



St Canice's Lindenow

THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

East 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.

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Willemsen
Assistant Priests: Fr Avinash George
 Fr Hiep Van Nguyen
Presbytery:
 23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106

St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:
 135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942
 Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com
 Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net
 Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

**No Masses
 or Reconciliation
 until present Covid
 restrictions eased.**

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 5th September, 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.



HAPPY FATHERS DAY

This week we celebrate the gift of our fathers and those who have been father figures to us. We take as our model, Jesus' description of his Heavenly Father as kind, loving, merciful and wise. At this time of restrictions on visiting and travel for many of us, the celebration of Father's Day may be bittersweet, when we had been hoping to be with our fathers and families in person. It is also a time of poignancy where those of us who have lost our fathers, may remember them with love. During this Year of St Joseph, we remember Joseph and his fatherly role in caring and guiding Jesus. Visit <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph> for prayers, monthly reflections and other resources.

SIGN THE URGENT CALL

The Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service, and Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue, have given their support to the initiative and have invited us to join with other Christians in calling for a special intake of Afghan refugees. Christians from across the Church, alongside a wider public movement, are being moved to speak boldly to our national government leaders to provide urgent action for the well being of Afghan refugees. This is a moment which calls for solidarity by the Australian Church as one. The call is simple:

We, the Australian Church, are calling on the Federal Government to welcome a special intake of an additional 20,000 Afghan refugees, and support the ongoing well-being of all Afghan refugees and their families.

[\[Sign the urgent call\]](#)

This is a loud and urgent call from Christians across all walks of life and perspectives, united in concern for the well-being of the Afghan community.

You are invited to take the simple step to sign up to this call today, and show solidarity for this important issue.

It is the hope that as we unite as the Church, and show our government that we believe we are called to reach out and care for the vulnerable, that they will respond with a just and compassionate commitment to help the most vulnerable Afghan refugees. I encourage you to review the website and to bring this invitation to the attention of our people.

With every peace, Most Reverend Greg Bennet, Bishop of Sale

So, go to National Council of Churches > Our Works > Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce > then follow the prompts

Child
Safety
Week

5-12 September, 2021

EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A FAIR CHANCE



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.

Pope Francis encourages Catholics to join the 2021 SEASON OF CREATION

(1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology)



Substantial action is more urgent than ever, following the alarming climate report just released by the world's most authoritative body on climate science, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The United Nations

Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres declared that this new report signalled a 'code red' for humanity and the planet.

We are all invited to join our Christian sisters and brothers in participating in the annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for our common home.



The Laudato Si Action Plan



1. **Response to the Cry of the Earth**

calls us to equitably address climate change, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.



2. **Response to the Cry of the Poor** calls us to global solidarity, especially with marginalised or excluded groups, and to defend human life and all forms of life on earth.



3. **Ecological Economics** acknowledges that the economy relies on the biosphere – our common home – and it should serve people and respect creation.

LET'S START.....MORE SUGGESTIONS NEXT WEEK

POPE FRANCIS - Universal intention - September An environmentally sustainable lifestyle.



We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

PARISH PASTORAL CARE WORKER

St Marys Parish Bairnsdale is seeking a person who is passionate about caring for others (50 hrs per fortnight) is motivated by service to the community, is committed to working as part of a team and living the Christian message.

- The person must possess proficient computer skills, a "can do" attitude with a good understanding of pastoral needs.
- They must have excellent interpersonal skills and able to communicate positively with a wide range of people from different cultural and social backgrounds.
- They must be strategic, adaptable, perceptive of needs and able to action plans in a timely fashion.

Phone **5152 2942** for Selection Criteria, or visit our website: stmarysbairnsdale.net

Applications close 5.00pm Friday 17th September 2021

Readings:

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Year B, 11 & 12/9/21**

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9
Psalm: 114:1-6,8-9
2nd Reading: St James 2:14-18
Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

Collections for

Week ending 29/8/21

Envelopes	\$	0.00
DD & Cards	\$	185.00
1 st Collection	\$	20.00
2 nd Collection	\$	20.00

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.***



FAN THE FLAME

Towards Plenary Assembly One

October 2021

"He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak. Mark 7:31

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The Church hears the cries of the poor and the groans of the earth. It seeks to stand in solidarity with the poor and the marginalised, and to exercise good stewardship of the fragile ecosystems that support life on earth.

Social Justice Statement 2002", accessed 23 April 2021, <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Social-Justice-Statement-2002.pdf>, 10.)

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheblade/

Plenary Council Agenda:

The agenda is made up of 16 questions covering the six topics that came out of the listening and discernment process.

The third Plenary theme is Formation. Formation is not a word that we use often although it applies to all of us. It could be "understood as a continuing, lifetime process by which one grows into the likeness of Christ, according to God's will and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit." ("Laity, formation and education of," encyclopedia.com). This looks like an easy definition but there is a lot in it. The Agenda items for Formation are:

- How might we better form leaders for mission – adults, children and families, couples and single people?
- How might we better equip ordained ministers to be enablers of missionary discipleship: the Church becoming more a "priestly people" served by the ordained ministry?
- How might formation, both pre- and post-ordination, better foster the development of bishops, priests and deacons as enablers of the universal Christian vocation to holiness lived in missionary discipleship?

Prayers for the success of the Plenary Council are deeply appreciated. Your issues, concerns, reflections or questions about the Plenary or the agenda items are important, and you are welcome to contact the Sale Diocese members:

Bishop Greg bishop@sale.catholic.org.au

Fr Peter Slater pslater@sale.catholic.org.au

Fr Denis O'Bryan denis.obryan@cdsale.org.au

Lize Privitera lize.privitera@plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au;

Katherine Jelavic katherine.jelavic@plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Sophy Morley, Diocesan Plenary Convener

smorley@sale.catholic.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council: meets 2nd Thursday of the month. Please submit items to the Parish Centre by 10.00am Tuesday the week before. **Members:** Michael Flynn and Angela McKail (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

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. **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 5152 2942 or 0427 232 682

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

St Mary's Primary School: 5152 3706 **Nagle College:** 5152 6122

St Vincent de Paul Conference/Centre: 5152 6687 **St Mary's Op Shop:** 5152 2088

RETIREMENT OF 2 MORE PRIESTS:

Bishop Greg has announced that Fr Peter Bickley will retire as Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral on 12 January 2022. The Bishop said Fr Peter "will also retire from other Diocesan appointments. We thank Fr Peter for his priestly ministry at the Cathedral, for ensuring it has remained a place of welcome and hospitality to all and for his committed pastoral care of the community of the Cathedral parish and beyond. We are also grateful for his many years as Diocesan Master of Ceremonies in which he has been pivotal in such historic liturgical events."

Bishop Greg has also announced that Fr Peter Kooloos will retire as Parish Priest of Koo Wee Rup and Iona-Maryknoll on 12 January 2022. Bishop Greg said Fr Kooloos "will continue to provide canonical advice to the Bishop's Office and other bodies as required. He will retire from other Diocesan appointments. We acknowledge Fr Peter's dedicated ministry in his current appointment and for the wider canonical expertise which he has provided to the governance of the Diocese of Sale."

Both priests have served time (in the nicest of ways) in our Parish over the years.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: 5 SEPTEMBER 2021

FATHER'S DAY APPEAL FOR THE PRIESTS' WELFARE FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF SALE:

In light of the above information regarding another 2 priests of our diocese, we are rightly reminded that they, the priests and deacons of our Diocese, require our financial support.

This Fund supports our priests and deacons in times of sickness or retirement. At this time the Foundation is supporting nine priests, three deacons and their wives in retirement, as well as those priests overseas and those unwell. The budgeted expenditure of the Foundation for them over the next year will be over \$200,000.

Donations can now be made by clicking on <https://www.cdsale.org.au/priestswelfarefoundation>

The foundation is grateful and appreciative of your support in these difficult times. All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible. A tax receipt will be automatically sent if an email address is provided.

Donations may also be made through your local parish.



Masses were offered and groups of 10 candidates along with their parents and 2 others could receive & celebrate & the Sacrament of Confirmation).

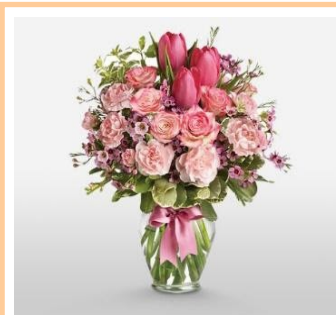
Come Holy Spirit Come, renew the face of the Earth.

We have 38 candidates preparing to deepen and take more responsibility of their faith in readiness to receive the

Sacrament of Confirmation

on Saturday 11th September.

Let us keep them, their families and educators in our prayers as they journey together. With Covid restrictions we are not 100% sure this will happen on 11th September. It will happen this year (maybe like in 2020 when 4



Congratulations and blessings to John & Tricia Spirason on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. May joy, peace and good health be theirs in the coming years.

FATHERS DAY PRAYER

God, our Father,

We give thanks and praise for fathers young and old.
We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation: may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.
We pray for fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering: may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.
We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.
We remember fathers, grandfathers and great grand fathers who are no longer with us, but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Vittoria Battista, Joyce (Jean) Rankin, victims of: mental health issues; Covid-19; terrorist attacks, war and conflict; asylum seekers; family violence and poverty.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...

Chris McKenna, James Duggan, Mary Keady, Fr Ted Cooper Jack Donchi, Fr Joe Pulis SDB, Pina Ciaglia, Manfred Ratzman, Bill Greenwood, Helen Gagalowicz, 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:

Michael Flynn, Pat Walsh, Tony Hutchins, Mark Rashleigh, Marsha Worseldine, Arthur Elbourne, Arthur Roberts, Margaret O'Reilly, Maree Elbourne, Paul Hawker, Bev Miller (mother of Val Bersey), Ella Ford (NZ), Damian Greaves, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Victoria Shaw, Jim Quigley, Craig Counsel, Roma Greig, Linton Smith, Andre Buxton, Marcie Hayles, Brian Rowe, Vic Smythe, John Pruscino, Julie Frew.

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.

23d Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B, 5th September

Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (35:4-7)

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. **R.**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age **R.**

A reading from the letter of St James (2:1-5)

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats;' then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

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 Mark (7:31-37)

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle.

Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Notes

This miracle is the only cure in the Gospels that is described as taking place gradually. Jesus took such care and trouble on behalf of this poor man. Mark saw it as an illustration of growth in faith. When Jesus urges those he heals to say nothing to anyone it is because he does not want a reputation as a wonder-worker. He is seeking those who will follow him in faith, not spectators who see marvels. The person who has conferred a kindness should be silent; the person who received a kindness should speak of it.

The ability to hear and speak are two great gifts that can easily be taken for granted.

How well do we use these precious gifts? Our greatest tragedy is to have ears yet fail or refuse to listen; to have tongues but fail or refuse to speak wisely and kindly professing faith in God. We need to be able to hear the word of God; profess that word on our lips and put it into practice in our daily lives.

The word of God when acted on is like a seed falling on good soil; it makes our lives fruitful.

Flor McCarthy SDB New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies

PRAYER OF SOLIDARITY - FOR THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN

An extract from 'A collaboration between The Loreto Justice Network and the ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace.'

With one voice, we call on people from all traditions to pray in solidarity for the people of Afghanistan:

Mary, woman of faith:	pray for us.
St Oscar Romero, servant of the poor:	pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, woman of courage:	pray for us.
St Maximillian Kolbe, servant of the prisoner:	pray for us.
St Josephine Bakhita, woman of endurance:	pray for us.
St Ignatius of Loyola, servant of truth:	pray for us.
St Edith Stein, woman of dedication:	pray for us.
St Francis of Assisi, servant of peace:	pray for us.

Gracious and loving God, as we pray with all those who suffer today, may you be with them, and with us in this time of great sorrow and lament. We ask this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen