



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

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

Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com

First Sunday of Advent December 3 Year B , 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.



Advent Mini Retreat

Are you seeking to find peace in the midst of flurry as we approach Christmas celebrations? If so, you are invited to join us for 1 hour a week as we enter the season of Advent, quietly reflecting on the coming of Christ. Come be part of this prayerful fellowship with kindred spirits, encountering Emmanuel! You are most welcome.

When: December 7, December 14 and December 21

Where: St Mary's Chapel **Time:** 9.45am

Contact: Michelle at the Parish Centre or michelleg@gmail.com

Advent-The Sign Daily Reflection Book available at Mass or the Parish Centre-\$5.00

WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am
Tuesday: 9.10am
Wednesday: 9.10am
Thursday: 9.10am
Friday: 9.10am
St Mary's PS 11.30am

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

Second Sunday of Advent Year B, December 10, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	G Dooley	D Ball	S Gibson	K Flannery	
9.30am Sunday	J Coverdale	M Grimsted	B Marshall	S Tilley	D Atkins, J Delany, J Coverdale

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: December 9 - 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 through the Parish Centre: 5152 2942.

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



Empowering Change

Pope Francis paid tribute to the two year anniversary Laudato Si' Action Platform that aims to sensitize and promote care for the environment. And he asks everyone to remember in their prayers the UN Conference on Climate Change in Dubai.

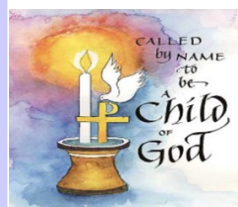
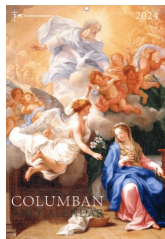


Thank you to everyone who contributed to making our Cultural Heritage Day a success. Our Timor Leste Choir for the sublime music, those who helped set up and clean up and for the wonderful food we were able to share.



Columban Art Calendars

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



We welcome into our Parish Family

Lucas William

son of Zerlina Pocknee-Wain and Jordan Nunn

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:



- ♦ What are some of the things you look forward to?
- ♦ How do you get ready to prepare for them?
- ♦ Today we begin Advent – what are we preparing for in Advent?
- ♦ Jesus asks us to watch out and be ready as we make our preparations to celebrate Christmas.
- ♦ How can we make Advent a time of preparation this week?

READINGS:

December 9-10 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
 Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14
 2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14
 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

COLLECTIONS:

November 25-26, 2023

Envelopes	\$ 873.00
DD & Cards	\$ 140.00
1 st Collection	\$ 1109.25
2 nd Collection	\$ 897.40
Pay Wave	\$ 170.00

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

**The Loss and Grief Group will meet on
 Thursday December 7 at 5.00pm in the
 Parish Centre**



Piano Cover



Thank you to Trudy Kosmer for the custom fitted piano cover. The Parish is very grateful for the gift of this handmade covering to protect the piano and act as a deterrent for anyone misusing the instrument.

**Morning Tea after Masses at
 St Patrick's and St Mary's
 this Sunday December 3.**

Come and join us.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS

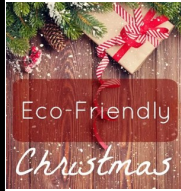
DECEMBER — For persons with disabilities

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.



**GLOW
DECEMBER 2**

**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 yet!**

It's that time of year again! Holidays means taking time with friends, family, and loved ones to enjoy a well-deserved break at the end of the year. It's a time for sharing happiness and celebrating together with food, decorations, and fun. But there's no reason that all that celebrating must come at the cost of the environment

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



St Mary's Family Christmas Mass Nagle College 7.00pm Christmas Eve

Your child is invited to participate in the Children's Gospel Dramatisation for the St Mary's Family Christmas Eve Mass.

The following acting parts are waiting to be filled: [Mary, Joseph, Caesar Augustus, 3 Kings, Inn Keeper, Shepherds and Angels.](#)

If your son/daughter wishes to participate, there will be a practice session at the dress rehearsal on Christmas Eve morning at Nagle College. We will supply costumes for your child to wear.

To register your interest, please email your family's preference by Friday December 15, 2023 to this address: stm.michelleg@gmail.com



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**



**Australian
Red Cross**

Volunteers urgently needed for
Patient Transport
If you can help please contact Fr Mark for
further details

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Tim Davies, Tess McGreevy, 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: Sue D'Amelio, Damien Johnson, Louis Pendergast, Gerald Rashleigh, David La Porta, Reginald 'John' Hall, Steve Klobukowski, Nicholas Sweetman Sr Rafael Wilson, Alex Bain, Sarah Traynor, Fr Tim McInnes, Robert Rhodes, Giaconda Capobianco, Barry Rowe, Rick Bourke 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: Pat Coloe, Bill Tilley, Kieran Hayles, Elizabeth Steere (USA-niece of Pat Walsh), 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.

First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame

Opening Prayer

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. 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 63:16-17; 64:3-8

your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R.** God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see, Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Notes

The world has many distractions. We are distracted by the lure of riches, the indulgence of our appetites, and the constant noise of modern media, electronic gadgets and the like. These and many other daily distractions make it very difficult to be constantly “watchful” and “alert.” This is because our attention span is limited. Though some may learn to “multi-task” to a certain extent, no one can continually divide their attention between the presence of God and the distractions of the world. Reflect, today, upon that to which you most often turn your attention. What is it that you think about the most each day? To what are you most attentive and watchful? If the answer to that question is not the ongoing promptings of God and His grace, then make note of that fact. Humbly pray that you can change and begin to form a transforming habit of daily keeping your attention on our Lord so that He will become your daily guide and focus in all things.

Young Catholics