



Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek

# 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](http://www.stmarysbairnsdale.net)

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

Email: [stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com)

### First Sunday of Lent Year A February 26, 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.



### Project Compassion 1st Sunday of Lent February 25-26



Photo: Richard Wainwright/  
Caritas Australia

Laxmi, 16, lives in in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and after losing him Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school. Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.



#### Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

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

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish; visit: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or call 1800 024 413.

#### 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 (weekly)

#### Swifts Creek, Omeo & Benambra (monthly)

**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

Tuesday: 9.10am

**WEDNESDAY: NO MASS**

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

#### Paynesville:

Wednesday: Rosary 10.00am

#### Reconciliation

is available each:

**Friday:** after 9.10am Mass

**Saturday:** 9.30am to 10.00am

5.30pm to 5.50pm

#### 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year A-March 4-5, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	G Dooley	M Schumann	C Shanahan	P Elliott	
9.30am Sunday	D Atkins	G Neeson	P Brown-Graham	H Sampson	J & D Fallon, J Delany
Cleaning: Fortnight ending: March 4 - B and A Cattapan			<u>Please</u> 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 via the Parish Centre: 5152 2942.**

**Alternatively contact Bairnsdale Police: 5150 2600 or Towards Healing: 1800 816 030.**



### **Rite of Election for Catechumens and the Formal Recognition of Baptised Candidates**

An invitation is extended to all catechumens, candidates, and their families, RCIA team members and parishioners to the Rite of Election, to be celebrated by Bishop Greg Bennet on Sunday February 26 at 3.00 pm in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sale.

**2.00 pm** Bishop Greg warmly invites catechumens, candidates and their families, godparents, sponsors and RCIA teams to meet him at the Chapter House (at the rear of the Cathedral precinct)

**3.00 pm** The Rite of Election of Catechumens and Formal Recognition of Baptised Candidates in the Cathedral

**4.00 pm** Afternoon tea in the Cathedral gathering space. Please bring some food to share.



This Sunday we have the Rite of Sending for our RCIA candidate *Brianna Weir* and catechumen *David Ball*. We send them, their sponsors and the RCIA team to the Rite of Reception to the Sale Cathedral on Sunday afternoon. Please wish them well on their journey and continue to pray for them.



#### **A Day With The Spirit**

*The Lord is my Light and Salvation Ps:27*

**Mass with Fr Francis Obo**

**Reconciliation, Fellowship, Prayers, Fellowship, Music**

**Saturday March 5 at 10.00am St Michael's Traralgon**

**Followed by BYO Lunch in MacKillop Hall**


**All welcome**

Have a problem with alcohol? There is a solution. A.A. has a simple program that works and has done so for over 80 years. It is based on one alcoholic helping another. If you need support, contact Bruce: 0412 938 772

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS— FEBRUARY**

**For Parishes**

We pray that Parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



**March 4-5 2023 Year A**

**Readings:**

**2nd Sunday of Lent**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 12:1-4

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 32:4-5, 18-20, 22

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Timothy 1:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

**Collections:**

**February 18-19, 2023**

Envelopes	\$ 864 .00
DD & Cards	\$ 740 .00
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$ 689.75
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$ 758.15
Pay Wave	\$ 130 .00

**VOICE TO PARLIAMENT**



In May 2017, over 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates from all points of the Southern Sky gathered and issued the Uluru Statement from the Heart to the Australian people, which invited the nation to create a better future for all of Australia.

**Let's explore** these proposed reforms: Indigenous Constitutional Recognition through a Voice.

**Let's discover** what is meant by Indigenous Constitutional Recognition through a Voice – and what a Voice to Parliament is, and is not.

**Let's also learn** why a Referendum is required to make it happen.

This experience will take about 15 – 20 minutes of your time to explore, if you wish to do this go to:  
<https://fromtheheart.com.au/education/#/>

**A poster with the Uluru Statement from the Heart is displayed in all Parish Mass centres**

**CAN YOU HELP ???**

**SUNDAY MASS MORNING TEA**

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Morning Teas, making sandwiches, slices etc, cleaning up. If you would like to contribute to this great social event, contact Helen Van Den Einden: 0434 531 504 or Michael at the Parish Centre: 5152 2942.

**SUNDAY MARCH 5—SAVE THE DATE!**

**Morning Tea after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's Bairnsdale and after 8.00am Mass at St Patrick's Paynesville**

**Come and join us for a cuppa and a natter!**




**Columban Calendars are still available. See Michael in the Parish Centre. Only \$10.00**



### Sacrament of Reconciliation

We have 35 young people who are preparing for the next stage of their Baptismal Journey. Please pray for these young people, and their families, as they take the next step on their journey when they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Tuesday March 28.**

### PRAYING THE ROSARY WITH OTHERS

St Mary's Parish Bairnsdale invites you to the online community to pray the Rosary, via Zoom, every Monday night at 7.00pm. The Rosary takes us on a spiritual journey, along with Mary, in contemplation with her son Jesus. This powerful prayer is the storehouse of countless blessings.

Why should the Rosary be part of your prayer life? Saint Padre Pio reminds us that it is the 'weapon for these times.'

Email Michelle: [stm.michelleg@gmail.com](mailto:stm.michelleg@gmail.com) to receive a link to join us.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Wilma Collier, Marylin Elliott, Jacinta Da Costa  
Madelaine Schumann, Narelle Gibbons,  
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](mailto: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.

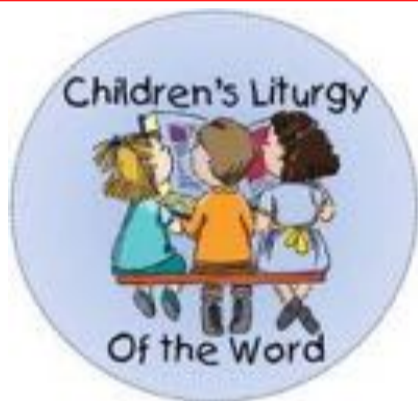
**Communion to the Housebound /Aged Care:**

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



### 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.

- Why did Jesus go into the wilderness?
- What did the devil try to tempt Jesus to do?
- What did Jesus say to the devil?
- In Lent we also have to make choices. We prepare for Easter by praying and doing good works.
- What are some of the things you could do in these next weeks of Lent?

### Lenten Small Groups

The Scriptures during Lent are not unfamiliar, but they do offer us an opportunity to consider them in a different light. We can, and are called to hear them in the context of what is happening in our world today.

We have a number of options:

**Monday-8.00-9.00pm** via Zoom February 20-March 23

Resource—'Spirit and Truth,  
The Power of Christ Revealed'

To receive a link email Michelle at:

[stm.michelleg@gmail.com](mailto:stm.michelleg@gmail.com)

**Tuesday-2-3pm** the Parish Centre February 21-March 28

Resource—'Triumph' from Wollongong \$7.50

**Thursday-10-11am** In the side chapel. Feb 23-March 30

Resource—'Triumph' from Wollongong \$7.50

**If you would like to join a Lenten group please contact Michael at the Parish Office on 5152 2942**



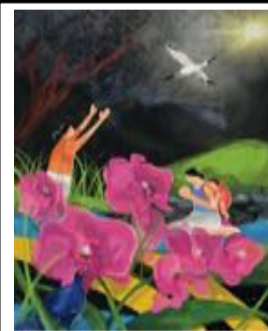
The Loss and Grief Group will be meeting in the Parish Centre

**Thursday March 2, at 5.00pm.**

If you are dealing with a recent loss or are still grieving please consider joining us.

The group is confidential and very supportive.

For more information contact Michael on 5152 2942.



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

**'I have heard about your faith'**

**March 3 at 2.00pm**

**St John's Anglican Church  
Service Street Bairnsdale**

**The Service has been prepared by the women of Taiwan**

*Please bring a plate for afternoon tea*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:** Gavan O'Brien, Franca Floriani, 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:** Marie Downie, Kath Connelly, Guido Maglione, Dot Warner Esmonde O'Reilly, Fr Peter Fulton PE, Ann Taylor, Cathie Ludeman, Genevieve Bolleman, Geoff Birrell, Tony Capobianco, Imelda Mattley, Fay Whykes, John Gagalowicz, Andrew Buck, Gwen Deery 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:** Darcy Sutton, John Birrell, Wade Matthews, Jan Coverdale, John Saunders, Kathleen Robertson, Mary Johnson, John Atkins, Rick Harney, George Burton, Fred Crea, Marie Ayres, John Spirason, Shirley Gilmore, Vin Ayres, 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.

## **First Sunday of Lent Year A February 26, 2023**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

### **The Opening Prayer**

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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 book of Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7**

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

### **Responsorial Psalm 50:3-6, 12-14, 17**

**R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

My offences truly I know them, my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help, with a spirit of fervour sustain me.

O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

### **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:12, 17-19**

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

*Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane*

### **Scripture Reflection:**

It can be a pattern that people who are called by God, for some purpose, soon undergo a period of test. In hearing and following God's call, they may have experienced a great sense of affirmation and freedom. But now comes a 'desert' experience, through which within the context of God's love and acceptance, they may be stripped of their usual props and comforts, alone simply with that relationship, they come to feel their own powerlessness, sinfulness and utter dependence upon God. The three temptations put to Jesus by the devil are to do with food, protection and possession of the land. The Lenten liturgy and observance invite us to share something of the 'desert' experience of Christ, to go a little beyond our comfort zones in some areas, in order to enter more deeply into the relationship with the Father that Christ has.