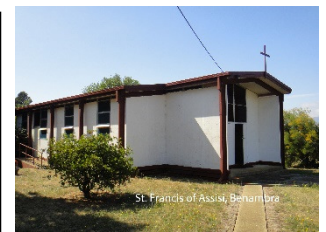




Omeo Church

**BAIRNSDALE – OMEO**  
**East Region – Diocese of Sale**

*Who we are tomorrow begins with what we do today.*



St Francis of Assisi, Benambra

**Vision:** We are a welcoming community where the word of God, through the message of Jesus Christ is made known & lived.  
**Our mission is to:** Live the message of Jesus Christ taking inspiration from Marv. the Mother of God.

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A – July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Parish Contacts	Liturgy / Mass Times
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**Parish Priest:** Fr Michael Willemssen  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Darek Jablonski  
[jablonskidarek@gmail.com](mailto:jablonskidarek@gmail.com)  
**Retired Priests:** Fr John O’Kelly PE; Fr Bernie Mahony  
**Bairnsdale Presbytery:**  
 23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale 3875 Phone 5152 3106  
 Email: [stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com)  
 Internet: [www.stmarysbairnsdale.net](http://www.stmarysbairnsdale.net)  
**St Mary’s Parish Pastoral Centre:**  
 155 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale 3875 Phone 5152 2942  
**Parish Business Manager:** Martin White  
**Pastoral Coordinator:** Pattie Pruscino  
**Parish Sacramental Coordinator:** Michelle Grimsted

**St Mary’s Primary:** Phone 5152 3706  
 Principal: Michelle Garbutt  
 Newsletter: [www.stmbairns.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmbairns.catholic.edu.au)  
**Nagle College:** Phone 5152 6122  
 Principal: Neville Powles  
 Newsletter: [www.nagle.vic.edu.au](http://www.nagle.vic.edu.au)  
**St Mary’s Op Shop:** Phone 5152 2088

**Parish Pastoral Council:** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.  
 Please submit items for consideration to the Parish Centre by 10.00am on Tuesday the week before the meeting.  
**Members:** Clare Marriot-Smith(Chair), Rob Gray, Sandie Tilley, Denise Fallon, Gillian Mason & Marguerite Byrne.  
**A Parish Directory of all Groups** and contact details is available at the Pastoral Centre.  
**Sacraments:** Sacramental Information and registration forms are available at: [stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com)  
**Baptisms** – Preparation sessions are held regularly. Please call the Sacramental Coordinator to register. Available on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday’s of the 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 Office.  
**Communion to the Housebound & Aged Care** – Please call Jo De Boer 5153 0423 Mobile: 0409 530 423  
**Special Wedding Anniversaries** – 6 months’ notice is needed to facilitate a Papal Blessing for parishioners.

**WEEKEND**  
**ST MARY’S BAIRNSDALE:** Sat: 6:00pm & Sun: 9:30am  
**ST PATRICK’S PAYNESVILLE:** Sun: 8:00am  
**ST CANICE’S LINDENOW:** Sun: 11:00am  
**1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of Month 10:30am** BUPA/Eastwood Aged Care  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of Month 10:30am** OPAL/Harnham Aged Care  
**4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of Month 10:30am** Maddocks Gardens

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the Month - MASS**  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, OMEO:** Sun - 9:00am  
**SACRED HEART, SWIFTS CREEK:** Sat - 6:30pm  
**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, BENAMBRA:** Sun - 11:00am  
**1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the Month - LITURGY of the WORD**  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, OMEO:** Sun - 9:00am  
**SACRED HEART, SWIFTS CREEK:** Sun - 8:30am  
**ST FRANCIS of ASSISI, BENAMBRA:** Sun - 9:30am

**ST MARY’S BAIRNSDALE – WEEKDAYS**  
 Mon: 9:10am Mass  
 Tues: 9:10am Mass  
 Wed: 9:10am Mass  
 Thurs: 9:10am Mass – St Mary’s Primary School  
 Fri: 9:10am Mass

**RECONCILIATION**  
**ST MARY’S BAIRNSDALE:** After Friday 9:10 am Mass  
**Saturday:** 9:30am – 10:00am, 5:30 pm – 5:50pm  
**OTHER CHURCHES:** Before Mass

**DEVOTIONS**  
**Morning Office:** 9:00am in St Mary’s Chapel  
**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** after 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass  
**Rosary:** after morning Mass/Liturgy of the Word  
**Anointing of the Sick:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday during Mass

**GLUTEN FREE**

Please know that we have available GLUTEN FREE hosts. Anyone needing a GF host, please see the priest before Mass to organise.

**WELCOME** to parishioners and visitors who have come to celebrate Mass today.

**NEXT WEEKEND 22nd /23rd July**

<b>ROSTERS</b>	<b>Commentators</b>	<b>Proclaimer</b>	<b>Procession of Gospel/Gifts</b>	<b>Special Ministers</b>
<b>6:00pm</b>	B Calabro	K Flannery	P Farquhar	B Calabro, K & T Flannery
<b>9:30am</b>	G Burton	S Tilley	M Elbourne & G Dooley	M Owen, J Delany & M Elliott

**ALTAR SERVERS 9:30am MASS:**  
**CHURCH CLEANING: 16<sup>th</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> July:** D & T Roderick

## **Please pray for**

### **OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Thelma Astley (mother of Faye Betts), Dawn Anderson, Ken Heaney.

### **ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time:**

Carmel Hall, Demetrio Bagnato, Maria Anna Vanzin, Bob McKenzie, Irene Flannery, Maureen Coffey, Frank Traynor, Teresa Mitchell, Peg Townsend, Fr Denis O'Callaghan, Fr Maurice McKenna, Nunzio Lanteri, St. Maria Goretti, Fr John Allen, Fr Patrick Kavanagh, Fr Peter Mc Cormack, Fr Michael McAlroy.

**"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace."**

### **PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THE SICK:**

Denise Roberts, Peter Brown, John Buck, Maryanne Esmonde, Keith Murray, Claire Conquest, Caroline Lytton, Debbie Curtis Lee, Cath Smyth, Maree Elbourne, Rohani Wallace, Rick Jones, Betty Holloway, Kaili Kidner, Elizabeth Knight, Coral Prendergast, Michael Counsel, Dennis (Danny) Phelan, Pauline Cocco, Maureen Stone, Billy Sant, Arthur Elbourne, Harrison Stagg, Katie Shanahan, Rhonda Coloe, Peter Grimsted, Michelle Bowles, Louise Roehr, Thomas Anderson, Holly Box, Fr Frank Freeman SDB, Julie Ann Milnes-James, Kerry Larkin, Brian Rowe, Tammy Ewing, Roma Jansen, Mark Kelly, Joyce Smilie, James Warren, Peg Marsh, Tyson Chapman, Shannon Helmers, Guy Newman, Trish Henderson, Amanda Braddock, Edna MacNamara, Maria Sticca, Judith Mathews, Roslyn Websdale, Elizabeth & Frank Stehmann.

*Please remember all parishioners who are in ill health or recuperating from illness or surgery.*

### **STAMPS FOR SALESIAN MISSIONS**

Thank you to all who continue to save their used stamps to benefit the Salesian Missions. It is very helpful if the stamps have been trimmed to leave a small border around them. Please leave stamps at the Parish Centre for collection.

### **SMILE – PONDERING**

- \* A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, but is still fat.
- \* A rabbit runs and hops and only live 15 years, while a tortoise doesn't run and does mostly nothing, yet it lives for 150 years. And they tell us to exercise?

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** want us to know that they are available to people who wish to speak with them at any time. If there is some problem you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to call Bruce (0412 938 772) or Jeanette (0409 662 925). They will be very glad to speak with you.

### **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

The next meeting of the Bairnsdale branch of CWL will be held in the Parish Centre at 10am on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July. All members and any interested parishioners are most welcome to attend.

### **LITURGY MEETING**

The July monthly meeting of the Liturgy team is to be held at the Parish Centre on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 3:30pm. All members and any interested parishioners are invited to attend.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 20<sup>th</sup> July – Inter Church Pastoral Care 12:30pm @ St Johns.
- 20<sup>th</sup> July – PPC Meeting @ 5:30pm in Parish Centre.
- 21<sup>st</sup> July – CWL monthly meeting @ Parish Centre 10am.
- 30<sup>th</sup> July – Ecumenical church service @ St Brendan's 6pm.
- 1<sup>st</sup> August – Paul Munday; Parish Centre at 5:30pm.
- 8<sup>th</sup> August – East Region Meeting 10:30am in Parish Centre.
- 10<sup>th</sup> August – E-Conference 10:30am to 2:45pm; Parish Centre.

## **CHILD SAFE STANDARDS**

To further develop the **change of culture** within the whole Church, we continue to be committed to the cause of Child Safe Parishes here in East Gippsland. The process of **implementing the Child Safe Standards**, as legislated by our Victorian parliament, is well underway in our schools and is making progress in our Parishes. I am grateful to all those volunteers who have gained their **Working With Children Check** and had it registered in our Parish office. A **Code of Conduct** has been established by the Parish Pastoral Council and of all our volunteers, leaders, are asked to sign this document, which is also kept in our Parish records, ready for a potential audit.

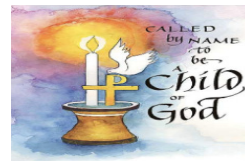
Perhaps, you have read recently that the Australian Bishops have created a national **Catholic Professional Standards** body to oversee the **compliance** of standards in schools and Parishes. The inaugural CEO, Ms Sheree Limbrick was appointed on June 1. Our own Professional Standards Officer in the Diocese of Sale, **Mr Paul Munday**, was well received by those parishioners who attended an *Information Session* here in the Parish Centre on April 20. Paul will make another visit on **August 1**. I encourage all parishioners to come along, to better understand the reasoning behind what is being asked of all of us and have your questions answered. Paul will present to our **Op Shop volunteers at 3:30pm and then a more general purposes meeting at 5:30pm**. These are very important meetings, providing both information and formation. Creating and nurturing a Parish environment where children and vulnerable adults can be safe and encounter Divine love through our human hearts is a high priority for us at St Mary's.  
Fr Michael

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit." – Matthew 13:22*

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in worldly activities that you have no time for God? Stewardship is a lifestyle to be lived every day. It effects all the decisions we make. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week.

*We welcome into our parish family this weekend*



**Ethan Peter Bennett**  
son of  
Emily & Edward

### **ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE**

Two of our seminarians, Avinash George and Hiep van Nguyen, will be ordained Deacons for the Diocese of Sale on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 11.00 am at St Mary's Cathedral, Sale.

A Diocesan Choir is being formed to lead the singing at the Ordination Mass. We are also looking for instrumentalists. If you are interested in joining the choir/musicians for this wonderful occasion, please contact Mrs Sophy Morley, Diocesan Director of Music, as soon as possible. P 03 5622 6677  
E [smorley@sale.catholic.org.au](mailto:smorley@sale.catholic.org.au) M 0413 590 007  
Singers/Musicians will receive a music pack and details of rehearsal times and venues around the diocese.

### **INTERCHURCH PASTORAL CARE**

St Johns Anglican Church in Bairnsdale is hosting the next gathering on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> July beginning at 12:30pm. All are welcome to attend. Kindly bring something to share for lunch. The guest speaker is from 'The Smith Family' who will speak about the Learning Programmes offered in our local primary schools, which were implemented to support disadvantaged families.

## EUTHANASIA/ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION

As you know, the Victorian Parliament will debate an assisted suicide or euthanasia bill sometime in the second half of 2017. Over the coming weeks, with the support of parishioner Bob Marshall and *The Life, Marriage and Family Office* in the Melbourne Archdiocese, we hope to help you understand the situation more clearly. There is a document, found in the foyer of our churches, that will help give insight into this whole issue. Feel free to take a copy home. As we become more informed about the issue, we are encouraged to raise our voices in opposition to the proposed legislation. We encourage you to be proactive.

### EUTHANASIA: MYTHS & REALITIES

**MYTH:** Euthanasia is a personal choice.

**REALITY:** Euthanasia is a public act with public consequences. One person facilitating the death of another is a matter of significant public concern since it can lead to tremendous abuse, exploitation and erosion of care for the most vulnerable people among us. Even when it is freely requested by competent persons, the choice to die by euthanasia gives dangerous public witness to the idea that there is such a thing as 'life not worth living'. This tempts us to make this judgment about the lives of other sick, disabled or elderly people in similar circumstances. These vulnerable people also become more susceptible to lowered self esteem and hopelessness, and risk feeling pressured into euthanasia for fear of becoming a burden to others. In this way, the 'choice to die' may be experienced as a 'duty to die'. Even young people who may be suffering psychologically and emotionally may feel affirmed in their belief that they have a 'life not worth living'.

### PETITION AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE OR EUTHANASIA

A petition 'Against Assisted Suicide or Euthanasia' is on hand at all Masses this weekend. Please take the time to add your name to this important issue. There will be people at all exits – please keep an eye out for them.

### PETER'S PENCE

There is a special collection at Masses this weekend for 'Peter's Pence' which assists with the upkeep of the Holy Father and for his works of charity. Envelopes are available. They can be taken home and returned next weekend.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

For the past 18 years, our parish has financially supported people in local, national and international communities. The funds for this financial support have been derived from 2.5% of parishioner's planned giving contributions, amounting to approximately \$4,000 each year. Parishioner's suggestions are warmly invited for this year's allocation of funds in support of local, national and international needs. **Please leave your written suggestions at the Parish Centre by July 31<sup>st</sup>.**

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The next PPC meeting is at 5:30pm at the Parish Centre on 20<sup>th</sup> July. All members are encouraged to attend.

### ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE AT LAKES ENTRANCE

We are invited to St Brendan's Church on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm for Soup & Sandwiches followed by a Service at 7pm. The theme is 'Reconciliation because the Love of Christ compels us.' ALL are welcome.

#### Readings for 23/07/2017

16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, Year A

1st Reading: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

Psalm: Ps 85: 5-6, 9-10, 15-16

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-43

## CALLED AND GIFTED

*Charism* is simply the Greek word used in the New Testament for "favour" or "gratuitous gift".

**Appreciating charisms, or spiritual gifts, helps us to see our parish as a place of gifts, rather than a place of needs.**

Everyone is given unique gifts. Many people are able to recognise their charisms and abilities, but there are many who are unsure of their gifts. We must all do our little bit to encourage and help discern how we may use our gifts/charisms. No gift is too small or insignificant.



*The Charism of  
INTERCESSORY PRAYER  
empowers the intense prayer of a  
Christian for others to be the means by  
which God's love and deliverance  
reaches those in need.  
Is this your gift?*

Our parish is blessed with many people who share their gifts/charisms within our church and wider community. We give thanks to Mark and his gift of **ENCOURAGEMENT** – lovingly supporting his mum in her later years; to Sale and his charism of **HELPS** – supporting his family whilst caring and sharing his knowledge with the wider community; and Cathy and her gift of **HELPS** – giving of her time to help others in need. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us and our community and ultimately we thank **GOD** who has given them.

### KEEP THE DATE

This year's e-Conference (streamed through the internet) is happening on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August from 10:30am to 2:45pm in the Parish Centre.** Prominent international and national speakers and panellists will reflect upon the momentous socio-political uncertainty of these times and discuss them in the context of Pope Francis' unique style of leadership. This is a great way to share your thoughts, listen to some wonderful speakers, and be able to ask questions and hopefully get some answers.

### K.O.G.O

"Knit One Give One" is a Melbourne based group which distributes hand knitted woollen items to many people in need all over Australia. Parishioners are invited to knit such items as beanies (especially ones in the colours of the aboriginal flag), scarves, gloves, babies and children's wear as well as squares that can be sewn together to make blankets. Please see their website for patterns and instructions: [www.kogo.org.au](http://www.kogo.org.au)

### BE AWARE

Recently people have been fined for parking in areas marked for 'Caravans/trailers' during the week while attending funerals. Please know that parking in MacDonald's or Kmart carparks is NOT patrolled by parking inspectors. Also, know that there are new parking times in Pyke Street.



### AN INVITATION

If you are a Catholic who has been away from the Church, know that we are thinking about you. We are glad you are here and invite you to be an active part of us again. If you would like more information on our parish program Reconnect, please contact Patricia Walsh on 5152 2418 or Sandra Tilley sfo on [smtilleyofs@bigpond.com](mailto:smtilleyofs@bigpond.com)

#### Collections for week ending 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Envelopes \$1,937.60

Direct Debits & Cards \$ 480.00

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 276.65

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$ 584.85

**Prayer in preparation of Year of Youth**

Father,

As we prepare for the Year of Youth,

We pray to Jesus, the risk taker.

Give us a dose of courage to take

Compassionate steps to respect and rebuild our world.

Help us to restore the soil, the water and the air.

Let us encounter You in a friend in trouble, supporting them to feel safe, valued, accepted and loved.

Fire us with energy and enthusiasm to be leaders, thinkers and social activists.

Open our hearts to You and new horizons for spreading joy.

Amen

\*\*\*\*\*

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**Entrance Antiphon:**

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55: 10-11**

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm**

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8: 18-23**

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.

From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

**Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 13: 1-23**

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord.