



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 Joseph Abutu

**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)

### 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B, February 25, 2024

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.



### 2nd Sunday of Lent February 24-25, 2024



After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a Call Centre to support her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, using the QR Code, visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

#### WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am  
Tuesday: 9.10am  
Wednesday: 9.10am  
Thursday: 9.10am  
Nina Verdi Requiem Mass 1.30pm  
Friday: 9.10am  
Tuesday to Friday: 8.00am  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
**St Patrick's Paynesville**  
Wednesday: Rosary 10.00am

#### RECONCILIATION

Friday: After 9.10am Mass  
Saturday:  
9.30am to 10.00am  
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
Friday: after 9.10am Mass  
Friday: 6.00pm  
**ROSARY VIA ZOOM**  
Monday: 7.00pm  
Contact the Parish Centre  
for a link

#### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

<b>St Mary's, Bairnsdale:</b>	Saturday: 6.00pm
	Sunday: 9.30am
<b>St Patrick's, Paynesville:</b>	Sunday: 8.00am
<b>St Canice's, Lindenow:</b>	Sunday: 11.00am

**Swifts Creek, Omeo and Benambra**  
Masses held 4th weekend of each month.

<b>Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek:</b>	4th Saturday: 6.30pm
<b>Immaculate Conception, Omeo:</b>	4th Sunday: 9.00am
<b>St Francis', Benambra:</b>	4th Sunday: 11.00am

### 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B, March 2-3, 2024

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	B O'Kelly	M Schumann	C Shanahan	P Elliott	
9.30am Sunday	T Kosmer	G Neeson	L Urban	G Neeson	M Owen, P Brown-Graham, H Sampson

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: February 24 - P Pruscino

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 IS HAPPENING NOW

**Friday's - 6.00pm - 8.00pm - Faith, Food, Fellowship, Fun.**

**No cost involved and dinner included**

Contact Madelaine: 0400 576 291 or Pattie: 0427 232 682

Alpha is now into the second week, as the program continues to serve our parish family. We are seeing an enrichment of our faith, as we see friendships developing leading us to experience more of our heavenly Father's love for us. The participants and team are all 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 God. We pray your blessings and love upon the Alpha team, the guests and all their families...We pray that your mighty and gentle hand continues to guide this ministry in our Parish. We ask that the Holy Spirit continue burning 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.

### You are invited on a Lenten Journey 2024

Enquiries please contact Michelle Grimsted 5152 2942  
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Bairnsdale

#### ZOOM Gatherings

**Mondays: until March 18: 7.45pm-8.45pm**

To receive a link: email Michelle stm.michelleg@gmail.com

#### Face to Face Gatherings

**Tuesdays: until March 19: 2.00pm-3.00pm** in the Parish Centre.

**Wednesdays: 10.15am (for a 10.30am start)-11.30am**

at Pam Winters home-57 Williams Parade, Bairnsdale

Contact Mary Saunders: 0427 525 962

**Thursdays: until March 21: 10.00am-11.00am** in the Chapel.

**It is never too late to join.**

## FOR PEACE

As the fever of the day calms towards twilight may all that is strained in us come to ease. We pray for all who have suffered violence today, may an unexpected serenity surprise them. For those who risk their lives each day for peace, may their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history. That those who make riches from violence and war might hear in their dreams the cry of the lost. That we might see through the fear of each other a new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression. That those who enjoy the privilege of peace might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters. That the wolf might lie down with the lamb, that our swords be beaten into ploughshares and no hurt or harm be done anywhere on the holy mountain.

*'Benedictus' A book of Blessings by John O'Donohue*

### **Sunday March 3, 2024**

Clean Up Australia has helped Australians take practical environmental action for over 30 years. In fact, Clean Up Australia is now the nations largest community-based environmental event. But Australia's waste challenges continue to grow. Now, more than ever, it's time to Step Up and support solutions which move us towards a circular economy – where everything is a resource, and there is no such thing as waste.

**Inspire your family and friends to make a change**



### **COMMITMENT MASS this weekend.**

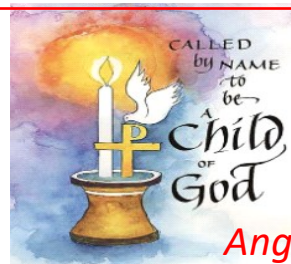
**21 Candidates are preparing to  
celebrate the**

**Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation  
in March.**

**Please keep them, their families,  
carers and educators in your prayers.**



**REMINDER:** Morning Tea next Sunday, March 3 after Masses at St Patrick's and St Mary's. Why not come and join us?



*We welcome into our Parish family*

**Domingos**

*son of*

*Angelica Barreto and Paulo Martins Da Costa*

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS

#### **February: For the Terminally Ill**

The Holy Father encourages prayers  
"so that terminally ill patients and their families always receive necessary medical and human care and support."

#### READINGS:

**3rd Sunday of Lent Year B**

**March 2-3, 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 18: 8-11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 9:2-10

#### COLLECTIONS:

**February 17-18, 2024**

Envelopes \$ 1175.00

DD & Cards \$ 470.00

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 775.55

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$ 961.75

Pay Wave \$ 290.00

### Childrens 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 are some of the things that you hope for this year?**
- **Can you think of a time when you hoped for something, but it did not turn out the way you wanted?**
- **In today's gospel Jesus' friends were surprised to see Jesus change before their eyes. How did they react?**
- **Although they were frightened and did not understand what was going on they knew that Jesus was with them.**
- **Have there been times when you have been disappointed or did not understand what was going on around you?**
- **We believe that God is always with us.**
- **During Lent let us build a better world by making time to speak to God in prayer and help those in need.**







**Gathering every 2nd and 4th Saturday  
Saturday February 24**

**St Mary's Youth Group 5.00pm Youth Group  
in the Parish Hall and then  
6.00pm Mass for Children's Choir and  
Liturgy of the Word.**

**Thanks to St Mary's** Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to the Social Justice Committee at St Mary's for the recent generous donation of \$500 to **St Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad** to help purchase a new neonatal humidicrib. It came just in time. On January 28, a Muslim woman gave birth at St Elizabeth to 2 boys, the first children after 6 years of marriage. You can imagine the rejoicing. Without the new humidicrib, there would have been space for only one of these twin baby boys in the Neonatal Special Care Unit. Both babies are now home with their parents.

*Fr Robert McCulloch*

We are looking for volunteers who would be prepared to transport Parishioners to and from Mass. If you feel you can help, or if you would like this service for yourself, please contact Michael at the Parish Centre.

**World Day of Prayer 2024**

**Palestine**



**Date & Time:** 2.00pm Friday 1st March 2024

**Location:** Salvation Army  
Goold St  
Bairnsdale

**Contact Person:** Sam Watson 0412 943 152

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**Geoff Neeson (Chair), Madelaine Schumann,  
Narelle Gibbons, Jacinta Da Costa, Leonie Urban  
Ex-officio members: Fr Joseph, 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 2nd and 3rd weekends 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:** 3 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

**DO YOU WANT TO  
FAST THIS LENT?**

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Nina Verdi, Sharr Childs, Keith Worseldine (Marsha's brother), Billy King, victims of natural disasters, COVID-19, terrorism, war, conflict, poverty, Family Violence, Asylum Seekers and all others who have passed away **ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Andrew Buck, Kath Connelley, Guido Maglione, Dot Warner, Ann Taylor, Cathie Ludeman, Genevieve Bolleman, Geoff Birrell, Tony Capobianco, Gavan O'Brien, Imelda Mattley, Fay Whykes, John Gagalowicz, Betty Dwyer, Gwen Deery, 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:** Russell Wilson, Benny Garro, Gabrielle Carrasco (great-niece of Chris and Sandie Tilley), Rob Brennan, Terry Smyth, Shane Hayles, Pat Coloe, Bill Tilley, Bev Broome, Michael Crane, Dennis Collins, Bob Marshall, Kathleen Robertson, 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.**

## **2nd Sunday of Lent Year B February 25**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

### **Opening Prayer**

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. 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 Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18**

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

### **Responsorial Psalm 24:4-9**

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

### **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31-34**

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 9:2-10**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus. As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

*Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane*

### **Scripture Reflection**

In the experience of the Transfiguration, which we ponder today, the Son of God, now in the flesh, allowed His glory to once again shine forth. As He did, He conversed with Moses and Elijah in the presence of three of His disciples. These disciples were in awe, just as Moses and Elijah had been during their first encounters with God on Mount Sinai. These two great Old Testament figures now stand as witnesses of God's unfolding plan, revealing by their presence that Jesus is the fulfillment of all they had been entrusted to teach in their lifetime. Reflect, today, upon this glorious scene of the Transfiguration. This image teaches us about the entire plan of God throughout time. Prayerfully ponder the idea that Jesus is inviting you to make the arduous journey up the mountain of prayer, self-discipline, virtue and holiness. Pray that your eyes will be open to see His glory and that this experience will inspire you and strengthen you to continue to fulfill the mission of God started long ago, until it comes to completion when He returns at the end of time.

*My Catholic Life*