

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

Second Sunday of Advent Year B December 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.

Advent Mini Retreat



December 14 and December 21

Where: St Mary's Chapel **Time:** 9.45am

Contact: Michelle at the Parish Centre or
michelleg@gmail.com

**Advent-The Sign Daily Reflection Book available at Mass
or the Parish Centre-\$5.00**

There has been a proposal that a Morning Tea
could be held after the 9.30am Mass on Christmas Day.
We need to hear from you if you and your families,
would like to come.

So if you would like to join together with
members of our Parish Family for a cuppa on
Christmas morning please call Michael on 5152 2942
by Friday December 15 to say that you will be there
If there is not sufficient interest it will not go ahead.

WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am

Tuesday: 9.10am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

St Mary's PS Year 6 Graduation: 6.00pm

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

ROSARY

Monday: 7.00pm

via Zoom

Contact the Parish Centre
for a link

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

Masses held 4th weekend of each month.

Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek:

4th Saturday: 6.30pm

Immaculate Conception, Omeo:

4th Sunday: 9.00am

St Francis', Benambra:

4th Sunday: 11.00am

Third Sunday of Advent Year B, December 17, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	C Shanahan	J De Boer	P Reefman	C Shanahan	
9.30am Sunday	N Nash	T Kosmer	P Browne Graham	M Owen	H Van Den Einden, S Dean, C Tilley

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: December 23 - 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.



Columban Art Calendars

Now available. See Kath Cassidy, or Michael at the Parish Centre. Only \$10.00

Normal Sunday Masses are at the usual times on December 24 Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Sunday December 24

St Francis', Benambra: 6.00pm

St Mary's Family Mass, Nagle College:
7.00pm

St Mary's Midnight Mass: 12.00 midnight

Monday December 25

St Patrick's, Paynesville: 8.00am

St Mary's: 9.30am

Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek: 10.30am

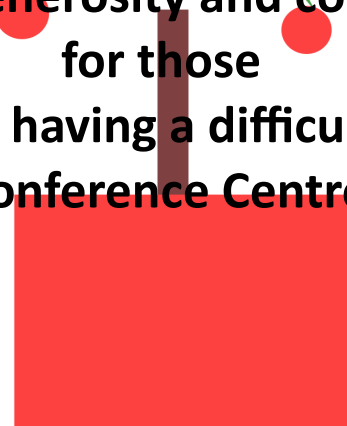
SVDP Giving Tree

It's that time of year again!
Once again, we are inviting you to take one or more tags from our giving tree as suggestions for items you can provide for our Christmas hampers - toys and foodstuffs.

We are very aware of those who provide all manner of support for our companions through us and thank you for your generosity and compassion for those

who are having a difficult time.

Bairnsdale Conference Centre 5152 6687



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, OMEO

Prayer Group and Liturgy of the Word on Sundays when there is no Mass.

9.00am in the Church, followed by morning tea.

For more information contact Jessica: 0491 706 678



Thank you
to everyone who

contributed to making our

Cultural Heritage Day a success.

Our Timor Leste Choir for the sublime music,

those who helped set up

and clean up

and for the wonderful

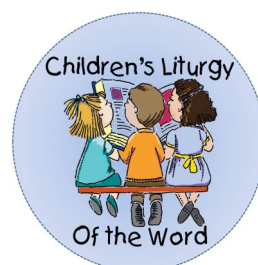
food we were able

to share.



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 is the prophet in today's Gospel who spent time in the desert?
- What did he do?
- John the Baptist told people they must be sorry for the things they had done wrong so they could be ready to meet Jesus.
- What things do we need to be sorry for?
- How can we change our ways so that we can be ready to meet Jesus?

READINGS:

December 16-17 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:

46-50, 53-54

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians

5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

COLLECTIONS:

December 29-30, 2023

Envelopes \$ 823.00

DD & Cards \$ 1975.00

1st Collection \$ 743.30

2nd Collection \$ 852.70

Pay Wave \$ 120.00

Piano Cover



Thank you to Trudy Kosmer for the custom fitted piano cover. The Parish is very grateful for the gift of this handmade covering to protect the piano and act as a deterrent for anyone misusing the instrument.


POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS

DECEMBER — For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.




Our last for the year is
DECEMBER 16
Recommences 2024
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.



Caring for Creation
How to have your best eco-friendly Christmas
Here are some tips!

1. Avoid lights or use LED in your decorations to reduce your energy use for the season.
2. Send E-cards instead of traditional cards to save paper.
3. Use recycled wrapping paper or make your own.
4. When it comes to decorations think natural, look outside for materials, and avoid plastic.
5. You can create some amazing eco-friendly decorations that not only look great but don't break the bank.
6. Don't put unwanted gifts in the bin! Donate them or pass them on to another friend.
7. Compost your leftovers or make a worm farm.
8. Buy eco-friendly gifts or donate instead of buying.
9. Choose local and organic when it comes to food.
10. Put out a separate bin for recyclables while entertaining.



Advent Appeal for Ukraine: The Bishops' Conference has asked all Australian dioceses to support the mission of the Church in Ukraine through the work of *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation.
Option 1: Bank deposit A/C Name: Trustees of UCC in Australia BSB: 704-235 | A/C Number: 0000 7183
Option 2: Cheque made out to the Trustees of UCC in Australia can be sent to Bishop's Chancery, 35 Canning Street, North Melbourne, VIC 3051.

St Mary's Family Christmas Mass rehearsal: 10.00am Saturday December 23 at Nagle College



HELP NEEDED
Volunteers needed for Christmas Masses

Commentators, Readers, Welcomers, Eucharistic Ministers, Offertory Processions.

Depending on which Mass you plan to attend, can you help?
Please contact Michael at the Parish Centre

St Mary's Family Christmas Mass Nagle College 7.00pm Christmas Eve
Your child is nvited to participate in the Children's Gospel Dramatisation for the St Mary's Family Christmas Eve Mass.
The following acting parts are waiting to be filled: Mary, Joseph, Caesar Augustus, 3 Kings, Inn Keeper, Shepherds and Angels.
If your son/daughter wishes to participate, **there will be a practice session at the dress rehearsal at 10.00am Saturday December 23 at Nagle College.** We will supply costumes for your child to wear.
To register your interest, please email your family's preference by Friday December 15, 2023 to this address: stm.michelleg@gmail.com

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter Breewell, John Ariens, Tim Davies, victims of natural disasters, COVID-19, terrorism, war, conflict, poverty, Asylum Seekers and those with Family Violence or Mental Health issues.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Dennis Crane, Sue Lovell, John Morris, Robyn Shears, Frank Burton, George Burton, Jack Burton, Jimmy Sperti, Norma Stevens, Sue D'Amelio, Damien Johnson, Louis Pendergast, Gerald Rashleigh, David La Porta, Reginald 'John' Hall, Steve Klobukowski, Nicholas Sweetman 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: Mary Herro (Larry Klobukowski's sister), Shane Hayles, Pat Coloe, Bill Tilley, Kieran Hayles, Elizabeth Steere, Sandra Brooks, Bev Broome, Michael Crane, Robert McMahon, Dennis Collins, Alepaka Tyrell, Bob Marshall, Sue Minchin, Fran Adamson, Elaine Cook, Peter Hayden, John Hayles, Maree Cowell, Hudson Schwab, Adrian Coulter, baby Ethan, Deidree Tickner, Kathleen Robertson, Robyn Finlay, Rick Harney, Margaret O'Reilly, Arthur Elbourne.

Please remember all Parishioners who are unwell or recovering from illness or surgery.

Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Opening Prayer

Almighty and merciful God may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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 40:1-5, 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

A reading from the second letter of St Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **alleluia! Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Notes

A straight road or way of right living, is a person's manner of life and conduct, and this is what John calls us to. An old person's advice for a young one, 'I have lived a long life but I have never seen a person get lost on a straight road'. So, this is how we can prepare for the Lord.

John devoted himself heart and soul to the task God gave him. He was a living example of what he preached, and his martyr's death, made him a credible witness for Jesus. John humbly recognised that Jesus was more important than he was. He was generous, inviting people to a feast knowing that he would not sit at the table. So let us straighten out those 'crooked' ways in our lives

New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies Flor McCarthy SDB