



St Francis of Assisi, Benambra

# 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)

#### Third Sunday of Advent—December 11, 2022

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

##### 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 December 25: No Mass

###### **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

We welcome **Fr Mark Hughes** to our Parish this Sunday to enable Fr Michael to attend his family's Christmas lunch in Melbourne. Bishop Greg has just appointed Fr Mark to Bairnsdale-Omeo Parish from February 15, 2023, which was great news for us. Fr Mark was ordained on October 15 at St Mary's Cathedral Sale and remains there until he comes here in February.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



### Saturday December 24

6:00pm: St Francis', Benambra

7:00pm: Nagle College Hall, Bairnsdale

Midnight: St Mary's, Bairnsdale

### Sunday December 25

8:00am: St Patrick's, Paynesville

9:30am: St Mary's, Bairnsdale

10:30am: Sacred Heart, Swift's Creek

**Please note there will be no Mass at Lindenow on Christmas Day.**

### NAGLE COLLEGE CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Unfortunately, the Hall Carpark will be closed for essential works.

The main College Carpark will be open however, and people are able to walk through the College grounds to the Hall.

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

**Monday: NO MASS**

Tuesday: 9:10am

**Wednesday: NO MASS**

**Thursday: NO MASS**

Friday: 9:10am

**Paynesville:** Wed. Rosary 10:00am

**Reconciliation** is available each

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

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

#### Roster for Masses – The 4th Sunday of Advent Year A December 17–18, 2022

	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister	Offertory Procession
6:00pm Saturday	M Saunders	K Flannery	S Gibson	B O'Kelly	
9:30am Sunday	G & K Cassidy	D Atkins	B Marshall	M Elliott	N Nash, B Payne, N Rooney
Cleaning: Fortnight ending: December 24 <sup>th</sup> — K Cassidy			<b><u>Please find a replacement if unable to fill your spot.</u></b>		

***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.

**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. Donations can be handed 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.

**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

**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.



**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. If urgent action is not 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/](https://caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/africa-food-crisis/)

**December 17—18, 2022  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Readings:**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14  
Responsorial Psalm:  
Psalm 23:1-6  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 1:1-7  
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

**Collections: December  
3—4 2022**

Envelopes	\$ 1214.00
DD & Cards	\$ 3200.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$ 695.60
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$ 902.30
Pay Wave	\$ 160.00
Restoration Box	\$ 1158.00
Candles	\$ 825.15
Church Tours	\$ 30.00

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



**Columban Calendars are on sale in the Church foyer. \$10.00. See Kath Cassidy. Also available at the Parish Centre.**

## 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.

## 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 is the special person we are waiting for at Christmas?**
- ♦ **Why is Jesus so special?**
- ♦ **Who are the people in the world who need Jesus?**
- ♦ **Why do we need Jesus?**
- ♦ **Let us pray that Jesus will come into people's hearts this Christmas.**



## PARISH SECOND RITE RECONCILIATION

**Advent joy | Reconciliation helps us prepare for Christmas**  
Reconciliation serves as the bridge between the birth of Jesus and His Second Coming and removes hindrances to the joyful reception of the Eucharist in the present. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, with the promise of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in our lives, Reconciliation is a blessed way to welcome Emmanuel into our hearts this Christmas. All are welcome to attend.



**Tuesday December 20 at 6.00pm**

## 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

## ĐÓN MỪNG GIÁNG SINH 2022

Chào Phao Lô Hiệp Nguyễn, linh mục đang phục vụ tại East Gippsland, Victoria trân trọng kính mời anh chị em người Việt Nam đang sinh sống và làm việc tại Giáo Phận Sale và vùng Miền Đông Victoria tới tham dự buổi gặp mặt nhận dịp mừng Chúa Giáng Sinh tại nhà thờ St Mary Bairnsdale vào chiều tối ngày Thứ Sáu Ngày 23/12/2022.

**Chương trình gặp mặt:**

6:00pm Giải Tội

7:00pm Thánh lễ

Sau thánh lễ sẽ gặp mặt và ăn tối  
Rất hân hạnh được đón tiếp mọi người.

Kính Mời

Linh mục: Phao Lô Hiệp Nguyễn



## 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.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Robyn Shears, John Bell, Salvador Britto, Louis Pendergast, Kath Gillies, Maria Muir, 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:** John Morris, Dennis Crane, Des Lovell, Frank Burton, George Burton, Jack Burton, Norma Stevens, Nicholas Sweetman Snr, Sue D'Amelio, Damien Johnson, Gerald Rashleigh, David La Porta, Steve Klobukowski 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:** Bev Seehusen, John Saunders, Kathleen Robertson, 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.

### **Third Sunday of Advent-Year A December 10—11 2022**

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

#### **The Opening Prayer**

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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 35:1-6, 10**

Let the wilderness and the dry lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God, he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces, joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

##### **R. Lord, come and save us**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

#### **A reading from the letter of St James 5:7-10**

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11**

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

*Jerusalem Bible©Copyright Liturgy Brisbane*

#### **Scripture notes:**

Today is called "Gaudete Sunday" because today's Mass (in its Latin, pre-Vatican II form), began with the opening antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always." Advent was a season of penance, the celebrant, wearing vestments of penitential purple or violet, reminds us to prepare for the birth of Jesus (the celebrant wore rose-coloured vestments on the third Sunday). Today we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The main theme running through today's readings is one of joy as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Paul, in the second reading, advises us to "rejoice always" by leading blameless, holy, and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit. Today's Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came as a witness to testify to the Light- Jesus- the 'Light', as he removes darkness from the world. We should be glad and rejoice because, like John the Baptist, we are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus. We are to reflect Jesus' Light in our lives so that we may radiate it and illuminate the dark lives of others around us. The salvation we are waiting for will liberate both the individual and the community, specifically focusing on the poor and lowly, not the rich and powerful. The readings remind us that the coming of Jesus, past, present and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.