



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: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com

Second Sunday of Lent Year A March 5, 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.



Photo: Richard Wainwright/
Caritas Australia

Project Compassion 1st Sunday of Lent February 25-26

TERESA'S STORY—AUSTRALIA: A young Gamilaroi woman born and raised on Darug land, Teresa felt disconnected from her culture. At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Teresa's only concern was finding stability for her children. "I was homeless. I didn't have a place to call home...my kids never had a connection to the community," Teresa said. Seeking a better future for her children, Teresa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs program, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Teresa access housing for her family and psychological support. Through the program Teresa reconnected with her culture through Indigenous art. Her artistic skills flourished, and her artwork was chosen for the Vivid Festival in Sydney in 2022. "I don't think I'd be the person I am today without Baabayn and being part of the mum's group has brought out a lot of creativity in my bones that I didn't even know I had," Teresa said. Today, Teresa works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people.



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 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
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: 9.10am
Tuesday: 9.10am
Wednesday: 9.10am
Funeral Prayers-Gloria Pollard 11:00am
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

3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A—March 11—12, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	B O'Kelly	J De Boer	S Gibson	J Peachey	
9.30am Sunday	J Fallon	A Chila	L Urban	G Cassidy	N Nash, B Payne & N Rooney
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.

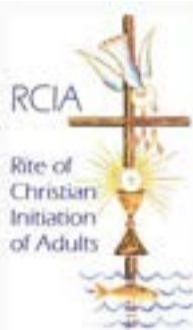
Alternatively contact Bairnsdale Police: 5150 2600 or Towards Healing: 1800 816 030.

Relentlessly Pursuing Reconciliation: Catholic Social Services Victoria's Statement on The Voice



With the referendum on the Voice To Parliament planned for later in the year, CSSV has released its statement (<https://css.org.au/advocacy-policy/reconciliation-in-australia/>) in support of a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament as one important step in working towards reconciliation with First Nations Peoples. CSSV is committed to walking alongside our Indigenous brothers and sisters in their desire for truth, justice and healing. This is just the beginning of that process and CSSV believe the Voice can open more doors that will create a fairer and more just society.

KEEP THE DATE: 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. More information to come.



Last Sunday we had the Rite of Sending for our RCIA candidate *Brianna Weir* and catechumen *David Ball*. Their sponsors and the RCIA team attended the event at Sale Cathedral. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, only David was able to attend. Along with many others from other parts of the Diocese, a great afternoon was had by all.

We continue to keep David, Brianna & Troy in our prayers as they continue their faith journey.



Bairnsdale parish Elect with their parish RCIA team

SUNDAY MARCH 5

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!

NAGLE COLLEGE NEWS

Mr Neville Powles has announced his retirement, effective as of the end of this current school year. Neville has provided 26 years of service to Catholic education in our Diocese, including the past 11 years as Principal at Nagle College. We are grateful for Neville's significant contribution here locally, including to our Parish Pastoral Council. And, we look forward to opportunities throughout the year to further acknowledge the fruits of Neville's labour in the Lord's harvest, here. Fr Michael.

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.



March 11-12, 2023, Year A

Readings:

3rd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Exodus 17: 3-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 94: 1-2, 6-9

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel:

John 4: 5-15, 19-26, 39-42

Collections:

February 25-26, 2023

Envelopes \$ 1229.00

DD & Cards \$ 740.00

1st Collection \$ 689.75

2nd 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

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.



We welcome into our Parish family this weekend

Aaron Joel

Son of

Rochelle & Ashane Ferdinand



Sacrament of Reconciliation

We have 37 young people preparing for the next stage of their Baptismal Journey. Please pray for these young people, their educators, 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 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

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.

- **What are your favourite quiet places?**
- **What sort of things do you like to do in your quiet place?**
- **Quiet places can be very good for praying. Take a moment to think of when you can go to your quiet place this week.**
- **What or who can you pray for?**

Have you noticed the new lights in St Mary's Church during Mass?



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.

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

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.

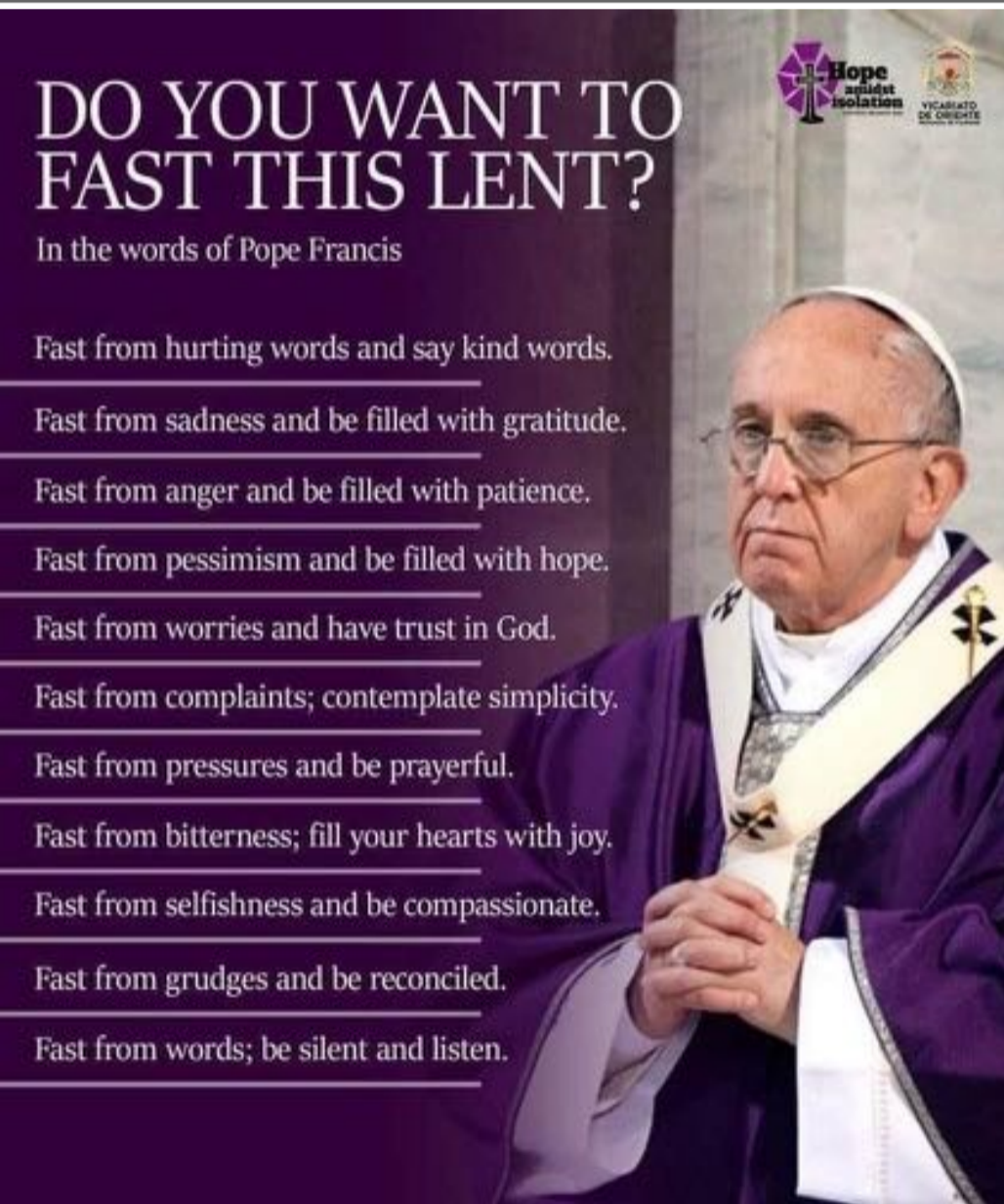
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

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: George Burton, Gloria Pollard, Murray Toland (brother of Kathleen Robertson & late of Omeo), 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: Kate D'Brass, Marie Francis, Sheila Lees, Ursula McCarthy, Lina Ciavarella, Leo Deery, Kathleen Griffin, Maureen Matthews, Marie Downie, Kath Connelly, Guido Maglione, Dot Warner, 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: Robyn Finlay, Larry Klobukowski, 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.

Second Sunday of Lent Year A, March 5, 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

The Opening Prayer

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.

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 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. 'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.' So Abram went as the Lord told him.

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

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful/and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right/ and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,/ on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord./ The Lord is our help and our shield.

May your love be upon us, O Lord,/ as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy 1: 8-10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy - not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 17: 1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Jerusalem Bible ©Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Reflection:

The transfiguration is a contrived story, so not to be taken literally, but something, obviously, did happen on the mountain. What is the evangelist telling us? He is telling us about the identity of Jesus. On the mountaintop (biblically this is a place of encounter with God), Jesus was flanked by Moses and Elijah. Moses representing the Law, and Elijah the prophets. Jesus is thus seen as bringing the law and prophets to fulfillment, in other words he is the Messiah. The cloud is a symbol of the presence of God, who cannot be seen by human eyes. So, Jesus is both the Messiah and the Son of God. This experience confirmed him in his journey towards his passion, death, and resurrection.

For us, we too are journeying towards God, and we can also have moments of transfiguration- rare moments of light and joy, and can be strengthened and reassured in the knowledge that God loves us and journeys with us.

Flor McCarthy SDB New Sunday and Holy day Liturgies