



Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek.

# 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:** [stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com)

**St Mary's 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)

#### Second Sunday of Advent—December 4, 2022

We acknowledge the Gunaikurai 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 and 4th Sunday: 11.00am

##### **Swifts Creek, Omeo & Benambra**

December

##### **Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek**

Sunday December 25: 10.30am

##### **Immaculate Conception, Omeo**

No Mass

##### **St Francis, Benambra**

Saturday December 24: 6.00pm

##### Weekday Masses @ St Mary's

Monday–Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: **NO MASS**

Friday: 9.10am

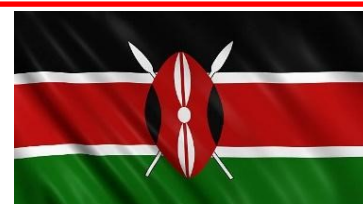
##### **Paynesville**

Wednesday Rosary: 10.00am

**Reconciliation** is available each

**Friday:** after 9:10am Mass

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



#### CRISIS IN AFRICA

##### Somalia

Somalia is on the brink of famine, with nearly 8 million people facing extreme hunger and food insecurity. The last famine declared in Somalia, in 2011, killed a quarter of a million people. Unless urgent action is taken, Somalia may face a catastrophic humanitarian disaster.

##### Ethiopia

Ethiopia is facing its worst drought in nearly 40 years, with an estimated 20 million people in need of urgent assistance. This is on top of one of the worst locust swarms in the past decade and ongoing conflict that has displaced thousands of vulnerable people.

##### Kenya

More than 4.35 million people in Kenya are at risk of severe hunger, particularly in the north of the country in areas such as Marsabit. A national state of disaster has been declared with vulnerable communities struggling to access food and clean water.

Caritas Australia, the helping hand of the Catholic Church, is actively involved in Africa. If you wish you can donate at:  
[caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/africa-food-crisis/](http://caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/africa-food-crisis/)

#### Roster for Masses – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year A December 10–11, 2022

	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister	Offertory Procession
6:00pm Saturday	G Dooley	J De Boer	P Reefman	J Peachey	
9:30am Sunday	J Coverdale	P Brown-Graham	S Tilley	S Dean	P Pruscino, B & A Capobianco
Cleaning: Fortnight ending: December 24 <sup>th</sup> — K Cassidy <b>Please</b> 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 via the Parish Centre 5152 2942; or Police 5150 2600; or Towards Healing 1800 816 030.**



**Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for  
DECEMBER- Volunteer Not-For-Profit  
Organisations**

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY- 2023**

For more than 30 years, World Youth Day has been an opportunity for the young people of the world to go on pilgrimage and discover how Jesus calls each of us to be his disciples. World Youth day 2023 will be held in Lisbon, Portugal in the month of August. The major events of World Youth Day include Papal welcome, catechesis, youth festivals, as well as the final pilgrim walk and vigil with Pope Francis and millions of other young Catholics. The Diocese of Sale is organising groups of young people between the ages of 16-35 to join with the Archdiocese of Melbourne for a pilgrimage. If you are interested, there will be an information night held at **St. Agatha's Parish Hall, Cranbourne (129 Sladen Street) at 7pm on December 12.** Contact Fr. Avinash George for more information: [avinashgeorge@cdsale.org.au](mailto:avinashgeorge@cdsale.org.au) or 03 5997 1510.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL  
GIVING TREE**

It's that time of year again! Once again, we are inviting you to take one or more tags from our giving tree as suggestions for items you can provide for our Christmas hampers. We are thrilled with the response we have received to our request for toys. We are very aware of those who provide all manner of support for our companions through us and thank you for



your generosity and compassion for those who are having a difficult time.

St Vincent de Paul Conference Bairnsdale's Toy Drive continues, as the number of children we are supporting with our Christmas

hampers has grown substantially. As an alternative to the Giving Tree you can still provide a new toy or book **(by December 8)** and drop it into our Centre at 92 Macleod Street Bairnsdale or Vinnies Op Shop Church Street, Lakes Entrance.

Or you can drop them into the Parish Centre in Bairnsdale. It would be very much appreciated. Thank you. Phone SVDP Assistance Centre on 5152 6687.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 4**

**Morning Tea after 9.30am**

**Mass SUNDAY**

**at St Mary's and**

**after 8.00am Mass at Paynesville**

**Come and join us**



**COVID-19 PASTORAL GUIDELINES UPDATE**

Part of correspondence from the Bishop's Office in Warragul: "Each Parish is blessed by the presence of those who gather for the Eucharist - the source and summit of the Christian life. Many have found great comfort in the ability to watch Mass on TV, internet and Parish websites. However, there is no substitute for gathering together as God's holy people. The four presences of Christ in the Word, the Eucharist, the community and the presider remind us that we are the Body of Christ." As we make plans for celebrating at Christmas, this encouraging message could be a timely reminder for those who are yet to rejoin our Sunday Masses. Please share it with them. Or, personally invite them to return. Christmas is a perfect time to have every family member around the table. Fr Michael

We joyfully welcome our RCIA candidates Troy, Brianna, Shari and David, as they journey in faith, where they will come to know Jesus better day by day. We rejoice with them in the gentle guidance of God who has brought them to this day. May they undertake with a generous heart and soul whatever God may ask of them. May they know that they have our sincere and unfailing support every step of the way to becoming full members of the Catholic Church during our Easter celebrations in 2023.



**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)**

The PPC has members retiring this year and we are looking for new people to take on this important role. Recommendation Forms are available in the Church foyer and at the Parish Centre. Please give this some serious thought. PPC recommendations close December 30.

**December 10-11, 2022  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Readings:**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10  
Responsorial Psalm:  
Psalm 145:6-10  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: James 5:7-10  
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

**Collections: November  
26-27, 2022**

Envelopes	\$ 851.00
DD & Cards	\$ 280.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$ 830.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$ 808.50
Pay Wave	\$ 130.00
Restoration Box	\$
Candles	\$
Church Tours	\$ 100.00

Have a problem with alcohol? There is a solution. A.A. has a simple program that works and has done so for over 80 years. It is based on one alcoholic helping another.

If you need support, contact Bruce: 0412 938 772



**Thursday December 8 is the Feast Day of  
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
Heavenly Father, may we follow the example of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary in giving our lives in selfless sacrifice to you.**



# Advent

This is the coming of Jesus into the world. We use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas, despite the secular preparations taking place, e.g. buying presents and going to parties etc - **our outer world**.

Advent reminds us to remember and prepare for the birth of Jesus.

**ADVENT GROUPS** give us the opportunity to focus on **our inner world** - to take some time to sit quietly and ponder where and how God is working through us.

**Although Advent has begun it's not too late to join in.**

**Tuesdays at 2.00pm in the Parish Centre**

Using 'Incarnate' (Diocese of Wollongong) program

**Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm via Zoom**

**Wednesdays at 9.45am in St Mary's Church Chapel**

**Wednesdays evenings 7pm via Zoom**

Other groups using 'Stay Awake! Prepare for the Coming of Christ (Sydney Archdiocese)

**Saturdays 10am St Brendan's Hobby Room Lakes Entrance**

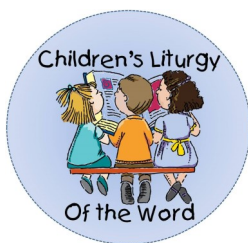
'Looking and Longing for Christ'

Advent Booklets with daily reflections, which can be used singly or in a group, are available at the Parish Centre during office hours. A gold coin donation would be appreciated.

**Please contact Michael or Michelle at the Parish Centre  
Phone 5152 2942 for further information and Zoom links**

## 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.



Beginning points for discussions of this week's Gospel are:

- ♦ **Who was the prophet mentioned in today's Gospel**
- ♦ **What did he do?**
- ♦ **John the Baptist told people they must be sorry for the things they had done wrong so that they could be ready to meet Jesus.**
- ♦ **What things do we need to be sorry for?**
- ♦ **How can we change our ways so that we can be ready to meet Jesus?**

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Amanda Vowell (Chair), Wilma Collier, Marylin Elliott,  
Madelaine Schumann, Narelle Gibbons,  
Peter McMahon, Jacinta Da Costa**

**Ex-officio members: Fr Michael, Principals and Michael F.**

**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 1st 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:** 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

## Scripture notes:

John's message calls us also to confront and confess our sins; to turn away from them in sincere repentance; to receive God's forgiveness; and most importantly, to look to Jesus. Do we need to receive God's forgiveness? There are basically two reasons why we fail to receive it. The first is that we fail to repent, and the second is that we fail to forgive. Jesus was very explicit about this second failure in Matthew 6:14-15. saying, *"For if you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive yours."* Is there someone we need to forgive today? Let us not allow what others have done destroy our life. We can't be forgiven unless we forgive. People around us should recognise Jesus' rebirth in our lives by our sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, compassionate and merciful heart and spirit of humble and committed service. *Fr. Antony Kadavil Vatican Press*

## EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

To donate, please visit:

[www.aidtochurch.org/ukraine](http://www.aidtochurch.org/ukraine) or phone: 1800 101 201.

Prayer Cards and Donation Slips are available in the Church foyer.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Louis Pendergast, Kath Gillies, Maria Muir, Sr Margaret Ann Broomhead RSJ, Philip Strickland, victims of natural disasters (especially the Indonesian earthquake), mental health, COVID-19, terrorist attacks, war, conflict, asylum seekers, family violence and poverty.

**ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Nicholas Sweetman Snr, Sue D'Amelio, Damien Johnson, Gerald Rashleigh, David La Porta, Steve Klobukowski, Rafael Wilson, Alex Bain, Sarah Traynor, Fr Tim McInnes, Robert Rhodes, Giaconda Capabianco, Barry Rowe, Rick Bourke, 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:** Salvadore Britto, Mary Johnson, Cherie Morgan, John Atkins, Rick Harney, Jim Duggan, George Burton, Fred Crea, Marie Ayres (S-I-L of Pat Coloe), John Spirason, Shirley Gilmore (Mary Rowe's sister), Vin Ayres (brother of Pat Coloe), Maree Elbourne, Margaret O'Reilly, Arthur Elbourne, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Linton Smith, Brian Rowe, Alan Casanelia (Margaret Sheehan's brother).

***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.***

**Second Sunday of Advent -Year A December 3-4, 2022**

**Entrance Antiphon**

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**The Opening Prayer**

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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 Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails:

He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun.

Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **R.**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9**

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12**

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.