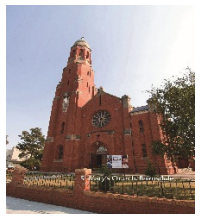




St Francis of Assisi Benambra

BAIRNSDALE – OMEO
East Region – Diocese of Sale

Who we are tomorrow begins with what we do today.



St Mary's Bairnsdale

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.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A – July 23rd, 2017

Parish Contacts	Liturgy / Mass Times
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Parish Priest: Fr Michael Willemsen
Assistant Priest: Fr Darek Jablonski
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
 Internet: 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
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), 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
Baptisms – Preparation sessions are held regularly. Please call the Sacramental Coordinator to register. Available on 1st, 3rd & 5th 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
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: 9:10am Mass
 Tues: 9:10am Mass
 Wed: 9:10am Mass
 10:30am Mass at Maddocks Gardens
 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 1st Friday Mass
Rosary: after morning Mass/Liturgy of the Word
Anointing of the Sick: 2nd 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 29th /30th July				
ROSTERS	Commentators	Proclaimer	Procession of Gospel/Gifts	Special Ministers
6:00pm	J Peachey	J De Boer	P Farquhar	B O’Kelly, M Elliott & B Calabro
9:30am	T Kosmer	A Vowell	N Rooney & friend	A Chila, S Dean & G Burton
ALTAR SERVERS 9:30am MASS:				
CHURCH CLEANING: 16th July – 31st July: D & T Roderick				

Please pray for

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Marie Petterson, Thelma Astley (mother of Faye Betts).

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time:

David Murray, Leonard 'Mick' Michalowsky, Peter van Nuttrim, Alma 'Bid' Egan, Fr Martin Hayes, Mgr. John O'Hea, Carmel Hall, Antonio D'Amore, Demetrio Bagnato, Maureen Coffey, Maria Anna Vanzin, Bob McKenzie, Irene Flannery, Frank Traynor, Teresa Mitchell, Peg Townsend, Fr Denis O'Callaghan, Fr Maurice McKenna.

"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, Holly Box, Maureen Stone, Billy Sant, Arthur Elbourne, Harrison Stagg, Rhonda Coloe, Peter Grimsted, Michelle Bowles, Louise Roehr, Thomas Anderson, Fr Frank Freeman SDB, Brian Rowe, Peg Marsh, Julie Ann Milnes-James, Kerry Larkin, Tammy Ewing, Roma Jansen, Mark Kelly, Joyce Smilie, James Warren, Tyson Chapman, Shannon Helmers, Guy Newman, Trish Henderson, Judith Mathews, Amanda Braddock, Edna MacNamara, Maria Sticca, Roslyn Websdale, Elizabeth & Frank Stehmann.

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.

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

The world only beats a path to your door when you're in the bathroom.

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.

MESSAGE STICK

You may be aware that over the last couple of weeks the message stick has not been brought forward with the Gospel. We are saddened to report that it has been taken. We know its whereabouts and who removed it and we are in the process of working through having it returned safely without too much fuss.

DATES TO REMEMBER

27th July – Svdp monthly meeting 7pm @ Assistance Centre

30th July – Ecumenical church service @ St Brendan's 6pm.

1st August – Paul Munday in Parish Centre at 5:30pm.

10th August – E-Conference 10:30am to 2:45pm in Parish Centre.

15th August – East Region Meeting 10:30am in 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 kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom." Matthew 13: 24, 37-38

As children of God, we are all "good seeds", blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God's plan when we share our talents and our financial gifts to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our stewardship we sow "good seeds" on earth to ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

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 2nd 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 M 0413 590 007
Singers/Musicians will receive a music pack and details of rehearsal times and venues around the diocese.

PIPE ORGAN AND MUSICAL EVENTS GROUP

POMEG is presenting 2 concerts during the month of August at the Bairnsdale Uniting Church.

Gippsland Symphony Orchestra will be playing, and featuring Brian Chapman on piano on **Sunday, 13th August at 2:30pm**. Tea & coffee during interval. **COST: \$20** (school students free). Music will include Mozart and Schubert.

On **Sunday, August 27th at 2pm** outstanding young Australian Pipe Organist Edwin Kwong will be playing works by Bach, Elgar, Handel and more. **COST: \$25** (school students free).

Tickets to both concerts are available at Just Books Bairnsdale. Any enquiries to 5152 9434.

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: Legalised euthanasia would not impact upon the provision of good end of life care.

REALITY: Palliative care cannot flourish alongside euthanasia.

The medical profession's deep commitment not to abandon those who suffer has been a powerful motivation in the development of modern medicine. But medical killing discourages alternative approaches to suffering, such as the provision of good palliative care and pain management. This is especially likely in a rapidly-aging society with escalating health care costs, where there is increasing pressure to consider the economic impact of patient care.

PETITION AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE OR EUTHANASIA

A petition 'Against Assisted Suicide or Euthanasia' is on hand at all Masses again 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.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This week has begun the journey of about 35 students, with the help of their parents and teachers, as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It will culminate on Saturday, 12th August at the 6pm Mass when Bishop Pat will be present and confirm them. Please keep the candidates, their families and teachers in your prayers as they journey towards this very special time in their lives.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE

Our next meeting of SVdP Conference will be held on **Thursday, July 27th, 7pm** in the Assistance Centre. All members are asked to attend. Everyone welcome.

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 31st.**

ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE AT LAKES ENTRANCE

We are invited to St Brendan's Church on Sunday 30th 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 30/07/2017

17th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, Year A

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12

Psalm: Ps 118: 57, 72, 76-77, 127-130

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52

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

MUSIC

empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's creative goodness to others through writing or performing music for the delight of others and the praise of God.

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 Elizabeth and her gift of **FAITH** – her love of God brings hope to others; to Doug and his charism of **HELPS** – supporting the koori community with education; and Terry and her gift of **HELPS** – giving of her time to help a community organisation. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us and our community and ultimately we thank **GOD** who has given them.

e-CONFERENCE

This year's e-Conference (streamed through the internet) is happening on **Thursday 10th 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. Please let Pattie Pruscino or Chris Power aware of your interest in this day.

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



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

Collections for week ending 16th July 2017

Envelopes \$ 1,273.15

Direct Debits & Cards \$ 1,835.00

1st Collection \$ 346.10

2nd Collection \$ 469.95

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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Entrance Antiphon:

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

A reading from the book of Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

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

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 13: 24-43

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the
foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.