



Omeo:

Immaculate Conception

THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

East Region – Diocese of Sale

BAIRNSDALE, PAYNESVILLE, LINDENOW, OMEQ, 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
Assistant Priests: Fr Avinash George
Fr Edwin Ogbuka
Presbytery:
23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106

St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:
135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942
Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net
Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B, 9th MAY, 2021

Welcome to all who have joined us as we celebrate Mass.

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

Saturday: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am

St Patrick's, Paynesville

Sunday: 8am

St Canice's, Lindenow

Sunday: 11am

Weekday Masses for 10th - 14th May

Monday: 9:10am - St Mary's

Tuesday: 9:10am - St Mary's

Wednesday: 9:10am - St Mary's

OPAL Aged Care: 10:30am

Thursday: 9:10am - Foundation -
St Marys Primary School

Friday: 8am Nagle College Chapel
9:10am - St Mary's

Monday to Friday @ St Mary's

Morning Prayers: 8:45am

Rosary: after 9:10am Mass

Paynesville: Rosary 10am Wednesday

Reconciliation is available on
FRIDAY following 9:10am Mass.

SATURDAY

9:30am - 10:00am and

5:30pm to 5:50pm

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you to thank the Lord above for blessing me with a lifetime of your tenderhearted love. I thanked God for the caring you've shown me through the years, for the closeness we've enjoyed in time of laughter and of tears. And so, I thank you from the heart for all you've done for me and I bless the Lord for giving me the best mother there could be!



PROJECT COMPASSION - HAVING MORE OR BEING MORE?

St Mary's students were busy during Lent raising money for Project Compassion. The challenge was to see which class or level could make the most shelters out of icy-pole sticks. For every \$1 donated, the class purchased 2 icy pole sticks, which were then glued to a box to make a shelter. Students were asked to do jobs at home to earn their donation. Year 5 students raised the most money and made 13 shelters altogether. The school made 47 shelters in total, and a 'Jeans for Jesus' casual clothes day also helped bring the amount raised to over \$1500. At St Mary's School, we are trying not to have more, but to be more.

Sobriety Practise

To practice sufficiency and moderation, renounce what is superfluous and resist the consumerist mentality. "Sobriety ... is the ability to renounce what is superfluous and to resist the dominant consumerist mentality. Sobriety is prudence, simplicity, straightforwardness, balance and temperance. Sobriety is seeing the world through God's eyes and from the side of the poor, sobriety is a style of life, which points to the primacy of others as a hierarchical principle and is shown in a life of concerns and service towards others. The sober person is consistent and straightforward in all things because he or she can reduce, recover, recycle, repair and live a life of moderation." (Pope Francis 2015)



Reduce the number of items purchased.

Clothes, electronics, homewares. Reduce our consumerism.

Roster for Masses 15th & 16th May 2021

	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister
6:00pm Sat	J Peachey	B Calabro	S Gibson	C Power
9:30am Sun	M Owen	S Tilley	A Vowell	J Delany

Please find a replacement if unable to fill your spot.

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

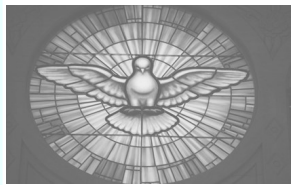
Our Parish of The Immaculate Conception (also known as St Mary's) is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk. Our Safeguarding Officer is Kath Cassidy who can be contacted via the Parish Centre 5152 2942; or Police 5150 2600; or Towards Healing 1800 816 030.

WANTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a program running over a number of months, exploring different aspects of Church life - what are the Sacraments, what role does Mary play, why does the priest wear the robes that he does, what relevance do Gospel stories have for us today? Anyone wishing to find out more please contact the Parish Centre on 5152 2942.

NATIONAL COUNT IN THE MONTH OF MAY

A national count of Mass attenders is taken every 5 years and the time has come again. At each weekend Mass for the first 4 weeks of May, we will be 'counting sheep'. The count will happen at the time of the first collection.



'LIFE IN THE SPIRIT' SEMINAR

The Diocesan Service of Communion of the Charismatic Renewal is conducting a Diocese-wide Renewal Seminar for everyone in the Diocese of Sale. This follows the advice of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who encourages all Catholics (and all Christians) to embrace this spiritual renewal program. Bishop Greg has blessed this initiative. It will be an exciting moment with the Holy Spirit, please do not miss this opportunity. Looking forward with great excitement to catching up with you all (Fr Francis). Seminars will be held in a central location in the Diocese as follows:

Venue: St Ita's, Drouin **Time:** 10.30 am each day.

Dates: Saturday, 22 May, New Life in God's Spirit
Saturday, 19 June, Community in the Lord;

Commissioning Mass with Bishop Greg

The other seminars will be organised on Prayer Group/Parish levels. Details to follow. "May our Diocesan Life in the Spirit Seminar be an opportunity for us to fan into a flame the gift of God anew (1 Tim 1:6) and renew the gift of our baptism which calls us forth in missionary service."

(Bishop Greg Bennet, Sale Diocese).



SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

The Bairnsdale Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul thank you for the generous donation of \$500 they received earlier this year from Parish funds that are distributed once a year. The conference is very grateful for your

continued support of their work. If you would like to know more about 'who they are' and 'what they do' please contact: Cath - 0448 525 462; Jo - 0409 530 423; Trish - 0408 320 169

FAITH FORMATION

ACU Centre for Liturgy is proud to present a public lecture by Monsignor Professor Kevin W Irwin.

**"Liturgy and Sacraments in a COVID World:
Renewal not Restoration"**

Monday May 17, 2021, 10am-11:30am via Zoom in the Library Meeting Room St Mary's Parish Centre. Please register your interest with Pattie, 5152 2942 or Kath 5152 3635

ST MARY'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

meet on Monday evenings in the Resource Room at the Parish Centre, entry Nicholson Street. Doors open at 7:15pm. Everyone welcome. For more information contact: Maureen Saunders 0428 522 344.

Renewal and restoration
are not luxuries,
they are essentials.



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.



This is a day where we can reflect on our purchasing and procurement policies and see what are the practical ways we can support ethical and fair trade practices.

"We've known for a long time that something is wrong with how trade works. Our trade structures and practices are designed in a way that benefits the most powerful...who hold the power in supply chains and set the terms of international trade. Meanwhile small farmers, artisans and workers have been left vulnerable to exploitation and struggle to earn living incomes and wages." Catholic organisations such as [Ethica](#) and [ACRATH](#) provide practical means for us to make trade fair.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

**An opportunity to spend a weekend
improving your communication.**

Come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing! The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. The next residential weekend is on **21 -23 May 2021 in Wantirna South** (Book early to avoid disappointment)

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or
Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au



Trinity Families May 2021 Appeal

BISHOP Greg Bennet has urged the members of the diocese to generously support the annual appeal for Trinity Families, in our parishes this year.

He said "As good stewards of the gifts that God has given us, we must always find a necessary place for those who need our help. To achieve this, Trinity Families Fund needs to continue to grow its funds so that this mission of service can be more effective. I have been reliably informed that the demand placed upon Trinity Families' funding in the 2020 COVID year was actually three times more than was available for distribution. It is important to keep to the forefront of our minds that this is our own charity arm specifically set up to serve and support the needs of families in the Greater Gippsland area. While there are many calls upon our donations at this time, what is both worthwhile and unique about Trinity Families is that it is locally based and supports the particular needs of our area."

Bishop Greg urges everyone to give generously to the May 2021 Appeal by donating. Those wanting a receipt for Taxation purposes are asked to use the envelopes available in the church. **This collection will take place next weekend (15/16th May) at all Masses.**

Collections for week ending 2nd May:

Envelopes	\$	1,288.00
DD & Cards	\$	2,850.00
1 st Collection	\$	926.00
2 nd Collection	\$	743.00

Readings for The Ascension of the Lord

1 st Reading:	Acts 1: 1-11
Psalm:	Ps 46: 2-3, 6-9
2 nd Reading:	Ephesians 4: 1-13
Gospel:	Mark 16: 15-20

Parish Pastoral Council: meets 2nd Thursday of the month. Please submit items to the Parish Centre by 10.00am Tuesday the week before. **Members:** Michael Flynn and Angela McKail (Co- Chairpersons) Angelo D'Amore, Rita Bowers, Marilyn Elliott and Wilma Collier. Ex-officio members: priests, principals and Pattie. **A Parish Directory:** is available at the Pastoral Centre.

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 Mary's Primary School: 5152 3706 **Nagle College:** 5152 6122

St Vincent de Paul Conference/Centre: 5152 6687 **St Mary's Op Shop:** 51522088

WEEKLY ROSARY

Weekly Rosary is continuing each Wednesday at 7pm. This happens via Zoom so you will require the link - please contact Michelle for this information. We would love you to join us. At this time we are offering up our prayers for Parish Renewal -that God will surround us with courage and wisdom to accept new possibilities as we offer the gifts He has given each of us through baptism.



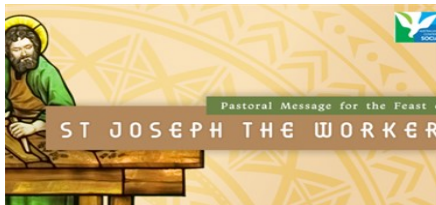
ROSARY BEFORE MASS

During the month of May Rosary will be offered at 9am BEFORE 9:30am Mass. You are encouraged to come along and join in.



CAN YOU HELP? CHURCH CLEANING

The last 18 months, with church renovations and Covid restrictions, regular cleaning has not been occurring. The task is now quicker and easier as we have a large 'duster' broom which is light and manageable for many. Many hands make light work and, with no vacuuming, it can become a prayerful time. If you could give an 'hour' it would be most appreciated. See Pattie or phone 5152 2942.



St Joseph the Migrant Worker

"Have you ever imagined St Joseph as a migrant worker?"

Would he have taken with him as many tools of trade as he could carry when he fled with Mary and the child Jesus into Egypt?

What would it have been like for him trying to find work in a foreign land to support his family?

Would anyone help them, or would these 'outsiders' be exploited or left to fend for themselves?"

POPE CALLS FOR GLOBAL PRAYER MARATHON

Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for an end to the pandemic. Source: CNS.

"The initiative will involve in a special way all shrines in the world" in promoting the initiative so that individuals, families and communities all take part in reciting the Rosary, "to pray for the end of the pandemic", said the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelisation in a press release yesterday.

"It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father that the month of May be dedicated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, 'from the entire Church an unceasing prayer rises to God,'" it said.

The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-12) when all the Church prayed for Peter, who was imprisoned until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the Lord listens and performs an unexpected miracle.

The Pope will open the month long prayer May 1 and conclude it on May 31, the council said.

Each day in May, there will be a livestream from one of 30 chosen Marian shrines or sanctuaries to guide the prayer at 6pm Rome time (2am AEST) on all Vatican media platforms.

At his general audience yesterday, Pope Francis said prayer "is dialogue with God; and every creature, in a certain sense, engages in dialogue with God", Vatican News reports.

For human beings, he continued, "prayer becomes word, invocation, hymn, poetry ... The divine Word is made flesh, and in the flesh of every person the word returns to God in prayer".



The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer)

Universal intention -
The world of finance

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Paul Garro, Bill Plozza, Margaret Bull, Barbara Conquest, victims of mental health issues; of Covid-19; terrorist attacks, war and conflict, asylum seekers, of family violence and poverty.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...

Brendan Deery, Caterina Calabro, Rick Lightowler, Saverio Calabro, Noreen Godridge, Sean Dooley, Lance Bills, David Bull, Patricia Fisher, 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:

Mary Johnson, Maree Elbourne, Mateusz Iwanowicz, Paul Hawker, Mark Kelly, Bev Miller (mother of Val Bersey), Ella Ford (NZ), Andrew Kenworthy, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Victoria Shaw, Mary Kirsner, Elizabeth Stehmann, Tricia & Alan Cooke, Damian Greaves, Jim Quigley, Craig Counsel, Roma Greig, Linton Smith, John Butler, Arthur Elbourne, Andre Buxton, Marcie Hayles, John Buck, Alan Wilson, Brian Rowe, Vic & Thelma Smythe, Trish & Karl Henderson, John Pruscino, Julie Frew.

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.

6th Sunday of Easter 9th May 2021, Year B

Entrance Antiphon

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48)

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up', he said 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.' While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **R.**

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations.

He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St John (4: 11-16)

If we love one another God will live in us.

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us. We can know that we are living in him and he is living in us because he lets us share his Spirit. We ourselves saw and we testify that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God. We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves. God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (15: 9-17)

No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Notes

A striking feature of the first reading is that the Holy Spirit descends on Cornelius (a Roman centurion and Gentile), before baptism, usually the Spirit descends after baptism. In the second reading John says that loving is the only way we can really know God and share in His life. In the Gospel Jesus talks about the love that binds Him to the father and the love that should bind the disciples to him and one another. We cannot give love unless we have first received it. A radiator cannot give out heat unless it has first received heat. It is not a sign of weakness to admit our need for love, and as far as God's love is concerned, we don't have to earn it. God loves us, not because we are good, but because He is good. All we have to do is to receive it and then try to share it with others. Love can be costly – and in loving we accept that we need to step back from self and selfishness. Dostoyevsky said, "The best way to know God is to love many things – a friend, a partner or something and you will be on the right way to knowing God."

Love is the best teacher we have, but it does not come of its own accord, often demanding many years of persevering toil before we reach the point where we are able to love. We are made in God's image and each of us has an innate capacity for love, but to realise this the heart has to be right. We have a heart of flesh not stone, and may need to heal the wounds of the heart in order to be able to produce the fruits of love. Jesus talks about love and joy in the same breath as they are intimately connected. Joy is the fruit of love and an overflowing heart. The amount of joy we have is in proportion to the amount of love we share with others. If we are not as joyful as we might be, perhaps it is telling us something.

Flor McCarthy SDB -New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies.