



St Marys Bairnsdale

Bairnsdale – OMEO
East Region – Diocese of Sale
Who we are tomorrow begins with what we do today.



St Patricks Paynesville

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 Mary, the Mother of God.
Empower our community to activate their gifts to build a better world. Strengthen and grow our faith.



FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT, Year C – December 23rd, 2018

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Willemsen
Assistant Priest: Fr Xavier Pinto C.Ss.R.
Bairnsdale Presbytery:
23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale 3875 Phone 5152 3106
Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com
Internet: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net
Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)
St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:
155 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale 3875 Phone 5152 2942
Parish Business Manager: Paul Heaton-Harris
Parish Sacramental Coordinator: Michelle Grimsted
Pastoral Coordinator: Pattie Pruscino

St Mary's Primary: Phone 5152 3706
Principal: Michelle Garbutt
Newsletter: www.stmbairns.catholic.edu.au
Nagle College: Phone 5152 6122
Principal: Neville Powles
Newsletter: www.nagle.vic.edu.au
St Mary's Op Shop: Phone 5152 2088

Parish Pastoral Council: meets 2nd 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), Denise Fallon, Angelo D'Amore, Michael Flynn, Rita Bowers and Angela McKail.
A Parish Directory of all Groups and contact details is available at the Pastoral Centre.

Sacraments: Sacramental Information and registration forms are available at: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com
Baptisms: Preparation sessions are held regularly. Please call the Sacramental Coordinator to register. Available during Mass or on 3rd Sunday 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.

Liturgy/Mass Times

WEEKEND
ST MARY'S BAIRNSDALE: Sat: 6:00pm & Sun: 9:30am
CHILDRENS LITURGY: 1st & 3rd Sunday monthly - school term
ST PATRICK'S PAYNESVILLE: Sun: 8:00am
ST CANICE'S LINDENOW: Sun: 11:00am
1st Wed. of Month 10:30am BUPA/Eastwood Aged Care
2nd Wed. of Month 10:30am OPAL/Harnham Aged Care
4th Wed. of Month 10:30am Maddocks Gardens

2nd & 4th 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
1st, 3rd & 5th 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: 7:00pm Mass at Nagle College
11:30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass
Tues: 9:30am Christmas Day Mass
Wed: 9:10am Mass
10:30am Mass Maddocks Gardens
Thurs: 9:10am Mass
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
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: after 1st Friday Mass
Anointing of the Sick: 2nd Friday during Mass
Morning Office: 8:45am in St Mary's Chapel
Rosary: after weekday morning Mass

Welcome
to all who have joined us to celebrate Mass.

GLUTEN FREE?
Anyone needing a GF host is asked to speak to the priest before Mass to organise.

NEXT WEEKEND 29th & 30th December 2018

ROSTERS	Commentator	Proclaimer	Procession of Gospel/Gifts	Special Ministers
6:00pm	J Peachey	J De Boer	M Calabro	J Peachey, P Elliott & C Marriot-Smith
9:30am	G Burton	A Vowell	M Elbourne & friend	M Owen, J Delany & S Dean
CHURCH CLEANING: Month of December: Volunteers needed				

Please pray for

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Marion Hall, John Ryan.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time:

Jean McCulloch, Harold Batty, Barbara Grimsted, Monica Smith, Desmond Hickling, Noel Rooney Snr, Sheila O'Brien, Ron Burton, Fr John Nolan, Fr Daniel Lorden, Mgr James Fitzpatrick, Joe Pruscino, Eileen Mason, Clem Rooks, Albert Nelson, Jim Bennett, Eileen Dean, Bev Benedetti, Leonie Bennett, Theresa Brown, Sheila Collins, John Kolar, Fr John Gowen, Mgr. Thomas Lynch, Fr James Duffy.

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

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THE SICK:

Bernard McCarthy (Jose's brother), Ray Worseldine, Patricia Dean (Paula O'Neill's mum), Amy Hood, Bruno Capobianco, Yvonne Roy, Lawrence Liccione (brother of Maureen Newcomen), Serge D'Angelo, Pauline Northway (nee Mason), Bill Keyte, John Graves, Brenda Lyons, Jean Coleman, John Buck, Daryl Evans, Ena Morris, Bill Cole, Billy Sant, Sue Bayley, Gerry McDonald, Vincent O'Reilly, Kerry Larkin, Holly Box, Mark Kelly, Terry Pendergast, Guy Newman, Victoria Haeusler, Joyce Harrington, Grant Mitchell, Anne Armstrong, Trish Freebairn, Julie Ann Milnes-James, Dennis (Danny) Phelan, Rick Jones, Tracey Moffatt, Brian Rowe, Tyler Green, Gerard Templer (brother of Trudy Kosmer), Di Dunlop, Paul McFarlane, Elisha Weekes (g-daughter of Maree & Wayne Stagg), Shannon Helmers, Raylene Steer, Margaret Flynn, Rose Gallagher, Amanda Matthews, Betty Holloway, Elizabeth Knight, Peter Grimsted, Tammy Ewing, Maryanne Esmonde, James Warren, Trish Henderson, Coral Prendergast, Michael Counsel, Elizabeth & Frank Stehmann, Tyson Chapman, Thomas Anderson.

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

Please let the Parish Centre know if you wish to add or remove names of persons from the sick list.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." LUKE 1: 44

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained? We are called to be active participants, not passive bystanders.

PRAYERS FOR FR ANTHONY

Please continue to keep Fr Anthony in your prayers. We hope that by the start of the 2019 school year he will be back on board. With this comes the situation that Fr Michael is having to spend more time in Lakes Entrance, Orbost and other parts of the East. We must also take a moment to give thanks to the priests who have helped the 2 parishes out by covering some of the Masses during this time. We ask that you keep all our priests in your prayers for continued good health.

ST MARY'S OPPORTUNITY SHOP

We thank you for your support over the last 12 months. We have been kept busy and the volunteers have made new friendships and found satisfaction from being able to help others. If YOU have a spare few hours that you could give us once a week or once a fortnight, and feel comfortable to work the cash register, your help would be most appreciated and is very much needed. Please contact Bev or Judy at the Opp Shop on 5152 2088 to offer your assistance. Please note the shop will close at 12:30pm 21st December and reopen 7th January.



Fr Michael, Fr Xavier and all Parish Staff would like to wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas, enjoying time with family and friends and may 2019 bring peace and happiness for you and your families.

BISHOP O'REGAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

This year Bishop Pat O'Regan's Christmas message has been produced as a video. It will be published on our Diocesan website sale.catholic.org.au, YouTube and Facebook accounts. For those of us who are not so tech savvy, a copy of the letter is available at the back of the church.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Bairnsdale branch of Catholic Women's League was formed on 1st August 1937 and went into recess from 1939 – 1945 during the war years. Sadly after 81 years the branch is in recess again as of 16th November 2018. We are very grateful for all those women before us for their inspiration. Bairnsdale members have worked on the Diocesan Committee, the Governing Body and the National Executive with Mary Jensen being involved in the purchase of Mary Glowrey House in Fitzroy, the headquarters of Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga. A meeting room there is named in her honour. Members sincerely thank our priests and parishioners for their support especially with catering for funerals and special events. Many thanks to Helen Sampson for organising the roster for Meals on Wheels, Margaret Dungey, Judy Ward and Carmel Greenwood as Horizon Secretaries, Brenda Lyons for 16 years as Treasurer and Bev Broome as Secretary and many years as Catering Officer. For the moment Bev will still be involved with catering for funerals and donations will go to church funds. Our small group will continue as 'St Mary's Friendship Group' meeting in the Parish Centre each month from February to November. Hopefully in the future CWL may reform. **P.S.** A HUGE thank you to Pat Coloe who has led the Bairnsdale branch of CWL for many years. With her savoury scones, attention to detail and leadership charisma, our parish has been blessed with her involvement in the group.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2019

These calendars are now available. COST: \$10. Please see Pattie at the Parish Centre. Some will be available in the 'baskets' at Mass time at Paynesville and Lindenow. A great buy for Christmas. Unfortunately packets of 'holy' Christmas cards are not available through the Piety Stall this year. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

HAVE MACHINE, WILL SEW!!

Our thanks to Helen for offering her services and already making a number of stoles. It is very much appreciated. Also, thank you to Lyn for her offer to help.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

21st Dec: Parish Centre closes until 21st January 2019

LAST CHANCELAST CHANCE

ASPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT



This weekend is your last chance to purchase a Christmas Gift Card or make a donation to The Bairnsdale Friends of Timor Leste. The gift Cards will be available after Mass at Bairnsdale, Paynesville and Lindenow. All proceeds will go towards our projects – the Luncheon Program at the Salesians’ St Antonio’s Secondary School and four teacher training scholarships at the Marist Teachers College in Baucau.

SINGERS FOR MIDNIGHT MASS & 9:30AM CHRISTMAS DAY

We are very pleased to say we have a pianist for Midnight Mass and if you would like to join the choir you are most welcome, the more the merrier. Please speak to Mary Saunders or Pattie Pruscino. On the night there will be carols from 11:30pm with Mass beginning at 12 midnight.

Also, we are in need of singers for Mass 9:30am Christmas Day. Please contact Maureen Saunders or Pattie at the Parish Centre if you can help out. If you enjoy singing this is a time to share that joy.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

This year’s Christmas Eve Family Mass will be celebrated at Presentation Hall, Nagle College at 7pm on Christmas Eve. You are all warmly invited to join us, and children are encouraged to dress as angels, shepherds or kings if they would like.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

BAIRNSDALE

Christmas Vigil: 24th Dec 7pm at Presentation Hall, Nagle College.

Midnight Mass: St Mary’s Church with Carols at 11:30pm; Mass 12 midnight.

Christmas Day: St Mary’s Church 9:30am.

PAYNESVILLE

Christmas Day: St Patrick’s 25th Dec at 8am.

LINDENOW

Christmas Day: St Canice’s 25th Dec at 11am.

OMEIO

Christmas Vigil: Immaculate Conception Church 24th Dec at 6pm.

BENAMBRA

Christmas Vigil: St Francis of Assisi Church 24th Dec at 7:30pm.

SWIFTS CREEK

Christmas Day: Sacred Heart Church 25th Dec at 8:30am.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Office will be closed from Monday 24th December and reopen on Monday 21st January 2019. We hope this won’t inconvenience anyone. If you require to see someone, please phone 5152 3106 and leave a message. Someone will contact you as quickly as possible.

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 GIVING empowers a Christian to be a cheerful channel of God’s provision by giving with exceptional generosity to 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 Lyn and her gift of **HELPS** – heard of a need and offered her services; to Mary and her charism of **LEADERSHIP** – prepared to do the hard yards so others can accomplish good things; and to Ciara and her gift of **MUSIC** – she was asked and accepted the challenge. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us and our community and ultimately we thank GOD who has given them.



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

ARE YOU PLANNING A TRIP TO SYDNEY IN JANUARY?

Why not stay at Mary MacKillop Place, in the heart of North Sydney! 30 minutes from the Airport, close to Ferries, Trains, Sydney Harbour foreshore, Opera House and more!

For Accommodation Enquiries please call 02 89124800
Annie Bond rsj Assistant Director – *Responsible for Ministries*
www.marymackillopplace.org.au or www.sosj.org.au

LOSS AND GRIEF GROUP

The Loss and Grief Group is happening. They meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Parish centre @ 5pm. If you would like more information please contact Pattie at the Parish Centre and she will arrange for someone to contact you.

Please note: The group will take a break over Christmas and January and meet again on 7th February.

Collections for week ending 16th December 2018

Envelopes	\$ 1,756.00
Direct Debits & Cards	\$ 1,415.00
1 st Collection	\$ 446.85
2 nd Collection	\$ 802.35
Church Tours	\$ 81.45

Prayer for the 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.***

Fourth Sunday of ADVENT, Year C

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

A reading from the prophet Micah 5: 1-4

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon
Them till the time when she who is to give
birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come
Back to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power to the ends of the
land. He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 10: 5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for
sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the
scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'
Notice that he says first: You did not want what the
Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is:
the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the
sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them;
and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey
your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it
with the second. And this will was for us to be made
holy by the offering of his body made once and for all
by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to

Luke 1: 39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a
town in the hill country of Judah. She went
into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as
soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child
leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the
Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all
women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the
fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a
visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment
your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb
leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that
the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings for 30/12/2018
The HOLY FAMILY
of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Year C
1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14
Psalm: 127: 1-5
2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 12-21
Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52

LIVING THE GOSPEL – Looking for signs

When Mary went to visit Elizabeth she was not looking for a sign
that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had
accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and
action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times
we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action
is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it
doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in
faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.