



St Mary's, Bairnsdale

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

Third Sunday of Lent Year A March 12, 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 3rd Sunday of Lent March 11-12



Photo: Richard Wainwright/
Caritas Australia

Priscilla lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles, and their two grandsons. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising conservation farming. Priscilla used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery. The poultry farming provides a safety net for Priscilla and her family during times of hardship, like the current drought. While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange means that Priscilla can learn the skills she needs to build resilience and support her family during this current food crisis.



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: Rosary 10.00am
Requiem Mass for
George Burton 10.30am
Wednesday: 9.10am
Thursday: 9.10am
Friday: 9.10am St Mary's Primary
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

4th Sunday of Lent, Year A March 18-19, 2023

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	K Flannery	M Saunders	P Reefman	C Shanahan	
9.30am Sunday	R David	T Kosmer	N Nash	M Owen	A Chila, M Grimsted & D Fallon
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 believes the Voice can open more doors that will create a fairer and more just society.



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.



We welcome into our Parish family this weekend through Baptism
Imogen
Daughter of
Charlotte & Ian Albert-Thenet

RCIA 1st 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

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.

GEORGE BURTON FUNERAL

George's Funeral Service is at 10.30am on Tuesday March 14. (Rosary at 10.00am). Those planning to come to the Parish Centre afterwards are requested to bring either a slice or sandwiches to share. Please contact Helen Van Den Einden to see which of these is needed: 0434 531 504

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 18-19, 2023, Year A

Readings:

4th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading:

1 Samuel 16:1-7, 10-13

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22

2nd Reading:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel:

John 9:1,6-9,23-17,34-38

Collections:

March 4-5, 2023

Envelopes	\$ 995.00
DD & Cards	\$ 3460.00
1 st Collection	\$ 576.50
2 nd Collection	\$ 805.00
Pay Wave	\$ 110.00
Church Tours	\$ 176.70
Restoration Box	\$ 1572.10
Candles	\$ 905.25



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 think of some ways that we use water?
- What would it be like if you had little or no water?
- Jesus says that he will give us water that gives life. When are we filled with this life? (when we gather to pray, are kind to others etc)
- Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman who many people did not like. Are there times when we don't want to talk to someone because we do not like them?
- Jesus shows us how to treat others. How can we treat others with kindness and pray for Jesus to be with us this week?

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

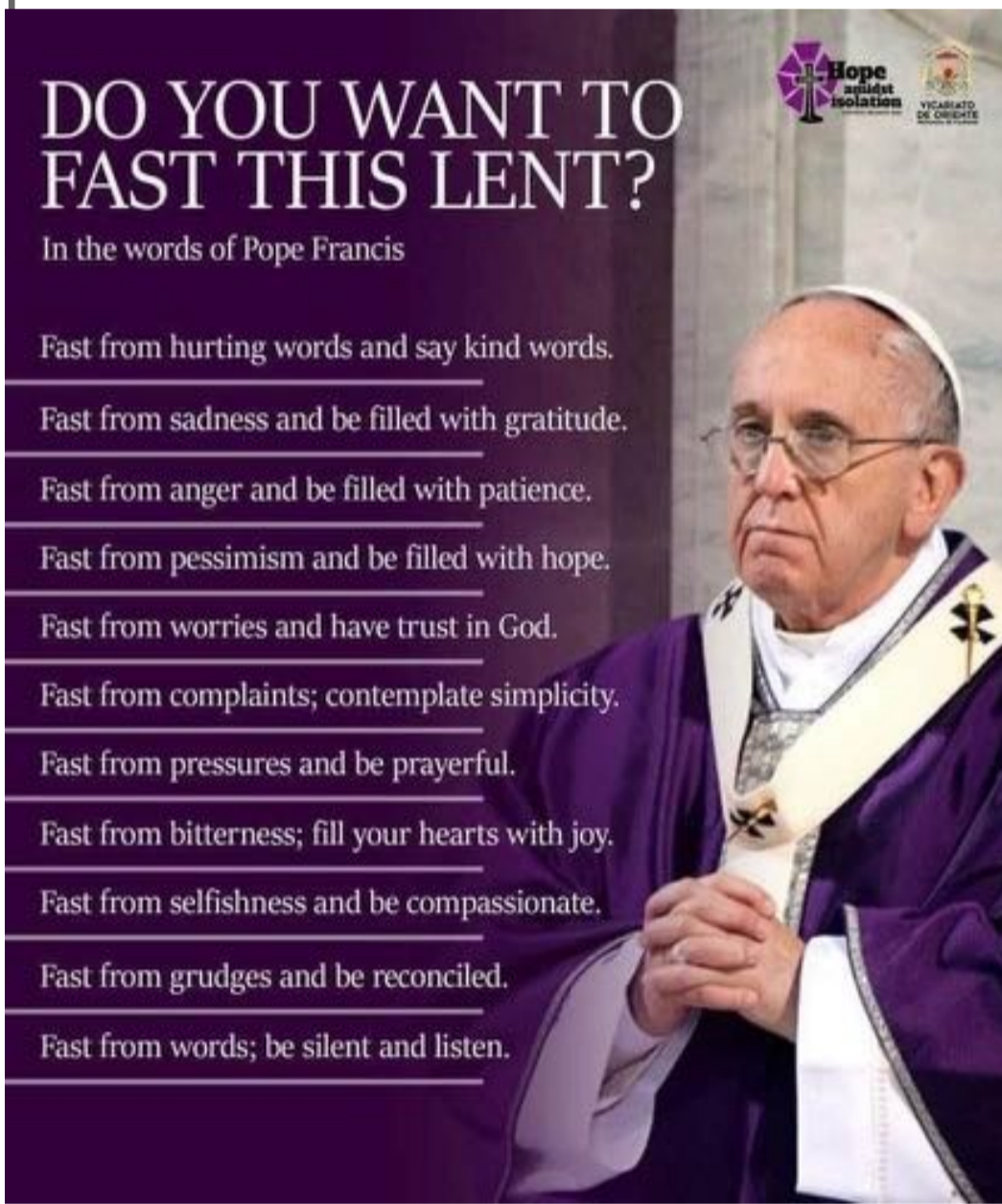
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

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, 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: Baby Christian Halligan, Barry Neve, Gwenda Leighton, Madge Marshall, Dino Baccega, Aida Bachetti, Rachela Dicello, Betty Dimarco, Guiseppe Ganci, Pauline Ganci, Mary Sicura, Kate D'Brass, Marie Francis, Sheila Lees, Ursula McCarthy, Lina Ciavarella, Leo Deery, Kathleen Griffin, Maureen Matthews, 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, Jan Coverdale, 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.

Third Sunday of Lent Year A, March 12, 2023

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

The Opening Prayer

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.

A reading from the book of Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm 94: 1-2, 6-9

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;/ hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,/ with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;/let us kneel before the God who made us/ for he is our God and we/ the people who belong to his pasture,/ the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!/ 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,/ as on that day at Massah in the desert/ when your fathers put me to the test;/ when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 4: 5-15, 19-26, 39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'