



Our Lady of Immaculate Conception - Omeo

THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

Eastern Region – Diocese of Sale

PAYNESVILLE, LINDENOW, 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 Jayakody Francis
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)

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS, YEAR A—1ST NOVEMBER 2020

We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai 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.

Media Release on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Victoria dated 29/10/2020

Part thereof reads "On 1 January 2021, the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the Diocese of Ballarat, the Diocese of Sandhurst and the Diocese of Sale will unite in common mission to advance the ministry of Catholic social services in Victoria. This landmark endeavour for the Church and for the people of this State, particularly the most vulnerable, will see the merging of CatholicCare Melbourne and Gippsland, Centacare Ballarat and CatholicCare Sandhurst, to form a new entity: CatholicCare Victoria. In coming together, we reinforce our shared commitment to social service ministry; offering works of mercy, charity and justice to meet the needs of the vulnerable and marginalised in Victoria, now and into the future."

Statement attributable to: Most Rev Peter Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne; Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat; Most Rev Shane Mackinlay, Bishop of Sandhurst; Rev Peter Slater, Administrator Diocese of Sale & Rev Greg Bennet, Bishop-elect Diocese of Sale.

RETURN TO INDOOR MASSES

Maximum 20 people

at Parish Centre

Entry via Pyke Street or McDonald's Carpark.

Parish Centre, Bairnsdale

Saturday: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am, 11am

St Patrick's, Paynesville

Sunday: 8am

St Canice's, Lindenow

Sunday: 11am

Monday: All Souls Day 9:10am

Tuesday: 9:10am

Wednesday: 9:10am

BUPA/Eastwood Mass 10:30am

Thursday: 9:10am

Rosary for Mrs Margaret Nugent at
St Canice's, Lindenow: 7pm

Friday: 9:10am

Funeral Mrs Margaret Nugent
St Canice's, Lindenow 12noon

Advent is the time that is given to us to welcome the Lord who comes to meet us. He returns to us on the feast of Christmas. However, He comes to us every time we are disposed to receive Him and He will come again at the end of time," to Judge the living and the dead". Therefore, we must always be vigilant, "Take heed, watch and pray, for you do not know when He will come."



The person that takes heed is one that, in the noise of the world, doesn't let himself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality, but lives in a full and aware way with concern first for others. With this attitude, we are aware of the tears and the needs of our neighbour and we can also grasp their human and spiritual capacities and qualities.

The person that heeds then turns to the world, trying to counter the indifference and cruelty in it, and rejoices over the treasure of beauty that also exists.

(Pope Francis—part of the Angelus address on the meaning of Advent)

Advent Retreat Experience on Inner Peace in Divine Love

A Retreat based on one of four 'First Spiritual Exercises' by St Ignatius of Loyola

For those who want to deepen their spirituality.

15 November – 17 Dec 2020

Guided Spiritual Listening and Conversations each week.

Online Zoom meetings To register your interest, please provide your name, email and phone number and preferred day by **1st Nov**, to Chris Gardner at migard@iinet.net.au or at 0429 995 591 and all necessary login details etc. will be forwarded to you by email.

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Central to the mission of the Immaculate Conception Parish (known as St Mary's Parish) is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and vulnerable persons and providing them with a safe, supportive, and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially.

If you wish to speak with someone phone: Kath 5152 2942;

Police 5150 2600; or Towards Healing 1800 816 030.



'Adore'

**Advent and Christmas
Daily Reflections 2020**

This booklet has been produced by the Wollongong Diocese and will be available at the Parish Centre late November.

Gold Coin Donation

The Daily Awareness Examen

This Examen prayer exercise, is simple and natural. It can be done once, twice a day, once every few days – however often a person feels moved to do it with the greatest fruit. The more we do it the more natural it becomes for us, and it eventually becomes a way of consciousness, a way of being in ever-close relationship with God. Doing it can take anywhere from 5-15 minutes. It doesn't really matter how long you spend; the important thing is that you open yourself up to recognising and responding to God's movement in you. However, it is better not to go longer than 15 mins; anything beyond this time begins to move the Examen's focus away from being a review of our relationship with God during a period of time.

There is no one right way to do it and nor is there a need to go through all of St Ignatius' 5 points each time. You need to structure the Examen in a way that is most helpful and natural for you.

A contemporary adaptation of this prayer has 5 steps:

Thanks: give thanks for the graces and benefits and good things of my day.

Help: I ask the holy Spirit for help to discern my day with openness

Review: I review my day, hour by hour, to see how God is working in my life.

Response: I respond to what I felt or learnt in the review of my day

Resolve: I resolve with hope and grace to amend my life tomorrow.

Our Father...

Fr Michael Hansen SJ

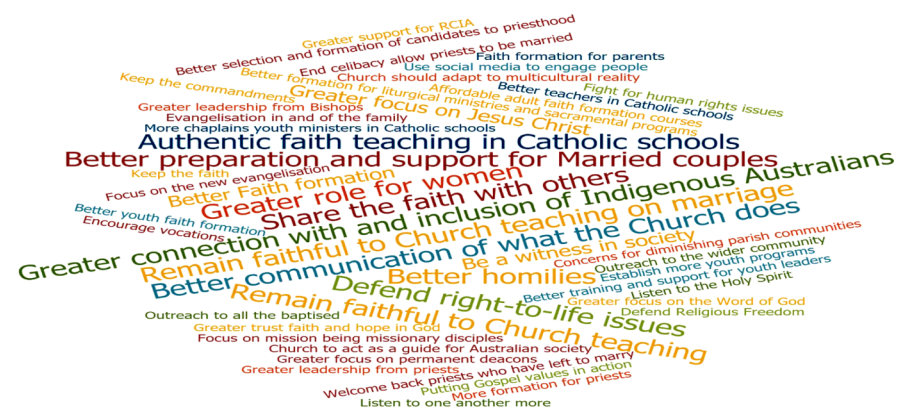
Links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=pDQgizJINdk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVltxNMrNnw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHnSSmFOHQc>

The Eucharist is an invitation to return each week to the same space, to replenish, restore and reflect. It is an opportunity to disconnect from technology and enter into the full participation of the Eucharist. Sitting with our children as they fidget and fiddle, I do hope that they learn to value the quiet time and enter into a personal relationship with God. I hope they come to see this time as a reprieve from the rush and stress of contemporary life, the chance to 'reset' ready for the week ahead. The rhythm of repeated responses and communal song bring us into a new realm. I do not mean that one cannot experience community or God in other settings. But I think Sunday Mass provides a unique place for our kids to find the presence of God in the words, actions and people gathered. It teaches them to recognise the importance of silence, creative boredom, which might spark the imagination. Such a sacred space is precious in the modern technological world. Soon enough we find ourselves in the car, responding to requests to go out for breakfast. We return home ready for another week tethered to our devices, but grateful for the one hour spent.

Stephen Locke, Education Officer in religious education at Brisbane Catholic Education, has been a school teacher and APRE.



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.***

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) INITIATIVE

During this time of Covid-19, the PPC has continued to meet via Zoom. Acknowledging that our parish is spread far and wide, many aged over 60, and with family not always living in the area, it was felt that one way of staying in touch with parishioners was by phone.

So 2 questions:

1. Do you know someone who may appreciate a phone call, just as a matter of keeping in touch?
2. Would you be prepared to make a couple of phone calls to people (maybe once a fortnight), to see how they are going and if there is anything we can do for them?

If you can answer yes to either question (or both) please leave your name and number with Pattie at the Parish Centre and a member of the PPC will get back to you as soon as possible.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Margaret Nugent, Anne Armstrong, Pearl Ferguson, Victims of mental health issues, Victims of Covid-19, Victims of terrorist attacks, war and conflict, asylum seekers, Victims of family violence and Victims of poverty.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...

Silvana La Porta, Kathleen Marshall, Peter O'Donohue, Norm Mann, Robert Bills. Keith McNairn, Pauline Hamilton, John McCormack, Bridget Ross, 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:

Elizabeth Stehmann, John & Sue Butler, Arthur Elbourne, Linton Smith, Sr Barbara Brown-Graham FCJ, Roma Greig, Andre Buxton, Vic & Thelma Smythe, Alan Wilson, Trish & Karl Henderson, Brian Rowe, Robert Coleman, Lorraine O'Brien, Dennis (Danny) Phelan, Rick Jones, Marcie Hayles, John Pruscino, John Graves, Julie Frew, John Buck, Peter Grimsted.

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.

Parish Pastoral Council: meets 2nd 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

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 check with priest before setting dates & times.

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.

Parish Business Manager :

Paul Heaton Harris

Pastoral Care:

Pattie Pruscino

Sacramental Coordinator:

Michelle Grimsted

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Kath Cassidy

Pastoral Centre: 5152 2942

Presbytery: 5152 3106

St Marys' Primary School: 5152 3706

Principal: Michelle Garbutt

Newsletter:

www.stmbairns.catholic.edu.au

Nagle College: 5152 6122

Principal: Neville Powles

Newsletter: www.nagle.vic.edu.au

St Mary's Op Shop: 5152 2088

THE HEART OF LIFE AS A CATHOLIC

"THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE PRINCIPLE OF EVERY VITAL AND TRULY SAVING ACTION IN EACH PART OF THE BODY. HE WORKS IN THE CHARISMS BY WHICH HE MAKES THE FAITHFUL 'FIT AND READY ' TO UNDERTAKE VARIOUS TASKS AND OFFICES FOR THE RENEWAL AND BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH."

(CCC 798)

The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist are among the most powerful ways through which the Holy Spirit enters our lives. Although all baptised Christians have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit, usually the full life changing power of the Spirit's presence is first apparent when a Christian undergoes a Spiritual awakening and begins to seriously live their faith.

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop

We invite you to order your free copy of *Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer*

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book or call us on Ph: 02 8912 2777

MARY MACKILLOP
today



MONTH OF NOVEMBER

During the month of November we remember those loved ones who have gone before us. This week you will receive a purple cross (for those who receive emails, call into the Parish Centre where you can pick up your cross), on which you can write the names of loved ones passed. We welcome you to bring the cross in and pin it onto the large wooden cross found in the hall.



STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM –

There are 5 ways to fulfil your commitment.

1. Bank your contributions into this account—
BSB: 083-879 **ACCOUNT:** 48919 4022
ACCOUNT NAME: St Marys Parish Bairnsdale/ Omeo
Ref: Your Name and Envelope number and mark 1st or 2nd Collection.
2. or, go into your bank with this information and they will do it for you.
3. or, send cheques to St Mary's Parish, 23 Pyke Street, Bairnsdale, Vic, 3875
4. or, drop off at the Parish Centre **Tuesday to Friday** between 10am-3pm.
5. or, keep your envelopes with your commitments, saving them until we return to Sunday services.
Our Parish finances have been affected during this pandemic and we will make necessary adjustments to manage the challenges it presents.
*Please call Paul Heaton-Harris 0418 377 076 if you have any questions. **THANK YOU** for your support.*

Catholic Theological College

2020 Knox Public Lecture

Thursday 5th November at 7.00pm Sheree Limbrick

Safe Church:

Commitment, awareness & action for cultural change

Bookings and Info: ctc.edu.au/knox-public-lecture

Enq: sarah.styring@ctc.edu.au or

Phone 9412 3333 Venue: online



If you would like to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** you may ring the Presbytery on 51523106 to speak with one of the priests to make an arrangement.

Readings for 8/11/20

32nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Wisdom 6: 12-16

Psalm 62: 2-8

Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Matthew 25: 1-13

Week ending 25th October

Envelopes \$ 1,800.00

D/D & Cards \$ 1,035.00

1st Collection \$ 0.00

2nd Collection \$ 1,110.00

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS , Year A

Entrance Antiphon:

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse (Revelation) (7: 2-4, 9-14)

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel. After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.' One of the elders then spoke and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord? and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St John (3: 1-3)

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come to me all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (5: 1-12)

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Scripture Note:

After stilling myself and allowing the busyness of my mind to settle, I consciously place myself before the Lord. I ask for the grace to open my heart, body and mind to his presence. I lovingly read this familiar Gospel scene with a curious mind, hoping that I may be open to the possibility of hearing a truth for the first time. It may deepen my prayer to use my imagination to enter more fully into the Gospel scene. I see, hear and feel the crowds ...

perhaps I am one of them? What do I notice when Jesus starts to speak and teach? How do people react to him ...? How do I react? What do I feel? Is there a Beatitude that speaks to my own lived experience? I imagine the crowd leaving, until only Jesus and myself remain sitting on the hillside. I share with Jesus my deepest desires ... I sit

I listen ... When I am ready, I leave the hillside too, and close my prayer with my own words of gratitude.

Prepared by St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham