



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.

The BAPTISM of the LORD, Year A – January 12th, 2020

Welcome to all who have joined us to celebrate Mass.

St Mary's Parish Bairnsdale/Omeo acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai 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 and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Willemsen
Assistant Priest: Fr Avinash George
Bairnsdale Presbytery:
23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale 3875 Phone 5152 3106
Email: stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com
Internet: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net
Facebook: St Mary's Church Bairnsdale
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
Child Safety Officer: Kath Cassidy Phone 5152 2942

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: Angela McKail, Michael Flynn – co-chairpersons, Angelo D'Amore, Rita Bowers, Marylin Elliott and Wilma Collier.
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, call the Sacramental Coordinator to make a date. Baptisms are celebrated during or after Mass on the 1st or 3rd Sunday's of each 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 Pattie Pruscino 5152 2942 or 0427 232 682
Special Wedding Anniversaries: 6 months' notice is needed to facilitate a Papal Blessing for parishioners.

LITURGY/MASS TIMES

ST MARY'S BAIRNSDALE: Sat - 6:00pm & Sun - 9:30am
CHILDRENS LITURGY: 1st & 3rd Sun 9:30 during 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
4th Sunday of the Month – MASS: October - May
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, OMEO: Sun - 9:00am
SACRED HEART, SWIFTS CREEK: Sat - 6:30pm
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, BENAMBRA: Sun - 11:00am
Other 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: NO MASS – Rest Day for Fr Michael
8:45am Morning Office followed by Rosary at 9:00am
Wed: 9:10am Mass
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 at St Mary's, Bairnsdale
10:00am Wednesday's at St Patrick's, Paynesville

Our prayers go out to those effected by bush fires, who have lost their homes and possibly their livelihoods, those trying to save properties, the fire fighters, emergency service personnel and all who are giving and offering support. God is with us.

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Central to the mission of the Immaculate Conception Parish (known as St Mary's Parish) is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and vulnerable persons and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

NEXT WEEKEND 18th & 19th January 2020

ROSTERS	Commentator	Proclaimer	Procession of Gospel/Gifts	Special Ministers
6:00pm	C Marriot-Smith	J DeBoer	M Saunders	C Power, M Saunders & P Elliott
9:30am	A Chila	A Vowell	M Grimsted & family	R David, M Elliott & S Dean
CHURCH CLEANING: 16 th – 31 st January – D & T Roderick				

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church?

In this phase, we are continuing to listen to what the Spirit is saying as we move from listening and dialogue, into listening and discernment. This process of discernment is communal rather than individual. As such, we are called to work together as a group. The process is built upon the practise of Spiritual Conversations drawn primarily from the St Ignatian tradition. It is a way for us to listen to the voice of the Spirit.

The 'gatherings' will be held at the Parish Centre.

THEME 3. A Joyful, Hope-filled & Servant Community

1st half: Wednesday 22nd January 5:30pm – 6:30pm

2nd half: Wednesday 29th January 5:30pm – 6:30pm

THEME 4. Prayerful & Eucharistic

1st half: Wednesday 5th February 5:30pm – 6:30pm

2nd half: Wednesday 12th February 5:30pm – 6:30pm

THEME 5. Humble, Healing & Merciful

1st half: Wednesday 19th February 5:30pm – 6:30pm

2nd half: Wednesday 26th February 5:30pm – 6:30pm

THEME 6. Inclusive, Participatory & Synodal

1st half: Wednesday 4th March 5:30pm – 6:30pm

2nd half: Wednesday 11th March 5:30pm – 6:30pm

RESTORATION OF THE INTERIOR OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

- What could our worship space look like?

We give thanks to the Holy Spirit for the fruitful contributions received regarding the internal restoration of our church. Please continue to pray for guidance as we discern moving forward to the future for our iconic church.

Collect an **INFORMATION BOOKLET** 'Church Renewal Guide' with guiding principles from the Church Documents to help in the discernment process. Take the booklet home and have a go at scribbling over the inserted map to see where elements might be placed, make it a family activity to brainstorm creative solutions together, stressing the importance that ideas need to be underpinned by the principles in the booklets.....they are available in the Church Foyer. Submissions will be welcomed until 25th January.

ORDINATION OF DEACON STANLY DEVASIA

On 4th January 2020, in Kerala India, Deacon Stanly will be ordained. Fr Avinash is a cousin and will be attending the Ordination. Afterwards, Fr Stanly will return to the Sale Diocese where he will fulfill his priestly vocation. Please keep him, and his family, in your prayers at this special time in his life.

SAINTS OF ITALY

Explore the famous shrines and sites of Italy during this 14 Day pilgrimage led by Fr. Chris Obiekwe that features Milan, Padua, Venice, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Loretto, San Giovanni Rotondo, Sorrento, Montecassino and Rome for an all-inclusive price of \$6490 + Tips. Departs on **7th June 2020**. 5 seats left. For inquiries e call **03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561** or email pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

PRIEST APPOINTMENT FOR EAST GIPPSLAND

Bishop Pat has appointed Fr Jayakody Francis as Assistant Priest to the three Parishes of East Gippsland. He will be based in Bairnsdale, initially. We look forward to welcoming him on Ash Wednesday (Feb 26). Fr Francis is currently at St Patrick's, Pakenham.

ST JOSPEH'S TECHNICAL SCHOOL REUNION

St Joseph's Technical School, South Melbourne (closed 1988): A Reunion of Students, teachers & staff, will be held on Sunday 22nd March 2020 from noon to 4 pm at the old school site, which is now home to Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School. Enquiries to Tony 9580 7344.



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works **EAST GIPPSLAND FARMERS**

We're here to help. We will visit you, or, come and see us at Vinnie's Assistance Centre, Bairnsdale Riviera Plaza, Shop 15 PH: (03) 5152 6687

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Bairnsdale Conference thank all most sincerely for the financial support shown with their appeal last weekend. Be assured, that all monies collected will stay in the area.

FAREWELL RIVERS PURTEL

Over the past 18 months Rivers Purtel has been on our sick list needing prayers. His family live in Swan Hill and Rivers has been fighting a rare childhood cancer. Family friends live in Bairnsdale who have kept us up to date with his journey, but they notified us on Monday that Rivers passed away last Saturday evening in the Cancer ward of the Royal Children's Hospital. He was 5 years old. May he rest in peace, and may his family, in their grief, remember the joy and many blessings Rivers brought to them.

FR JOHN O'KELLY

Following a recent stroke, it has been determined that Fr John will now reside in Melbourne which places him closer to most of his family. He is currently receiving 'rehab' at Kingston after which he will move into Corpus Christi Aged Care home. It is one of many facilities run by Villa Maria Catholic homes and is at 80 Clayton Road, Clayton. Our parish has been blessed with his presence over many years, so please continue to keep him in your prayers. He will welcome visitors in the new year.

Collections for week ending 15th December 2019

Envelopes	\$ 1,405.00
D/D & Cards	\$ 1,905.00
1 st Collection	\$ 451.35
2 nd Collection	\$ 678.75

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR 2019

BAIRNSDALE:

Christmas Vigil 24th Dec. 7:00pm at
Presentation Hall, Nagle College, Hope Avenue
off Lindenow Dargo Road, Bairnsdale.

11.30pm Carols followed by
MIDNIGHT MASS at St. Mary's Church

Christmas Day 9:30am St Mary's Church

PAYNESVILLE: Christmas Day 25th Dec 8:00am

SWIFTS CREEK: Christmas Eve 24th Dec 6:00pm

BENAMBRA: Christmas Eve 24th Dec 7:30pm

Please note:

There will be NO MASS at Lindenow OR Omeo.

PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

We encourage Parishes in prayerful awareness as we constantly turn to "the Lord of the harvest" (Mt 9:38).

"God is With Us" St Joseph listened to the call of God, his vocation was to trust. Today let us pray that many young people from our parishes and families will hear the call of God and trust enough to say 'yes' to priesthood and consecrated life.

BISHOP PATRICK'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Bishop Patrick's Christmas Message is now online on the Diocesan website at the following address

<https://www.cdsale.org.au/news/video-bishop-patrick-o-regan-s-2019-christmas-message>. It can also be found on the main page of the website which is simply www.cdsale.org.au

For those of us who are not too tech savvy, a paper copy is also available in the foyer of the church.

ANGLICAN & CATHOLIC GATHERING

We wish to give you advanced notice of A Bible Study designed as a preparation for Lent. A 'Lenten Conversation' is to be held on 21 February 2020. This follows on from a similar gathering held in 2018. This proved to be a significant event for both our churches, and it was subsequently resolved by the Bishops that a Joint Task Force be established to build on that momentum. We have two outstanding scholars together with both of our Bishops. It will again be held at The Abbey on Raymond Island, commencing at 10am and scheduled to finish around 3.30pm. Bookings are essential and there will be a catering charge of \$20pp. Further details of the Program will be available in the new year.

BAIRNSDALE FRIENDS OF TIMOR LESTE -

Are currently providing nutritious lunches at San Antonio's in Baucau and providing 4 scholarships of \$4500 for selected students to undertake their Bachelor of Education degrees. Please support their one and only fundraising effort by purchasing Christmas Gift Cards after Masses in Bairnsdale, Paynesville & Lindenow this last weekend 21st/22nd December. They are also available from Chris 0418 148 657. Card values range from \$5 to \$30. You are invited to 'come and see'...ask one of our members how the Gift Cards work.



A Special Christmas Gift

The Luncheon Program is currently feeding Yr 12 students 3 days a week. Their meal consists of rice, beans & greens together with sausages on Tuesday, eggs on Wednesday & chicken on Thursday.

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 WRITING

empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's creativity by using words to create works of truth or beauty that reflect the fullness of human experience and bring glory to 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 Nagle students & teachers (Yr.'s 7 & 8) and their gifts of **GIVING** – raising over \$1,000 for students in Timor Leste; to Albert and his gift of **SERVICE** – his generosity in giving of his time and talents is very much appreciated; and to Carol and her gift of **GIVING** – quietly helping those around her so they can enjoy a quality of life. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us and our community and ultimately we thank GOD who has given them.

SMILE

'The 100 Yard Dash' by Willie Makit; Illustrated by Betty Wont.

WHO IS GOD TO YOU?

He is my HEALER (Psalm 103:3)
He is my REDEEMER (Isaiah 59:20)
He is my DELIVERER (Psalm 70:5)
He is my STRENGTH (Psalm 43:2)
He is my SHELTER (Joel 3:16)
He is my FRIEND (John 15:15)
He is my ADVOCATE (1 John 2:1)
He is my RESTORER (Psalm 23:3)
He is my EVERLASTING FATHER (Isaiah 9:6)
He is LOVE (1 John 4:16)
He is my MEDIATOR (1 Timothy 2:5-6)
He is my STRONGHOLD (Nahum 1:7)
He is the BREAD OF LIFE (John 6:35)
He is my HIDING PLACE (Psalm 32:7)
He is the EVERLASTING LIGHT (Isaiah 60:20)
He is a STRONG TOWER (Proverbs 18:10)
He is my RESTING PLACE (Jeremiah 50:6)
He is the SPIRIT OF TRUTH (John 16:13)
He is my REFUGE FROM THE STORM (Isaiah 25:4)
He is ETERNAL LIFE (1 John 5:20)
He is the LORD WHO PROVIDES (Genesis 22:14)
He is the LORD OF PEACE (2 Thessalonians 3:16)
He is the LIVING WATER (John 4:10)
He is my SHIELD (Psalm 144:2)
He is my HUSBAND (Isaiah 54:5)
He is my HELPER (Hebrews 13:6)
He is my WONDERFUL COUNSELOR (Isaiah 9:6)
He is the LORD WHO HEALS (Exodus 15:26)
He is my HOPE (Psalm 71:5)
He is the GOD OF COMFORT (Romans 15:5)

(adapted from Power of a praying woman by stormie omaritan)

DATES TO REMEMBER

22nd Jan: 1st half -3rd theme Plenary Council 5:30pm at Parish Centre.
29th Jan: 2nd half -3rd theme plenary council 5:30pm at Parish Centre.
13th Feb: Rev. Dr Elio Capra SDB – Understanding the Sacraments.
21st Feb: 'Lenten Conversation' @ The Abbey

Please pray for

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Betty Traynor.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time:

Peter Scott, Keith Murray, Frank Melrose, Kerrie Sroczyński, Syd Clarke, Fr Daniel Shanahan, Fr Michael Callery, Fr James Synnot, Agnes Mary Duggan, Jim Prendergast, Helen Krambehr, Alan Smullen, Bill Counihan, Joyce Boland, John Websdale, Oreste Capobianco, Fr Frank Ruth, Annie Rijs, Fr Matthew Hays, Fr Pat Walsh, Bishop Patrick Phelan, Fr John Black, Fr John Carley.

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

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THE SICK:

Joan Marshall, Irene Beatson, Loran Tilley-Withers, John Pruscino, Jacek Dutkiewicz, Adam Gilhooley, Fr John O’Kelly, Tahlia De Felice, Mary Johnson, Nicholas Browne, Fr Carl Schafer ofm, John Graves, Sue Collier, Alan Cross, Carmel Kenyon, Alan Cooke, Rick Jones, Yvonne Roy, Matthew Brunt, Bernadette Wolters, Paul Hamilton, Jane Rowlands, Holly Box, Jacqueline Wolters, Billy Sant, Pat Doe, Joan Wriggel, John Buck, Pauline Northway (nee Mason), Arthur Elbourne, Guy Newman, Genevieve Bolleman, Ena Morris, Cathy Tickle, Bill Cole, Mark Kelly, Ray & Fran Adamson, Amy Hood, Gerard Templer, James Warren, Coral Prendergast, Brian Rowe, Joyce Harrington, Julie Frew, Paul McFarlane, Shannon Helmers, Julie Ann Milnes-James, Dennis (Danny) Phelan, Elizabeth Knight, Margaret Flynn, Rose Gallagher, Tammy Ewing, Anne Armstrong, Tracey Moffatt, Trish Henderson, Gerry McDonald, Brenda Lyons, Peter Grimsted, Tyson Chapman, Michael Counsel, Elizabeth Stehmann.

The BAPTISM of the LORD, Year A

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

Thus says the Lord:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true
justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of
right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people
and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the
blind, to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10: 34–38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3: 13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings for 19/01/2020
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1st Reading: Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6
Psalm: Ps 39: 2,4, 7-10
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3
Gospel: John 1: 29-34

PLENARY 2020

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church?

In this phase, we are continuing to listen to what the Spirit is saying as we move into listening and discernment. This process of discernment is communal rather than individual and we are called to work together as a group. The process is built upon the practise of Spiritual Conversations drawn primarily from the St Ignatian tradition. It is a way for us to listen to the voice of the Spirit.

The 'gatherings' will be held at the Parish Centre.
THEME 3. A Joyful, Hope-filled & Servant Community
(so very appropriate at this time.)

1st half: Wednesday 22nd January 5:30pm – 6:30pm
2nd half: Wednesday 29th January 5:30pm – 6:30pm



SHARING HOPE IN CRISIS SEMINAR

A combined churches initiative. Free lunch 12noon – 1pm. Seminar 1pm – 3pm. **This Sunday 12th January @ Riviera Christian Centre.** All welcome – especially those who have/are encountering people suffering at this time.