



St Marys Church 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 C – December 2nd, 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: 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

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: 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.

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

Welcome to all who have joined us to celebrate Mass.

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: 9:10am Mass
 Tues: 9:10am Mass
 Wed: 9:10am Mass
 10:30am Mass at BUPA/ Eastwood Aged Care
 Thurs: 9:10am Mass at Nagle College Chapel – Year's 1 & 2
 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: 8:45am in St Mary's Chapel
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: after 1st Friday Mass
Rosary: after weekday morning Mass's
Anointing of the Sick: 2nd Friday during Mass

PRAYERS FOR FR ANTHONY

Please continue to keep Fr Anthony in your prayers as he has been diagnosed with Glandular Fever and told to take complete rest. 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 hope that by early December he will be back on board. We ask that you keep all our priests in your prayers for continued good health.

NEXT WEEKEND 8th & 9th December 2018

ROSTERS	Commentator	Proclaimer	Procession of Gospel/Gifts	Special Ministers
6:00pm	C Power	K Flannery	Volunteers needed	B O'Kelly, T & K Flannery
9:30am	T Kosmer	M Elliott	J Delany, G & J Burton	J Coverdale, T Kosmer & M Elliott

CHURCH CLEANING: Month of December: Volunteers needed

Please pray for

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Elaine Page, Kaili Kidner, Ellen Delany, Tony Rendina (cousin of Angelo D'Amore), Jenny Barlow (sister of Noreen Beirne).

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, Sue D'Amelio, Barry Rowe, Rick Bourke, Damien Johnson, Gerald Rashleigh, Fr Gerald Byrne, Fr P McDonald, Fr Patrick Verling.

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

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THE SICK:

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

PALMS ENCOUNTERS 2019

A Palms Encounter is an intimate, immersive, inter cultural experience providing insights that challenge perceptions and deepen understanding for parishioners. Palms long-term volunteers guide the Encounter with our host communities in Timor Leste, Samoa and Myanmar. Special group Encounters are also available should your parish social justice team be interested. Tours for 2019 are Timor Leste – April and September; Samoa – June; Myanmar – November.

More information: www.palms.org.au/encounters

Free e-book (with church imprimatur) for your computer/tablet/phone

This e-book, which may be downloaded **free of charge** to a computer/tablet/ phone, offers the Gospel for every day of the coming Liturgical Year C-1 beginning with the First Sunday of Advent (Dec 2, 2018). Each daily Gospel has with it a reflection of some 750 words. **Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year C-1** may be accessed at the following: www.catholic-ghs.info/ebook/

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." LUKE 21: 28

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await his second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2nd Dec: Blessing of the Cribbs, 9:30am Mass, Morning tea to follow.

6th Dec: 10:30am – 3:30pm Ecumenical Advent Conversation.

19th Dec: 6pm Parish Reconciliation Service

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

THANK-YOU, to all who provided feedback regarding the Christmas Eve Family Mass. The voice for returning to Nagle College has been strong since last Christmas, when the Mass was held in the church. That move was in response to the decline in numbers in recent years and the considerable effort required to have the Mass in the Nagle College Hall. The courage of people's convictions to go back to Nagle has convinced me that it's the right thing to do. It will, however, require many people's help. Please be ready to offer to help at all the Masses this Christmas when it is requested. Fr Michael

ST MARY'S OPPORTUNITY SHOP

St Mary's Opp Shop is looking for a person to work on Mondays. The position would suit an able-bodied person who enjoys driving and helping to sort donated goods. We would like this person to start as soon as possible. If you are interested in the position, we invite you to phone the shop on 5152 2088. Moira and Judy will be pleased to hear from you.

RCIA CANDIDATE

As Helena Wilson prepares to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation on December 16th, we ask for you to keep her, and her husband Alan, in your prayers.

'May Helena walk in the light of Christ and learn to trust His wisdom. May Helena commit her daily life to the Lord's care, so that she may come to believe in the Lord with all her heart.'

Amen

A HUGE THANK YOU

The parish would like to extend a sincere thank you to all those who gave of their time and effort to support the very successful Book Sale last weekend. Many gave, with some giving and doing a lot, and together the final amount raised was **\$2,450.70** to go towards the restoration of St Mary's church.



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

SOCIAL JUSTICE

On behalf of the Bairnsdale Conference of St Vincent de Paul, I would like to sincerely thank the Social Justice Committee for their generous contribution of \$500. There are many families and individuals struggling in our community. With this generous support from St Mary's Parish, we will be able to help these companions to meet their essential daily needs, and to work towards a brighter future.

It may also be of interest to your parishioners that the money raised by them stays in the local area to help families and individuals in our communities.

Again, I would like to express my appreciation for the generosity and compassionate support the people of St Mary's have shown for the needy in our area.

Yours sincerely,

Cath McMahan, President, SVdP Conference, Bairnsdale.

SMILE

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

NEWS FROM BAIRNSDALE FRIENDS OF TIMOR LESTE

Recently MADEC (Seasonal Workers Hire organisation) employed a local person to provide their services in Gippsland. As a result, the Bairnsdale Friends of Timor Leste no longer has a contract to provide 'pastoral care' to the Timorese workers. For some years this arrangement has been our main source of income which enabled us to continue 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.

As our circumstances have changed, we will be putting our energy into other forms of fundraising, the first being our annual Christmas Gift cards.



A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

We will be selling Christmas Gift Cards after weekend Masses in Bairnsdale, Paynesville and Lindenow each weekend until 22-23 December. They are also available from Vikki Stone at St Mary's School, Josie Boland at Nagle college or contact 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.

We welcome into our Parish family



Mila
daughter of
Misia and Raymond Day

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Parishioners and Leaders for all your support and the gift of your time these past few months as we gathered for the Plenary 2020 process with the 'Listening and Dialogue Encounters'. It has been so encouraging that our Parish and School communities have engaged and spoken up, even though at the start it may have appeared the early conversations were clumsy, angry or shallow. Like anything, with time, better understanding of the process, refinement of questions and total trust in the Holy Spirit, I believe these encounters have enabled us to draw from the well within to answer God's question to the best of our ability.

It has been an amazing opportunity to further develop and deepen our relationship of mind, heart, prayer and spirit with God. Sharing our stories with others and listening to one another. It is my sincere prayer that these voices be heard at the Plenary Council and help to answer what God is asking of us in Australia at this time.

God Bless you all....

Michelle Grimsted, Gaudium et Spes Team Member.

LOSS AND GRIEF GROUP

The Loss and Grief Group is now up and running. If you have experienced the loss, or experiencing grief you are welcome to attend. The group isn't specifically about bereavement but includes any loss eg. independence, job and the like. We 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.

Collections for week ending 25th November 2018

Envelopes	\$ 2,631.00
Direct Debits & Cards	\$ 935.00
1 st Collection	\$ 259.35
2 nd Collection	\$ 732.30
Tours - Restoration	\$ 337.75

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 WISDOM

empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's goodness through remarkable insight that enables him or her to come up with creative solutions to specific problems and make good decisions.

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 Sandra, Patrick and Sam and their gifts of **MUSIC AND TEACHING** – their love of music shines through their students which was on display at the school concert. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us and our community and ultimately we thank GOD who has given them.

CALLED AND GIFTED TO READ?

The parish thanks Donrita for leading this group over the last few months. As she will be in Sydney from the 6th December until after Christmas, the group will reconnect in the new year. Enquiries: contact Pattie at the Parish Centre.



AN ECUMENICAL ADVENT CONVERSATION



You are invited to be part of an Advent conversation to be held at The Abbey, Raymond Island on **Thursday 6th December from 10:30am to 3:30pm**. It is an initiative of both the Anglican Bishop of Gippsland, The Rt Revd Dr Richard Treloar and our Catholic Bishop of Sale The Most Revd Patrick O'Regan.

Our common Sunday lectionary during Advent focuses on the Gospel of Luke and a great opportunity to prepare to celebrate the great feast of the Nativity and what it means for our world and our churches. For catering purposes booking is essential so please contact The Abbey 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au

A QUOTE FROM A NAGLE STAFF MEMBER

"I accompanied our Year 12 leaders to a day with Bishop Patrick this week. I was impressed with their pride in Nagle College and how they showcased this to other schools. It was a great opportunity for them to meet with Bishop Pat and to mingle with the other leaders. All those young people just amazed me...and reassured me that our future is in very good hands."

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The process for renewal of membership is now complete and the vacancies left by Clare and Denise will be filled by Marilyn Elliott and Wilma Collier next year. Many thanks to all those engaged in the process, from making recommendations of people to discerning the most suitable nominees.

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.

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 C

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 Jeremiah 33: 14-16

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks
- when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to
the House of Israel and the House of Judah:
'In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the
land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my Saviour. **R.**
The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**
His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians 3: 12 – 4: 2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and
make you love one another and the whole human race
as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your
hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the
sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ
comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in
the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the
kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God
wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already
living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we
gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

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
Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the
sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony,
bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves;
men dying of fear as they await what menaces the
world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And
then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud
with power and great glory. When these things begin
to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high,
because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened
with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of
life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like
a trap. For it will come down on every living man on
the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times
for the strength to survive all that is going to happen,
and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings for 9/12/2018
Second Sunday of Advent, Year C
1st Reading: Baruch 5: 1-9
Psalm: Ps 125
2nd Reading: Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11
Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Waiting, waiting, waiting...

I'm not a big fan of waiting! Anticipation is pretty good; getting
prepared and getting ready are OK too. But when it comes down to
being all dressed up and ready to go, I'm just hopeless at waiting.
If Advent is a time of pointless waiting for Christmas then we've
somehow missed the message. Rather than just waiting, Advent is
a time of preparation and anticipation. But it's not just about
anticipating Christmas. That's part of it, sure. However, Advent is
about reminding ourselves that we have a job to do: preparing for
the reign of God – in our lives and in our world.