



St Patrick's, Paynesville

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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, September 17, 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2023-24

Listen, Learn, Love

A New Engagement with Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Peoples



The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has launched its 2023-24 Social Justice Statement. This year's statement is titled *Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*. "Strengthening our relationship with our First Peoples is integral and indeed critical to the strengthening of the whole nation," Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv said at the launch.

The media release and the statement can be found at the Diocesan website:

cdsale.catholic.org.au.

WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am
Tuesday: 9.10am
Bupa Aged Care 10.30am
Wednesday: 9.10am
Maddocks Gardens 10.30am
Thursday: 9.10am
Friday: 9.10am

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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, September 23-24, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	C Shanahan	J Peachey	D Ball	B O'Kelly	
9.30am Sunday	S Dean	H Van Den Einden	M Grimsted	T Kosmer	J Delany, B and A Capobianco

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: September 30 - J & D Fallon 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, 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.



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.

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— 5152 2942 if you are interested or if you know of someone you could see in the role.

Dear Lord,

As we move towards The Voice Referendum we ask that You grant us the wisdom to thoughtfully discern on our decision and the grace to accept the fact there are differing opinions. We ask that You guide our decision as witness to Your compassion and enduring, unconditional love for us. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



READINGS:

September 23-24, 2023

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

2nd Reading:

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

COLLECTIONS:

September 9-10, 2023

Envelopes \$ 999.00

DD & Cards \$ 190.00

1st Collection \$ 611.85

2nd Collection \$ 714.45

Pay Wave \$ 50.00

Priests Welfare \$ 120.00

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

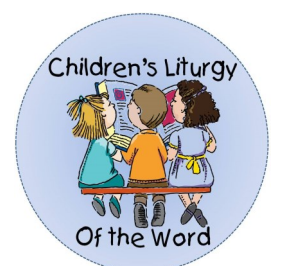
invited to engage in a variety of activities and initiatives. These range from tree planting and clean-up efforts to educational events and advocacy campaigns aimed at addressing pressing ecological challenges.

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:

- How much did the first official owe the king?
- What was the king's reaction when the official wouldn't pay?
- How did the king show mercy?
- How much did the other person owe the official?
- What did the official say when the other person couldn't pay the debt?
- What did the king do when he heard what the official had done?
- Why was the official unfair?
- What does Jesus mean when he tells us to forgive not seven but seventy-seven times?
- We pray that we will forgive others just as we have been forgiven.



**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

*St Mary's Parish Bairnsdale invites you to a spiritual journey
praying the Rosary with Mary in contemplation with her son Jesus.*

JOIN US FOR PRAYER IN OCTOBER

Register for this free weekly gathering on Monday nights
from 7.00pm - 7.30pm via ZOOM on the
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th October
Join us whenever you can!

If you would like a zoom link to participate, register your
interest with Michelle via email:

stm.michelleg@gmail.com or phone St Mary's Parish
03 5152 2942

*This powerful prayer is the
storehouse of countless
blessings.*

*We are so excited for you to be
part of something amazing and
marvellous.*

*Encountering Jesus by praying
the Rosary with others.*

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



2021 Synod 2023
For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

The Synod on Synodality, initiated by Pope Francis in
October 2021, is a multiyear, worldwide undertaking during
which Catholics were asked to submit feedback to their
local Dioceses on the question "What steps does the Spirit
invite us to take in order to grow in our 'journeying
together?'

**Let us pray for the Church as it embarks on its journey
toward a synodal Church that has communion,
participation and mission at its core.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Keith Mullaly, Mary Norton, Fay Anderson, Mark Todd, Karter Hayles (grandson of Anna Marie Hayles and great grandson of John and Afra Van Boxtel), 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: Mary Field, Owen Gibbons, Jack Spirason, Glenda Moulton, Evan Dungey, Bill Greenwood, Helen Gagalowicz, Chris McKenna, James Duggan, Mary Keady, Lenny Cavone, Frank Murphy, Fr Ted Cooper SDB, 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: Robert McMahon, Michael Crane, Dennis Collins (brother of Cheryl Heaton-Harris), George Ward, Sr Angela Ryan CSB, Alepaka 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.

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

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Opening Prayer

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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 Ecclesiasticus 27:30—28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills,

who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever.

He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture notes

In a commentary on this passage from St. Thomas Aquinas, the "torturers" spoken of, to whom we will be handed over if we do not forgive, are the demons. They will torment us when we lack forgiveness toward others. The torture, for now, will come in the form of obsessing over our wounds, dwelling upon thoughts of revenge, holding grudges, and lacking interior peace. This is the work of the demons, and they will torment us this way until we forgive. Reflect, today, upon the absolute requirement of the Christian life to forgive. Mercy can seem unfair. From the perspective of strict justice, it is. But from the perspective of freedom and the virtues of Heaven, mercy makes perfect sense. Do not hesitate to forgive, for if you can do so from the bottom of your heart, God will lavish upon you the riches of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Catholic Life