



St Francis of Assisi, **Benambra**

# 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](http://www.stmarysbairnsdale.net)

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

Email: [stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com)

#### 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, July 23, 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.

## World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

### THIS SUNDAY JULY 23

(The Sunday closest to the **Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne**, Grandparents of Jesus)

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's celebration is:

**"His mercy is from age to age" (Luke 1:50).**

Caring for grandparents and the elderly is not only a duty of gratitude and affection, but a necessity for building a more humane and fraternal society. Pope Francis invites us to recognise their value in transmitting faith and hope to the new generations and to do so in a way that is not a one-time event, rather a permanent one.



#### WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am  
Tuesday: 9.10am  
Wednesday: 9.10am  
Thursday: 9.10am or  
St Mary's PS (Yr 3s): 9.10am  
Friday: 9.10am  
Requiem Mass-Margaret Sheehan: 1.30pm  
**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

#### 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, July 30-31, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	J De Boer	C Marriot-Smith	J Peachey	M Sunders	
9.30am Sunday	S Dean	J Coverdale	N Nash	R David	M Grimsted, T Kosmer, P Pruscino

**Cleaning:** Fortnight ending: July 22 - 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

Great company, great conversations about life, faith and meaning.

You can ask questions, you can share what you think, you can just listen. You're welcome at Alpha.

Young, or not so young, there's always a seat for you at Alpha.

At Alpha we welcome, eat, watch, chat, ask, listen, and love.

When someone is invited to Alpha, they are invited into an honest space, where they can ask their questions about faith, life and meaning.

**Alpha at St Marys starts Wednesday 2 August 2, 6-8pm for dinner in the Parish Hall**

**We are now taking bookings so reserve your seats now!**

**Contact: Pattie 0427 232 682, Madelaine 0400 576 291 or Michael at the Parish Centre 51 522 942**

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, guide your people to join Alpha, responding to your call, and to be transformed by your Spirit of love, through the Alpha program.

Grant us the confidence, as your disciples to invite to Alpha our friends of all faith backgrounds and stages. We pray that they may hear the Good News and meet You Lord Jesus with open hearts, through St Mary's Alpha.

**In your name we pray, sweet Jesus. Amen**



### Margaret Sheehan's Funeral Mass

**Friday July 28 at 1.30pm**

Refreshments will follow the Funeral Mass in the Parish Centre. Help is required with catering arrangements:

The setup of the Hall will happen Friday morning—contact Geoff Cassidy if you would like to help.

Hot food and sandwiches will be outsourced.



**Donations of slices and/or scones would be very much appreciated.**

*Please bring food already plated up and ready for the table.*

*Please have your name on your plate.*

Also help in the kitchen before and after the Funeral Mass.

Please contact Kath or Geoff Cassidy if you are able to help:

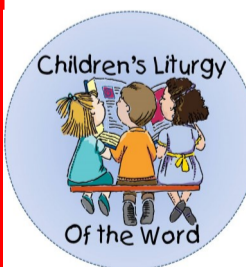
**0412 977 973 by Wednesday July 26**



### 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:

- ♦ Who has seen weeds in a garden?
- ♦ What is the difference between a weed and a plant?
- ♦ When you care for a plant, the weeds still grow.
- ♦ In today's gospel what did the farmer do when he found weeds in his crop?
- ♦ The farmer didn't want to damage the good crop by destroying the weeds.
- ♦ God is like the farmer. What are the good things God looks for in us?
- ♦ We pray that the Spirit helps the good in us to grow.

#### READINGS: July 29-30, 2023

Readings: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-7, 12

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 118: 57, 72, 76-77, 127-130

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

#### COLLECTIONS: July 15-16, 2023

Envelopes \$ 745.00

DD & Cards \$ 215.00

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 691.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$ 651.20

Pay Wave \$ 150.00

Peter's Pence \$ 534.95



### Can You Help?

Does anyone have an unused  
**acoustic guitar** they would like to  
donate to St Mary's Choir?  
Please contact Paul or Michael  
at the Parish Centre: 5152 2942



### INVITATION TO A JOURNEY OF FAITH

**What:** Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

**When:** Tuesday August 15, 2023

**Venue:** Resource Room at St. Mary's Parish Centre  
135 Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale

**Time:** 7.00pm – 8.30pm

#### **Who is RCIA for?**

Persons interested in being initiated or completing  
initiation into the Catholic Church through  
Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Persons who were Baptised in a Christian Church and  
want to be received into the Catholic Church

St Mary's RCIA Coordinator: Michelle Grimsted  
stm.michelleg@gmail.com or 5152 2942

### POSITION VACANT

#### **St Mary's Parish Bairnsdale Omeo Bookkeeper / Office Manager**

Experience in MYOB an advantage.

Supportive Team Environment. Family Friendly.

Part time – 22.5 hrs (Negotiable)

Call the Parish Office for a Position Description  
or further information: 5152 2942

### CAN YOU HELP ??? SUNDAY MASS MORNING TEAS

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Morning  
Teas, making sandwiches, slices etc, setting/cleaning up. If  
you would like to contribute to this great social event,  
please contact

Helen: 0434 531 504 or Michael: 5152 2942.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Madelaine Schumann, Narelle Gibbons, Jacinta Da Costa,  
Geoff Neeson, 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](mailto: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

### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

#### **Commitment Masses**

**For our 31 candidates**

**this weekend, July 22-23**



#### **Support Your Priest Sunday**

##### **The Novena to St John Vianney**

**Starts on July 27, leading up to August 4.**



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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Kathleen Cole, Margaret Sheehan, Bess Quigley, and all victims of natural disasters,  
mental health, COVID-19, terrorism, war, conflict, poverty, all our Asylum Seekers, and those living with Family Violence.

**ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Antonio D'Amore, Peg Townsend, John Butler, Margaret Flynn, David Murray,  
Brian Websdale, Mick Michalowsky, Peter Van Nuttrim, Grace Capraro, Bob Banks, Mary Henderson, Bob McKenzie, Irene Flannery,  
John Archibald, Maria-Anna Vanzin, Maureen Coffey, Frank Traynor, Dennis Bagnato, Marie Petterson, Teresa Mitchell 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:** Domenico 'Dom' Spiller, Elaine Cook, Peter Hayden, John Hayles, Denise Roberts, Maree Lesley  
Cowell, Hudson Schwab, Adrian Coulter, Jan Baxter, Josephine Box, Deidree Tickner, Kathleen Robertson, Stuart Murray (nephew of  
Frank Brown-Graham), Maria Sticca, Baby Ethan, Robyn Finlay, Rick Harney, John Spirason, Margaret O'Reilly, Arthur Elbourne,  
Carmen Golonski (Grimsted).

**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.**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

### **A reading from the book of Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19**

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

### **Responsorial Psalm 64:10-14**

**R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**

All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. **R.**

But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me. **R.**

### **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:26-27**

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

**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 13:24-43**

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'" He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.' He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.' In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world. Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

*Jerusalem Bible ©Copyright Liturgy Brisbane*

### **Scripture Reflection**

The parable of the wheat and weeds challenges us to reflect on our hearts and choices. We all have moments of goodness and weakness, love, and selfishness. Recognizing our imperfections humbles us and invites self-reflection. The parable urges us to protect the wheat within us and uproot the weeds. We nurture the good while striving for spiritual growth, repentance, and conversion. By embracing this process, we create space for God's grace to transform us, bearing abundant fruits of love, mercy, and compassion.

The parable of the mustard seed reveals the extraordinary potential in seemingly small aspects of our lives. Small acts of faith and love can have a significant impact when nurtured. It challenges our perception of value, reminding us that God's kingdom works humbly. Simple acts of kindness, compassion, and faithfulness can ripple through lives, contributing to the growth of God's kingdom. Embracing small opportunities for love and service, we trust that God brings greatness through our humble efforts, cultivating a receptive heart for His transformative grace.

The parable of the yeast teaches us about the transformative power of God's Kingdom. Just as yeast leavens dough, our smallest actions infused with faith and love can have far-reaching effects. Our choices and interactions matter. We can influence others through our words, actions, and attitudes, becoming agents of positive change. By embracing our personal witness and allowing faith to permeate our lives, we become vessels for God's grace, spreading love and bringing forth goodness, joy, and hope in our communities and the world.

*Young Catholics*