



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 Michael Willemsen

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

Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A February 19, 2023

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.



EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY (TURKIYE) AND SYRIA

Thousands of people have been killed after a catastrophic 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southeast Turkey (officially known as Türkiye) and Syria, followed by another large earthquake (7.6 magnitude) only hours later.

Thousands of deaths have been reported in Türkiye and Syria, and the death toll continues to increase. The number has now risen to over 42,000.

Aid agencies estimate 23 million people have been affected.

Freezing Winter weather is adding to the devastation, as thousands are left injured, trapped or homeless, and are stuck in bitter cold and freezing rain.

The earthquakes caused devastation in rebel-held northwest Syria, where entire buildings collapsed, leaving people trapped under the rubble.

Please help now. Caritas Australia is in contact with Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies on the ground as they assess the scale of the damage and critical needs. To donate visit: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/>

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 (weekly)

Swifts Creek, Omeo & Benambra (monthly)

Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek: 4th Saturday: 6.30pm

Immaculate Conception, Omeo: 4th Sunday: 11.00am

St Francis', Benambra: 4th Sunday: 9.00am

Weekday Masses at St Mary's

Monday-Friday: 9.10am

**ASH WEDNESDAY:
9.10am and 6.00pm**

Paynesville:

ASH WEDNESDAY: 8.00am

Wednesday: Rosary 10.00am

Reconciliation

is available each:

Friday: after 9.10am Mass

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

5.30pm to 5.50pm

1st Sunday of Lent, Year A-February 25-26, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	K Flannery	J Peachey	P Reefman	P Elliott	
9.30am Sunday	S Dean	H Van Den Einden	M Elliott	T Krosmer	A & B Capobianco, C Tilley
Cleaning: Fortnight ending: March 4 - B and A Cattapan			<u>Please</u> 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.

Alternatively contact Bairnsdale Police: 5150 2600 or Towards Healing: 1800 816 030.



Rite of Election for Catechumens and the Formal Recognition of Baptised Candidates

An invitation is extended to all catechumens, candidates, and their families, RCIA team members and parishioners to the Rite of Election, to be celebrated by Bishop Greg Bennet on Sunday February 26 at 3.00 pm in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sale.

2.00 pm Bishop Greg warmly invites catechumens, candidates and their families, godparents, sponsors and RCIA teams to meet him at the Chapter House (at the rear of the Cathedral precinct)

3.00 pm The Rite of Election of Catechumens and Formal Recognition of Baptised Candidates in the Cathedral

4.00 pm Afternoon tea in the Cathedral gathering space. Please bring some food to share.

ATTENTION: PARISH SINGERS AND MUSICIANS WANTED FOR THE RITE OF ELECTION!

As in past years, we are forming a Diocesan Choir for the Rite of Election at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday February 26, 2023, at 3.00 pm in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sale.

1.30-2.30 pm: Choir rehearsal **3.00-4.00 pm:** Rite of Election

To register your interest and receive the music pack and rehearsal links,

please contact Sophy Morley on smorley@sale.catholic.org.au

without delay or phone the Diocesan Office on 5622 6677.



Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know:

Phone: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.



website: www.palms.org.au



Marge Bini
Congratulations
90th Birthday
Best Wishes from
St Mary's Parish

Twice as nice gallery café

Bairnsdale Riverside Caravan Park
by the Mitchell River Bridge Main Street



Lorie and Brooke are travelling across Australia in their 1949 double-decker Leyland Sydney bus set up as a coffee shop raising awareness and funds for Muscular Dystrophy Australia.

This is an opportunity to support their charity drive and of course receive a great barista coffee in exchange for a small donation.

In Bairnsdale until 10.00am Wednesday.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS— FEBRUARY For Parishes

We pray that Parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



February 25-26, 2023 Year A

Readings:

1st Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 50:3-6, 12-14, 17

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12, 17-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Collections:

February 11-12, 2023

Envelopes \$ 1034.00

DD & Cards \$ 205.00

1st Collection \$ 689.95

2nd Collection \$ 624.55

Pay Wave \$ 240.00

Church Tours \$ 95.70

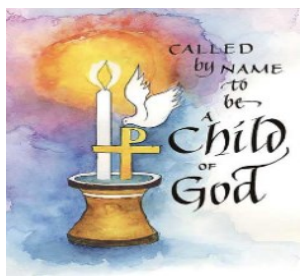


To Fr Mark
We wish him well and
pray that God will
guide him in his time
with us

With Fr Mark's arrival Mass at Lindenow will now occur on a weekly basis, the High Country will revert to a monthly basis.



Columban Calendars are still available.
See Michael in the Parish Centre.
Only \$10.00



We welcome into our Parish family through Baptism

**Alex Ameh Oliver,
son of
Gabriel and Jessica Oliver**

PRAYING THE ROSARY WITH OTHERS

St Mary's Parish Bairnsdale invites you to the online community to pray the Rosary, via Zoom, every Monday night at 7.00pm. The Rosary takes us on a spiritual journey, along with Mary, in contemplation with her son Jesus. This powerful prayer is the storehouse of countless blessings.

Why should the Rosary be part of your prayer life? Saint Padre Pio reminds us that it is the 'weapon for these times.'

Email Michelle: stm.michelleg@gmail.com to receive a link to join us.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

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



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.

In today's gospel Jesus names many people who God blesses. Can you name some of these people?

- ♦ If someone is unkind to you, or takes something that is yours, how do you respond?
- ♦ Jesus asks us to be kind to the person who is unkind to us. Is that easy or hard?
- ♦ Jesus tells us that it is easy to love those who love us, but he asks us to love our enemies as well.
- ♦ What would the world be like if everyone loved their enemies?

Lenten Small Groups

The Scriptures during Lent are not unfamiliar, but they do offer us an opportunity to consider them in a different light. We can, and are called to hear them in the context of what is happening in our world today.

We have a number of options:

Monday-7.00-9.00pm via Zoom February 20-March 23

Resource—'Spirit and Truth,

The Power of Christ Revealed'

To receive a link email Michelle at:

stm.michelleg@gmail.com

Tuesday-2-3pm the Parish Centre February 21-March 28

Resource—'Triumph' from Wollongong \$7.50

Thursday-10-11am In the side chapel. Feb 23-March 30

Resource—'Triumph' from Wollongong \$7.50

If you would like to join a Lenten group please contact Michael at the Parish Office on 5152 2942

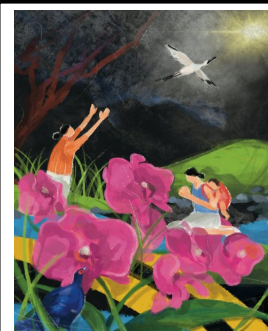
CAN YOU HELP ???

SUNDAY MASS MORNING TEA

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Morning Teas, making sandwiches, slices etc, cleaning up. If you would like to contribute to this great social event, contact

Helen Van Den Einden: 0434 531 504 or

Michael at the Parish Centre: 5152 2942.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

'I have heard about your faith'

March 3 at 2.00pm

**St John's Anglican Church
Service Street Bairnsdale**

The Service has been prepared by the women of Taiwan

Please bring a plate for afternoon tea

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Gavan O'Brien, Franca Floriani, John Fermio, Jim Duggan, victims of the earthquakes in Turkiye and Syria, all victims of natural disasters, mental health, COVID-19, terrorist attacks, war, conflict, asylum seekers, family violence and poverty.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Esmonde O'Reilly, Fr Peter Fulton PE, Ann Taylor, Cathie Ludeman, Genevieve Bolleman, Geoff Birrell, Tony Capobianco, Imelda Mattley, Fay Whykes, John Gagalowicz, Andrew Buck, Gwen Deery Patricia Farquhar, Genoveffa Calvi, Giosue Calvi, John Graves, Alan Bills, Joseph Zagami, Filomena Maglione, Prue McGoldrick, 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: Darcy Sutton, John Birrell, Wade Matthews, Jan Coverdale, John Saunders, Kathleen Robertson, Mary Johnson, John Atkins, Rick Harney, George Burton, Fred Crea, Marie Ayres, John Spirason, Shirley Gilmore, Vin Ayres, Maree Elbourne, Margaret O'Reilly, Arthur Elbourne, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Linton Smith, Brian Rowe, Alan Casanelia.

Please remember all parishioners who are unwell or recovering from illness or surgery.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A February 19, 2023

Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

The Opening Prayer

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you.

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 book of Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.'

Responsorial Psalm 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 3:16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it; if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

Jerusalem Bible©Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Reflection:

The command to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us seems impossible at times. When we have truly been wounded by another person, forgiveness is much more difficult than flipping a switch. It takes time and patience.

A good first step is to ask the Divine Physician to heal the wound. For a raw, hurting wound makes it almost impossible to focus on anything else. When we become focused on the hurt, replaying the memory in our heads, ask the Lord for healing. Speak to Him about how you feel. He knows better than any of us what it feels like to be betrayed and wounded.

It might also be necessary to pray for the desire to forgive the other person. Our natural instinct is to want revenge. We need God's help to change our hearts to truly want to forgive. When the desire to forgive is growing in our hearts, then we can pray for the person who has hurt us. It is also important to realize that none of this process requires interacting with the person who hurt us. That is completely optional. We might never get an apology or an understanding of what caused the incident. Waiting for that just keeps us held hostage. Letting go and forgiving sets us free.

Young Catholics.com