



St Marys Bairnsdale

BAIRNSDALE – OMEO
East Region – Diocese of Sale



St Patricks Paynesville

OUR VISION

**We are a welcoming community where the word of God,
through the message of Jesus Christ is made known and lived.**

OUR MISSION

**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.**

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Willemsen
Assistant Priests: Fr Avinash George
Fr Jayakody Francis
Bairnsdale Presbytery:
23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106

St Mary’s Parish Pastoral Centre:
135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942
Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com
Internet: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net
Facebook: [St Mary’s Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

TWENTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, Year A – 16TH August 2020

We 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.

CLOSURE OF PARISH CENTRE The Parish Centre is again closed till further notice. If you need to contact us, please email, or put an enquiry through the webpage, or phone 5152 2942 or 5152 3106 - leave a message and someone will get back to you or to speak with a priest – phone either of the numbers and a priest will ‘pick up’ when possible. Regarding baptisms and funerals, be sure to speak with someone in authority to know what is currently acceptable.

Blessing

Blessed are those who care:
They will let people know they are loved.
Blessed are those who are gentle; they will help people to grow
As the sun helps the buds to unfold.
Blessed are those who listen; they will lighten many a burden.
Blessed are those who, when nothing can be done or said,
Do not walk away, but remain,
To provide a comforting and supportive presence;
They will help the sufferer to bear the unbearable.
And blessed are those who recognise their own need to receive;
They will be able to give all the better.
Flor McCarthy SDB (From New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies)

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

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.



**Due to the current situation,
the Plenary process is on
hold...Please continue to
pray for its success.**

With the ‘revamp’ of the bulletin, we are suggesting that when you request for someone to ‘go on the sick list’ they will stay there for one month. After that you will need to contact us on a monthly basis to keep them on the sick list.

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. If you wish to speak with someone phone: Kath 5152 2942; Police 5150 2600; or Towards Healing 1800 816 030

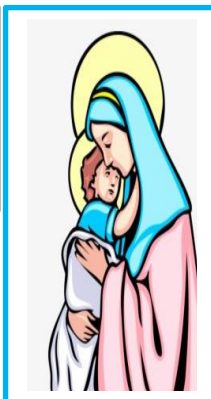
Readings for 21st Sunday 23/08/2020

1st Reading: Isaiah 22: 19-23

Psalm: 137: 1-3, 6, 8

2nd Reading: Romans 11: 33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20



CatholicCare PHONE COUNSELLING SERVICE AVAILABLE

Therese Kearney from CatholicCare is available by phone on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for anyone who might need someone to talk to. Please take advantage of this offer, for anyone in need. Telephone Therese on 0400 783 342. This is a free service and is one of many services that CatholicCare provide in our Diocese.

CatholicCare APPEAL

You can donate online at www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal or call (03) 9287 5513. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible. It is times like this that they are needed and for us to support them financially, if at all possible.



National Emergency Appeal for Lebanon

In response to the horrific explosion in Beirut on the 4th of August, the Australian office of the international Catholic Charity, *Aid to the Church in Need*, has launched a national emergency appeal to raise funds to support the people of Lebanon. To read more about the appeal, and to make a donation, please visit: www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon or call **1800 101 201** during business hours: 8am-5pm, AEST.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM – a reminder of our banking details during lockdown

- **BSB:** 083-879 **ACCOUNT:** 48919 4022 **ACCOUNT NAME:** St Marys Parish Bairnsdale/Omeo **Ref:** Your Name and Envelope Number Marked 1st or 2nd Collection
- or send cheques to St Mary's Parish, 23 Pyke Street, Bairnsdale, Vic, 3875
- or go into your bank with this information and they will do it for you
- or drop off at the Parish Centre Thursday or Friday between 10am and 2pm
- or Please keep your envelopes with your commitments, saving them until we return to Sunday services. *Our Parish finances have been affected during this pandemic and we will make necessary adjustments to manage the challenges it presents. Please call Paul Heaton-Harris 0418 377 076 if you have any questions. THANK YOU for your support.*

Looking at JESUS,
the Virus said, look
Jesus, I am a tiny
Virus, but I closed
every Church door.
JESUS laughs,
You silly Virus, I have
turned every home
into a Church



AN INVITATION

Please contact Clare 0438 528 385, Chris 0418 148 657 or Denise 0408 574 152 for information on how easy Zoom works.

During COVID-19 lockdown Christian Life Communities has been meeting via Zoom and would like to extend an invitation to other parishioners to join them, 2pm each Wednesday. During the week we spend time in prayer and reflect on the Sunday Gospel, then during our Zoom meeting we check-in with each other; listen to the Gospel; spend a time of silence to 'listen with the heart' and then share with each other our reflections.

Please pray for OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ronnie Bruce, Colin Appleton, Max O'Connell, Graham Boucher, Tess Gillies, Adam Gilhooley, Sr Cathy Dean RSJ, Vivienne Windsor-Marshall (Terry Flannery's sister), Grace Capraro, Richard Evans.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...

Maureen Terrill, Mary Collins, Shirley Stoddart, Marjorie Dore, Hank Janson, Peter Vanzin, Alma Turzan, Anne Farrell, Dinah Howe, Craig Toomey, Michael Trybus, Penny Hood, Rita Spirason, and the priests who have worked in the Diocese.

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

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THE SICK:

Andre Buxton, Amy Hood, Josie Anderson, Rosa Lanteri, Ena Morris, Margaret Nugent, Ebony Corr, Luke Roberts, Monique Lewis, Joshua Kelly, Alan Cooke, Rick Jones, Val Jamieson, Marcie Hayles, John Pruscino, John Graves, Julie Frew, Cathy Tickle, Mary Johnson, Dennis (Danny) Phelan, Jacek Dutkiewicz, Tahlia De Felice, Nicholas Browne, Carmel Kenyon, Matthew Brunt, Yvonne Roy, Fr Carl Schafer ofm, Guy Newman, Jane Rowlands, Peter Grimsted, Bernadette Wolters, Joan Wriggel, Paul Hamilton, Arthur Elbourne, Billy Sant, John Buck, Mark Kelly, Pauline Northway (nee Mason), Holly Box, James Warren, Michael Counsel, Trish Henderson, Paul McFarlane, Brian Rowe, Coral Prendergast, Joyce Harrington, Shannon Helmers, Tammy Ewing, Rose Gallagher, Elizabeth Knight, Gerry McDonald, Tracey Moffatt, Tyson Chapman, Anne Armstrong, Ray & Fran Adamson, Julie Ann Milnes-James, Elizabeth Stehmann.

SOCIAL JUSTICE Over the past 20 years, St Mary's Parish has put aside 2.5% of Planned Giving receipts for local, national, and international needs. Your suggestions are warmly invited for this year's disbursement of accumulated funds. Please leave your written suggestions at the Parish Centre by 4th September. *"Our challenge is to accompany people from the margins into a journey towards the fullness of life and love. We are meant to be in the coalface, in the messiness of it all and at the same time in fidelity to the Gospel... Like Christ in his ministry among the sick and the lost, we are called to meet God in the most unlikely people and places. We too, must be in that frontier space."*

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30 August. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: 'To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today'. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. The Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. Download the Statement at http://bit.ly/SocialJustice_2020.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah: 56: 1, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples. The word of the Lord.

Scripture Note: The theme for this reading and the Gospel is that of inclusiveness. At the time Isaiah was writing there were lots of foreigners in Israel. The question arose as to whether or not the benefits of salvation should be extended to them. Isaiah gave a clear and positive answer, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for ALL the peoples," says the Lord".

Responsorial Psalm

R. O God let all the nations praise you!

O God be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.

So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. R.

Let the nations be glad and exult

for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. R.

Let the peoples praise you, O God.

let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. R.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 11: 13-1

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 15: 21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again. The Gospel of the Lord.

Scripture Note: The early church faced a similar problem with regard to the Gentiles. Matthew sees Jesus as having broken down the barrier between Jew and Gentile. Even though his own mission was restricted to Israel, Jesus did reach out to individual Gentiles like the Canaanite woman. Hence, after the resurrection of Jesus, the early church extended its mission to the Gentiles. How do we react when we encounter someone begging? It would be fair to say that few of us would come out of such an encounter with credit. We often refuse and justify our refusal to help by telling ourselves that we haven't the time, that we can't help anyone, that it is better not to give them anything because in giving we are only encouraging a begging mentality. The apostle's reaction was not unlike our own. For them the Canaanite woman was a nuisance. Such an encounter can be a disturbing experience, arousing conflicting feelings of pity, discomfort, anger and guilt. It can be a humbling experience because it makes us aware that we are poor in a different sense. We are poor in compassion, our willingness to help others and in our capacity to love.

However, one where we can discover our own weakness and woundedness, which we are good at hiding. This means that we do not have to wear a mask and pretend to be what we are not, putting us in touch with our true selves. The encounter can awaken within us feelings of tenderness and compassion, kindness and communion. It calls us to humanity and so can lead to a new beginning. It reminds us that before God we are all poor and stand in daily need of His mercy and love. *Flor McCarthy SDB*

SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

We ask parishioners to keep the candidates, their families and the teachers (including Michelle) who are preparing the children for the Sacrament of Confirmation in their prayers. Preparations are beginning now until mid-September, then with the hope to be able to gather sometime in Term 4 when they can receive and celebrate.

Parish Pastoral Council: meets 2nd Thursday of the month. Please submit items to the Parish Centre by 10.00am Tuesday the week before.

Members: Angela McKail, Michael Flynn – co-chairpersons, Angelo D’Amore, Rita Bowers, Marylin Elliott and Wilma Collier.

A Parish Directory: is available at the Pastoral Centre.

Sacraments: Information and registration forms 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 organise a Papal Blessing for parishioners.

Parish Business Manager: Paul Heaton-Harris

Parish Sacramental Coordinator: Michelle Grimsted

Pastoral Coordinator: Pattie Pruscino

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Kath Cassidy Ph: 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

A MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL

Sadly, due to the restrictions that took effect from August 6 throughout Victoria, we’ve had to close our churches again. The Parish Centre will also close and staff will work from home as much as they effectively can. Sunday newsletters will still be produced and distributed electronically by email and physically by volunteers out exercising. Although, we are blessed to have been spared active cases of COVID-19, we’ve all been asked to stay at home - with a few exceptions, including essential shopping, medical treatment and caregiving.

Living out our respective vocations, the love of Christ impels us to focus on what we CAN do, knowing very clearly what we CAN’T do. We CAN reach out in charity towards our neighbour, especially the disadvantaged and vulnerable, in whom we can see the face of Christ. A phone call, an act of caregiving. Pray and discern: the Lord will reveal himself to you. And, his command to love as he has loved you. Acts of charity are happening in our Vinnies Conference, our Op Shop and within our families. It is the glory of God being revealed and his Kingdom being made manifest here on Earth. We will continue to offer the memorial sacrifice that is the Mass for you all and your intentions.

Sincerely in Christ, Fr Michael

CALLED AND GIFTED



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?*

Some possible expressions: novelist, journalist, poet, teacher, preacher, dramatist.

In our Parish: Our Parish is blessed with many people who share their gifts/charisms within our Church and wider community. We give thanks to Pat and her charism of **HOSPITALITY** – even in care, she is able to keep in touch with parishioners and boost their morale; and to Kerrie and her **SERVICE** charism – helping the Opp shop with signs etc during the pandemic. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us and our community and ultimately we thank GOD who has given them.

Patron saint for the charism of Writing: [Gerard Manley Hopkins \(1844-1889\)](#)

Hopkins is considered the principle English poet of the 19th century, though he published few poems in his lifetime. After corresponding with John Henry Newman, 21 year old Gerard entered the Catholic Church. He later joined the Jesuits and gave up writing. In 1875, at the request of his superiors, he began writing again and composed the famous “Wreck of the Deutschland” in honour of 5 Franciscan nuns drowned in a shipwreck. Hopkins’ poems often express a sense of the glorious presence of God in and through creation.

VALE TESS GILLIES – a road well-travelled.

Tess passed into eternal life on Wednesday 29th July 2020. Tess was born in Worth, Sussex, in the UK and at the age of 23 years took a long slow boat trip many kilometres to Australia to take up a position as the local bush nurse at Gelantipy. Her heart was always in the high country - her ‘earthly home’. Tess involved herself in parish life serving on the Liturgy Committee, the author of the Prayers of the Faithful for the weekend Masses, a Proclaimer of the Word, a member of the Parish Social Justice Group and a Neighbourhood Visitor. She was always ready to give a hand for the numerous ‘odd jobs’ that needed doing. For many years Tess was an author/contributor of daily reflections for the Madonna magazine. Tess was a very committed member of CLC (Christian Life Community) - she was inspired by the communal Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. She started a CLC group with Marie Luxford in Paynesville. Three of this original group attended workshops in Sydney and Melbourne for formation in Ignatian principles and prayer life. Then followed information sessions in Bairnsdale and four more local groups. Through knowledge and a desire to share her faith she guided many others to open up and deepen other ways of thinking about life, the scriptures and their spiritual journey. As a qualified Spiritual Director, Tess was instrumental in organising and assisting with Spiritual Direction for many Parish CLC/Tertian Retreats, prayer days and supporting individuals with regular spiritual direction or conversation. (*a Tertian is a Jesuit priest taking a sabbatical for a year of formation*). She regularly made trips to Melbourne to be a part of the broader Victorian CLC community, serving for four years on the State Executive, attended countless Formation Days and annual long trips to the retreat weekends at Anglesea plus many National Gatherings. In Tess’s words – ‘experience and involvement has helped me to be, in a small way, an apostolic follower of Christ. Fr Michael described Tess as wise, highly intelligent, always learning, hospitable, with a commitment to social justice in a practical way... with the wisdom gained from life-long learning. Tess had her little quirks - one was the wonderful ability to recall quotations or Scripture text precisely at the right time, her most loved citations were written all over her toilet walls and another was her niftiness at roll-your-own ciggies. Well done Tess. - your great wisdom and inspiring life have been a road well-travelled. With her passing we remember a wisdom figure, a woman who was widely known and treasured by so many. Rest in Peace.

UPLIFTING ONLINE RESOURCES - Music, Reflection and Mass at Home

Keep up to date with the latest prayer resources from within the Sale Diocese <https://www.cdsale.org.au/news/prayer-resources-in-time-of-need>

Weekend Masses live streamed in our Diocese:

Cranbourne: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9am and 6pm.

Daily at 9.30am.

Clyde North: Daily 9am.

Narre Warren: 9.30am Sunday. Daily Wed-Sunday 9.30am.

Sale Cathedral: 9.30am Sunday

Pakenham: 10am Sunday

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

www.wordonfire.org/daily

Gospel Reflections:

There is a Sunday Gospel reflection uploaded onto our Parish website as well as onto our Facebook page. Our website links are as follows: -

Internet: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net

Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](#)

YouTube: [St Mary's Bairnsdale](#)

Evangelisation Brisbane have provided an invitation to a free resource: **Weekday reflections on the daily gospel reading:**

A series of theological reflections on the gospel of the day, intended to help us consider what our faith is calling us to as we travel through Easter tide and beyond during this challenging time. The link is below to subscribe:

<http://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/daily-reflections/>

Music and Prayer for You at Home

- **Psalms and chants from Marist Music** <http://www.maristmusic.org.au/easter-yr-a> - select Easter 3A for the psalm and gospel chant available as sheet music or audio
- **Seeking Stillness** – beautiful psalm music and Gospel meditations from Gen Bryant [Seeking Stillness - Playlist](#)
- **Sunday Readings** – download and pray the Scriptures of the Sunday Mass From Liturgy Brisbane <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/>

Family Prayer - week by week use the Family Prayer sheets with children. Resources can be found on the Liturgy Brisbane website at <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/> and will be updated each week.