



St Mary's Bairnsdale

THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

East Region – Diocese of Sale

BAIRNSDALE, PAYNESVILLE, LINDENOW, OMEO, SWIFTS CREEK & 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

Presbytery: 23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale

Phone: 5152 3106

Email: stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com

St Mary's 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)

Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 18, 2022

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.

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 December 25: No Mass

Swifts Creek, Omeo & Benambra

December

Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek

Sunday December 25: 10.30am

Immaculate Conception, Omeo

No Mass

St Francis, Benambra

Saturday December 24: 6.00pm

Weekday Masses @ St Mary's

Monday-Tuesday: 9.10am

Wednesday: Maureen Cerini

Funeral Mass: 1100am

Thursday-Friday: 9.10am

Paynesville:

Wednesday: Rosary 10.00am

Reconciliation is available each

Friday: after 9:10am Mass

Saturday: 9:30am to 10:00am and
5:30pm to 5:50pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



Saturday December 24

6.00pm: St Francis', Benambra

7.00pm: Nagle College Hall, Bairnsdale

Midnight: St Mary's, Bairnsdale

Sunday December 25

8:00am: St Patrick's, Paynesville

9:30am: St Mary's, Bairnsdale

10.30am: Sacred Heart, Swift's Creek

Please note there will be no Mass at Lindenow on Christmas Day.

NAGLE COLLEGE CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Unfortunately, the Hall Carpark will be closed for essential works.

The main College Carpark will be open however, and people are able to walk through the College grounds to the Hall.

St Mary's Primary School Carpark will also be open and Peart Street will be available.

PLEASE—STRICTLY NO PARKING ON ANY GRASSED AREAS

Roster for Masses – Christmas Year A December 24-25, 2022

7:00pm Saturday

Nagle College Hall

as arranged

Midnight

St Mary's Church

as arranged

9:30am Sunday

St Mary's Church

as arranged

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: December 24th — K Cassidy

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 via the Parish Centre 5152 2942; or Police 5150 2600; or Towards Healing 1800 816 030.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for

DECEMBER- Volunteer Not-For-Profit Organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



COVID-19 PASTORAL GUIDELINES UPDATE

Part of correspondence from the Bishop's Office in Warragul: *"Each Parish is blessed by the presence of those who gather for the Eucharist - the source and summit of the Christian life. Many have found great comfort in the ability to watch Mass on TV, internet and Parish websites. However, there is no substitute for gathering together as God's holy people. The four presences of Christ in the Word, the Eucharist, the community and the presider remind us that we are the Body of Christ."* As we make plans for celebrating at Christmas, this encouraging message could be a timely reminder for those who are yet to rejoin our Sunday Masses. Please share it with them. Or, personally invite them to return. Christmas is a perfect time to have every family member around the table. Fr Michael

A BIG
*thank
you*

FROM THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE

The Conference members have been heartened by the wonderful response to our Christmas appeal this year. So many people have shown their generosity - those who made up our bright and attractive cloth bags for the toys, those who donated needed goods for our food parcels, those who gave financial donations, the marvellous donations from St Mary's and Nagle's School Communities and also from the wider Community of Bairnsdale. We are very blessed by and appreciative of you all. May the Joy and Peace of Christmas be with you now and always.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

The PPC has members retiring this year and we are looking for new people to take on this important role. Recommendation Forms are available in the Church foyer and at the Parish Centre. Please give this some serious thought. PPC recommendations close December 30.



CRISIS IN AFRICA

Somalia

Somalia is on the brink of famine, with nearly 8 million people facing extreme hunger and food insecurity. The last famine declared in Somalia, in 2011, killed a quarter of a million people. If urgent action is not taken, Somalia may face a catastrophic humanitarian disaster.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is facing its worst drought in nearly 40 years, with an estimated 20 million people in need of urgent assistance. This is on top of one of the worst locust swarms in the past decade and ongoing conflict that has displaced thousands of vulnerable people.

Kenya

More than 4.35 million people in Kenya are at risk of severe hunger, particularly in the north of the country in areas such as Marsabit. A national state of disaster has been declared with vulnerable communities struggling to access food and clean water.

Caritas Australia, the helping hand of the Catholic Church, is actively involved in Africa.

If you wish you can donate at: caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/africa-food-crisis/

December 25, 2022

Readings: The Nativity of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 97:1-6
2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel: John 1:1-18

Collections

December 10-11, 2022

Envelopes	\$ 2408.00
DD & Cards	\$ 1365.00
1 st Collection	\$ 498.30
2 nd Collection	\$ 665.85
Pay Wave	\$ 210.00
Church Tours	\$ 61.15

Have a problem with alcohol? There is a solution. A.A. has a simple program that works and has done so for over 80 years. It is based on one alcoholic helping another.

If you need support, contact Bruce: 0412 938 772



Columban Calendars are on sale in the Church foyer. \$10.00. See Kath Cassidy. Also available at the Parish Centre.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

All of us at the Parish Centre wish everyone a Safe, Happy, and Holy Christmas. If you are travelling to see family or friends, please travel safely. And spare a thought for those who are not as blessed as we are.

Fr Michael, Paul, Michelle and Michael.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday December 23 and will reopen on Monday January 23, 2023.

Any enquiries please ring the Presbytery: 5152 3106.

Alternatively, contact Paul: 0418 377 076

or Michael: 0408 403 455

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Amanda Vowell (Chair), Wilma Collier, Marylin Elliott,
Madelaine Schumann, Narelle Gibbons,
Peter McMahon, Jacinta Da Costa

Ex-officio members: Fr Michael, Principals and Michael F.

Parish Directory: available at the Pastoral Centre.

St Mary's Primary School: the Parish Centre 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



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.

Beginning points for discussions of this week's Gospel are:

- ♦ Who do you know who is expecting a baby?
- ♦ How are they preparing for the birth?
- ♦ How are we preparing for the birth of Jesus?

PARISH SECOND RITE RECONCILIATION

Advent joy | Reconciliation helps us prepare for Christmas

Reconciliation serves as the bridge between the birth of Jesus and His Second Coming and removes hindrances to the joyful reception of the Eucharist in the present. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, with the promise of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in our lives, Reconciliation is a blessed way to welcome Emmanuel into our hearts this Christmas. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday December 20 at 6.00pm



(For our Vietnamese Parishioners)

ĐÓN MỪNG GIÁNG SINH 2022

Cha Phao Lô Hiệp Nguyễn, linh mục đang phục vụ tại East Gippsland, Victoria trân trọng kính mời anh chị em người Việt Nam đang sinh sống và làm việc tại Giáo Phận Sale và vùng Miền Đông Victoria tới tham dự buổi gặp mặt nhận dịp mừng Chúa Giáng Sinh tại nhà thờ St Mary Bairnsdale vào chiều tối ngày Thứ Sáu Ngày 23/12/2022.

Chương trình gặp mặt:

6:00pm Giải Tội

7:00pm Thánh lễ

Sau thánh lễ sẽ gặp mặt và ăn tối
Rất hân hạnh được đón tiếp mọi người.

Kính Mời

Linh mục: Phao Lô Hiệp Nguyễn



SYNOD OF BISHOPS CONTINENTAL STAGE

The Church has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. Groups around the country are praying and responding to the Document for the Continental Stage. The response reflects the voices of the People of God from over 114 countries around the world. A submission is being prepared for Bishops from the Oceania region for their meeting in Fiji in February 2023. Visit: www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Giovanni Torre, Judy Ward, Maureen Cerini, Jim Sperti, Robyn Shears, John Bell, Salvador Britto, victims of natural disasters, mental health, COVID-19, terrorist attacks, war, conflict, asylum seekers, family violence and poverty.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Peter Brown, Max Kelsey, Maureen V Connelly, Geraldine Keyte, Terry Flannery, Dan Phelan, Joe Pruscino, Eileen Mason, Clem Rooks John Morris, Dennis Crane, Des Lovell, Frank Burton, George Burton, Jack Burton, 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: Bev Seehusen, John Saunders, Kathleen Robertson, Mary Johnson, Cherie Morgan, John Atkins, Rick Harney, Jim Duggan, George Burton, Fred Crea, Marie Ayres (S-I-L of Pat Coloe), John Spirason, Shirley Gilmore (Mary Rowe's sister), Vin Ayres (brother of Pat Coloe), Maree Elbourne, Margaret O'Reilly, Arthur Elbourne, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Linton Smith, Brian Rowe, Alan Casanelia (Margaret Sheehan's brother).

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2022

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

The Opening Prayer

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. 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 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

R. Let the Lord enter, he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas, on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son, his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture notes:

Let us think about the two things Matthew's account of Jesus' birth emphasises: the deep and abiding faith of Mary and Joseph, and that the Child born of her would save his people from their sins. It was through Mary's docile obedience and complete loyalty to God's will that the Saviour was enabled to become alive in her immaculate womb. Her 'yes,' in faith and trust, made it possible for Jesus to be born in human flesh and for us to be forgiven, saved, and redeemed. Mary's total self-surrender wordlessly shows us what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Today where many seem to 'talk the talk' but not so much 'walk the walk,' we need to remind ourselves of this most basic lesson of faith and discipleship. St Joseph, the faithful and strong spouse of Mary, also in total and complete obedience to God's will, said 'yes' to another angel and took Mary as his wife, and became the earthly guardian of the Son of God, enabling the incarnate Word to be legitimately accepted as the "Son of the carpenter", spending the rest of his life as faithful spouse, loving foster father, and protective provider of the Holy Family. We who claim to be disciples of Jesus Christ are also called to say 'yes' to God's will for our lives. We may, like Joseph and Mary, feel unworthy, frightened, and uncertain, but the only important question is whether we will in faith and trust say 'yes' to whatever God asks of us in our lives. The rest doesn't matter because it is up to him.