



Immaculate Conception, Omeo

# 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: [stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com)

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



### Project Compassion Sunday

February 10-11



Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations.



#### WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

**Monday: NO MASS**

Tuesday: 9.10am

Ash Wednesday: 9.10am and 6.00pm

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

**St Patrick's, Paynesville**

Wednesday: Rosary: 10.00am

#### RECONCILIATION

Friday:

After 9.10am Mass

Saturday:

9.30am to 10.00am

#### **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

### 1st Sunday of Lent Year B February 18, 2024

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	C Shanahan	B O'Kelly	M Saunders	C Shanahan	
9.30am Sunday	A Veldhuizen	P Brown-Graham	W Collier	M Grimsted	B and A Capobianco, H Van Den Einden

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: February 24 - P Pruscino 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 No cost involved;  
dinner included; bookings essential.  
Faith, Food, Fellowship, Fun  
Contact Madelaine: 0400 576 291 or Pattie: 0427 232 682**

**‘I attended my first Alpha (only 3years ago) and it brought back to me many of the reasons I am a Christian, some things I had forgotten, some things that stirred within me the reason for wanting to be a disciple of Jesus. It reminded me of the wonder and wonders of God, the humanness of Jesus and the price he paid for me to have everlasting life and the presence of the Holy Spirit within me AND around me.’ *Pattie Pruscino***  
**We share a meal (provided), watch a short film and then spend some time sharing our thoughts, asking questions and listening to each other. All are welcome from any faith background.**  
**SO – we warmly invite you to come along to the first week of the Alpha program with no commitment and no cost .**

**Father God, we thank you for the gifts of your love and guidance as we bring before you our Alpha program. We ask your blessing upon the team and all the guests as we journey to a deeper love relationship with you. We ask Holy Spirit to guide us every step of the way and to lead all who are called by name, to join us on this beautiful walk together.**  
**In the name of sweet Jesus we pray. Amen**

**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.”

**You are invited to a Lenten Journey 2024**

Come join us for prayer, discussion and fellowship via ZOOM or face to face over the next 6 weeks, reflecting on Scripture from the Sunday Gospels. The Season of Lent is an opportunity to reflect on the celebration of the saving action of a loving and merciful God. As we take stock of where we are in relationship with Him and draw closer to Christ in preparation for Easter. Enquiries please contact Michelle Grimsted 5152 2942 at St Mary’s Parish Centre, Bairnsdale

**ZOOM gathering**

**Every Monday: February 12 to March 18: 7.45pm-8.45pm**  
We will be using a Lenten Companion called Repent and Believe, Be Filled with Love of God, issued by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney which will be emailed to you.  
To receive a link: email Michelle stm.michelleg@gmail.com

**In person gatherings**

**Every Tuesday: February 13 to March 19: 2.00pm-3.00pm** in the Parish Centre. **Every Thursday: February 15 to March 21: 10.30am-11.30am** in the Chapel. We will be using a Lenten Companion called Pieta (or Divine Pity) – the expression of God’s mercy and love, issued by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong. This can be purchased for a small donation of \$10.00.  
**Fridays: 10.15am-11.15am**  
at Mary Saunders home. Ring: 0427 525 962

**THINKING OF DOING SOMETHING TO  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE DURING LENT ?**

**We are looking for  
Welcomers, Commentators,  
Readers and Eucharistic Ministers.**

**This is a wonderful opportunity to become  
more deeply involved in our faith community!  
Together we make a difference!  
You will have support to help settle into your  
new role.**

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

**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:



- **In today’s gospel who came to Jesus?**
- **The man had a sickness which made him an outcast, what does it mean to be an outcast?**
- **What did Jesus do when he met him?**
- **Jesus showed compassion and kindness when others would have sent the man away.**
- **What did the man do when he was cured?**
- **What would it be like to be an outcast or an outsider?**
- **Jesus asks us to be kind to outsiders. How can we show kindness to people who do not feel included?**
- **We pray that this week we will look out for ways we can show kindness to people in need.**

**READINGS:**

**February 17-18, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

1 st Reading: Genesis 9:8-15  
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:4-9  
2 nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22  
Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

**COLLECTIONS:**

**February 3-4, 2024**

Envelopes	\$ 1244.00
DD & Cards	\$ 717.00
1 st Collection	\$ 851.80
2 nd Collection	\$ 974.65
Pay Wave	\$ 230.00



**Recommences this week  
February 10**

**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 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.



### Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations to Fr Mark who celebrates his first anniversary at St Mary's on Tuesday February 15.

### 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  
Victoria*

Family  
JUSTICE  
Rights Dignity  
SOCIAL Rights Dignity  
Family Poor  
Poor Community JUSTICE  
Environment  
Solidarity  
SOCIAL Solidarity  
Community

### 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 Sundays 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

### 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.

**We wish all those beginning a new school, kinder and university year a fruitful and exciting 2024.**

**A Huge THANK YOU!** To all our Parishioners who generously donate their time and effort to help make St Mary's a better place. Especially those who clean the Church and the sacred vessels, provide flowers, act as Special Ministers, visit the sick and generally promote our vision of being a welcoming community where God's Word is made known and lived through our actions.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Mary Herro, 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:** Patricia Farquhar, Genoveffa Calvi, Giosue Calvi, Jim Duggan, John Graves, Joseph Zagami, Filomena Maglione, Prue McGoldrick, Julie Hussey, Owen Morgan, William Keyte, James Murphy, Karen Skeen, Roger McCombe, Noel Bills, Norm Bowers, John Flannery 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, 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.**

## **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B February 11**

### **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.

### **Opening Prayer**

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. Amen.

### **A reading from the Book of Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man’s skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons. The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head.

A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, ‘Unclean, unclean’. As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.”

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted. O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. **R.**

But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide. I said “I will confess my offence to the Lord.

”And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. **R.**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just! O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. **R.**

### **A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 10:31-11:1**

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. **Alleluia!**

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:40-45**

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees “If you want to” he said “you can cure me.” Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. “Of course I want to!” he said. “Be cured!” And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, “Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.” The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

*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*