



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A – December 8th, 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 – Parish Feast Day – Immaculate Conception.
Tues: 10:00am Mass St Mary's Primary School – whole school at St Mary's Church
Wed: 9:10am Mass
10:30am Mass OPAL/ Harnham Aged Care (Harnham Drive)
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

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 14th & 15th December 2019

ROSTERS	Commentator	Proclaimer	Procession of Gospel/Gifts	Special Ministers
6:00pm	B Calabro	S Gibson	P Elliott	C Power, P Elliott & B Calabro
9:30am	T Kosmer	H Sampson	T Kosmer, J Burton, Ch'drens Lit	J Delany, G Burton & M Grimsted
CHURCH CLEANING: 1 st – 15 th December – Volunteers needed, thank you.				

Please pray for

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Dennis Crane, Ray Nestor (b-i-l Marylin Elliott & Carol Bennett), Tienus Meeuwenoord, Denise Brown (sister of Marg Bini).

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time:

Maureen Connolly, Pat Brennan, Peter Brown, Rudolfo Calvi, Max Kelsey, Arch. Bis. Eric D’Arcy, Fr Cornelius Sheehan, Fr Patrick Verling, Steve Klobukowski, Frank Burton, George Burton, Jack Burton, Fr James Hayes, Fr Dave Cagney, Fr Patrick O’Donohue, Fr P McDonald.

“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, 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.

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.

Kimberley Catholic Volunteer Service

URGENTLY WANTED: VOLUNTEER WORKERS

The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church in the Kimberley. There are various important voluntary tasks: administration, building maintenance, gardening, shop staffing, cooking, cleaning etc. Placements are preferred for a period of 6 months. We are currently seeking volunteers for several parishes including Kalumburu and La Grange/Bidyadanga. **For further details on how to be a part of this unique experience, and an application form, please contact:** Volunteer Coordinator: Anneliese Rohr 08 9192 1060 Email: volunteers@broomedioocese.org Web: www.broomedioocese.org Mail: **PO Box 76, BROOME WA 6725**

SOCIAL JUSTICE – THANK YOU

‘To St Mary’s Social Justice Committee,
The Bairnsdale Friends of Timor Leste are very appreciative of your allocation of \$500. This will greatly assist the BFTL with our Scholarship Program of training teachers and in the Luncheon Program for students at St Antonio’s School in Baucau. Your generous grant will certainly make a difference to the youth of Timor Leste. Many thanks.’

ST MARY’S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

St Mary’s Friendship Group will meet at 10am on Friday 13th December at Cells Café for morning tea. Old and New members are welcome to come. The last gathering for the year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 8th Dec: Youth Family Mass 5pm at St Mary’s Church.
- 11th Dec: Plenary Gathering 10:30am @ Parish Centre.
- 12th Dec: Parish Reconciliation 7pm.**
- 13th Feb: Rev. Dr Elio Capra SDB – Understanding the Sacraments.

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.

The commitment to this process is to attend both sessions, if you are unable to participate in the 1st half of a theme, you will find it very difficult to ‘pick up the thread’ in the 2nd half.

It is vital, for a positive outcome, that you attend both halves.

THEME 2. Missionary & Evangelising

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 in all church foyers, or from the Parish Centre.

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.

HELP NEEDED AT CHRISTMAS MASSES

If you can help in any way, please fill in the ‘green slip’ and return it either on the collection plate or to the Parish Centre as soon as possible. There is an urgency regarding music at the Midnight Mass – we require some musicians. If you can help in any way, it would be most appreciated.

Collections for week ending 1st December 2019

Envelopes	\$ 2,348.35
D/D & Cards	\$ 1,825.00
1 st Collection	\$ 631.00
2 nd Collection	\$ 685.60
Church Tours	\$ 220:35



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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR 2019

Advent Reconciliation:

12th December 7pm at St Mary’s Church.

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.

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!!!

There are a number of small books in the foyer of St Mary’s that are solely ‘The Gospel according to Saint Luke’ – pick up a copy to take home.

SMILE

What is brown, has a hump and lives at the North Pole?
A very lost camel.

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 Heather and her gift of **MUSIC** – offering her services to the Family & Youth Mass; to Joan & Peter and their gifts of **SERVICE** – making a mundane job funny and pleasurable; and Vinnies Conference members and their gift of **HOSPITALITY** – volunteering each week to help those who find themselves, in what seems to be, terrible situations. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us and our community and ultimately we thank GOD who has given them.



PARISH FEAST DAY

Who does the Immaculate Conception refer to? There's a popular idea that it refers to Jesus' conception by the Virgin Mary. It doesn't. Instead, it refers to the special way in which the Virgin Mary herself was conceived. This conception was not virginal. (That is, she had a human father as well as a human mother.) But it was special and unique in another way. . . .

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way:

490 To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary “was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role.” The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as “full of grace”. In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God’s grace.

491 Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.

YOUTH & FAMILY MASS

EVERYONE is welcome to celebrate Advent at the Family & Youth Mass, to be held **this 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.

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.

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 11: 1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the
wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a
verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down
with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a
little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie
down together. The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans 15: 4-9**

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 3: 1-12**

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.
This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings for 15/12/2019
3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A
1st Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10
Psalm: Ps 145: 6-10
2nd Reading: James 5: 7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11