



Immaculate Conception,
Omeo

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	St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:
Assistant Priests:	Fr Avinash George Fr Hiep Van Nguyen	135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942 Email: stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net Facebook: St Mary's Church Bairnsdale
Presbytery:	23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106	

Third Sunday of Advent Year C, 12th December, 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.

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

Weekday Masses @ St Mary's

Monday: 9:10am

Tuesday: 9:10am

Wednesday: 9:10am

Thursday: 9:10am

Friday: 9:10am

Paynesville

Wednesday: 10am Rosary

RECONCILIATION

is available on

Friday after 9:10am Mass

Saturday 9:30am - 10:00am and
5:30pm to 5:50pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER

Sacred Heart, Swift's Creek 5:30pm

St Francis', Benambra 7:30pm

Nagle College Hall, Bairnsdale 7:00pm

St Mary's, Bairnsdale Midnight

SATURDAY 25TH DECEMBER

St Patrick's, Paynesville 8:00am

St Mary's, Bairnsdale 9.30am



STAY SAFE AT CHRISTMAS MASSES

*Please don't leave home without your proof of double vaccination.

*Please consider bringing a mask, which is recommended when you can't social distance.

*Please come early enough to avoid a crowded entry near starting time.

*We continue to aim at providing opportunities for everyone to attend Mass. If you, or anyone you know, thinks they may miss out at Christmas, please contact the Parish Office, or email Fr Michael (stm.michaelw@gmail.com). Such enquiries will be treated confidentially.

PARISH RECONCILIATION

All are invited to our Parish Reconciliation Service to be held **21st December at 6pm**.

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, with the promise of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace in our lives, reconciliation is a heartfelt way to welcome Emmanuel into our hearts this Christmas.

Roster for Masses 19th-20th December 2021

	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister
6:00pm Sat	G Dooley	J Peachey	P Reefman	C Marriot-Smith
9:30am Sun	H Sampson	D Fallon	P Brown-Graham	J Fallon

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: 25th December: M Saunders

Please find a replacement if unable to fill your spot.

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.

HELP NEEDED

Do you know which Christmas Mass you will be going to?
If so - we need your assistance. Please ring Michelle 0409 006 051 or Pattie 0427 232 682 and let us know which Mass and how you would like to assist - be it a candle bearer, reader, welcomer, collector or in any other capacity. All help would be appreciated.

Ambrosio DaCunha Asqueli (Tony) is a Timorese seasonal worker employed by MADEC and works at Bon Accord, Lindenow. He has had several trips to Australia, some might remember him when he was a resident at the Salesian House. Several months ago Tony was feeling unwell and approached a couple of parishioners who immediately guided him with medical assistance. After many doctors' appointments and tests, Tony is beginning a 5 week regime of radiation and chemotherapy. He will be staying at Centenary House, Traralgon Monday to Friday. A team of drivers will take him to Traralgon on Monday and pick him up on Friday. Another team of cooks will prepare his main meals in advance, so he arrives with a week's supply of food suitable for his stoma and chemotherapy. During this period Tony will not be able to work, however he still has ongoing daily living costs to deal with so with a small balance leftover from the Bairnsdale Friends of Timor Leste and generous donations, the Parish Support Team has also decided to support him with a small weekly payment. Tony is very grateful for all the support he is receiving, particularly from Frank Brown Graham, Bairnsdale Regional Health, Cabrini Hospital, fellow seasonal workers and parishioners. If you would like to offer your support please contact Paul Heaton Harris at the Parish Centre or Frank BG or Chris Power.



Fears for safety and health of detainees in Melbourne's Park Hotel

Over half of the detainees in Melbourne's Park Hotel APOD have tested positive to COVID-19.

As of 7 November, the 22 men who have contracted the virus have been ordered to stay within their rooms and isolate. There are reports that despite detainees testing positive, **few of them have been assessed by a doctor** and there has only been one nurse to care for the 45 men in detention.

One detainee, who was sent to a Melbourne hospital to be treated for his worsening condition after contracting COVID19, **has now been sent back to the Park Hotel** despite the worsening outbreak there.

Over 200 organisations and individuals have signed a letter coordinated by [Love Makes A Way](#), demanding that the Federal Government address the health crisis in immigration detention and urgently release all detainees to safety in the community.
Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA)

POPE FRANCIS' Universal Intention - December Intention for evangelisation - Catechists



Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Readings: **4th Sunday Advent Year C**

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4
Responsorial Psalm:
79:2-3,15-16,18-19
2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

Collections for **5/12/21**

Envelopes \$ 1,534.00
DD & Cards \$ 3,522.00
1st Collection \$ 291.85
2nd Collection \$ 564.45

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.



EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

The Victorian government now allows "religious ceremonies at places of worship with no capacity limits or density limits" for people aged 12+ who are fully vaccinated. Our smaller churches, **where no more than 50 people** gather, does not require vaccination status to be known. This includes regular weekday Masses at St Mary's. If there are parishioners who are not provided for under the current conditions, please contact the Parish office, or email Fr Michael (stm.michaelw@gmail.com). All related correspondence will be treated confidentially. *Fr Michael*
In essential things, unity. In non-essential things, liberty. In all things, charity. (St Augustine)

Nơi Lóng Giản Cách

Hiện tại Chính phủ tiểu bang Victoria cho phép các hoạt động tôn giáo được trở lại sinh hoạt không hạn chế số lượng người tham dự và sức chứa của nơi thờ phượng đối với những người trên 12 tuổi đã tiêm đủ liều vaccine.

Các nhà thờ nhỏ trong khu vực chúng ta, nơi thường có ít hơn 50 người tham dự nên sẽ không đề nghị trình xuất chứng nhận Vaccine. Điều này cũng sẽ áp dụng đối với các thánh lễ thường trong tuần tại nhà thờ St Mary. Nếu bạn muốn biết thêm thông tin, xin vui lòng liên hệ với Trung Tâm Mục Vụ Giáo xứ hoặc gửi email cho cha Micheal (stm.michealw@gmail.com)
Tất cả đề nghị và thông tin của bạn sẽ được bảo mật *Fr Michael*

KABAWASAN NG MGA PAGHIHIGPIT

Pinapayagan na ngayon ng gobyerno ng Victoria ang "mga relihiyosong seremonya sa mga lugar ng pagsamba na walang limitasyon sa kapasidad o limitasyon sa bilang ng mga sumisimba" para sa mga taong may edad na 12+ na ganap na nabakunahan. Ang mas maliliit na simbahan, kung saan hindi hihigit sa 50 katao ang nagtitipon, ay hindi nangangailangan na ipaalam ang status ng bakuna. Kabilang dito ang mga regular na Misa mula Lunes hanggang Biyernes sa St Mary's. Kung may mga parokyano na hindi nabibigyang serbisyo sa ilalim ng kasalukuyang mga kondisyon, mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa opisina ng Parokya, o mag-email kay Fr Michael (stm.michaelw@gmail.com). Lhat ng palikipag-ugnayan ay mananatiling na kumpidensyal. *Fr Michael*

Delve Deeper into the Bible

Each week of Advent has a traditional theme.

A series of short videos offered by the Bible Project explores the ancient words Shalom (peace), Yakhal (hope), Chara (joy) and Agape (Love) which reveal the deeper meanings of these words. Learning the fuller meanings of these words can enrich our Advent journey. Head to <https://bibleproject.com/advent-word-series-churches/> or use



QR Code

Parish Pastoral Council: meets 2nd Thursday of the month. Please submit items for the Agenda to the Parish Centre by 10.00am Tuesday the week before. **Members:** Michael Flynn and Angela McKail (Co- Chairpersons) Angelo D'Amore, Marilyn Elliott, Rita Bowers, & 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/Assistance Centre: 5152 6687 **St Mary's Op Shop:** 5152 2088

SYNOD 2021 -2023 *Let's Walk Together!*

Companions on the Journey. Jesus wants us to walk together side by side. Of those in our Church, who do we walk with and who is forgotten? What about those outside the Church, who is not included or welcomed? Have your say <https://tinyurl.com/HavingASay> or use the QR code. Introductory video, prayers and resources at <https://www.cdsale.org.au/synod-of-bishops>



(Pope Francis, Homily for the Launch of the Synod 2021-2023, 10 October 2021)

THE PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

2.5% of the Parish Planned Giving receipts is allocated annually to support local, national, and international specials causes. For 2020-2021 the following were accepted as worthy recipients to receive a \$500 each.

LOCAL

Ambrosio Da Cunha Asqueli (Tony) - *is one of the local seasonal workers from Timor Leste. He is facing Stage 3 bowel cancer and as treatment in Timor is non existent, he has opted to commence medical treatment in Australia. This donation will help him during his long and costly journey.*

Neighbourhood House – Bairnsdale *Leanne Jennings will use this donation for the Christmas Dinner at Neighbourhood House.*

Diocese of Sale - Trinity Families *We missed the annual collection for Trinity Families due to COVID, however the need to assist families, in need in our region, is ongoing.*

NATIONAL

Sacred Heart Mission: *This donation will assist people who are experiencing homelessness or disadvantaged to find shelter, food, care and support.*

Asylum Seekers Resource Centre – Community First Development: *Our donation will help asylum seekers & refugees to connect to the community and mainstream services.*

Catholic Care – Diocese of Sale *Another missed annual Parish Collection.*

INTERNATIONAL

St Elizabeth Hospital Hyderabad Pakistan - *This donation will help with the purchase of medical simulation dummies for midwifery students.*

UNICEF -*This contribution will assist with the provision of humanitarian & developmental aid for children worldwide.*

Medecins Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders) -*This acknowledges the wonderful ongoing work doctors, nurses & other medical professionals, logistical experts, water & sanitation engineers working in conflict zones and countries affected by endemic diseases.*



St Vincent De Paul—The Giving Tree



With the beginning of Advent our thoughts turn towards our journey to Christ's birth. It is a time of awareness and preparation. Let us remember that

'Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours.

Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion must look out on the world.

Ours are the feet by which Christ may still go about doing good.

Ours are the hands with which Christ blesses people now.' St Teresa of Avila

So take a tag(s) from the tree and support those who have found themselves in difficult situations this Christmas. Please leave items under the tree before the 20th December.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Nicholas Sweetman Snr (in Ireland) , David La Porta, George Holford (son of Marina), 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...

Gerardine Keyte, Dan Phelan, Joe Pruscino, Eileen Mason, Clem Rooks, Albert Nelson, Des Lovell, Frank Burton, George Burton, Jack Burton, Norma Stevens, Peter Brown, Max Kelsey, Maureen Connolly, 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:

Bob Marshall, Shirley Gilmore (Mary Rowe's sister), Terry Flannery, Vin Ayres (brother of Pat Coloe), Michael Flynn, Mark Rashleigh, Ambrosio (Tony) Da Cunha - Asqueli, Marsha Worseldine, Arthur Elbourne, Arthur Roberts, Paul Hawker, Margaret O'Reilly, Maree Elbourne, Ella Ford (NZ), Damian Greaves, Victoria Shaw, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Jim Quigley, Craig Counsel, Linton Smith, Andre Buxton, Marcie Hayles, Brian Rowe, Vic Smythe, John Pruscino.

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.

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year C

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah (3:14-18)

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation **R.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Philippians (4:4-7)

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (3:10-18)

When all the people asked John. 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Notes

Christianity is a very social and practical religion. It is one of words and deeds. It is not just a matter of God and me, but of God, others and me. In other words, it concerns not only my relationship with God, but also my relationship with other people. John the Baptist has been telling the people that the Messiah is coming, and that they should prepare themselves. The people came to John for baptism, but they knew that more was expected. So, they asked him, 'What must we do?' He gave them some very down to earth advice. To the everyday person he said: those who are well off must share with those who are not well off. To tax collectors he said: don't exact more than your rate i.e. don't use your office to exploit people. To soldiers he said: don't use your power to intimidate or oppress people. In essence he was saying: show concern for others and be just in all your dealings. That is how practical Christianity is. Christianity lives by deeds but dies by words alone.

Flor McCarthy SDB New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies

Here is a thoughtful reflection on how the Church can create opportunities to listen to prophetic voices from the deserts of our communities.

Heavenly Father, open my heart to receive your love.

*You pour out your graces in abundance, offering strength to the weary, solace to the sorrowful,
forgiveness to the repentant, and light to the fearful.*

As I receive these gifts of love from you, help me not to hoard them, but to share them.

May I become an icon of your love for everyone I encounter today.

Grant my prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son and my Beloved. Amen.