



Swifts Creek: Sacred Heart

# THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

## Eastern 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.

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Michael Willemsen	<b>St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:</b>
<b>Assistant Priests:</b>	Fr Avinash George Fr Edwin Ogbuka	135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942 Email: <a href="mailto:stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com">stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.stmarysbairnsdale.net">www.stmarysbairnsdale.net</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale">St Mary's Church Bairnsdale</a>
<b>Presbytery:</b>	23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106	

#### 6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B, 14th February 2021

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.



#### Reconciliation

**Friday** following 9:10am Mass

**Saturday** 9:30am—10am and 5:30pm—5:50pm.



#### Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am

**St Patrick's, Paynesville**

Sunday: 8am

**St Canice's, Lindenow**

Sunday: 11am

#### Weekday Masses @ St Mary's

**Monday:** 9:10am

**Tuesday:** 9.10am

**Ash Wednesday:** 9:10am  
6:00pm

**St Patricks, Paynesville:**  
8:00am

**Thursday:** 9:10am

**Friday:** 9:10am

#### LENT

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a day on which Catholics traditionally resist eating between meals (fasting) and avoid eating meat (abstaining). Many Catholics also attend Mass or have special prayer liturgies.

Lent is a forty day period preparation for Easter. It reminds us of the forty-days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before he took up his ministry. During this time he fasted and prayed. Lent is a time of self-denial and prayer for us as well. During this period, we are called to focus on becoming closer to Jesus by praying a little more, doing good deeds for others, going without something we like and giving generously to others in need. Ash Wednesday is a good time for us to think about what we can do to grow closer to Jesus over the lenten period.



#### ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES:

**St Patrick's, Paynesville 8:00am**

**St Mary's, Bairnsdale: 9:10am & 6pm**

*Bishop Greg has written to all in the Diocese,  
please pick up a copy of his Lenten Letter.*

**LENTEN SMALL GROUPS.....ONLY THREE DAYS BEFORE THE  
BEGINNING OF LENT. YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN A GROUP ....BUT**



#### WHY?

Small groups are a rewarding and important part of the life of the Church.

**Friendships are strengthened**, or new friendships developed via small groups. Hearing opinions and thoughts from others

helps **broaden and strengthen our own beliefs**, a **deeper understanding of Scripture** is often gained and we can rediscover a sense of **God's presence** in our lives. **New leaders can emerge** from small groups as we gain confidence in our relationship with Christ. **Expressions of interest please contact Pattie at the Parish Centre PH 5152 2942**

#### Roster for Masses 20th and 21st Feb 2021

	<b>Welcomer</b>	<b>Commentator</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Special Minister</b>
6:00pm Sat	M Saunders	B O'Kelly	D Reefman	
9:30am Sun	M Owen	G Neeson	N Nash	S Dean

**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.*

### **MEDITATIONS ON THE ROSARY FOR PARISH RENEWAL**

In the Catholic Tradition the Communion of Saints does not just mean the present community of the baptised here and now but refers to all who have gone before us and are "in Christ". They are models, teachers and intercessors. Our Blessed Mother is the primordial model of what it means to follow Jesus. She is the one who teaches us to "do whatever he tells you," (John 2:5) and she is the intercessor par excellence. For this reason, all parishioners in the East Region of our Diocese are invited to seek her intercession for the missionary renewal of our Parishes, by the frequent praying of the Mysteries of the Rosary. Join us via Zoom **Wednesday night's at 7pm** for 30 minutes or you may pick up a hard copy (from St Mary's Parish Centre) of the Mystery and Intention to pray in your own time.

*We are reminded that by our Baptism we have the right and responsibility to proactively share the Good News of Jesus and find ways of ensuring parishioners continue to use their God-given gifts/charisms and not become complacent.*

Please contact either Pattie or Michelle at the Parish Centre – 5152 2942.

### **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.

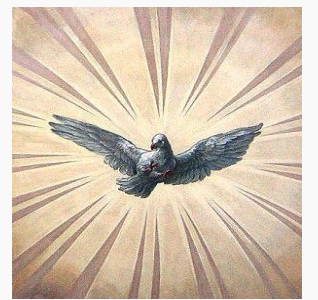
Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.

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.***



**Congratulations and God's blessings on**

***Jessica Delahay & Gabriel Oliver***



**who were married last weekend.**



**The need is  
acute!**

Low-income communities are not asking us for money or gifts. They reject degrading dependence. They want you to share your skills to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. The call is to all trades and professions to assist build the ability of their people and the capacity of their organisations. To properly prepare for a 2022 placement you do need to [enquire now](https://palms.org.au). **Find out more: Ross House, Mezzanine-Sue Healy Room 247 Flinders Lane, MELBOURNE**  
**Saturday 20 February @ 10:00am** [palms.org.au](https://palms.org.au)

### **ST MARY'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

meet on Monday evenings in the Resource Room of the Parish Centre, entry by the Nicholson Street entrance.

Doors open at 7:15pm.

Everyone is most welcome.

For more information contact Maureen Saunders 0428 522 344.

### **WEEK ENDING 7th February:**

Envelopes	\$1,112.00
DD & Cards	\$1,285.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$ 446.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$ 285.00

### **1st Sunday of Lent Year B, 21/2/2021**

**Genesis 9 : 8 -15**  
**Psalms 24: 4 - 9**  
**1 Peter 3 : 18-22**  
**Mark 1: 12-15**



Heart 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern, Victoria 3144, Australia  
Tel 03 9890 1101 Email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne)  
Web [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)

Heart of Life is sponsored by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

**'Let the Heart Listen'**  
is a 15-week formation program on Thursday mornings for people involved in listening to and supporting others. The program includes:

*the principles of listening and discernment, facilitated group participation, guided reflection etc. Facilitated by Carole Carmody rsm, the program begins on 25 Feb 2021 at Heart of Life, Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern or online. Cost \$680. For more information or application form, contact [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) or tel 9890 1101."*

### **St Valentine's Day 14<sup>th</sup> February**

The tradition of giving a card or letter to one's beloved on St Valentine's Day comes from the bishop St Valentine's letters from prison in Rome. He was arrested and imprisoned for performing marriages for Christian soldiers against the decree of the Roman Emperor, Claudius II. While in jail, Valentine healed the blind daughter of his jailor and they became friends. He was beheaded on February 14, 269 AD, but not before he had signed a farewell note to the young girl with 'From Your Valentine'. Other saints to famously write 'prison letters' include St Paul, St Thomas More, St John of the Cross, and Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan, who died in 2002 and whose cause for canonisation is underway.



**Pope's Worldwide  
Prayer Network**

### **The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**

(Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service.

### **FEBRUARY**



### **Universal intention - Violence against women**

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



**Parish Pastoral Council:** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Please submit items to the Parish Centre by 10.00am Tuesday the week before. **Members:** Angela McKail & Michael Flynn: 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](mailto: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.

**Funerals:** Please contact your preferred Funeral Director for arrangements. **Anointing of the Sick:** Please call the Parish Centre.

**Communion to the Housebound /Aged Care:** Call Pattie Pruscino 51522942 or 0427 232 682

**Special Wedding Anniversaries:** 6 months’ notice is needed to organise a Papal Blessing for parishioners.

### Every Lent we are invited to undertake a journey of self-discovery and growth.

The word “Lent” comes from the same root as the Anglo-Saxon word “lengthen”. It was a word for springtime when the daytime lengthens rapidly. Therefore, Lent is in essence the Church’s springtime.

We are encouraged to look at this period of Lent as a journey. Lent reminds us that this is the season to turn away from our worldly distractions and journey home to God. This should be a time of inner reflection, and at the end of the Lenten journey, we should expect to find ourselves at a different place spiritually than when we started. At the end of our Lenten journey, if we have truly humbled and submitted ourselves to the Lord, the grace of God working in our lives should have conformed us more perfectly to the image of Christ, who is, himself, the image and likeness of God the Father.

Our Parish has chosen to use the Lenten Program 2021 Diocese of Wollongong. ‘Comfort’ includes short daily reflections (Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) and longer Sunday reflections, questions and prayer—perfect for groups and individuals. Comfort is accompanied by a Triple CD Resource that includes six beautiful responsorial psalms and audio narrations of the Scripture and Sunday reflections. This year we are offering the following groups:

Tuesday 2pm 54 Calvert Street; Tuesday 7:30pm via Zoom Pattie will send you the link.  
Wednesday 10am Parish Centre Please contact Pattie at the Parish Centre PH 51522942



### LACUNA – REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSION FOR LENT with the Uniting Church

“Lacuna” literally means a gap or a space. The call to Lacuna is a challenge to make space for God, to attend more carefully to God’s “still, small voice,” to open ourselves up to the mysterious presence of the living God.

During this coming season of Lent you are invited to join with others in meditating on scripture using the Lacuna process. This process involves careful reading of the scripture passage, silent reflection, commentary, discussion and prayer.

We will meet for 5 weeks on Tuesdays 7:30pm by Zoom (contact Rosalie for the link) and Thursdays from 12:30pm at the manse (feel free to come early and bring your lunch).

23 <sup>rd</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Hebrews 4: 1-11	Entering God’s rest
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Luke 10: 38-42	Sitting at the feet
9 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Matthew 6: 5-15	Laying up treasure
16 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> March	John 1: 35-42	Abiding with Jesus
23 <sup>rd</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Mark 13: 32-42	Staying with the suffering one.

### Anniversary of National Apology Day

This event marks the anniversary of the Apology to Australia’s Indigenous peoples in the House of Representatives on 13 February 2008 by former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, apologising for past laws, policies and practices that have impacted on Australia’s First Nations Peoples, particularly members of the Stolen Generations. The Stolen Generations refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities as children. The motion was supported by the Opposition and passed through both houses of Parliament; Brendan Nelson (former Leader of the Opposition) gave a formal response.



Many members of the Stolen Generations were present in the Chamber to hear the Apology and thousands more filled the Great Hall of Parliament House and flowed out onto the lawns to watch it on big screens. The Apology was broadcast across Australia.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

John Graves, Baby Lisiatie Tuliakiono (great grand child of Aunty Marion Pearce), Chris Wyld (cousin to Maureen Saunders), victims of mental health issues; of Covid-19; victims of terrorist attacks, war and conflict and asylum seekers, and victims of family violence and poverty.

**ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...** Maria Giuseppa Catroppa, Genevieve Bolleman, Noel O’Keefe, Tony Capobianco, Imelda Mattley, Fay Whykes, John Gagalowicz, Esmonde O’Reilly, Andrew Buck, Betty Dwyer, Gwen Deery, Marie Downie, Joseph Zagami, Varghese Pottampuzhayil, Genoveffa Calvi, Giosue Calvi, Alan Bills, Filomena Maglione, 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:** Ella Ford (NZ), Luke Withers (grandson of Sandie & Chris Tilley), Andrew Kenworthy, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Angie McKail, Victoria Shaw, Tricia & Alan Cooke, Damian Greaves, Mary Kirsner, Jim Quigley, Paul McFarlane, Craig Counsel, Linton Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, John Butler, Arthur Elbourne, Roma Greig, Andre Buxton, Rick Jones, Marcie Hayles, Lorraine O’Brien, Alan Wilson, Vic & Thelma Smythe, Trish & Karl Henderson, Brian Rowe, John Pruscino, Julie Frew, John Buck.

**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,  
if you would like to keep someone on the list after this time, please contact the Parish Centre.**

**6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B**

**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.

**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.'

*The word of the Lord.*

**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, 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.

*The word of the Lord.*

**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.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Jerusalem Bible*

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**Scripture Notes**

This describes how lepers were treated in biblical times. They were considered ritually unclean and were compelled to live apart from the community, so they were considered outcast from the community and from their faith community. Illness was seen as a severe consequence of sin. It was assumed that God had rejected them. They could only re-enter the community when they had been pronounced cured and had undergone a purification rite.

Jesus broke through all the religious and social taboos, reaching out a loving and healing hand to the leper. Jesus simply saw the leper as a human being in desperate need and allowed him to come close and touched him, restoring his lost dignity as a human being. This would have shocked the onlookers as touching him was breaking the law and Jesus became ritually unclean himself.

Healing the body is good but not enough if the spirit is left bruised and broken. Mark recorded this story some 30-40 years after Jesus' death and resurrection. What was it meant to convey to Christians at that time and for us today?

- All of them had experienced the healing power of Jesus – Leprosy symbolises sin. They had been cleansed by Him in baptism as we are today.
- The leper went and broadcast what Jesus had done, so Christians ought to spread the Good News. Just as Jesus broke through the religious and social taboos, so we should reach out to people that society rejects.
- A touch with respect from Jesus would have been a very healing thing. We are humbled by the generosity of Jesus, but also elevated because he stretches our capacity for compassion and challenges us to reach out to the wounded and excluded.
- In this way Mark shows us how Jesus wants a Christian community to deal with 'sinners', and people society rejects. The gospel also has the first mention of Mark's 'messianic secret', which is that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

*Flor McCarthy SDB*

# OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We commit to making our Church a safe place for children and young people and protecting them from harm.



You are special and will always be welcome in our Church.



What you think and feel is important to us.

We will make sure our leaders and helpers understand their responsibilities to keep you safe.



We respect you just the way you are.



If you feel unsafe or are worried about someone else's safety, we will listen and take this seriously.



We will help you to be safe. This means that if you are being hurt or are in danger of being hurt, we will speak to the Police or another person who can help you.



## St Marys Parish Bairnsdale Omeo

Confidential help is always available. Ph 5152 2942

Email: [stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com) Safeguarding Officer: Kath Cassidy



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE