



Benambra: St Francis of Assisi

# THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

## Eastern 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.

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Michael Willemsen	<b>St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:</b>
<b>Assistant Priests:</b>	Fr Avinash George Fr Edwin Ogbuka	135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942 Email: <a href="mailto:stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com">stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.stmarysbairnsdale.net">www.stmarysbairnsdale.net</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale">St Mary's Church Bairnsdale</a>
<b>Presbytery:</b>	23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106	

#### 1st SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR B, 21st February 2021

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

Saturday: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am

**St Patrick's, Paynesville**

Sunday: 8am

**St Canice's, Lindenow**

Sunday: 11am

#### Weekday Masses @ St Mary's

**Monday:** 9:10am

**Tuesday:** 9.10am

**Wednesday:** 9:10am

**Thursday:** 9.10 am at ST MARY'S SCHOOL  
5.30 pm at St Mary's Church  
followed by Stations of the Cross

**Friday :** 9.10 am  
followed by Stations of the Cross



Please donate to  
**Project  
Compassion 2021**  
to help  
mothers like  
**Jamila** be more for  
her family and her community.



**Reconciliation**  
**Friday** following 9:10am Mass  
**Saturday** 9:30am—10am and 5:30pm—5:50pm.



#### LENTEN SMALL GROUPS..... YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN A GROUP .....BUT WHY?

Small groups are a rewarding and important part of the life of the Church.

**Friendships are strengthened**, or new friendships developed via small groups

Hearing opinions and thoughts from others helps **broaden and strengthen our own beliefs, a deeper understanding of Scripture** is often gained and we can rediscover a sense of **God's presence** in our lives. **New leaders can emerge** from small groups as we gain confidence in our relationship with Christ. **Expressions of interest please contact Pattie at the Parish Centre PH 5152 2942.**

Jamila is a Rohingya refugee living in a camp in Bangladesh with her elderly mother and baby daughter. With the support of Caritas Australia, and through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila has been able to access to emergency food, shelter, counselling, and vocational training that will help to support her family. Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed **"Be More"**. Through your generosity and by aspiring to be more, you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

#### Roster for Masses 27th & 28th Feb 2021

	<b>Welcomer</b>	<b>Commentator</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Special Minister</b>
6:00pm Sat	M Saunders	J Peachey	K Flannery	
9:30am Sun	M Owen	H Van Den Einden	M Grimsted	D Atkins

**Please find a replacement if unable to fill your spot.**

#### WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

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.



### **MEDITATIONS ON THE ROSARY FOR PARISH RENEWAL**

Our Blessed Mother is the one who teaches us to "do whatever he tells you," (John 2:5) and she is the intercessor par excellence. For this reason, all parishioners in the East Region of our Diocese are invited to seek her intercession for the missionary renewal of our Parishes, by the frequent praying of the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Join us via Zoom **Wednesday night's at 7pm** for 30 minutes or you may pick up a hard copy (from St Mary's Parish Centre) of the Mystery and Intention to pray in your own time. Please contact either Pattie or Michelle at the Parish Centre – 5152 2942.

### **World Day of Prayer**

is an ecumenical prayer event held on the first Friday in March each year all around the world. This year the theme is

**'BUILD ON A STRONG FOUNDATION'**

and has been prepared by the women from the Republic of Vanuatu. The Prayer Service will highlight their culture, joys and problems. St Mary's Parish welcomes the local community to join them.

**1:30pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March,  
in St Mary's Church followed by Afternoon Tea  
in the Parish Centre.**



**We welcome into the church**

through BAPTISM

*Joshua Phillip*

Son of Sarah Van der Velden



#### **WEEK ENDING 7th February:**

Envelopes	\$1,112.00
DD & Cards	\$1,285.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$ 446.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$ 285.00

#### **2nd Sunday of Lent Year B, 28/2/2021**

**Genesis 2:1-2;9-13; 15-18**  
**Psalms 115: 15-19**  
**Romans 8 : 31-34**  
**Mark 9: 2-10**

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION – COMMITMENT MASS**

This weekend children will take their first step towards receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will make a commitment to work through the process led by Michelle and with the help of their families, carers, and teachers and receive the sacrament in March. Let us keep them in our prayers as they deepen their love of God and our world.



**The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**

(Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer.

**FEBRUARY: Universal intention -**

**Violence against women**

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



### **Prayer for Plenary Council 2020**

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit of the  
great South Land.

O God, bless and unite all your people in  
Australia and guide us on the  
pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.

Give us the grace to see your face in one another  
and to recognise Jesus,  
our companion on the road.

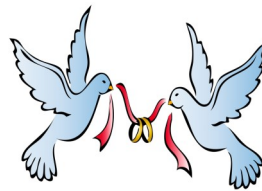
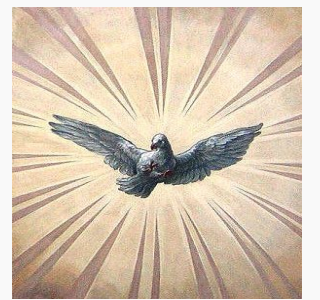
Give us the courage to tell our stories  
and to speak boldly of your truth.

Give us ears to listen humbly to each other  
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.

Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,  
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.

***Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.  
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.***



**CONGRATULATIONS & BLESSINGS TO**

**MARIA HUYNH &**

**TROY BITTNER,**

**MARRIED THIS WEEKEND.**

## **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.



### **CENTENARY HOUSE ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST**

**KEEP THE DATE!!!**

**WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH**

7am—10:30am

HOWITT PARK BOWLS CLUB, McEACHARN STREET

\$20 per head includes Home cooked

or Continental Breakfast

And many competition entries.



**Parish Pastoral Council:** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Please submit items to the Parish Centre by 10.00am Tuesday the week before. **Members:** Angela McKail & Michael Flynn: co—Chairpersons; Angelo D’Amore, Rita Bowers, Marilyn Elliott and Wilma Collier. Ex-officio members: priests, principals and Pattie. **A Parish Directory:** is available at the Pastoral Centre.

**Sacraments:** Information & registration forms available at [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 or 3rd Sunday’s of each month. **Weddings:** 6 months’ notice required, schedule dates with priest.

**Funerals:** Please contact your preferred Funeral Director for arrangements. **Anointing of the Sick:** Please call the Parish Centre.

**Communion to the Housebound /Aged Care:** Call Pattie Pruscino 51522942 or 0427 232 682

**Special Wedding Anniversaries:** 6 months’ notice is needed to organise a Papal Blessing for parishioners.

**Every Lent we are invited to undertake a journey of self-discovery and growth.**  
 Tuesday 2pm 54 Calvert Street; Tuesday 7:30pm via Zoom Pattie will send you the link.  
 Wednesday 10am Parish Centre Please contact Pattie at the Parish Centre PH 5152 2942

#### LACUNA – REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSION FOR LENT with the Uniting Church

“Lacuna” literally means a gap or a space. The call to Lacuna is a challenge to make space for God, to attend more carefully to God’s “still, small voice,” to open ourselves up to the mysterious presence of the living God.

During this coming season of Lent you are invited to join with others in meditating on scripture using the Lacuna process. This process involves careful reading of the scripture passage, silent reflection, commentary, discussion and prayer. We will meet for 5 weeks on Tuesdays 7:30pm by Zoom (contact Rosalie for the link) and Thursdays from 12:30pm at the manse (feel free to come early and bring your lunch).

23 <sup>rd</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Hebrews 4: 1-11	Entering God’s rest	16 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> March	John 1:35-42	Abiding with Jesus
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Luke 10: 38-42	Sitting at the feet	23 <sup>rd</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Mark 13: 32-42	Staying with the suffering one.



### Becoming ecologically virtuous

**Laudato si** was written by Pope Francis in 2015 to outline the Catholic Church’s position on the climate crisis. In 2016 Fr Joshrum Kureethadam wrote an article that proposed seven ecological virtues that he said all people should aim to heal the environment and to live a life that has minimal impact on the planet. All the terrible things that are happening to the environment – coral bleaching, bush fires, mass extinction and global warming are the result of human actions. We need to care for God’s creation because it is on loan to us, until we pass it to future generations.



### YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

This year the Church all over the world celebrates 2021 as the Year of St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church. In his Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>

#### Feast Days of St Joseph:

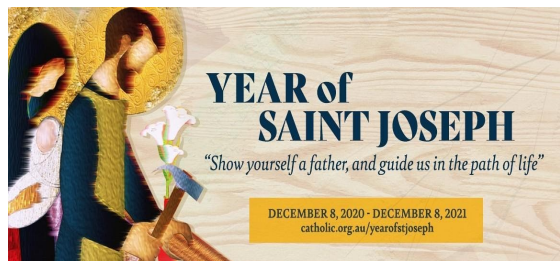
**Friday 19 March** - Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Saturday 1 May** - Memorial of St Joseph the Worker

**Year of St Joseph** - Spouse of Mary and loving father to Jesus.

#### St Joseph is the patron saint of:

Universal Church; Workers; Families; The Dying; Fathers & Married couples.



#### Prayer to St Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
 Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
 To you God entrusted his only Son;  
 in you Mary placed her trust;  
 with you Christ became man.  
 Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
 show yourself a father  
 and guide us in the path of life.  
 Obtain for us grace,  
 mercy, and courage,  
 and defend us from every evil.  
 Amen.*

By Pope Francis

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Anne Taylor (nee Argentino), John Graves, victims of mental health issues; of Covid-19; victims of terrorist attacks, war and conflict and asylum seekers, and victims of family violence and poverty.

**ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...** Kath Connelley, Marie Francis, Sheila Lees, Ursula McCarthy, Maria Giuseppa Catroppa, Genevieve Bolleman, Noel O’Keefe, Tony Capobianco, Imelda Mattley, Fay Whykes, John Gagalowicz, Esmonde O’Reilly, Andrew Buck, Betty Dwyer, Gwen Deery, Marie Downie, and the 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 ALSO REMEMBER THE SICK:** Ella Ford (NZ), Luke Withers (grandson of Sandie & Chris Tilley), Andrew Kenworthy, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Angie McKail, Victoria Shaw, Tricia & Alan Cooke, Damian Greaves, Mary Kirsner, Jim Quigley, Paul McFarlane, Craig Counsel, Linton Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, John Butler, Arthur Elbourne, Roma Greig, Andre Buxton, Rick Jones, Marcie Hayles, Lorraine O’Brien, Alan Wilson, Vic & Thelma Smythe, Trish & Karl Henderson, Brian Rowe, John Pruscino, Julie Frew, John Buck.

**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,  
 if you would like to keep someone on the list after this time, please contact the Parish Centre.**

## **1st Sunday of Lent , Year B**

### **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.

### **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.'

*The word of the Lord.*

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**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, 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.

*The word of the Lord.*

### **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.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Jerusalem Bible*

© Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

### **Scripture Notes:**

The Genesis text tells us of the treaty (covenant) God established with Noah and his descendants after the flood. It is made with the whole human race, not just Israel. The rainbow is a reminder of God's fidelity. With the emergence in Mark's Gospel of the beloved Son, the new era is the overthrowing of evil. Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, (Mark makes no mention of fasting). In reliving the history of His people who spent 40 years in the desert, Jesus too is tested. In the Genesis story, Satan's victory over Adam led to hostility and fear. In Mark's story the situation is reversed – Jesus is **with** the wild beasts and as the angels helped and guided God's people wandering in the desert, so Jesus is waited on by angels.

The temptations of Jesus were real but not necessarily an outward experience but more likely fought in the heart and mind of Jesus. The most subtle and dangerous temptations are the ones that originate inside us. They are also the most difficult to deal with because they involve self-denial, something that is never easy.

In His love for us God is continually calling us to a deeper and more authentic life. To answer this call would involve painful changes in our way of living. We may not be guilty of great evil, but it might be that we are very selfish, demanding and inconsiderate of others. But we don't want to know, much less do anything about this side of our nature. This is where Lent comes to our aid. It is a window of opportunity and a time of special grace. Jesus was victorious over Satan through prayer, self-denial and obedience to the word of God. Lent is an opportunity to look at our lives; challenges us to change what needs to be changed. If we want to change the outer aspects of our lives, we must first change the inner attitudes of our minds.

It means substituting new habits for old ones -self -discipline. This change of heart can be accomplished most of all through the power of prayer.

*Flor McCarthy SDB*



# OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We commit to making our Church a safe place for children and young people and protecting them from harm.



## St Marys Parish Bairnsdale Omeo

Confidential help is always available. Ph 5152 2942

Email: [stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com) Safeguarding Officer: Kath Cassidy

