



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 Joseph Abutu

**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)

### 1st Sunday of Lent Year B February 18, 2024

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.



### 1st Sunday of Lent February 17-18, 2024



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world *for all future generations*.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

#### WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am

Tuesday: 9.10am

Wednesday: 9.10am

**Thursday: NO MASS Clergy Day in Berwick**

Friday: 9.10am and Stations of the Cross

Friday 6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Tuesday to Friday: 8.00am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**St Patrick's Paynesville**

Wednesday: Rosary 10.00am

#### RECONCILIATION

Friday:

After 9.10am Mass

Saturday:

9.30am to 10.00am

#### ROSARY VIA ZOOM

Monday: 7.00pm

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

### 2nd Sunday of Lent Year B February 25, 2024

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	M Schumann	D Ball	C Marriott Smith	K Flannery	
9.30am Sunday	S Dean	T Kosmer	N Nash	R David	P Pruscino, M Grimsted, R Spierings
Cleaning: Fortnight ending: February 24 - P Pruscino <b>Please</b> 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.*



**New Alpha Program: Started on Friday February 16, 6.00pm - 8.00pm**

**Faith, Food, Fellowship, Fun**

**No cost involved; dinner included**

**Contact Madelaine: 0400 576 291 or Pattie: 0427 232 682**

**'I attended my first Alpha (only 3years ago) and it brought back to me many of the reasons I am a Christian, some things I had forgotten, some things that stirred within me the reason for wanting to be a disciple of Jesus. It reminded me of the wonder and wonders of God, the humanness of Jesus and the price he paid for me to have everlasting life and the presence of the Holy Spirit within me AND around me.'** *Pattie Pruscino*

**We share a meal (provided), watch a short film and then spend some time sharing our thoughts, asking questions and listening to each other. All are welcome from any faith background. SO – we warmly invite you to come along to the first week of the Alpha program with no commitment and no cost .**

### **POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS**

#### **February: For the Terminally Ill**

The Holy Father encourages prayers  
"so that terminally ill patients and their families  
always receive necessary medical and human care  
and support."

### **You are invited to a Lenten Journey 2024**

Come join us for prayer, discussion and fellowship via ZOOM or face to face over the next 6 weeks, reflecting on Scripture from the Sunday Gospels. The Season of Lent is an opportunity to reflect on the celebration of the saving action of a loving and merciful God. As we take stock of where we are in relationship with Him and draw closer to Christ in preparation for Easter. Enquiries please contact Michelle Grimsted 5152 2942 at St Mary's Parish Centre, Bairnsdale

#### **ZOOM Gatherings**

**Every Monday: February 12 to March 18: 7.45pm-8.45pm**

We will be using a Lenten Companion called *Repent and Believe, Be Filled with Love of God*, issued by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney which will be emailed to you.

To receive a link: email Michelle [stm.michelleg@gmail.com](mailto:stm.michelleg@gmail.com)

#### **Face to Face Gatherings**

**Every Tuesday: February 13 to March 19: 2.00pm-3.00pm**  
in the Parish Centre.

**Every Wednesday: 10.15am (for a 10.30am start)-11.30am**  
at Pam Winters home-57 Williams Parade, Bairnsdale  
Contact Mary Saunders - 0427 525 962

**Every Thursday: February 15 to March 21: 10.30am-11.30am**  
in the Chapel. We will be using a Lenten Companion called *Pieta (Divine Pity)* – the expression of God's mercy and love, issued by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong. This can be purchased for a small donation of \$10.00.

#### **READINGS:**

**2nd Sunday of Lent Year B**

**February 24-25, 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis

22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 115:10, 15-19

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 8:31-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

#### **COLLECTIONS:**

**February 10-11, 2024**

Envelopes \$ 902.00

DD & Cards \$ 30.00

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 743.85

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$ 690.55

Pay Wave \$ 130.00

## FOR PEACE

As the fever of the day calms towards twilight may all that is strained in us come to ease. We pray for all who have suffered violence today, May an unexpected serenity surprise them. For those who risk their lives each day for peace, May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history. That those who make riches from violence and war might hear in their dreams the cry of the lost. That we might see through the fear of each other a new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression. That those who enjoy the privilege of peace might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters. That the wolf might lie down with the lamb, that our swords be beaten into ploughshares and no hurt or harm be done anywhere on the holy mountain.

*'Benedictus' A book of Blessings by john O'Donohue*

### **Childrens 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:

- ♦ **In today's gospel where did Jesus go for 40 days to pray?**
- ♦ **Who tried to tempt or test Jesus?**
- ♦ **What did Jesus say to the people of Galilee after he left the wilderness?**
- ♦ **These 40 days of Lent are a time when we turn back to God and ask for forgiveness.**
- ♦ **In Lent we spend time in prayer and do good works.**
- ♦ **How can we do this during the coming weeks?**





**Gathering every 2nd and 4th Saturday  
Next GLOW—February 24**

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

### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Tuesday to Friday: 8.00-9.00am**

### **Stations of the Cross**

**Friday after 9.10am Mass and at 6.00pm**

### **Thanks to St Mary's**

Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to the Social Justice Committee at St Mary's for the recent generous donation of \$500 to **St Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad** to help purchase a new neonatal humidicrib.



It came just in time. On January 28, a Muslim woman gave birth at St Elizabeth to 2 boys, the first children after 6 years of marriage. You can imagine the rejoicing. Without the new humidicrib, there would have been space for only one of these twin baby boys in the Neonatal Special Care Unit. Both babies are now home with their parents. *Fr Robert McCulloch*

**World Day of Prayer  
on Friday March 1, 2.00pm at the  
Salvation Army, Goold St Bairnsdale.**  
This year the focus is Palestine



**St Vincent de Paul Mass  
on Tuesday March 6, 9.10am, in  
St Mary's Church, Bairnsdale**

We will acknowledge the work of Fr Gerald Ward who set up the first St Vincent De Paul Conference in Victoria in 1854, 170 years of service and compassion.

### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**Geoff Neeson (Chair), Madelaine Schumann,  
Narelle Gibbons, Jacinta Da Costa, Leonie Urban  
Ex-officio members: Fr Joseph, 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 2nd 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:** 3 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

## **DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?**

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Keith Worseldine (Marcia's brother), Billy King, Mary Herro, victims of natural disasters, COVID-19, terrorism, war, conflict, poverty, Family Violence, Asylum Seekers and all others who have passed away  
**ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Ann Taylor, Cathie Ludeman, Genevieve Bolleman, Geoff Birrell, Tony Capobianco, Gavan O'Brien, Imelda Mattley, Fay Whykes, John Gagalowicz, Betty Dwyer, Gwen Deery, Patricia Farquhar, Genoveffa Calvi, Giosue Calvi, Jim Duggan, John Graves, Joseph Zagami, Filomena Maglione, Prue McGoldrick, 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:** Russell Wilson, Benny Garro, Gabrielle Carrasco (great-niece of Chris and Sandie Tilley), Rob Brennan, Terry Smyth, Shane Hayles, Pat Coloe, Bill Tilley, Bev Broome, Michael Crane, Dennis Collins, Bob Marshall, Kathleen Robertson, 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.**

**Entrance Antiphon**

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**Opening Prayer**

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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 Book of Genesis 9:8-15**

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: nothing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

**Responsorial Psalm 24:4-9**

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my Saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

**A reading from the First Letter of St Peter 3:18-22**

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:12-15**

*The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'*

*Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane*

**Scripture Reflection**      Hope and Transformation

The proclamation of the Kingdom of God by Jesus in the Gospel for 1st Sunday of Lent Year B is a message of hope and an invitation to transformation. He calls us to repentance and belief in the Good News, signaling a new era of divine closeness and the possibility of a renewed relationship with God. This message is at the heart of the Lenten season. It encourages us to turn back to God, to embrace the transformative power of the Gospel, and to participate actively in the unfolding of God's kingdom. This transformative call extends beyond personal renewal to encompass the whole of creation. We are invited to be agents of change in the world, embodying the hope and renewal that Jesus preaches. By living out the values of the Gospel—love, justice, and peace—we contribute to the realization of the Kingdom of God on earth. Our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving become means through which we engage with the world, seeking not only our own conversion but also the healing and restoration of all creation.

The harmony between Jesus, the wild beasts, and the angels in the wilderness presents a vision of peace and reconciliation. How do you see your relationship with the non-human parts of God's creation? What practical steps can you take to foster a greater sense of harmony with the natural world?

*Young Catholics*