



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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A – December 1st, 2019

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 Willemssen
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: 9:10am Mass
Wed: 9:10am Mass
10:30am Mass BUPA/ Eastwood Aged Care
Thurs: 9:10am Mass St Mary's Primary School Preps & Yr 6
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

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.



Children's Liturgy is this Sunday morning.

NEXT WEEKEND 7th & 8th December 2019

ROSTERS	Commentator	Proclaimer	Procession of Gospel/Gifts	Special Ministers
6:00pm	M Saunders	K Flannery	G Dooley	M Saunders, T & K Flannery
9:30am	H Van den Einden	M Grimsted	J & D Fallon, J & R Gray	D Atkins, G & K Cassidy
CHURCH CLEANING: 1 st – 15 th December – Volunteers needed, thank you.				

Please pray for

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Denise Brown (sister of Marg Bini), Michael Corbett, Sheila Rowe, Jos Cilon (Kitty Cosse's sister), Paul Laws.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time:

Steve Klobukowski, Frank Burton, George Burton, Jack Burton, Fr James Hayes, Fr Dave Cagney, Fr Patrick O'Donohue, Fr P McDonald, Doug Hilder, Stanley Johns, Gioconda Capobianco, Barry Rowe, Rick Bourke, Sue D'Amelio, Damien Johnson, Gerald Rashleigh, Fr Gerald Byrne, Mgr William Caffrey, Fr J Russell, Fr T Vaughn.

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

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THE SICK:

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

YOUTH & FAMILY MASS

EVERYONE is welcome to celebrate Advent at the Family & Youth Mass, to be held Sunday December 8th at 5pm at St Mary's. Pizza will be served at the Parish Centre following the Mass and you are asked to bring a dessert to share afterwards. Any enquiries please contact Michelle Grimsted on 5152 2942. We hope to see you there.

SOCIAL JUSTICE – THANK YOU

To St Mary's Parish – 'The members of the Lions Club of Bairnsdale offer their sincere thanks for your very generous donation of \$500 towards our Lions Need for Feed Project. Six weeks ago, a convoy of 10 trucks delivered fodder to Bairnsdale, Bruthen and beyond. You can be assured that your donation will assist those in need.'

President, Lions Club of Bairnsdale.



Congratulations to
Carmel Greenwood
on reaching the wonderful age of 80.
May God continue to keep you in his sight.

LOSS AND GRIEF GROUP

The last meeting for this year will be held 5th December at 5pm in the Parish Centre. The group will begin again in February 2020.

DATES TO REMEMBER

1st Dec: Blessing of the Cribs Mass 9:30am St Mary's Church.
1st Dec: Restoration update after 9:30am Mass @ Parish Centre.
1st Dec: PPC Morning Tea in Parish Centre after 9:30am Mass.
1st Dec: B'dale Uniting Church 'East Gippsland Symphonia' 2pm.
4th Dec: Plenary Gathering 10:30am @ Parish Centre.
5th Dec: Loss & Grief Group 5pm @ Parish Centre.
8th Dec: Youth Family Mass 5pm at St Mary's Church.
11th Dec: Plenary Gathering 10:30am @ Parish Centre.
12th Dec: Parish Reconciliation 7pm.

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 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.

Pick up a copy of the 'Snapshot Report' of the theme "Missionary & Evangelising" in preparation for the upcoming meetings.

THEME 2. Missionary & Evangelising

1st half: Wednesday 4th December 10:30am – 11:30am

2nd half: Wednesday 11th December 10:30am – 11:30am

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

Please note: The CLC Prayer Group, which meets every Tuesday at 2pm at the home of Margaret Sheehan, is also holding 'Listening & Discernment' sessions on the themes above. If this time is more suitable, please contact Margaret on 5152 4382, the group will be most welcoming of your presence.

RENEWAL OF CHURCH INTERIOR

What could our worship space look like?

1. LET US PRAY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT for guidance as we discern moving forward to the future for our iconic heritage church.

2. COLLECT AN INFORMATION BOOKLET 'Church Renewal Guide' with guiding principles from the Church Documents to help us in our discernment process. What do we **Retain, Reuse, Relocate, Rebuild, Remove and/or Renew?** The booklets are available this weekend in all church foyers, or from the Parish Centre.

3. COME ALONG FOR MORNING TEA Sunday December 1st after the 9.30am Mass in St Mary's Parish Hall.

A 'cuppa' will be served from 10.30am followed by a brief presentation of the journey so far. Then, time for a 'walk-about' viewing elements of the worship space, which will be displayed around the Hall and/or go and visualise the ideas in the church. During this time, we will have the opportunity to write any ideas/suggestions that we feel drawn to contribute for consideration in the final brief. You are welcome to come prepared, with responses to the prompts in the booklet. There will be a 'wrap up' at 11:30, with time for questions, or comments from the floor and raising of further ideas, or suggestions regarding the different elements.

To bring a vision into reality we welcome your involvement and fruitful reflection to see our church restored as a place of religious, architectural and historic importance.

SMILE

What would happen if worms took over the planet?
Global worming.



Devotional Shrines/ Spaces

Theology – normally, there is only one image of any given saint and the criterion for inclusion of any saint is the devotion of the entire community. GIRM 318

The practical placing of sacred images in the church for veneration is to be maintained. However, their number should be moderated and relative positions should reflect right order. FSU 1208

‘Shrines offered for the devotion of the people of God must not only be of the highest artistic quality, but also be capable of opening their minds and hearts to the infinite beauty of God’...FSU 1210

Relationship – ‘Shrines for prayer and devotion need to be made accessible to the people, either in the church or in an outside area associated with the church’ FSU 1211.

Ritual Reform – some devotion will be personal and may include touching a statue, lighting a candle or kneeling in prayer. Some devotion will be communal and will require space: a group may pray the rosary or make the stations of the Cross together. Processions on feast days will require paths for movement in and around the church. FSU 1213

Popular devotions of the Christian people are to be highly commended... but these devotions should be so drawn up that they harmonise with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some fashion derived from it, and lead the people to it, since, in fact, the liturgy by its very nature far surpasses any of them. FSU 1214

Imagine if...

- We had a devotional space for our only Australian saint
- We had a permanent place of acknowledgement of our First Nation people or those sexually abused
- We had a Bereavement Book acknowledging our deceased love ones
-

(add your own ‘imagine if’)

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Please forward your reflections to Fr Michael.

References:

FSU= Fit For Sacred Use Stewardship and renewal of places of worship
WCAB = National Liturgical Architecture and Art Board- ‘And When Churches Are To Be Built.....’ Preparation, planning and construction of places of worship. GIRM=General Instruction of the Roman Missal

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 weekend Masses in Bairnsdale, Paynesville & Lindenow each weekend 7th/8th, 14th/15th & 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 Maureen and her gift of **ADMINISTRATION** – the thought & planning of the Parish Dinner – thank you; and to Wilma, Angie & Marilyn and their gifts of **HELPS** – PPC members ‘putting in’ to help with the Parish Dinner. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us and our community and ultimately we thank GOD who has given them.

‘BLESSING OF THE CRIBS’ MASS



All are warmly invited to bring along their family nativity scenes to the 9:30am Mass on Sunday 1st December at St Mary’s for a ‘Blessing of the Cribs’. Morning Tea will be served in the Parish Centre afterwards. This is a great way to start off our time of Advent preparation and bring Christ back intomas!

FR JOHN UPDATE

Fr John O’Kelly is still being closely monitored in the Monash Medical Centre, and his sister Monica reports that John is “responding to treatment for the infection and is being treated for the clots in his left leg and base of his lungs”. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

VOCATIONS

"Stay Awake". Jesus urges us to be ready. Today let us pray for the young people in our parish community, that they may be ready and alert to hear the Lord calling them to the faithful vocations of marriage, priesthood, consecrated or single life.



THE GIVING TREE

The festive season is upon us – the Giving Tree has appeared in the Church and all can donate non-perishable food items and gifts for the less advantaged people of the region. While many of us are surrounded by family, friends and an abundance of presents, for others Christmas is one of the loneliest times of the year. The donations will be dispersed through St Vincent de Paul prior to Christmas. We are asked to bring our gifts by Sunday 15th December. Donations can also be left at St Patrick’s, Paynesville and St Canice’s, Lindenow.

Collections for week ending 24th November 2019

Envelopes	\$ 1,204.00
D/D & Cards	\$ 210.00
1 st Collection	\$ 865.75
2 nd Collection	\$ 750.65
Special Collection Military Ordinariate	\$ 561.00

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.

First Sunday of Advent, Year A

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 2: 1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:/ 'Let us go to God's house./' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

It is there that the tribes go up,/ the tribes of the Lord./ For Israel's law it is,/ there to praise the Lord's name./ There were set the thrones of judgement/ of the house of David. **R.**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:/ 'Peace be to your homes!/ May peace reign in your walls,/ in your palaces, peace!' **R.**

For love of my brethren and friends/ I say: 'Peace upon you!'/For love of the house of the Lord/ I will ask for your good. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 13: 11 – 14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 24: 37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings for 8/12/2019
2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A
1st Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10
Psalm: Ps 71: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
2nd Reading: Romans 15: 4-9
Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – The Advent Wreath

One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually 5 candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then 4 outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.

NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Beginning 1st December, read one chapter of The Gospel according to Luke, each evening. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHY and for WHO WE CELEBRATE!!!