



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)

6TH Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, 13th February, 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 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

2nd & 4th Sunday each month:

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

NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY 2022

The National Church Life Survey is on again this year with over 20 denominations, including the Catholic Church, across Australia taking part. NCLS is the largest, longest-running study into church life of its type in the world. Several parishes in our Diocese, including ours, are participating in this important survey. The survey will take place **this weekend** at all Masses with questions about the make-up of our parish, our parishioners' view of the parish, their involvement, how we relate to God through prayer and reaching out to others.

Read more at <https://www.2021ncls.org.au/about>

ST MARY'S OPPORTUNITY SHOP

Our parish Op Shop is open Mon. to Fri. from 10 a.m. till 3.30 p.m. and Sat. morning 10 till 12. We are in need of volunteers to help out in the shop either on the register – front of shop, or sorting items and pricing in the back.

If you could spare a day a week or half day a week it would be greatly appreciated.

Your contribution helps St Mary's Parish and other local charities to which we contribute. Please consider donating some of your time to us and phone 5152 2088 during opening hours and speak to the day manager.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH'S 2021 SAFEGUARDING REPORT

In late December last year the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia published their fourth annual progress report on efforts undertaken to improve child safety. The report has been issued yearly since 2018 on recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The annual report details national initiatives of the Church to embed child and adult safeguarding practices, including through the establishment of ACSL, through to initiatives being undertaken at the local level of dioceses and religious institutes across the country.

Read the report [here](#). Hard copies are available at the Parish Centre.

Weekday Masses @ St Mary's

Monday to Friday: 9:10am

Paynesville

Wednesday: 10am Rosary

RECONCILIATION is available each

Friday after 9:10am Mass

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

Roster for Masses - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19/20th February 2022

	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister
6:00pm Sat	G Dooley	M Saunders	D Reefman	B O'Kelly
9:30am Sun	M Owen	A Chila	H Sampson	M Elliot

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: 19th February: G Cannizzaro **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.

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.



16th ANNIVERSARY OF

THE NATIONAL APOLOGY TO THE STOLEN GENERATION

Today we commemorate the 16th anniversary of the historic national apology to the First Nations People of Australia, in particular to the Stolen Generations, by the Prime Minister of the day, Kevin Rudd, on 13th February 2008. The unanimous parliamentary apology committed Australia to carry on the process of reconciliation through symbolic and practical actions. One of these was to set a range of targets in achieving equality between Indigenous and other Australians. The targets, sadly, have generally not been reached. All Australians are urged to support and commit to assisting our First Nations People. As Catholics on the Synodal journey, we are invited to hear their stories and learn from their rich spiritual and cultural traditions. We are invited to play our part in closing the gap, fostering understanding and committing to the journey of reconciliation.

St Mary's Social Justice Group

will meet quarterly on the
3rd Thursday of the month :-
17th February, 19th May, 18th August and
17th Nov 2022 at 2pm in the
Parish Centre.



All parishioners with an interest in Social Justice, (Human Rights, the Environment, Reconciliation, the Homeless, Refugees etc.) are very welcome to come to the first meeting of the year,

Thursday 17th February, 11am in the Parish Centre.
For further information phone Chris 0418 148657.

**Please note change of time for this
1st gathering. We hope that this will enable people to be
involved with the Synod conversations, the 2nd
being at 1:30pm on the same day.**



*Congratulations and
many blessings for
Joanne Chila
and
Claus Sitnikow
who were married this weekend.*

The Synodal Journey 2021-2023

Synod of bishops

Hundreds of groups and individuals across the country have shared their stories about how all members of the Catholic Church can walk together to carry out our mission as Christians. Have You? The local consultation process for the global Synod on Synodality is open for two more weeks - until 27th February.

Go to our Diocesan Synod page <https://www.cdsale.org.au/synod-of-bishops> to download Discussion resources, Coffee Conversations and prayers. You are encouraged to gather in small groups, in pairs or in larger gatherings and share your reflections, selecting a couple of the questions listed in the conversation resource. Then have your say and submit your response online <https://tinyurl.com/HavingASay> or scan this QR code to get access to the submission portal from your mobile device.



As the Diocesan Consultation period for the Synod 2021-2023 continues until the end of this month, you are invited to join in one or more of the virtual gatherings organised by the *Gaudium et Spes Diocesan Plenary team*.

We are hosting two more conversations.

Join one or both of the conversations

Conversation on Participation

Thursday 17th February at 1.30 pm

Conversation on Mission

Wednesday 23rd February at 7.30 pm

Please register at

<https://www.trybooking.com/BXFJB>

If help is required, please call into the Parish Centre - Michelle or Pattie will be able to help you.

'Life Lessons from Lasso' via Zoom

3 x Wed, 23 Feb, 2 & 9 Mar, 3.30pm-5pm.

Explore the spirituality of the heart and qualities of leadership learned from an in-depth reflection on the unlikely leader and coach, Ted Lasso. Rediscover the ways in which Jesus led in faith, hope and love. Learn more about leadership and the power of positivity, trust and belief in yourself and others. The time is led by Rita Malavisi rsj and Clare Shearman. No previous knowledge of Ted Lasso required! Cost \$60. Book and pay via website www.heartoflife.melbourne, email info@heartoflife.melbourne or tel 9890 1101.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions - February



***For religious sisters and
consecrated women.***

**We pray for religious sisters and
consecrated women; thanking them
for their mission and their courage; may they continue to
find new responses to the challenges of our times.**

Readings: 20th February 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

1st Reading:

1 Samuel 26: 2,7-9,12-13,22-23

Responsorial Psalm:

102: 1-4,8,10,12-13

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel:

Luke 6:27-38

Collection for 6/2/22

Envelopes \$ 1,259.00

DD & Cards \$ 500.00

1st Collection \$ 610.55

2nd Collection \$ 734.15

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:** Wilma Collier, Marylin Elliott, Madelaine Schumann, Narelle Gibbons, Peter McMahon, Amanda Vowell & Jacinta Da Costa. Ex-officio members: priests, 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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Last November the parish called for recommendations for positions on the Parish Pastoral Council. 4 members had fulfilled their time (2 X 2 years) on the council and were being farewelled. With due process of the dozen or so names we received, we are pleased to say that the following accepted a position on our parish Council. They are Madelaine Schumann, Narelle Gibbons, Peter McMahon, Amanda Vowell and Jacinta Da Costa. We farewell Angie McKail, Michael Flynn, Rita Bowers and Angelo D'Amore. We are very grateful for all they have given and done on the council. For now we have not appointed a chairperson, that will happen at the next meeting. In a few weeks we will induct the new members at a Mass onto the council and wish them well as they continue to lead us with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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

Once the Introductory Rites are complete, we begin the first of the two great sections of the Mass - **the Liturgy of the Word**—which is the Word of God speaking to the heart of God's people and doing so primarily through scripture. The Bible was composed by human beings, not dropped magically from some pink cloud. What we say, is that in these human words, is contained the Word of the God, who always takes flesh even in the words of a book. So, if we really listen, a voice can be heard which is the voice of God. In this moment, God wants to enter into a conversation with His people. He speaks to us a word that is old but always new. We have to listen with the ears of faith and enter into the conversation. The first reading is usually taken from the Old Testament. Sometimes, in calling it the Old Testament we can give the impression that it's really old and worn out. But that's not true. The Old Testament, is as much the Word of God to us here and now as it ever was, addressed to people thousands of years ago. Once God speaks to us through that first reading, we listen, and then we respond with the Responsorial Psalm- our response to the word that God has spoken, continuing the conversation. Then the second reading continues the conversation. Again God speaks, now through one of the texts of the New Testament – one of the letters of St Paul. The words are St Paul's, but at a deeper point there is God's voice, (Jesus Christ's voice), through Paul. We then sing the Alleluia preparing to hear the words of Christ Himself. Alleluia simply means "Praise God" for the gift of the words Christ speaks to us in the Gospel. This is the epicentre of this Liturgy of the Word.

Mission Opportunities Overseas Supporting Sustainable International Development Love

Getting involved in people centred Human Development as an invited guest means humbly putting your person and your skills at the disposal of your trusted hosts. You will be a stranger in the place and for six months a Pilgrim learning the wisdom of local ways.

Palms Australia has 60 years of experience preparing and assisting Australians to learn and pass on their skills in another culture. Is one of [our assignments](#) your opportunity to Reach Beyond?

Find Out More: [Enquire Here](#) or Phone: 0422 742 567.

Join our [online forum](#) at 5.30pm AEDT on Thursday 17 March, attend and engage with a panel of Palms most experienced Program Participants.



Palms Australia

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Helen Websdale, Julie Hussey, Keith Dunn, 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...

Filomena Maglione, Ann Taylor, Cathie Ludeman, Genevieve Bolleman, Noel O'Keefe, Tony Capobianco, Imelda Mattley, Faye Whykes, John Gagalowicz, Esmonde O'Reilly, Andrew Buck, Betty Dwyer, Gwen DeeryPatricia Farquhar, Genovetta Calvi, Giosue Calvi, John Graves, Alan Bills, 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:

Michael Counsel, John Mahoney, 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, Paul Hawker, Vin Ayres (brother of Pat Coloe), Michael Flynn, Mark & Elizabeth Rashleigh, Maree Elbourne, Ella Ford (NZ), Ambrosio (Tony) Da Cunha - Asqueli, Marsha Worseldine, Arthur Elbourne, Jim Quigley, Arthur Roberts, Margaret O'Reilly, Damian Greaves, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Craig Counsel, Linton Smith, Andre Buxton, 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.

Entrance Antiphon

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

The Collect

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. 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 Jeremiah (17:5-8)

The Lord says this: 'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited.
'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

Responsorial Psalm

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked; nor lingers in the way of sinners nor sits in the company of scorners, but whose delight is the law of the Lord and who ponders his law day and night. **R.**

He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper. **R.**

Not so are the wicked, not so! For they like winnowed chaff shall be driven away by the wind. For the Lord guards the way of the just but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (15:12,16-20)

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven **Alleluia!**

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (6:17,20-26)

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Notes

The beatitudes remind us that the poor, hungry, those who weep, who are persecuted, have one thing in common, and that is the understanding that only God can satisfy the longings of our hearts, our emptiness, our need for compassion and provide us with the strength and companionship to follow in Jesus' footsteps. "The most precious thing in the whole world is the consciousness of not participating in injustice."

Jesus confronted his followers with a radical choice: to live by the values of the world (pursuit of money, pleasure, popularity, power, prestige), or to live by the values of the Kingdom, (poverty of spirit, cleanness of heart, capacity to show mercy, ability to suffer in the cause of right). Blessed are they who put their trust in God and follow God's way. They are truly blessed even though they may be poor, hungry and persecuted.