



St Francis of Assisi,
Benambra

THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

East Region – Diocese of Sale

BAIRNSDALE, PAYNESVILLE, LINDENOW, OMEO, SWIFTS CREEK AND BENAMBRA

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. To strengthen and grow our faith.

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Willemsen

Assistant Priest: Fr Mark Hughes

Presbytery: 23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale

Phone: 5152 3106

Parish Pastoral Centre: 135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale

Phone: 5152 2942

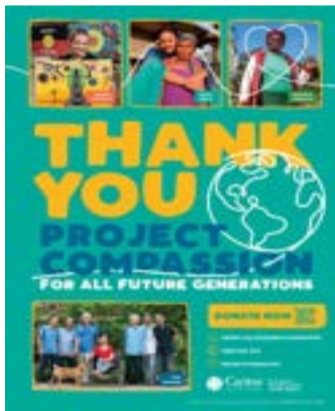
Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net

Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

Email: stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com

3rd Sunday of Easter, Year A, April 23, 2023

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai 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. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging, and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023.

If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back as soon as possible or visit: caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

We can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**.



You can still donate to Project Compassion, by using the QR Code, calling 1800 024 413 or visiting: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

PLEASE NOTE

The Parish Centre will be closed this Monday and Tuesday, April 24-25.
If you need to speak with one of our Priests please call the Presbytery on 5152 3106.



We pay our deepest respects to the men and women who served our country with honour and dignity, in times of both war and peace.
We are forever in your debt.
"Lest We Forget"

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St Mary's, Bairnsdale: Saturday: 6.00pm
Sunday: 9.30am
St Patrick's, Paynesville: Sunday: 8.00am
St Canice's, Lindenow: Sunday: 11.00am
Swifts Creek, Omeo and Benambra
Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek: 4th Saturday: 6.30pm
Immaculate Conception, Omeo: 4th Sunday: 9.00am
St Francis', Benambra: 4th Sunday: 11.00am

WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am
ANZAC Day—Tuesday: 9.10am
Wednesday: 9.10am
Thursday: 9.10am
Friday: 9.10am
Paynesville
Wednesday: Rosary 10.00am

RECONCILIATION

Friday:
After 9.10am Mass
Saturday:
9.30am to 10.00am
5.30pm to 5.50pm

4th Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, Year A, April 29-30, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	J De Boer	C Shanahan	M Schumann	P Elliott	
9.30am Sunday	M Elliott	H Sampson	S Tilley	J Delany	R Gray & family

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: April 29 - P Pruscino **Please find a replacement if unable to fill your spot.**

Our Parish of The Immaculate Conception (also known as St Mary's) is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people, with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk.
Our Safeguarding Officer is Kath Cassidy who can be contacted through the Parish Centre: 5152 2942.
Alternatively contact Bairnsdale Police: 5150 2600 or Towards Healing: 1800 816 030.

You are warmly invited to attend

The Blessing and Dedication

of

*St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church,
Clyde North*

on

Sunday April 23, 2023

His Excellency Charles Balvo, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia
and Most Rev Gregory Bennet, Bishop of Sale will preside
at the Concelebrated Ritual Mass of

Dedication of the Church and Altar

beginning at St Peter's College Clyde North Campus
(55 MacKillop Way, Clyde North) **at 1.00pm**
and walking in procession to enter the new Church
(5 Fiorelli Boulevard, Cranbourne East) **at 2:00pm**

Reception with light refreshments to follow.

Please accept my thanks for the recent donation of \$500 from the Parish Social Justice Committee to help St Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad provide relief assistance after the recent floods in the region. Our Mobile Medical Outreach was providing to the forgotten where no one else wanted to go because it was "too far and too wet." St Elizabeth Hospital continued to respond to the Malaria and Dengue Fever post-flood crisis by using your donation to buy mosquito nets.

Fr Robert McCulloch



Heartfelt thanks to all those who prayed for me during my recent acute illness, especially the Charismatic Prayer Group. I felt sustained during the process and uplifted by your prayers.

With gratitude and great affection.

John Birrell.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY-STORIES WORTH SHARING

<https://nce.catholic.org.au/the-bridge/the-bridge/raising-faithful-children-and-encouraging-vocations-in-the-family>



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
OF DIVINITY

Corpus Christi College and
Catholic Theological College

Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal

Support the training of Priests for tomorrow's Church

Special Collection at Masses next weekend April 29-30

Your tax-deductible donation will support the costs of Corpus Christi College seminarians.

<https://ctc.edu.au/community/good-shepherd-sunday-appeal/>



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS - APRIL
For a culture of peace and non violence

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.



Worksheets Available for Collection

Dear Parent/Carer,
Please collect a worksheet for your child to help them deepen their understanding of the Word during celebration of the Mass.

- **What did the two men walking on the road say to Jesus?**
- **Why do you think that they didn't know it was Jesus?**
- **When did they recognise it was Jesus who was with them?**
- **What would you say to Jesus if he was beside you?**
- **We remember that Jesus is always with us.**

Readings:

4th Sunday of Easter Year A
April 29-30, 2023

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 22:1-6

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Collections:

April 15-16, 2023

Envelopes \$ 1067.00

DD & Cards \$ 585.00

1st Collection \$ 514.30

2nd Collection \$ 799.95

Pay Wave \$ 270.00

Church Tours \$ 75.00

Special Collection: \$ 144.45

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023



St Mary's Parish is preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion to be celebrated in June 2023. Children in Grade 4 and above, who have already received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation, are invited to enrol in the program **NOW. Enrolments close April 28, 2023.**

To discuss this further, please contact Michelle Grimsted at the Parish Centre on 5152 2942 or via email stm.michelleg@gmail.com

Blessings always, Michelle - Sacramental Coordinator

Scripture Reflection:

Reflect today on these two disciples. They had the incredible privilege of spending much time with our Lord during His public ministry, seeing His miracles and hearing His sermons. But when the Cross ensued, they doubted and despaired. Let these disciples witness to you and reveal to you any ways that you fall into similar temptations. Do you have perfect hope in God and His plan for your life? Or do you allow the various crosses you endure to confuse you and lead you to doubt? Allow our Lord to appear to you through prayer and reveal to you His perfect plan. Be open to the gift of understanding by trusting that the wisdom of God will dispel every temptation you have toward doubt, replacing it with trust and hope.

Our Catholic Life

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Madelaine Schumann, Narelle Gibbons, Jacinta Da Costa, Geoff Neeson, Leonie Urban
Ex-officio members: Fr Michael, Fr Mark
School Principals and Michael Flynn

Parish Directory: available at the Pastoral Centre.

St Mary's Primary School: 5152 3706

Nagle College: 5152 6122

Sacraments: To request information and registration forms email stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com

Baptisms: Call the Sacramental Coordinator to set a date. Baptisms are celebrated during or after Mass on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Weddings: 6 months notice required, schedule dates with Priest.

Anointing of the Sick: Please call the Parish Centre.

Funerals: Please contact your preferred Funeral Director for arrangements.

Communion to the Housebound /Aged Care:

Call Pattie Pruscino: 0427 232 682

Special Wedding Anniversaries: 6 months notice is needed to organise a Papal Blessing for Parishioners.

St Vincent de Paul Conference/Assistance Centre: 5152 6687

St Mary's Op Shop: 5152 2088

Come and See
A call to the priesthood

A stirring in your heart for God?
what this might mean for you?

Could Jesus be inviting you to share in his ministry as a Priest?

Date: Sunday, April 30th 2023
Venue: Chapter House, St Mary's Cathedral, Sale
Time: 2:30-4:00 pm

An Opportunity | Meet our priests to discuss their Ministry Prayer and contemplation

PAPAL APPOINTMENT FOR BISHOP GREG

On March 23 Bishop Greg Bennet received a further appointment as a Member of the Dicastery for the Clergy from His Holiness, Pope Francis. The Dicastery for Clergy is responsible for overseeing matters regarding diocesan Priests and Deacons (those not belonging to religious orders) and seminaries. The Dicastery focuses its efforts on the ongoing formation of clergy by providing guidance to Bishops in their ongoing care, formation and education of clergy. The Dicastery provides the oversight by the Holy See in the training of candidates for Holy Orders in seminaries throughout the world by norms which establish and guide seminary formation to ensure seminarians receive a solid human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation in preparation for ordination.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Poala 'Pauline' Calabro, Marie Ayres, Sr Marie O'Kelly, John Saunders, Jack Shaw, all victims of natural disasters, mental health, COVID-19, terrorist attacks, war, conflict, asylum seekers, family violence and poverty.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Guise Duong Van Ho, Barry Brindle, Bob Carrick, Domenico Schiafone, Peter Ross, Pat Bills, Vicki Hall, Don Ward, Ray Cook, Peter Duggan, John McMahon, Veronica Saunders, Lucy de Moel, Michael Humphries, Chris Sroczynski, Rita Buteyn, and 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 REMEMBER THE SICK: Stuart Murray (nephew of Frank Brown-Graham), Maria Sticca, Baby Ethan, Brian Hall, Robyn Finlay, Brendan Kosmer (son of Hans and Trudy), Darcy Sutton, Wade Matthews, Kathleen Robertson, Mary Johnson, John Atkins, Rick Harney, Fred Crea, John Spirason, Vin Ayres, Shirley Gilmore, Maree Elbourne, Margaret O'Reilly, Arthur Elbourne, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Linton Smith, Brian Rowe, Alan Casanelia.

Please remember all Parishioners who are unwell or recovering from illness or surgery. Those on the "sick list" will remain on it for one month. Please contact the Parish Centre to extend this time.

3rd Sunday of Easter, Year A, April 22-23, 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

The Opening Prayer

May your people exult for ever, O God,

in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-23

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know.

This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witness to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm R: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you./ I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;/ it is you yourself who are my prize.' **R.**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, /who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight:/ since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; /even my body shall rest in safety.

For you will not leave my soul among the dead, /nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

You will show me the path of life, /and the fullness of joy in your presence, /at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1:17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true, The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread. *Jerusalem Bible ©Copyright Liturgy Brisbane*