dioceses to support the mission of the Church in Ukraine through the work of *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation.

Option 1: Bank deposit A/C Name: Trustees of UCC in Australia BSB: 704-235 | A/C Number: 0000 7183
Option 2: Cheque made out to the Trustees of UCC in Australia can be sent to Bishop's Chancery, 35 Canning Street, North Melbourne, VIC 3051.

St Mary's Family Christmas Mass rehearsal: 10.00am Saturday December 23 at Nagle College



HELP NEEDED

Volunteers needed for Christmas Masses


Commentators, Readers, Welcomers, Eucharistic Ministers, Offertory Processions.

Depending on which Mass you plan to attend, can you help?
Please contact Michael at the Parish Centre



A Prayer for the Holy Land

Lord,
be our peace and break down the walls of partition dividing the Holy Land. Lord, help us to be lights to the Holy Land. Lord, fulfill this promise now in the Holy Land. Lord, help the people of the Holy Land follow the example of Jacob and Esau and reconcile themselves to each other. Amen.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Richard Rijs, Peter Capes, Rebecca Bedggood, Peter Breewell, John Ariens, victims of natural disasters, COVID-19, terrorism, war, conflict, poverty, Asylum Seekers and those with Family Violence or Mental Health issues.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Peter Brown, Max Kelsey, Maureen Connolly, Gerardine Keyte, Dan Phelan, Maureen Cerini, Terry Flannery, Judy Ward, Cherie Morgan, Joe Pruscino, Bev Seehusen, Ellen Mason, Clem Rooks, Dennis Crane, Sue Lovell, John Morris, Robyn Shears, Frank Burton, George Burton, Jack Burton, Jimmy Sperti, Norma Stevens, and Priests who have worked in the Diocese.

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.”

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK: Mary Herro (Larry Klobukowski's sister), Shane Hayles, Pat Coloe, Bill Tilley, Kieran Hayles, Elizabeth Steere, Sandra Brooks, Bev Broome, Michael Crane, Robert McMahon, Dennis Collins, Alepaka Tyrell, Bob Marshall, Sue Minchin, Fran Adamson, Elaine Cook, Peter Hayden, John Hayles, Maree Cowell, Hudson Schwab, Adrian Coulter, baby Ethan, Deidree Tickner, Kathleen Robertson, Robyn Finlay, Rick Harney, Margaret O'Reilly, Arthur Elbourne.

Please remember all Parishioners who are unwell or recovering from illness or surgery.
Those on the “sick list” will remain on it for one month. Please contact the Parish Centre to extend this time.

Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Opening Prayer

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

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 prophet Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm

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. **R.**

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

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

R. A reading from the first letter of St Peter to the Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Notes

‘Blessed is the one who does not lose faith in me’.

We all have times when our faith wobbles and we doubt Jesus’ love for us. Unemployment, a serious illness, a family tragedy, abuse, a bereavement, alcoholism drugs or gambling addictions. The list is long. We are bewildered by some of the things happening on a local, national and global scale. Wars, famines, genocide, a desire for peace, a feeling of powerlessness, we can wonder where God is. We cannot stop ourselves from feeling afraid. Courage is not never feeling afraid; it is feeling afraid and going on in spite of it. Faith is a fragile thing and we shouldn’t be surprised when doubts arise. But blessed are we who do not lose faith in Jesus and with courage and hope, are able to show our faith in everyday deeds of love and compassion.

New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies Flor McCarthy SDB