



St Francis of Assisi, Benambra

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

Presbytery:

23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106

Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com

St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:

135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942

Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net

Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

4th Sunday of Lent, Year C, 27th MARCH, 2022

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 el-

Weekend Mass Times

St Mary's Bairnsdale

Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 9:30am

St Patrick's, Paynesville

Sunday: 8:00am

St Canice's, Lindenow

2nd & 4th Sunday monthly: 11am

Swifts Creek, Omeo & Benambra -

January, March, May, July,
September and November.

Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek

4th Saturday: 6:30pm

Immaculate Conception, Omeo

4th Sunday: 9:00am

St Francis, Benambra

4th Sunday: 11am

Weekday Masses @ St Mary's

Monday to Friday: 9:10am

Stations of the Cross

following Mass each Friday
during Lent.

Paynesville

Wednesday: 10am Rosary

RECONCILIATION is available each

Friday after 9:10am Mass

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



From her life as a child soldier in the Democratic Republic of Congo, **Rosalie** is now a business owner, a community leader and a role



model for other ex-combatants seeking to readjust to civilian life.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope For All Future Generations.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can help to support people like Rosalie become leaders in their community by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, visiting lent.caritas.org.au or phoning 1800 024 413

SPIRITUAL SPRING CLEANING TIPS

- Missed the start of Lent? No bother – start whenever you can – even an imperfect attempt is better than none.
- Make a plan. Make it achievable. And write it down. Poorly defined goals tend to get lost in the clutter of life.
- Keep forgetting to honour your Lenten promise? Diarise it. Set the alarm on your phone. Put sticky notes on the bathroom mirror. Pen it on the back of your hand. Get an accountability partner (kids make excellent ones!)
- Regressed to bad habits? Just start over. Don't let the laziness discourage you recommit regularly to your Lenten promise.
- Struggling to stay motivated? Bolster your Lenten promise by offering it for an additional cause. e.g. the comfort of a sick friend, the suffering of a particular family, the work of a missionary etc.

Roster for Masses – 5th Sunday in Lent Year C - 2nd & 3rd April 2022

	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister
6:00pm Sat	J De Boer	C Marriot-Smith	J Peachey	M Saunders
9:30am Sun	H Sampson	D Fallon	P Brown-Graham	J Fallon

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: 26th March - K Cassidy **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 via the Parish Centre 5152 2942; or Police 5150 2600; or Towards Healing 1800 816 030.

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.

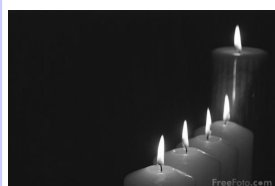
Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

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.***



LENTEN RETREAT ON RAYMOND ISLAND



It's just on 4 weeks now till we begin our
Lenten Pilgrimage on Raymond Island with
Cath Connelly and Russell Smith.

FULL TIME OPTION Monday 4th April 2022 – Friday 8 April
2022 Motel-style accommodation – all meals provided
Twin /share accommodation: \$690 pp Single accommodation:
\$890 per person.

PART-TIME OPTIONS Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th April 2022
9.30am Meet in the Chapel – walk the tracks of Raymond
Island followed by reflection in the Chapel with Cath and
shared lunch - \$25 -3.00pm Meet in the Chapel – walk the
shore-line of Raymond Island followed by reflection in the
Chapel with Cath and shared evening meal - \$40 -Wednesday
6th April 2022 9.30am Meet in the Chapel – longer walk along
Island to Gravelly Point beach and option of return walk -
\$55 - includes lunch and dinner (BYO lunch and no dinner \$25)
Overnight accommodation 1 night – single \$130 per person
Twin Share per person \$70. There are shorter pilgrimages
morning and afternoon on Tuesday 5th and Thursday 8th and a
longer walk on Wednesday 6th April, with overnight options or
daily attendance listed as well, along with the costs for each
option. **Please contact me if you have any more
'Pilgrimage' questions. Rev Edie Ashley - Abbey Priest**
m.0423 400 359 edieashley@bigpond.com
For bookings – please contact Anna info@theabbey.org.au or
on 03 5156 6580, 8.30am- 3.00pm Monday – Friday.

East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support Group
invite you to join other locals on
**Palm Sunday April 10th for a Silent Vigil
for Justice & Freedom for Refugees**

11.00am—1.00pm

St Mary's Church Bairnsdale

Or

St Brendan's Church Lakes Entrance

IT'S PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The frightening humanitarian crisis in **Afghanistan**, and
now **Ukraine**, stresses yet again the need for our country
to respond with compassion and justice to those fleeing
persecution and war. There is still so much to be done.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions -March

For a Christian response to bioethical challenges.

We pray for Christians facing bioethical changes;
May they continue to defend the dignity of
all human life with prayer and action.

A Prayer for 4th Sunday of Lent

(from 'Remember' - A Lenten Program from the Diocese of Wollongong.)

Lord, wait for me on the roads of my choices, today and always.

Look for me in the undergrowth of my ignorance.

Seek me in the wilderness of my delusion.

Rescue me in the tide of my self-absorption.

Release me from the chains of my arrogance.

For I have no God but you, I want no God but you.

Be God for me, with me and in me.

With this sure knowledge

I will find the way home to you.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down
of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children,
at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

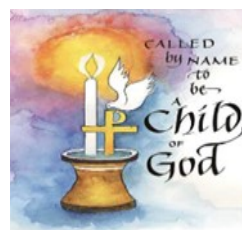
We look forward to celebrating with our 35 candidates
the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be received this
Wednesday 30th March. Please keep them,
their families and teachers in your prayers as they take
the next step in their journey of faith. We give thanks to
God for this grace and pray that hearts are transformed by the
wonder of this Sacramental gift.



MORNING TEA - NEXT SUNDAY

Don't forget our monthly Morning Tea will follow 9:30am Mass
at St Mary's, 3rd April over in the Parish Centre.

All are welcome - come on in, have a cuppa, a chat (maybe
with someone you don't already know) and enjoy some
delicious morning tea.



*We welcome into our Parish family this
weekend through Baptism*

*Jake Nicholls
son of*

Readings: 3rd April 5th Sunday of Lent, Year C

1st Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

Responsorial Psalm: 125

2nd Reading:
Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Collection for 20/3/22

Envelopes \$ 1,145.00

DD & Cards \$ 875.00

1st Collection \$ 683.60

2nd Collection \$ 684.05

Candles \$ 1,087.80

Scripture Notes

Paul's policy was to preach to God's chosen people first, the Jews, but when they rejected his message, he turns to the Gentiles who receive it with joy.

In the Gospel Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd and made wonderful promises to those who belong to him. He promised that none would ever be lost and he promised to lead them to the pastures of eternal life. It is a very comforting and reassuring feeling of being known and loved by Jesus, who takes care of us in life and death. However, a true relationship is a two-way thing; we have to **choose** to belong. Belonging entails 3 things:

To **believe** in God- but this is only the beginning

To **listen** to God – listening to his voice is to hear and understand his teachings

To **follow** God and **do** his word.



This will not guarantee an easy life, in fact the opposite may be more likely.

The flock is an image of community which is fundamental to Christianity and of being human. We can't belong to Jesus without belonging to his flock. "Why should I go to church?" Why can't I just worship God in my own way?" We need our faith community to keep us on track, inspire us, to support one another on our faith journey and to nourish our faith. Jesus' death was entirely voluntary. He did not lose his life he **gave** it. All Jesus wants from us is a life of love and service.

Flor McCarty SDB New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies Year C

ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

In Australia and around the world leaders of all churches are calling on Christians and people of goodwill to pray for the people of Ukraine and an end to the war.

In response, the Uniting Church will host an Ecumenical Service open to people from all the churches and any one from the community, as we join together to lament the violence, death and destruction that is currently taking place and offer our prayers for peace and justice in Ukraine and the surrounding region.

When: Wednesday 30th March at 5:30pm

Where: Bairnsdale Uniting Church corner of the Great Alpine Road and Lanes Road, Lucknow. All welcome.



NEW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**Madelaine Schumann, Narelle Gibbons,
Peter McMahon, Amanda Vowell and Jacinta Da Costa**

Together with Wilma Collier and Marylin Elliott
who are continuing their four year term.

Ex-officio members: Fr Michael, Principals and Pattie.

A Parish Directory: is available at the Pastoral Centre.

St Mary's Primary School: 5152 3706

Nagle College: 5152 6122

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 Vincent de Paul Conference/Assistance Centre:
5152 6687

St Mary's Op Shop: 5152 2088

NEW PARISH APPOINTMENT

We are very pleased and grateful to be able to advise you that

Mr Michael Flynn will replace **Pattie Pruscino** at the Parish Centre. Michael has been a parishioner here for many years and has just completed a 4-year term on the Parish Pastoral Council. During a time of ill health over the last year, he has had time to reflect and discern where the Lord is taking him, leading him on this path. There will be a couple of weeks 'change-over'. Please welcome and support him as he settles in.

THE MASS SERIES – by Archbishop Mark Coleridge of the Archdiocese of Brisbane
Every 2 weeks we will, together with Archbishop Mark, share with you each part of the Mass.
The series can be found on **YouTube>Archdiocese of Brisbane/playlist>The Mass Series**

8. Liturgy of the Word - Prayers of the Faithful

We've said we believe what we have heard, we've professed our faith and then our faith becomes a prayer. We sometimes call the 'Prayer of the Faithful' – those who have put their faith in the word they have heard. This prayer is a prayer of priestly intercession, as the whole community of the faithful is a priestly community and part of priestly service is to intercede for the people and for the world. This is a prayer that looks to the Church and to ourselves, our families, whatever the needs might be, but it is the priestly people – the Church – interceding with God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the power of faith, for the whole world. God wants us to enter into dialogue with Him in prayer. He has spoken to us, now we speak to Him. He wants us to be part of bringing peace out of violence, bringing joy out of sorrow, bringing life out of death. He wants us to work with Him. Our prayer of intercessions recognises, that the God who has called us to Himself, is the God who listens to our prayer and wants us to work with Him for the salvation of the world. Normally there is an intention, for the Church in every place on earth and then a silence and then the prayer.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Jean Kelly, Paul Hawker, Greg Watson, Brian Fletcher, John Mahoney, Jack Monette (father/f.i.l of Jennifer & Stephen Butler), 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...

Mary Sova, Carmel Brown, Edna Cottrell, William Field, Sam Monk, John Saunders, Vera Saunders, Matt Coco, Gaetano (Tom) Calabro, Cam Kilpatrick, Jon Shanahan, Frank Wardley, Betty Kirwan, Rosa Lamanna, Ron Hannaford, Dennis Prendergast, Francesca Lanteri, Paolo Lanteri, Lorna Gilchrist, 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 ALSO REMEMBER THE SICK:

Leo Russell, Michael Counsel, John Spirason, Tricia & Alan Cooke, Lyn Donchi, Paul Fitzgerald, Fr Pax Scarf OFM, Bin Li (husband of Liah), Bob Marshall, Shirley Gilmore (Mary Rowe's sister), Victoria Shaw, Vin Ayres (brother of Pat Coloe), Mark & Elizabeth Rashleigh, Maree Elbourne, Ella Ford (NZ), Craig Counsel, Margaret O'Reilly, Ambrosio (Tony) Da Cunha - Asqueli, Marsha Worseldine, Arthur Elbourne, Jim Quigley, Arthur Roberts, Damian Greaves, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Linton Smith, Marcie Hayles, Brian Rowe, Vic Smythe.

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 LENT YEAR C

Entrance Antiphon

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

The Opening Prayer also known as the Collect

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 Joshua (5:9-12)

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,/ his praise always on my lips;
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast./ The humble shall hear and be glad. R.
Glorify the Lord with me./ Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;/ from all my terrors he set me free. R.
Look towards him and be radiant;/ let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him/ and rescued him from all his distress. R.

A reading from the second Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (5:17-21)

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel Acclamation

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

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (15:1-3,11-32)

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man,' they said, 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about, "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."