



Sacred Heart,
Swifts Creek

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: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net Facebook: St Mary's Church Bairnsdale
Presbytery:	23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106	

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C, 19th 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



AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Much to our relief, the Victorian government has lifted the segregation between the vaccinated and the unvaccinated (since Thurs Dec 16). This division has caused much heartache. Now, we can have Christmas as a Church where no-one is denied the opportunity to experience *the joy of gathering as one*, in each of our communities of faith across East Gippsland and all of Victoria. An early Christmas present!

Removal of the mandatory double vaccination requirement for places of worship includes funerals and weddings. Many people have been praying for this outcome. And, to have it happen before Christmas has lifted our spirits, tremendously, helping us prepare in a more meaningful way for the coming of Christ into our lives.

Fr Michael

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

***Come early enough to avoid a crowded entry near starting time, QR coding is still required.**

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 for the Feast of the Holy Family - 26th December 2021

Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister
6:00pm Sat	NO MASS AS IT IS CHRISTMAS DAY		
9:30am Sun	T Kosmer	P Brown-Graham	T Kosmer

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.

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)



Journey of the Synod 2021-2023

3. OUR SPEAKING OUT

Everyone is invited to speak boldly and courageously in freedom, truth, and love.

- *How good are we as Catholics at speaking out in public?
- *How do we say what is important to us as Catholics?
- *What helps or hinders our public visibility?

Do we talk to others about speaking out? Share your experiences and offer your responses to the Synod consultation that is currently going on in each diocese around the world. Let's hear your voice in the conversation. We want to hear what matters to you.

Have your say <https://tinyurl.com/HavingASay>

Quote of the Day (Pope Francis on Synodality)

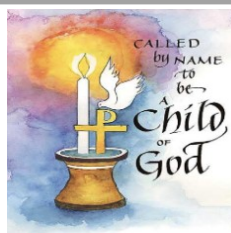
The "art of encounter," said Francis, is marked by listening and seeking to understand the other. "Every encounter, as we know, calls for openness, courage and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others." (Pope Francis, Homily for the Launch of the Synod 2021-2023, 10 October 2021)

We welcome into our parish community

Anna Maria

daughter of

Maria and Troy Bittner



St Vincent De Paul—The Giving Tree

A reminder that items can be left under the tree no later than Monday, 20th December. The local St Vincent de Paul Conference are very appreciative of the support they continue to received.

HELP NEEDED

Do you know which Christmas Mass you will be going to? We need your help! Please ring Michelle 0409 006 051 or Pattie 0427 232 682 and let us know which Mass and how you would like to help - a candle bearer, reader, welcomer, collector or in any other way. Thank You



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:

The Holy Family Year C

1st Reading:
1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28
Responsorial Psalm:
Ps 83:2-3,5-6,9-10
2nd Reading:
1 John 3:1-2,21-24
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Collections for 12/12/21

Envelopes	\$ 1,529.00
DD & Cards	\$ 355.00
1 st Collection	\$ 607.30
2 nd Collection	\$ 624.90

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.



Bishop Greg Bennet's Christmas message video.

<https://youtu.be/XhCw-nFcd1k>



Một món quà Giáng Sinh đến sớm

Thật dễ chịu hơn cho chúng ta, khi chính quyền tiểu bang Victoria xoá bỏ sự phân biệt giữa người chưa tiêm Vaccin và những người đã tiêm đủ liều Vaccin khi họ tham dự các hoạt động tôn giáo (Từ ngày thứ năm 16/12.) Bây giờ chúng ta sẽ có một Giáng Sinh với các nhà thờ mà nơi đó không một ai bị từ chối. Chúng ta nghiệm thấy được niềm vui và hợp nhất với nhau, cùng chung một niềm tin tại miền Đông và cả tiểu bang Victoria. Thật là một món quà Giáng Sinh đến sớm.

Luật yêu cầu những người tham dự trong các lễ an táng và lễ cưới phải tiêm đủ hai liều vaccin cũng đã được xoá bỏ. Lời cầu nguyện của chúng ta đã được Chúa chấp nhận. Giờ đây chúng ta hãy chuẩn bị tâm hồn để đón nhận Đức Kitô vào cuộc sống của mình một cách đầy ý nghĩa. Fr Michael

ISANG MAAGANG PAMASKO

Ikinagagalak naming ianunsyo ang pag-aangat ng gobyerno ng Victoria sa segregasyon sa pagitan ng nabakunahan at hindi nabakunahan (mula Huwebes Disyembre 16). Ang dibisyon ng ito ay nagdulot ng labis na pagdadalamhati. Ngayon, maaari tayong magkaroon ng Pasko bilang isang Simbahan kung saan walang sinuman ang pinagkakaitan ng pagkakataon na maranasan ang kagalakan ng pagtitipon bilang isa, sa bawat isa sa ating mga komunidad ng pananampalataya sa buong East Gippsland at sa buong Victoria. Isa itong maagang regalo ngayong Pasko!

And dobleng bakuna ay hindi na kinakailangan para sa mga lugar ng pagsamba, kabilang na dito ang pagdalo sa libing at kasal. Maraming tao ang nagdarasal para sa resultang ito. At, ang mangyari ito bago ang Pasko ay nakapagpasigla ng ating espiritu, nang lubos, na tumutulong sa atin na maghanda ng lubos para sa pagdating ni Kristo sa ating buhay.

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), Yakhel (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

THE PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

2.5% of the Parish Planned Giving receipts is allocated annually to support local, national, and international special 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.



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)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Terry Flannery, Nicholas Sweetman Snr (in Ireland), David La Porta, 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...

Eileen Dean, John Kolar, Leonie Bennett, Theresa Brown, Sheila Collins, Marion Hall, Jean McCulloch, Harold Batty, Jim Bennett, Barbara Grimsted, John Morris, Monica Smith, Desmond Hickling, Gerardine Keyte, Dan Phelan, Joe Pruscino, Eileen Mason, Clem Rooks, Albert Nelson, 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:

Fr Pax Scarf OFM ,Bin Li (husband of Liah), Bob Marshall, Shirley Gilmore (Mary Rowe's sister), Victoria Shaw, Paul Hawker, Vin Ayres (brother of Pat Coloe), Michael Flynn, Mark Rashleigh, Ambrosio (Tony) Da Cunha - Asqueli, Marsha Worseldine, Arthur Elbourne, Jim Quigley, Arthur Roberts, Margaret O'Reilly, Maree Elbourne, Ella Ford (NZ), Damian Greaves, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), 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.

4th Sunday of Advent, Year C

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

A reading from the prophet Micah (5:1-4)

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Hebrews (10:5-10)

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (1:39-44)

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Notes

Mary's visit to Elizabeth was a gift. We too can give that gift of a visit this Christmas and discover the difficulties that people live with day to day. To be a believer in today's world can be a lonely business. As a community of believers, our common faith strengthens the faith of each individual. Christmas creates a climate that encourages us to reveal our better natures. It gives us a chance to show our humanity to the world, the power to move the human heart like nothing else. So, if we feel the impulse to be forgiving, charitable and loving, let us act and not just think. Christmas invites us to open our hearts, and the extent to which we open our hearts to God, and one another, will be the extent to which we experience great joy.

Flor McCarthy SDB New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies



Fr Michael, Fr Avinash, Fr Hiep and all parish staff wish all a holy and joyful Christmas. Stay safe, travel safely, enjoy the company of family and friends, and enjoy the food that will be prepared with love.

May His love be in your heart, His peace be in your soul and His joy be in your life at Christmas time and always.