



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)

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, Year A – 23RD 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.

and **WHAT DOES THE Lord** require of you?
To act **JUSTLY** and
To love **MERCY** and
To walk **HUMBLY** with your **God**
MICAH 6:8

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.

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



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



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.

Readings for 22nd Sunday 30/08/2020

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20: 7-9

Psalm: 62:2-6; 8-9

2nd Reading: Romans 12: 1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16: 21-27

Collections for week ending 16th August

Envelopes	\$ 240.00
D/D & Cards	\$ 1,280.00
1 st Collection	\$ 0.00
2 nd Collection	\$ 30.00

CATHOLICCARE APPEAL

August is the month for our annual CatholicCare Appeal across the Diocese of Sale. Therese Kearney is currently available by phone on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for anyone who might need someone to talk to. If not for yourself, perhaps someone you know who is struggling (ph. 0400 783 342). Counselling services are a major part of what CatholicCare offers people in Gippsland. They currently have a fundraising target of \$1.5 million for a 3-year commitment to bushfire recovery in East Gippsland. Please consider donating online at www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal or call (03) 9287 5513. Contact the Parish Centre for reply paid envelopes. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.



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, 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.*



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.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...

Neil Wigg, Leo Bills, Mark Morgan, Jan Ross Feltham, Francesco & Francesca Aloisio, Nicolina Tedeschi, Pasquale Tedeschi, Jack Donchi, Fr Joe Pulis SDB, Maureen Terrill, Mary Collins, Shirley Stoddart, Marjorie Dore, Hank Janson, Peter Vanzin, Alma Turzan, Dinah Howe, Freda Carrick, Frank Gregson 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, Mark Kelly, Fr Carl Schafer ofm, Guy Newman, Jane Rowlands, Peter Grimsted, Bernadette Wolters, Joan Wriggell, Paul Hamilton, Arthur Elbourne, Billy Sant, John Buck, 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.

Please remember all parishioners who are unwell or recovering from illness or surgery.

VATICAN NEWS

Pope Francis has appointed 6 women to senior Vatican positions, a historic first! He has appointed 7 new people to the 15 member Council for the Economy on August 6, all of whom have backgrounds in finance. Of the six women, two are from Spain, one from Germany, two from Great Britain and one from Italy. At the end of 2019, eight women, along with Francesca Di Giovanni, who was the first woman to hold a management position (as undersecretary for multilateral affairs), in the Vatican's most important office, the Secretariat of State.

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.

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 (phone/email) monthly to keep them on the sick list.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

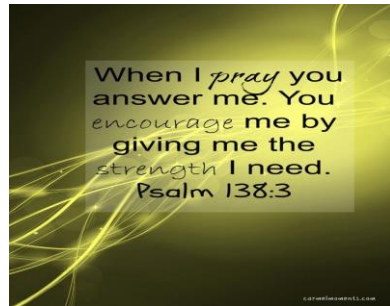
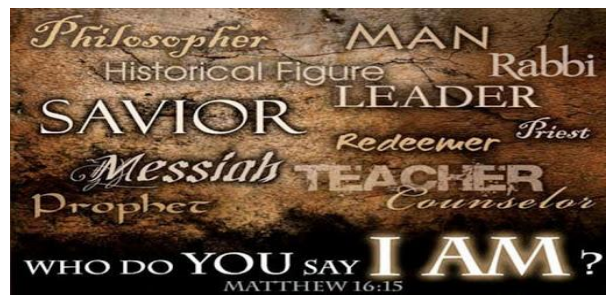
A reading from the prophet Isaiah 22: 19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.

Scripture Note: Here we read about one man being dismissed from high office, and the keys of authority are passed to another. The New Testament applies this text to Jesus.

Flor McCarthy SDB



Responsorial Psalm

R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you, I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**
I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**
The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 11: 33-36

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Scripture Note: This is a hymn of praise to the wisdom of God, which is far too deep for us to fathom.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia!** You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 16: 13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea, Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Scripture Note: Peter is one of the most interesting characters of the gospel. It's clear he had leadership qualities, but also that he had glaring weaknesses. Sometimes he is very brave; like a rock; other times he is very cowardly, more like a piece of jelly. Not our idea of a saint or even an ideal person to be the head of Christ's Church. However, it's very interesting to see how Jesus helped him to grow into the man who was ready to lay down his life for Him, and eventually did. This growth was a gradual thing with some regressions, but this is how growth happened. He understood when Peter denied Him and gave him the chance to begin again. We all need someone who can understand our weakness, and who doesn't write us off when we don't produce the goods right away. **To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.**

Peter's story is our story too. We too blow hot and cold. Sometimes we are strong and at other times we are weak. Without a warm relationship with Christ we are only on the fringes of Christianity. We all have high and low moments. The low moments of others should not cause us to put them down or write them off. Their good moments should help us to see their potential, and to affirm and encourage them.

Jesus asked the apostles, "And you, who do you say I am?". It is important for us to come up with our own answers; to be able to state our own beliefs and values as Christians. It is no longer sufficient to repeat the official answers. We have to make the faith our own. A second-hand faith is a poor faith.

Who is Christ for me? Is he the son of the living God for me? And if so, how does this belief affect the way I live?

Flor McCarthy SDB

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 FRANCIS

It is now almost two weeks that we are with social distancing regulations. The churches are closed. Traveling to other churches has been brought almost to nil except for a funeral service or for sacraments to a sick person. Staying in the presbytery we make use of the opportunity to pray, say masses, to reflect, to read etc. With all these we stay alert to a telephone call or a knock on the door. It could be a call from the hospital or nursing home, for some charity or may be to speak to a priest. Ours is a lifetime commitment to be at the service of God and His people. Attending to a person in need is certainly a God given opportunity. In the media we hear of the people who are disturbed by the low morale due to social distancing restrictions. The idiom goes like "make hay while sun shines". I have heard that in some parts of the world people with their creative thinking have invented things that are of great benefit to society. A school going youth has invented a robot machine that would take care of covid patients without doctors or nurses having to go near them. This is just one instance. As mentioned in an earlier weekly bulletin, discernment is so important to make the most out of the God given opportunities. This certainly is pleasing to God and beneficial to each individual and society at large. Amidst all these we firmly believe that we are together as God's people.

Fr. Francis.

CALLED AND GIFTED



The Charism of WRITING

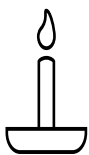
Empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's creativity by using words to create works of truth or beauty that reflect the fullness of human experience and bring glory to God.

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 Jenny and her charism of **HOSPITALITY** – the care and thoughtfulness that goes 'into' her cooking for our priests; and to Carmel and her gift of **GIVING** – sharing her excess vegetables from her garden with others. 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: Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936)

A popular English journalist, he was a huge man famous for his joyful good humour, wit and love of paradox. He was successful in many genres: novels, poetry, biography and essays. He is best known today for his Fr. Brown mystery novels. He was a brilliant Christian apologist while remaining friends with famous sceptics like George Bernard Shaw and HG Wells. He became Catholic in 1922 and had considerable influence on Catholic writers like Evelyn Waugh.



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS MONDAY 31ST AUGUST 2020 7pm

Time out in a suffering world. As the last light of the last day of winter fades, stand in your front garden, and spend some time in silence, perhaps light a candle, to remember all those who have lost their lives to the Corona virus, or to violence. Then as the first night of spring begins, look to the future with prayer and hope. Let us move from the cold and the dark into warmth and light together. This is a joint initiative by Victorian Council of Churches and the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

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."* socialjustice.catholic.org.au Home - Office for Social Justice

VALE: RONALD JOHN 'RONNIE' BRUCE

It is with sadness (but with the knowledge that he has gone to a better place) that we advise Ronnie passed away last week. He went peacefully, and as his siblings reassured him, his mum and grandmother, along with Jesus, will be waiting with open arms to meet him. He lived a full life despite his disabilities. He loved to raise money for many causes but especially for 'Relay for Life'. He also loved eating, talking to the many shopkeepers in town, and painting. He was blessed to have had Marsha in his life as, with her help, he was able to live independently and paint and colour-in to his hearts content. Ronnie – may you rest in peace. (And thank you for our Fridays where you folded bulletins and then we took turns to 'shout' each other lunch. Pattie)

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

AND

<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.

The Spiritual Rosary Pilgrimage:

an online virtual event starting on the 8th of September, the Feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary and finishing on the 7th October, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary! It is a FREE event joining 9000 Spiritual Pilgrims to celebrate the Blessed Virgin & the Life of Christ. To register click on this link <https://www.parousiamedia.com/the-spiritual-rosary-pilgrimage/>