



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)

### 4th Sunday of Lent, Year B, March 10, 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.



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



Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees.

Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

**Project Compassion: For Future Generations**



#### WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

**Monday: NO MASS**

Tuesday: 9.10am

**Feast of St Patrick**

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Tuesday to Friday: 8.00am

**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

### 5th Sunday of Lent, Year B, March 16-17 2024

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	C Shanahan	J De Boer	P Reefman	C Shanahan	
9.30am Sunday	M Owen	P Pruscino	H Van Den Einden	P Pruscino	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.***

## EASTER LITURGY TIMES

**Holy Thursday March 28: Mass of the Lord's Supper** 7.00pm St Mary's Bairnsdale

**Good Friday March 29: Stations of the Cross** 9.30am St Mary's, Bairnsdale

11.00am St Canice's, Lindenow

**Celebration of the Lord's Passion** 3.00pm St Mary's, Bairnsdale

3.00pm Immaculate Conception, Omeo

**Holy Saturday March 30: The Easter Vigil** 7.30pm St Mary's, Bairnsdale

**Easter Sunday March 31: Masses** 8.00am St Patrick's, Paynesville

9.00am St Francis of Assisi, Benambra

9.30am St Mary's, Bairnsdale

11.00am Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek

### 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*

The Filipino Choir from Cranbourne will be singing at Masses on the weekend of March 23-24 (Palm Sunday).

They have a truly majestic sound which will inspire you, so make sure you come along and celebrate their God-given talent. You really shouldn't miss it!



### Child Safeguarding Officer

Helen Van Den Einden has taken over from Kath Cassidy in this very important Parish role. We owe Kath a great debt of gratitude for all the hard work she has done; and wish Helen well as she takes on her new responsibilities.

### 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:



- ♦ Can you think of a time when you were worried about being in trouble for something you did?
- ♦ Have you been forgiven much easier than you expected?
- ♦ When someone forgives you, they show you mercy.
- ♦ How do you feel when someone shows you mercy?
- ♦ Who are some people you know who are merciful?
- ♦ God is merciful. He loves us and does not want to be parted from us.
- ♦ How can we show mercy to others?
- ♦ Let us pray that we will show others mercy by following God's example.

**We welcome into our Parish family  
through the Sacrament of Baptism**

***Marek Aleksander***

**son of Misia and Raymond Day**

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS-MARCH

**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:

**5th Sunday of Lent Year B**

**March 16-17, 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 50:3-4, 12-15

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: John 12:20-30

#### COLLECTIONS:

**February 24-25, 2024**

Envelopes \$ 851.00

DD & Cards \$ 1605.00

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 929.30

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$ 847.35

Pay Wave \$ 200.00





**Gathering every 2nd and 4th Saturday  
This Saturday**

**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.**

### **Prayer for Alpha**

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.



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.

### **Community Connections East Gippsland Seasonal workers 'Fun Sunday' and BBQ**

When: Sunday March 24 11.30am to 3.00pm  
Lunch: 12.00 midday. Dancing and Singing: 1.30pm  
Where: Seventh Day Adventist Church, ADRA, 455 Princes Highway Lucknow  
Who: Seasonal workers, volunteers, and friends.  
Donations of prepared food would be greatly appreciated. Contact Wendy: 0438 516 322

### **Altar Servers**

We are looking for new Altar Servers, both children and adults are welcome. If you are currently a Eucharistic Minister, why not consider the role?

### **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, 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:** Baby Christian Halligan, Gwenda Leighton, Madge Marshall, Dino Baccega, Aida Bachetti, Rachela Dicello, Betty Dimarco, Guiseppi Ganci, Pauline Ganci, Mary Sicura, Kate D'Brass, Gloria Pollard, Ursula McCarthy, Lina Ciavarella, Murray Toland, Leo Deery, George Burton, Kathleen Griffin, Maureen Matthews, 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**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

### **Opening Prayer**

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23**

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

### **Responsorial Psalm 136**

**R. Let my tongue be silenced if I ever forget you!**

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. **R.** For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy.

'Sing to us,' they said, one of Zion's songs. **R.**

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **R.**

O let my tongue cleave my mouth if I remember you not if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **R.**

### **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10**

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3:14-21**

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

*Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane*

### **Scripture Reflection**

In our own lives, we can come to God and want Him to speak clearly and definitively to us, revealing His perfect will for our lives. But often He doesn't. Why? Because God knows we are not yet ready for the full truth. When He speaks to us and when we gain insight in one way or another, this is good and reveals we are on the right path. But the Gospel, in its fullness, is so radical and so demanding that most people are not yet ready for the full truth. Therefore, in His compassion, God gives us only what we can handle at the moment. But this humble truth should encourage us, as it did Nicodemus, to not give up and to continue opening ourselves to the fullness of the Word of God. How open you are to the fullness of God's Word? What would happen if God were to reveal to you, by an immediate personal revelation of divine knowledge, all that was in His sacred mind? Would it be too much for you to handle? Yes, it would be. But that humble admission is an important step toward that very goal. Humble yourself, today, more fully before the mysterious Word of God and pray that you will continue to be changed and open so that the clarity of God's truth will more fully penetrate your soul.

*My Catholic Life*