



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 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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, September 10, 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.

Child Safety Week

3 - 10 September 2023

'Child safety in action in the Diocese of Sale'



The Parish of St Mary's Bairnsdale/Omeo and the Diocese of Sale are committed to the care, well-being and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community.

Mindful of the theme for National Child Protection Week, may we work to build and support **safe communities for all people.**

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at:
www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023

WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am
Tuesday: 9.10am
Wednesday: 9.10am
Funeral Prayers-Keith Mullaly 12.00 noon
Thursday: 9.10am
Friday: 9.10am
Mass of the Holy Angels-
Carmen Golonski (Grimsted) 2.00pm
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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, September 17-18, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	N Light	J De Boer	P Reefman	C Marriot-Smith	
9.30am Sunday	L Urban	H Sampson	B Marshall	S Dean	H Sampson, P Pruscino, J Coverdale

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: September 16 - H Sampson 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**

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. Amen.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS

SEPTEMBER

For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of less importance

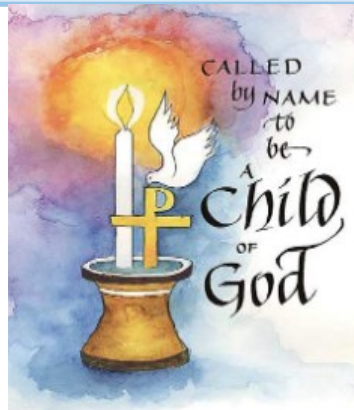
CHURCH TOUR GUIDES

Church Tours are starting up again in October and we are looking for people interested in taking on the role of Church Tour Guide. An Information Session will be held on Friday September 22 at 11.00am in the Parish Hall.

Lunch will be provided.

Please contact the Parish Centre if you are interested or if you know of someone you could see in the role.

RSVP: September 15.



We welcome into our Parish Family this weekend
Dusty Shane & Jackson Lewis,
sons of
Belinda and Dallas Vincent

READINGS:

September 17-18 2023

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:7

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 102:1-4, 9-12

2nd Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

COLLECTIONS:

September 2-3, 2023

Envelopes \$ 1218.00

DD & Cards \$ 2630.00

1st Collection \$ 555.85

2nd Collection \$ 637.80

Pay Wave \$ 70.00



Lord, grant us a strong and courageous faith, a faith that burns brightly even in times of darkness, a faith that doesn't falter even when there are no miracles or happy endings.

A Good Friday faith that trusts until the dawn of Easter, a faith that is rooted in your love for us and that expresses it in our love for others.

Amen.

The Season of Creation September 1 to October 4

This ecumenical season serves as a time of reflection, celebration, and action dedicated to the environment. It is a time when communities worldwide come together to acknowledge the interconnectedness of all life forms and to renew their dedication to caring for our common home. We are all

invited to engage in a variety of activities and initiatives. These range from tree planting and clean-up efforts to educational events and advocacy campaigns aimed at addressing pressing ecological challenges.

September 7 was National Threatened Species Day.

It reminds us of the many animal and plant species which are in danger of becoming extinct and the work we need to do to prevent this from happening.



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:

- ♦ **Who has known someone who sinned against a friend?**
- ♦ **What did they do wrong?**
- ♦ **How did they make up?**
- ♦ **In today's Gospel what does Jesus say to do if someone sins against you? (point out what is wrong in private)**
- ♦ **What does he say you should do if you have sinned against someone? (listen to what they have to say)**
- ♦ **Jesus says we need to be honest and respect each other in times of difficulty.**
- ♦ **How can we do this at school and at home?**



There is no meeting
September 16 due to
school holidays

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.

For more information contact
Fr. Mark or Michelle Grimsted 5152 2942

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

We thank you for your generous donations of
\$557.85 to the **Priests' Welfare Foundation**

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

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



SEASONAL WORKERS BBQ

A BBQ for seasonal workers was held on
Father's Day at the home of Peter and Wendy Flave,
who are part of an Ecumenical group called
"East Gippsland Community Connections"
that supports Seasonal Workers from
Vanuatu, Timor Leste and Kiribati,
who are working and living in our local community.

**Pat Coloe has moved to Stretton Park
Aged Care Facility in Maffra for four
weeks, prior to her permanent move
to Drouin to be closer to her family.**

**Pat is a well-known, respected
and loved member of our
St Mary's Community and she will be
truly missed. We wish her well and
pray for God's blessing for her.**

This weekend we welcome back Fr Michael from Japan and wish Bon Voyage to
Fr Mark who leaves for India on Tuesday. We pray for a safe trip for him.
Fr Michael is celebrating Mass on Saturday in St Mary's, Sunday in St Patrick's and
then heads to St Colman's, Orbost and St Peter's, Mallacoota.
Fr Mark celebrates Mass on Sunday morning in St Mary's and St Canice's in Lindenow.

With a heavy heart we would like to invite you to celebrate our precious girl, Carmen
Katharina Golonski (Grimsted)....may our love and prayers be heard together on such
an important day as we remember our little Saint. As we honour her precious life, be
encouraged to wear white or bright colours in memory of our beautiful Angel.
A Mass of the Holy Angels will be held at St Mary's Church on Friday 15th September
2023 at 2.00pm
God Bless - Michelle Grimsted

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Mary Norton, Fay Anderson, Mark Todd, Karter Hayles (grandson of Anna Marie
Hayles and great grandson of John and Afra Van Boxel), John Spirason, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), 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: Bill Greenwood, Helen Gagalowicz, Chris McKenna, James Duggan,
Mary Keady, Lenny Cavone, Frank Murphy, Fr Ted Cooper SDB, Francesca Aloisio, Francesco Aloisio, Geoffrey Downie,
Jan Feltham (Ross), Nicolina Tedeschi, Pasquale Tedeschi, Jack Donchi, Fr Joe Pulis SDB, Pina Ciaglia, Frank Murphy,
Maureen Sheehan, Manfred Ratzman 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: Michael Crane, Dennis Collins (brother of Cheryl Heaton-Harris), George Ward, Sr Angela Ryan CSB,
Alepacka Tyrell, Bob Marshall, Sue Minchin, Fran Adamson, Elaine Cook, Peter Hayden, John Hayles, Denise Roberts, Jan Baxter,
Maree Cowell, Hudson Schwab, Adrian Coulter, Josephine Box, Deidree Tickner, Kathleen Robertson, Stuart Murray, Maria Sticca,
baby Ethan, Robyn Finlay, Rick Harney, Margaret O'Reilly, Arthur Elbourne.

Entrance Antiphon

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

Opening Prayer

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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 Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Responsorial Psalm

R.O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture notes

A key point in today's readings, is that we should always speak with love and humility. Matthew's passage presents difficulties. Its harsh instructions reflect a tradition cultivated by the strict Jewish Christianity, from which Matthew's Church grew. The biggest problem is that it doesn't sound like Jesus. At its broadest, what Jesus was saying was: if someone sins, no effort must be spared to get them to acknowledge their fault and reform. As people living in community, we are responsible for our neighbour's wellbeing. We should not remain silent when that silence can be seen as condoning what is happening, in which case we bear part of the responsibility for the evil. Not speaking out about something that is wrong and can enable that behaviour to continue. Nelson Mandela's experience, in prison on Robben Island, showed him that even the most seemingly cold-blooded people have a core of decency, and if their hearts are touched, they are capable of change. God is continually calling us from the error of our ways into a closer relationship with him and one another. It is usually through human intermediaries that God's call comes.

Flor McCarthy New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies