



St Patrick's Paynesville

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A March 19, 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.



Fourth Sunday of Lent March 18-19, 2023



Photo: Phan Tan Lam/Caritas Australia

Thu lives in Vietnam. When Thu was 12 years old, he stepped on an unexploded land mine and lost his leg. Living with a disability in rural Vietnam presented many challenges for Thu, who worked mainly as a rice farmer. Thu also took on the role of caring for his wife, Linh, after she suffered a stroke. Determined to turn their lives around, Thu and Linh joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, run by Caritas Australia's local partner in Vietnam, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD). For Thu, the greatest impact the program has had is enabling the change in Linh's physical and mental wellbeing. With the support of a physiotherapist, Linh can now walk short distances with the aid of a walking stick.



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, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 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
Swifts Creek, Omeo & 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-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

5th Sunday of Lent, Year A March 25-26, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	M Schumann	C Shanahan	J De Boer	P Elliott	
9.30am Sunday	J Coverdale	P Brown-Graham	S Tilley	S Dean	P Pruscino, B & A Capobianco
Cleaning: Fortnight ending: March 18 - S Gibson			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 via the Parish Centre: 5152 2942.

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



CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY: 6.00pm Saturday April 1 and 9.30am Sunday April 2

Readers Commentators etc as per Rosters.

CAN YOU HELP? We need an extra Reader for the reading of the Passion

Contact: Sandie Tilley 0412 954 133

PARISH 2nd RITE OF RECONCILIATION: 6.00pm Tuesday April 4 Contact : Michael Flynn 5152 2942

HEALING THE HURTS 12 HOUR VIGIL: 7.00am-6.30 pm April 6 Contact Michelle 5152 2942

HOLY THURSDAY: 7.00pm April 6

CAN YOU HELP? We need Altar Servers, people to carry the Symbols being used during the Triduum -Book of the Gospels, Message Stick, Candles, Basin/Water Jug & Towel, the Cross, five Paschal Candles and three Holy Oils in the Entrance Procession, Twelve people to have their feet washed, Reader, three for the Offertory Procession, Minister of the Eucharist, the Thurible and two people to strip the Altar. Contact: Chris Power 0418 148 657

GOOD FRIDAY: 10.30am Stations of the Cross and 3.00pm Passion of the Lord April 7

CAN YOU HELP? As a Reader, Minister of the Eucharist or Commentator Contact: Passion-Pattie Pruscino 0427 232 682

EASTER VIGIL: 6pm April 8 Contact: Michelle 5152 2942 or Sandie Tilley 0412 954 133

EASTER SUNDAY: 9.30am April 9 Readers, Commentators etc. as per weekend Rosters

MUSIC: Playing a musical instrument and/or singing. Contact: Josie Boland 0439 023 633

We are all invited to join the Palm Sunday Silent Vigil for Justice for Refugees April 2, 2023 10.30am –12noon at the front of St Mary’s Church.



This year’s Silent Vigil will call for

Justice for Refugees: Permanent Visas for all, Fair Processes and income support for people who are seeking recognition as refugees.

While the change of government at the federal election in 2022 brought hope for more compassionate policies, thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum are still facing an uncertain future.

RCIA 2nd SCRUTINY

Each Scrutiny is a step in preparing the Elect and Candidates for the celebration and initiation soon to come. The Scrutinies are God's way of taking a close, loving look. God does not scrutinise the Catechumens to find what's wrong, but to deliver them from the power of sin and Satan; to protect them against temptation; and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. This rite celebrates all that is beautiful, good, and true in each person and helps them carry out their decision to love God above all. Please keep our Elect, David, and Candidates, Troy and Brianna, in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith.



CENTENARY HOUSE

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

DATE: Wednesday March 22, 2023 **TIME:** 7.00-10.30am

LOCATION: St Mary’s Parish Centre 23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale

COST: \$20.00 per head – Includes Home Cooked or Continental breakfast and multiple competition entries.

COVID safe management procedures will be in place.

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House is a community-based not-for-profit accommodation facility, for patients and their families who are attending the Gippsland Cancer Care Centre at Latrobe Regional Hospital.

The philosophy is to provide affordable, comfortable, supportive and secure accommodation so that the stress of travelling and treatment is minimised.

Call in on your way to work for a sumptuous breakfast and support this very worthy cause. For further information, contact Leanne Jennings: 0428 330 756 Any donations for the competition would be gratefully accepted.

ALTAR SERVERS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We, the Catholic community at St. Mary’s Parish Bairnsdale seek your assistance. We would be very blessed to have your child(ren) engage in the altar service ministry to assist the Priest at (Eucharist) Mass. Altar servers certainly enrich the liturgical services by their presence. The altar service ministry covers both St. Mary’s Primary School and St. Mary’s Catholic Church Masses as part of a School-Parish partnership. Your commitment (negotiable) could be either fortnightly, monthly, or once a term. If you believe your child could lend some valuable assistance, please contact either Michelle Grimsted or Fr Mark at the Parish Centre: 5152 2942 or via email: stm.michelleg@gmail.com or mark.hughes@cdsale.org.au Training for this ministry will be provided at St Mary’s Church on Saturday March 25 & April 1 at 10.00am. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Readings:

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 25-26, 2023, Year A

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 129

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Collections:

March 11-12, 2023

Envelopes \$ 1335.30

DD & Cards \$ 205.00

1st Collection \$ 967.65

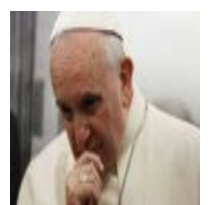
2nd Collection \$ 855.00

Pay Wave \$ 60.00

Church Tours \$ 163.70

POPE FRANCIS’ PRAYER INTENTIONS— MARCH For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.





Sacrament of Reconciliation

We now have 40 young people who are preparing for the next stage of their Baptismal Journey. Please pray for these young people, their educators and their families, as they take that next step, 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 to receive a link to join us.

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.

- ♦ Can you remember a time when you were in the dark?
- ♦ What was it like?
- ♦ The blind man in today's Gospel could not see until Jesus healed him.
- ♦ What would it have been like for the blind man after he was healed?
- ♦ What does it mean that Jesus is the 'light of the world'?

The next set of Planned Giving Envelopes is ready. You can collect yours at Masses this weekend.

THANK YOU!

A BIG thank you to Leo Hamilton, who brings in avocados and flowers from his farm to sell at St Mary's Op Shop. All monies are then used for our Parish and the community at large. So thank you Leo, it is most appreciated.

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

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

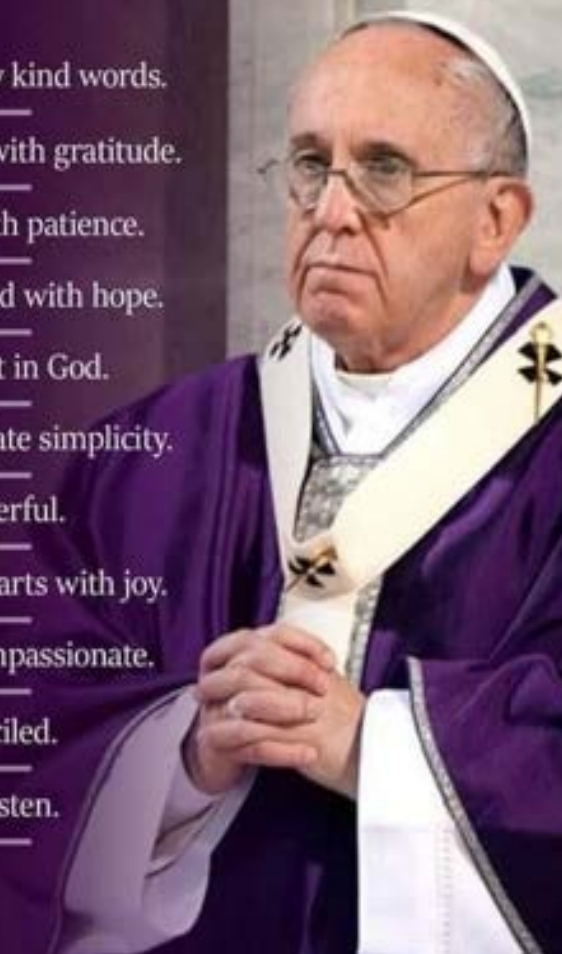
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Jo Hill, 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: Margaret Bills, Marguerite Leone, Joan Browne, Terry Boyd, Lorraine O'Brien, David Eldridge, Agnes Gibson, John Confait, Graeme Summerton Baby Christian Halligan, Barry Neve, Gwenda Leighton, Madge Marshall, Dino Baccega, Aida Bachetti, Rachela Dicello, Betty Dimarco, Guiseppe Ganci, Pauline Ganci, Mary Sicura, 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: Brendan Kosmer (son of Hans and Trudy), Robyn Finlay, Larry Klobukowski, Darcy Sutton, John Birrell, Wade Matthews, John Saunders, Kathleen Robertson, Mary Johnson, John Atkins, Rick Harney, 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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A, March 19, 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning, exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

The Opening Prayer

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come.

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 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm 22

R. The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path, he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff, with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil, my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5: 8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord, whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 9:1, 6-9,13-17,34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So, the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet', replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jerusalem Bible ©Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Reflection: Last Sunday we heard about the woman at the well. Hearing these gospels one after another brings to light parallels, but also significant differences. Both were outcasts in their society and both encounters involve a transformation. Jesus brings about a significant change in the person's life. For the woman at the well, she becomes a believer and a witness to her community, while the man born blind receives physical healing and spiritual insight. Both reveal Jesus' true identity: In both encounters, Jesus reveals more about his true identity as the Messiah. To the woman at the well, he declares himself as the "living water" that can quench all thirst, while to the man born blind, he reveals himself as the Son of Man, a title that points to his divinity. The response of the community is very different though. After the woman at the well encounters Jesus, she goes and tells her community about him, and many come to believe in him. In contrast, after the man born blind is healed, the religious leaders question him and his parents about the healing, and ultimately reject Jesus and his message

Young Catholics