



St Canice's Lindenow

# 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: [stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com)

### 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B, March 3, 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.



### 3rd Sunday in Lent March 2-3, 2024



Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result. Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry. Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they had to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street. With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water-tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.

**Project Compassion-For Future Generations**



#### WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

**Monday: NO MASS**

Tuesday: 9.10am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

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

**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

### 4th Sunday of Lent, Year B, March 9-10 2024

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	G Dooley	D Ball	S Gibson	K Flannery	
9.30am Sunday	A Veldhuizen	H Sampson	S Tilley	J Delany	M Owen, G and K Cassidy
Cleaning: Fortnight ending: March 9- 23 - K Cassidy			<u>Please</u> 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 Helen Van Den Einden who can be contacted through the Parish Centre: 5152 2942.***

***Alternatively contact Bairnsdale Police: 5150 2600 or Towards Healing: 1800 816 030.***



## ALPHA HAPPENINGS

Our third Alpha program is well under way with many laughs and lots of fun, as we see a deepening experience of the Father's love for us. Through both the films and the loving social connections we make with one another each week, we see an increase in our knowledge and intimacy with our Lord Jesus Christ. The film talks take us on a journey through the Holy Land and around the globe as we witness the power and love of the Lord, through personal testimonies and true stories of hope and healing. Alpha is life changing and we are all feeling so blessed to be sharing this journey together here in Bairnsdale. Thank you, Lord. We would also like to thank you, our Parish family for your continued prayers for our Alpha as we walk this transformational path in the light of Christ's love.

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](mailto: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.



### **Morning Tea**

this Sunday, March 3  
after Masses at St Patrick's  
and St Mary's.

Why not come and join us?



### 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 do you like about our (your) church?
- ♦ How is it holy?
- ♦ What do we do inside the church that makes it a holy place?
- ♦ In today's gospel Jesus visited his temple.
- ♦ What did he do when he saw that people had set up stores?
- ♦ Why was Jesus angry?
- ♦ Jesus wanted to keep the temple as a holy place for prayer.
- ♦ Our place of prayer is made holy when we gather in God's name or when we make a special visit.
- ♦ When are the times that we can come to our church to pray?
- ♦ Let us pray that we will become more holy in this time of Lent.

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS

#### **For the new martyrs**

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

#### READINGS:

**4th Sunday of Lent Year B  
March 9-10, 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading:  
2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23  
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 136  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10  
Gospel: John 3:14-21

#### COLLECTIONS:

**February 24-25, 2024**

Envelopes	\$ 1042.00
DD & Cards	\$ 155.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$ 734.75
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$ 1036.40
Pay Wave	\$ 140.00
Church Tours	\$ 1501.60





**Gathering every 2nd and 4th Saturday  
Saturday March 9**

**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.



**St Vincent de Paul Mass**

**Tuesday March 5, 9.10am,**

St Mary's Church, Bairnsdale

We will acknowledge the work of Fr Gerald Ward who set up the first St Vincent De Paul Conference in Victoria in 1854, 170 years of service and compassion.

**The Loss and Grief  
Group  
will meet on Thursday  
March 7 at 5.00pm**



## **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:** Brian Francis Nina Verde, Sharr Childs, 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:** Kate D'Brass, Gloria Pollard, Ursula McCarthy, Lina Ciavarella, Murray Toland, Leo Deery, George Burton, Kathleen Griffin, Maureen Matthews, Andrew Buck, Kath Connelley, Guido Maglione, Dot Warner, 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, 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.**

**Entrance Antiphon**

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**Opening Prayer**

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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 Exodus 20: 1-7**

The Lord spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery. 'You shall have no gods except me. 'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. 'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred. 'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. 'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

**Responsorial Psalm 24:4-9**

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**  
The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**  
The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **R.**  
The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **R.**  
They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. **R.**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:2-10**

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 2:13-25**

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane

**Scripture Reflection**    The Temple

We must understand that the temple in Jerusalem was considered the most holy place for the Jewish people, and it was a place where they would come to offer sacrifices and worship God. The Israelites believed God was really present in the temple. The sales going on there enabled people traveling from afar to purchase animals for sacrifice. This was a great convenience. However, the presence of the merchants and money changers had turned the temple into a marketplace, which was not only disrespectful but also a distraction from the true purpose of the temple. Jesus, as the Son of God, recognized this and was filled with a righteous anger that compelled him to drive out the merchants and money changers. In a similar way, we ask ourselves how we may have turned our own lives into a marketplace, where we prioritize material possessions and worldly pursuits over our relationship with God. Like the merchants and money changers, we may have allowed distractions and temptations to take over our lives, causing us to lose sight of what is truly important.

Young Catholics