



St Mary's Bairnsdale

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

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

Email: stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com

5th Sunday of Lent, Year B, March 17, 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.



5th Sunday of Lent March 16-17, 2024



The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities. Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse.

Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.



WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am

Feast of St Patrick

Tuesday: 9.10am

First Reconciliation 6.00pm

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Lawrence Mooney-Funeral 11.00am

Friday: 9.10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday-Friday: 8.00am

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

St Patrick's Paynesville

Wednesday Rosary: 10.00am

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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year B, March 23-24, 2024

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	C Marriot-Smith	B O'Kelly	D Ball	C Marriot-Smith	
9.30am Sunday	R Spierings	M Grimsted	B Marshall	S Tilley	D Atkins, J Delany, S Dean
Cleaning: Fortnight ending: March 23 - 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 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 St Canice's Lindenow

11.00am Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek

5.00pm Vietnamese Mass St Mary's Bairnsdale



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.

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!



2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Tuesday March 26 at 6.00pm

St Mary's Bairnsdale

Fr Joseph, Fr Mark and Fr Hiep will be celebrating the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation.

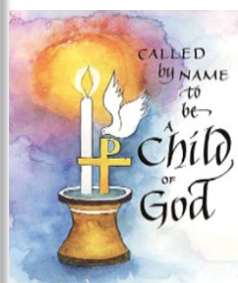
This year we will incorporate into our Parish Reconciliation the service of Tenebrae: a commemoration of the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ.

Please join with us in this reverential service.

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:



We welcome into our Parish family through the Sacrament of Baptism

Bella

**Daughter of Kristine Cameron
and Jason Cologna**

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: MARCH 23-24

**Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord**

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 15:1-39

COLLECTIONS:

February 24-25, 2024

Envelopes \$ 1089.00

DD & Cards \$ 350.00

1st Collection \$ 889.40

2nd Collection \$ 934.85

Pay Wave \$ 240.00

- ♦ Who has seen seeds form on a plant?
- ♦ What happens to the plants after it makes seeds?
- ♦ The plant or flowers eventually die and the seed dries, ready for planting.
- ♦ How do you make a seed grow?
- ♦ Jesus tells us that choosing to serve him rather than ourselves is like a seed which dies and then grows to produce fruit.
- ♦ How does choosing to follow Jesus give us a new life?
- ♦ We pray that this week we will choose to follow Jesus and do his will.



Gathering every 2nd and 4th 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.



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?



We have 22 young people receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday March 19.
Please keep them in your prayers.

headspace Bairnsdale



We would like to thank St Mary's Parish for the generous donation of \$500. The funding will go towards resourcing our Games Group, a social group of young people on the Autism Spectrum.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Geoff Neeson (Chair), Madelaine Schumann, 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

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.

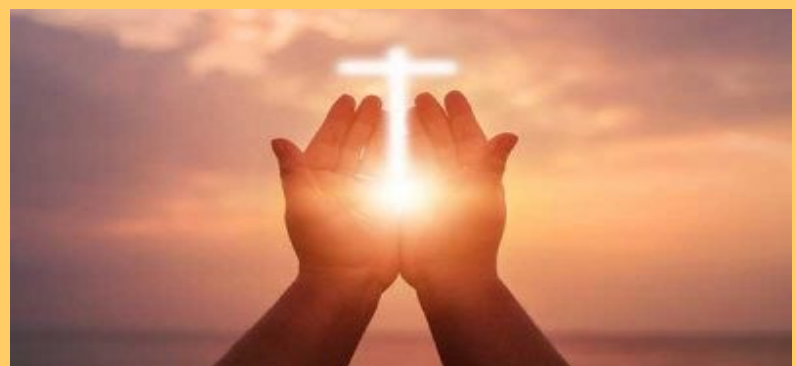
St Vincent de Paul Conference/Assistance Centre: 5152 6687

St Mary's Op Shop: 5152 2088



Planned Giving envelopes are now available for collection in the Church foyer.

Healing the Hurts



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Lawrence Mooney, Rob Brennan, 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: Marguerite Leone, Joan Browne, Terry Boyd, Lorraine O'Brien, Baby Christian Halligan, Gwenda Leighton, Madge Marshall, Dino Baccega, Aida Bachetti, Rachela Dicello, Betty Dimarco, Guiseppe Ganci, Pauline Ganci, Mary Sicura and Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers 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), 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

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Responsorial Psalm 50:3-4, 12-15

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. **R.**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 12:20-30

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Reflection

Our Lord's human soul was "troubled." Some translations say His soul was in agony. After expressing His suffering, Jesus identified the human temptation it caused. He dismisses this temptation as a way of teaching us a lesson from His human experience. Reflect, today, upon the ways in which God is calling you to the cross. As you do, don't allow fear to deter you. Instead, look at every pending suffering as an opportunity to glorify God in your life. See your crosses with gratitude and joy and allow this new perspective to give you the strength you need to fulfill the mission given to you by the Father in Heaven.

My Catholic Life