



Immaculate Conception, Omeo

# 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)

#### 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, August 20, 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.

Vivienne Abejula

Lucy Bradley

Annabel Brazzale

Mila Brodribb

Marcus Burley

Jackson Calabro

Lexi Capobianco

Dante Desio

Archer Emmett

Lucas Evans

Perri Foy

Alyssa Fulton

Griffin Glover

Rory Hansen

Ruby Harmer

Ella Horner

Arie Knott

Hyde Ljubic

Ryder McGovern

Lillian Penglase

Amelie Prince

Ashtyn Stone

Max Taylor

Ruby Thomson-McDonald

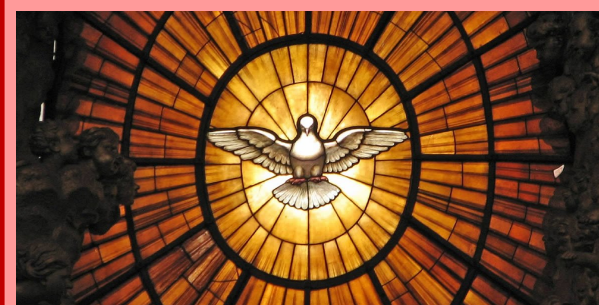
Skye Tiffin

Ethan Veldhuizen

Margaret Villa

Indi Ward

Lucas Watt



Please welcome and pray for our  
Confirmation candidates as they  
prepare for the next big step in their  
Sacramental journey.



Saturday August 26

#### WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: **NO MASS**

Tuesday: **10.30am**

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: **St Mary's PS Foundation 9.10am**

**All Parishioners are invited to attend**

**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

#### 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, August 26 – 27, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	N Light	M Schumann	C Marriot-Smith	K Flannery	
9.30am Sunday	J Coverdale	M Grimsted	B Marshall	S Tilley	D Atkins, J Delany, M Mendonca

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: September 2nd - 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.**



## Alpha FAITH, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, and FUN

Alpha is now into the third week, as the program continues to serve our Parish family. We are witnessing an enrichment of our faith, as we see friendships developing, leading us to experience more of our heavenly Father's love. The participants and team are enjoying good food, good fellowship, and good fun together. We are seeing a beautiful ripple effect in our families and Parish community as the Good News of God's love for us, is shared through the Alpha program.

Dear Lord,

All glory and honour to You Lord Father. We pray for your blessings and love upon the Alpha team, the guests and their families. We pray that your mighty and gentle hand continues to guide this ministry in our Parish. We ask that the Holy Spirit continues to burn in all our hearts, leading us closer to the Father's Love through this beautiful program.

In the name of our Lord, sweet Jesus, we pray.

Amen.



### Thank you from CatholicCare Victoria.

CatholicCare Victoria is deeply grateful for the support of our Parish during last week's CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Because of the generosity of our Parish community, CatholicCare Victoria can continue to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families in our community have the opportunity to live life to the full.

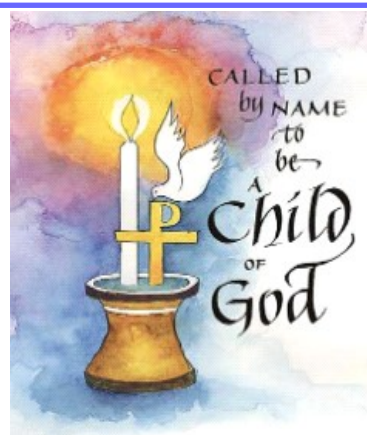
Thank you for helping those in need!

For more information about CatholicCare Victoria, please visit:  
[www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au)

All gifts of \$2.00 and above are tax deductible

To see the valuable work CatholicCare does locally visit:

<https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/directory/services/bushfire-community-recovery-service>



**We welcome into our Parish family this weekend**

*Oliver Lochlin Ross*

**Son of Chloe and Lochlin Simpson**

#### READINGS:

**August 26 - 27, 2023**

**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 22:19-23

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Romans 11:33-36

**Gospel:** Matthew 16:13-20

#### COLLECTIONS:

**August 12-13, 2023**

Envelopes \$ 2903.00

DD & Cards \$ 545.00

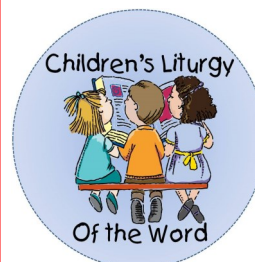
1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 870.60

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$ 777.45

Pay Wave \$ 40.00

Catholic Care \$ 1367.05

### 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 happened when the woman in today's gospel first called out to Jesus for help?**
- ♦ **Why do you think the disciples tried to turn her away?**
- ♦ **How did Jesus reward her faith?**
- ♦ **Have you ever heard of or seen people in need who have been turned away?**
- ♦ **How should we treat people who are in need or different to us?**

**Let us pray that we will become more like Jesus and show kindness to all people.**





## **INVITATION TO A JOURNEY OF FAITH**

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

**When:** Every Tuesday from August 15, 2023

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

**Time:** 7.00pm – 8.30pm



**Please welcome St Mary's  
Youth Group to our Mass  
this evening.**

**Our next gathering will be  
Saturday September 2.  
5.00pm Youth Group in the Parish Hall  
and 6.00pm Mass for Children's Choir and  
Liturgy of the Word.  
For more information contact  
Fr. Mark or Michelle Grimsted 5152 2942**

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

### **For World Youth Day**



We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

### **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



### **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.

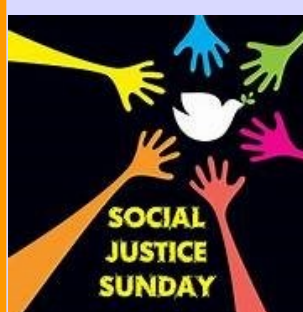
**Communion to the Housebound /Aged Care:**

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



### **Social Justice Sunday August 26-27, 2023**

This year's Social Justice Statement, Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse, invites us to engage with a complex and confronting social reality. It explores the roots of violence and abuse, honours the voices of victims, offers a social and theological exploration of the reality of violence, especially against women and children, and invites us to develop relationships in all parts of our lives 'marked by equality and reciprocity rather than domination and violence, respect and freedom rather than coercion and control.' We welcome this urgent call from our Church to deepen our faith through full and frank discussion and dialogue, advocacy and action. If the content of the Statement raises issues or concerns for you, please refer to the Getting Help page in the Statement for a list of support channels, or speak to a trusted friend, your GP, your Parish Priest or Parish Pastoral Worker. Access the Statement <https://bit.ly/SJS22-23>. More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or Tel (02) 62019845.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Joy Websdale (Gwen Cook's sister), Doreen Noble, Joyce Pruscino, Bill Gray, Madeleine Evans (nee Murphy) and all victims of natural disasters, COVID-19, terrorism, war, conflict, poverty, Asylum Seekers, and those living with Family Violence or mental health issues.

**ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Michael Trybus, Penny Hood, Rita Spirason, Angelo Elia, Frank Murphy, Maureen Terrill, Freda Carrick, Frank Gregson, Marjorie Dore, Hank Janson, Peter Vanzin, Joyce 'Jean' Rankin Katie Stenn, Josie Redenbach, Craig Toomey, Ronnie Bruce, John McKenna 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:** Bob Marshall, Sue Minchin, Fran Adamson, Elaine Cook, Peter Hayden, John Hayles, Denise Roberts, Jan Baxter, Maree Lesley Cowell, Hudson Schwab, Adrian Coulter, 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.**

**Entrance Antiphon**

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one;  
one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**Opening Prayer**

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire.  
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 56:1, 6-7**

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**R. O God, let all the nations praise you!**

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**  
Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice.  
With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **R.**  
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him **R.**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 11:13-15, 29-32**

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.  
Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. **Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 15:21-28**

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

*Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane*

**Scripture notes**

At some time or other all of us have come across someone begging in the street, and it would probably be fair to say that few of us come out of the encounter with credit. It can be disturbing. Why can't we say, 'G'day' to this person? Why can't we look at them and why may we try to avoid them? Is our excuse that we have no loose change on us? The encounter can arouse conflicting opinions of pity, discomfort, anger and guilt within us. We may not like what we discover about ourselves and must be careful that we don't direct that anger at the person. The encounter can also be humbling as it can make us aware of our own poverty... in compassion and willingness to help a fellow human being and poor in our capacity to love. It can also be a blessing as it can awaken within us feelings of tenderness and compassion, kindness and communion. That it is possible to love more and to give more of ourselves. It also reminds us that before God we are all poor. The woman in the gospel was looked upon in this way but she showed such faith in her perseverance and love for her daughter. Faith impels us to persevere, to struggle on with no guarantee of a happy ending, but the knowledge that God is with us every step of the way.