



St Francis of Assisi, Benambra

# 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)

### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B February 4, 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.

**WORD  
of GOD  
Sunday  
2024**  
FEBRUARY 4, 2024

**28** Now after the Sabbath the first day of the week Mary Magdalene, and the other women came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. The Gospel According to **MARK**

#### WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

**Monday: NO MASS**

Tuesday: 9.10am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

Robert McMahon Requiem Mass 1.30pm

**St Patrick's, Paynesville**

Wednesday: Rosary: 10.00am

#### RECONCILIATION

Friday:

After 9.10am Mass

Saturday:

9.30am to 10.00am

5.30pm to 5.50pm

#### ROSARY

Monday: 7.00pm

via Zoom

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

### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B February 11, 2024

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	G Dooley	J De Boer	S Gibson	P Elliott	
9.30am Sunday	G and K Cassidy	D Atkins	B Marshall	K Cassidy	B Payne, N Rooney, L Urban

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: February 10 - B Mahony

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 through the Parish Centre: 5152 2942.***

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



## New Alpha Program

**Starts Friday February 16, 6.00pm - 8.00pm**

**Dinner included; no cost; bookings essential**

**Faith, Food, Fellowship, Fun**

**Contact Madelaine: 0400 576 291 or Pattie: 0427 232 682**



**Nagle College**  
Bairnsdale

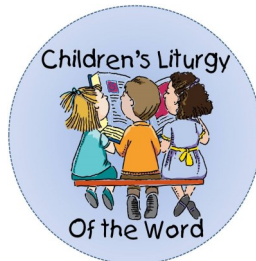
**Welcome back!**

To our students and teachers at St Mary's  
Primary School and Nagle College.

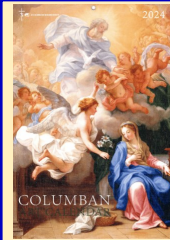
We pray for your success and growth in 2024.

### 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:



- Who has a friend who was once sick?
- How did your friend get better?
- What could you do when someone you know is sick?
- In today's gospel what did Jesus do when sick people were brought to him?
- Jesus showed compassion to those who were in need. What does 'compassion' mean?
- Who should we show compassion to?
- We pray that we will think of others before ourselves this week and show compassion to others.



### Columban Art Calendars

Still available. See Kath Cassidy, or Michael at  
the Parish Centre. Only a few left. \$10.00

### 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.

I slept and dreamt that life was a joy.

I awoke and saw that life was a service.

I acted and behold, service was a joy.

*You're  
Invited!*

### Call for Volunteers

We have had a number of our Special Ministers retire  
from their roles recently and therefore we are looking for  
Parishioners to become Welcomers, Commentators,  
Readers and Eucharistic Ministers.

This is a wonderful opportunity to become more deeply  
involved in the Mass. Masses don't just happen, there is  
a considerable amount of effort by a dedicated team of  
people to help make the Mass spiritually nourishing  
for those who attend.

You will have support to help settle into your new role.

If you are interested please contact Michael at the  
Parish Centre: 5152 2942.



Morning Tea this Sunday  
after Masses at St Patrick's  
and St Mary's. Come join us!

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS

#### **February: For the Terminally Ill**

The Holy Father encourages prayers "so that terminally  
ill patients and their families always receive necessary  
medical and human care and support."



### Liturgy Meeting

A Liturgy Meeting will be held on  
Tuesday February 6 at 11.00am in the  
Parish Centre

#### READINGS:

**February 10-11, 2024**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

#### COLLECTIONS:

**January 27-28, 2024**

Envelopes \$ 1166.00

DD and Cards \$ 348.00

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 828.80

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$ 1032.15

Pay Wave \$ 140.00





**Recommences soon!**  
**Dates to be announced**  
**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.**

### **Sacramental Program 2024**

St Mary's Parish Sacramental Program for 2024 begins soon.

If you would like your child to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, enrolment in the program closes on Friday February 9.

To discuss this further, please contact me at the Parish Centre on 5152 2942 or

via email [stm.michelleg@gmail.com](mailto:stm.michelleg@gmail.com)

Blessings always,  
Michelle Grimsted  
Parish Sacramental Coordinator



### **St Mary's Parish Social Justice Group**

**2.00pm Thursday February 15**

**St Mary's Parish Centre. All are most welcome.**

Life can get busy. There are increasing work commitments and time pressures, our families and friends need attention. It can seem there is very little time to just be and breathe. Within the Catholic tradition, taking time to reflect and connect with oneself is important. It provides an opportunity to stop, breathe and remember what is important. We strongly encourage making time and space to stop and reflect on the deeper questions.

*Catholic Social Services*



### **Prayer for the Holy Land**

Lord, be our peace and break down the walls of partition dividing the Holy Land. Lord, help us to be lights to the Holy Land. Lord, help the people of the Holy Land follow the example of Jacob and Esau and reconcile themselves to each other. Amen.



### **International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking**

Pope Francis has declared February 8, the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, as the **International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking**. "Journeying in Dignity - Listen, Dream, Act" is the theme of the 2024 International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. This theme was chosen by an international group of young people. It is a Call to Action - becoming more aware of the existence of human trafficking and reflecting on its horror we are urged to take action to prevent this horrific crime.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Robert McMahon, Margaret Burgess, Sheila Reid, Tim Patton (son of Linda and Ray), 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:** Julie Hussey, Owen Morgan, William Keyte, James Murphy, Karen Skeen, Roger McCombe, Noel Bills, Norm Bowers, John Flannery Msgr John Callahan, Fr Laurie Cusack, John Deery, Lawrence Liccione, Beryl Seib, Benny Lamanna, Karen Skeen, Patricia Wood, Eileen Ebert 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:** Benny Garro, Gabrielle Carrasco (great-niece of Chris and Sandie Tilley), Rob Brennan, Terry Smyth, Mary Herro, Shane Hayles, Pat Coloe, Bill Tilley, Bev Broome, Michael Crane, 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.**

## **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B February 4th**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

### **Opening Prayer**

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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 prophet Job 7:1-4, 6-7**

Job began to speak: Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

### **Responsorial Psalm 146:1-6**

**R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.**

Praise the Lord for he is good; sing to our God for he is loving; to him our praise is due. **R.**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles, he heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds. he fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name. **R.**

Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust. **R.**

### **A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23**

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me. So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** He bore our sickness and endured our suffering. **Alleluia!**

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:29-39**

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straight away. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her, and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him, they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

*Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane*

### **Scripture Notes**

The excitement was great. So many were amazed. And their amazement at Jesus was not simply a form of curiosity. It was fuelled by faith, which is why Jesus was able to perform so many miracles there. The people quickly realised that Jesus was the One of whom the prophets had spoken. He was the Messiah, and the people gave Him their full attention. As you think of the crowds and their unwavering desire to be near our Lord, consider your own desires pertaining to God. Do you regularly find yourself consumed with a desire to find our Lord, be with Him, listen to Him and receive His grace and mercy? Or are you tempted to see Jesus and the practice of your faith as boring and uninteresting? There are many things today that compete for our attention, intrigue us and even amaze us. Is Jesus one of those things in your life? Reflect on the people in today's Gospel who were so enthralled by Jesus that they continually sought Him out. Consider their excitement, hope and genuine joy at their discovery of the Messiah. As you think about them, consider whether you share in their excitement about Jesus. If that excitement is lacking, recommit yourself to seeking out our Lord. And where you see that excitement present, rejoice and give glory to God.

*Catholic Life*