



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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A – December 15th, 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
11:00am Funeral Prayers for Mr Dennis Crane
Tues: 9:10am Mass
6:00pm Grade 6 Graduation Mass
Wed: 9:10am Mass
10:30am Mass at Maddocks Gardens
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 21st & 22nd December 2019

ROSTERS	Commentator	Proclaimer	Procession of Gospel/Gifts	Special Ministers
6:00pm	C Power	J Peachey	T & K Flannery	C Power, T & K Flannery
9:30am	D Fallon	D Cameron	M Elbourne & friend	H Sampson, A Chila & E Cameron
CHURCH CLEANING: 16 th – 31 st December – Volunteers needed, thank you.				

Please pray for

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

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

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time:

Joe Pruscino, Eileen Mason, Clem Rooks, Albert Nelson, John Kolar, Eileen Dean, Leonie Bennett, Theresa Brown, Sheila Collins, Marion Hall, Fr John Gowen, Mgr Thomas Lynch, Fr James Duffy, Maureen Connolly, Pat Brennan, Peter Brown, Rudolfo Calvi, Max Kelsey, Arch. Bis. Eric D'Arcy, Fr Cornelius Sheehan, 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:

Loran Tilley-Withers (daughter of Chris & Sandie), John Pruscino, Jacek Dutkiewicz, 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, Paul Hamilton, Jane Rowlands, Jacqueline Wolters, Billy Sant, Pat Doe, Holly Box, Joan Wriggel, Pauline Northway (nee Mason), Arthur Elbourne, Genevieve Bolleman, Ena Morris, Rivers Purtell, Cathy Tickle, Bill Cole, Mark Kelly, Ray & Fran Adamson, John Buck, Amy Hood, James Warren, Coral Prendergast, Gerard Templer (brother of Trudy Kosmer), Julie Frew, Paul McFarlane, Brian Rowe, Joyce Harrington, Julie Ann Milnes-James, Brenda Lyons, Guy Newman, Tammy Ewing, Elizabeth Knight, Shannon Helmers, Margaret Flynn, Rose Gallagher, Anne Armstrong, Trish Henderson, Gerry McDonald, Tracey Moffatt, Peter Grimsted, Tyson Chapman, Dennis (Danny) Phelan, Michael Counsel, Elizabeth 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.



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

Members of SvDP Bairnsdale Conference will be manning the exits this weekend for donations towards the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Envelopes are also available, so you can take one home and bring it back next weekend. Please know that **all donations** given locally are kept locally, even if donating via a credit card etc. 'Your gift can help end the pain of poverty'.

FR BERNARD BUCKLEY

Due to his ongoing health battle, Fr Bernard has relinquished his role as Parish Priest of St Patrick's, Pakenham. From 15th January he will be on sick leave. We continue to pray for him as an expression of our love and support.

SOCIAL JUSTICE - THANK YOU

St Vincent de Paul Conference would like to thank the Social Justice Committee of St Mary's Parish for their generous donation of \$500. It is much appreciated, as at this time of the year we are distributing hampers to the less fortunate.

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.

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 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.

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.

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, we have 1 guitarist and would love a pianist/organist for support. If you can help in any way, it would be most appreciated.

Collections for week ending 8th December 2019

Envelopes	\$ 1,520.00
D/D & Cards	\$ 850.00
1 st Collection	\$ 438.05
2 nd Collection	\$ 722.50
Church Tours	\$ 269.30



THE GIVING TREE

The festive season is here – the Giving Tree is in the Church and all can donate non-perishable food items and gifts for the less advantaged people of the region. The donations will be dispersed through St Vincent de Paul prior to Christmas. We ask you to bring your 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

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY



Children's Liturgy is happening again this weekend, during the 9:30am Mass. Please encourage your children to participate. If they are unsure, a parent or carer is welcome to come along with them.

RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE - made over five weeks

Online First Spiritual Exercises Retreat – 'Inner Peace in Divine Love'

In late January 2020 CLC Victoria is offering online formation as an effective way to experience the first Spiritual Exercises. Following this Retreat, online training to be an FSE Retreat Guide is also offered. You can participate in the **RETREAT ONLY 5 WEEKS OR RETREAT AND TRAINING 10 WEEKS** For further information please contact Chris Power 0418 148 657 if you wish to participate by 18th December 2019.

SMILE

What do you call a donkey with three legs? A wonky donkey.

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 each weekend 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.

A BIG THANK YOU to Mrs Josie Boland and the Year 7/8 students at Nagle College who have raised \$1300+ for our luncheon program that feeds Year 12 students three days a week at St Antonio's Secondary School in Baucau, Timor Leste.

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 Grade 5 students & teachers and their gifts of **HELPS** – organising the End of Year Mass – a wonderful celebration; to all who have donated to the Giving Tree and their gift of **GIVING** – your generosity is very much appreciated; and to Julie and her gift of **SERVICE** – family is so important, she will do what she can to keep it together. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us and our community and ultimately we thank GOD who has given them.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL – LEADERS 2020



Following the 'End of Year' Mass last Tuesday, the students above were named as leaders of the school for 2020. The Mass was a great celebration, the children sang with passion, were respectful of their surroundings, prayer filled and joyful. We congratulate these new leaders for 2020, may their work be blessed. We were reminded that we don't need a badge to be a leader. So, to all students in 2020, remember that you can all make a difference. May the students, teachers, support staff and all their families have a joyful and blessed Christmas, spend precious time with family and friends, and be relaxed and ready to go in the New year.

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

A rare opportunity to journey with Mary to the Holy Land and gain astounding insights into the life of Mary from the Old Testament. Dates of travel are 13th January to 26th January 2020. Bookings close on [18th Dec 2019](#). For more details and bookings please contact Regina Abraham. Mob: 0433 156 419. Email: bethuelcare@gmail.com

PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

We encourage Parishes in prayerful awareness as we constantly turn to "the Lord of the harvest" (Mt 9:38). "The Lord is Near". Today the Church bids us rejoice, the Lord is near, indeed He is with us. Let us rejoice today for those who have said 'yes' to the call of Jesus. Pray for our priests and religious. Pray for the seminarians and religious in formation at this time and for more young people to join them.

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.

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St James 5: 7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11: 2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Readings for 22/12/2019
4th 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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is *Gaudete* (or rejoicing) Sunday. As NSW & Queensland continue to burn and families face economic uncertainty as fires and drought bite, perhaps we feel there is little to rejoice over. The 2nd reading - James - is apt in this case then, as it asks us to be patient and not lose heart 'because the Lord's coming will be soon'. In the 1st reading - Isaiah - also talks about the coming of the God and exhorts us to have courage and not be afraid. Joy is not necessarily constant laughter and good times, nor does it require everlasting sunlight. Sometimes joy is a small light in the darkness, a green shoot growing in a crack in the pavement, a child's smile through the tears. Joy is preparing for the birth of Jesus even knowing that he will be betrayed to a cruel death.

This week may you find joy in your tasks.