



St Marys Bairnsdale

BAIRNSDALE – OMEO
East Region – Diocese of Sale
Who we are tomorrow begins with what we do today.



St Patricks Paynesville

Vision: We are a welcoming community where the word of God, through the message of Jesus Christ is made known & lived.
Our mission is to: 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. Strengthen and grow our faith.

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER, Year A – May 17th, 2020

Welcome to all who have joined us to celebrate Mass.

St Mary's Parish Bairnsdale/Omeo acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai 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 and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Willemsen
Assistant Priests: Fr Avinash George
 Fr Jayakody Francis

Bairnsdale Presbytery:
 23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale 3875 Phone 5152 3106
 Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com
 Internet: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net
 Facebook: St Mary's Church Bairnsdale

St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:
 135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale 3875 Phone 5152 2942

Parish Business Manager: Paul Heaton-Harris
Parish Sacramental Coordinator: Michelle Grimsted
Pastoral Coordinator: Pattie Pruscino
Child Safety Officer: Kath Cassidy Phone 5152 2942

St Mary's Primary: Phone 5152 3706
 Principal: Michelle Garbutt
 Newsletter: www.stmbairns.catholic.edu.au

Nagle College: Phone 5152 6122
 Principal: Neville Powles
 Newsletter: www.nagle.vic.edu.au

St Mary's Op Shop: Phone 5152 2088

Parish Pastoral Council: meets 2nd Thursday of the month.
 Please submit items for consideration to the Parish Centre by 10.00am on Tuesday the week before the meeting.

Members: Angela McKail, Michael Flynn – co-chairpersons, Angelo D'Amore, Rita Bowers, Marylin Elliott and Wilma Collier.
A Parish Directory of all Groups and contact details is available at the Pastoral Centre.

Sacraments: Sacramental Information and registration forms are available at: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com

Baptisms: Preparation sessions are held regularly, call the Sacramental Coordinator to make a date. Baptisms are celebrated during or after Mass on the 1st or 3rd Sunday's of each month.

Weddings: 6 months' notice required, schedule dates with priest.

Funerals: Please check with priest before setting dates & times.

Anointing of the Sick: Please call the Parish Office.

Communion to the Housebound & Aged Care:

Please call Pattie Pruscino 5152 2942 or 0427 232 682

Special Wedding Anniversaries: 6 months' notice is needed to facilitate a Papal Blessing for parishioners.

MASSES/LITURGIES/HOLY HOURS

*The CHAPEL will be open between
 9am – 5pm each day.*

There is a Sunday Gospel reflection uploaded onto our Parish website as well as onto our Facebook page. Our website links are as follows: -

- . Internet: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net
- . Facebook: St Mary's Church Bairnsdale
- . YouTube: St Mary's Bairnsdale

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP (UP TO 10 PEOPLE)

With the easing of government restrictions and under the guidance of Church leaders, I have consulted with Parish staff and Pastoral Council and decided that there will be no public Masses in our large communities until the size of the congregation is allowed to be significantly more than 10. Although we are allowed to go ahead, the small number excludes too many people. The small communities, where the regular number of locals is less than 10, will have Sunday Mass celebrated at their usual times, once a month (Buchan, Mallacoota and the High Country). As I said to one of those locals, 'Blessed are those whose normal congregation is less than 10.'

The good news for everyone else is that St Mary's (Bairnsdale) and St Brendan's (Lakes Entrance) will be open for private prayer according to protocols determined by the State government. Times are advertised in the Parish newsletters. Please abide by what is asked of you when you enter.

At St Mary's, we will use the chapel. Quotes are being prepared for the necessary repair of the borer infested floorboards in the nave of the church. We await approval from Heritage Victoria to go ahead with these repairs. Local timber supplier, Fennings, are on standby to mill the timber they are generously donating. Using the chapel will allow the work to begin and continue, uninterrupted. The chapel is also an area easier to heat. However, being a small area, complying with the 4 square metre rule, we can only allow 8 people in the chapel at the same time.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience throughout this challenging period. Although we have sorely missed human contact and being nourished by the Eucharist, we have learnt new ways of communicating in relationships and renewed our appreciation of aspects of our lives (eg visiting loved ones) and people (eg healthcare workers). Hopefully, the numbers allowed for Mass will increase soon. When they do, offering of public Masses in East Gippsland will be reviewed.

Fr Michael

ROSTERS Commentator Proclaimer Procession of Gospel/Gifts Special Ministers

NO INFORMATION UNTIL WE KNOW WEEKEND MASSES WILL RESUME.

Please pray for

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Alma Corby (John's mother from Ocean Grove), Graham Balfour, Rita Luby, Michael McMahon, Pam Hammond, Kerry Terranova (Michael Flynn's sister), and we remember the 4 police officers who died while on duty.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time:

Peter Ross, June Bennett, Grace Calabro, Fr Aeneas Hennessy, Mg James O'Mara, Dr James McGillicuddy, Fr Francis Moore, Fr Sylvester Maddock, Lindsay Pepper, Rick Lightowler, Noreen Godridge, April Herrick, Leo Cahill, Domenico Capobianco, Nicodemo Tedeschi, Fr Patrick Moore, Fr James Martin, Fr James Hegarty.

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace."

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THE SICK:

Eileen Gregson, Val Jamieson, Fr Theo Rush ofm, Joshua Kelly, Marcie Hayles, John Pruscino, Lachlan Van Den Einden, Rick Jones, Dennis (Danny) Phelan, Joan Marshall, Irene Beatson, John Graves, Jacek Dutkiewicz, Adam Gilhooley, Tahlia De Felice, Mary Johnson, Nicholas Browne, Carmel Kenyon, Matthew Brunt, Yvonne Roy, Fr Carl Schafer ofm, Alan Cooke, Gerard Templer, Julie Frew, Cathy Tickle, Jane Rowlands, Bernadette Wolters, Paul Hamilton, Joan Wriggel, Peter Grimsted, Billy Sant, Pauline Northway (nee Mason), Pat Doe, John Buck, Arthur Elbourne, Guy Newman, Ena Morris, Mark Kelly, Holly Box, Ray & Fran Adamson, Amy Hood, Michael Counsel, James Warren, Coral Prendergast, Brian Rowe, Joyce Harrington, Paul McFarlane, Shannon Helmers, Tammy Ewing, Rose Gallagher, Elizabeth Knight, Gerry McDonald, Margaret Flynn, Tracey Moffatt, Tyson Chapman, Julie Ann Milnes-James, Anne Armstrong, Trish Henderson, Elizabeth Stehmann.

Please remember all parishioners who are in ill health or recuperating from illness or surgery.



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

The Listening and Discernment process of the 6 themes has now ended. We continue to pray for the success of the Plenary Council 2020.

CLOSURE OF PARISH CENTRE

If you need to contact us, please email, or put an enquiry through the webpage, or phone 5152 2942 or 5152 3106 - leave a message and someone will get back to you or to speak with a priest – phone either of the numbers and a priest will 'pick up' when possible. Regarding baptisms and funerals, be sure to speak with someone in authority to know what is currently acceptable.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Central to the mission of the Immaculate Conception Parish (known as St Mary's Parish) is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and vulnerable persons and providing them with a safe, supportive, and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially. If you wish to speak with someone please phone: Kath 5152 2942; Police 5150 2600; or Towards Healing 1800 816 030

FOOD FOR PRAYER: OTHER OPTIONS

Evangelisation Brisbane has provided an invitation to a free resource: **Weekday reflections on the daily gospel reading:**
The link is below to subscribe:

<http://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/daily-reflections/>

Music and Prayer for You at Home

· **Seeking Stillness** – beautiful psalm music and Gospel meditations from Gen Bryant [Seeking Stillness - Playlist](#)

· **Sunday Readings** – download and pray the Scriptures of the Sunday Mass From Liturgy Brisbane <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/>

· **Family Prayer - week by week** use the Family Prayer sheets with children. Resources can be found on the Liturgy Brisbane website <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/> and will be updated each week.

CathFamily – CathKids is a weekly interactive experience with a short-animated video on the Sunday reading, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity and prayer. It's perfect for use in the classroom, in children's liturgy and at home. Can be facilitated by an adult or in self-directed exploration by children aged 7-12. Free access to CathKids until 30 June 2020 <https://cathfamily.org/>

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

go to www.melbournecatholic.org.au for weekly Easter Reflections until Pentecost Sunday.

Pray the Rosary in May. Pope Francis invites us to pray the Rosary during the month of May. He has written some prayers for the intercession of Mary, to be used as stand-alone prayers or prayed at the end of the Rosary. (click [here](#))

Keep up to date with the latest prayer resources from within the Sale Diocese at <https://www.cdsale.org.au/news/prayer-resources-in-time-of-need>

Weekend Masses live streamed in our Diocese:

Cranbourne: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9am and 6pm.

Daily at 9.30am. **Clyde North:** Daily 9am.

Narre Warren: 9.30am Sunday. Daily Wed-Sunday 9.30am.

Sale Cathedral: 9.30am Sunday **Pakenham:** 10am Sunday

also

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

www.wordonfire.org/daily

YOUTUBE CLIP FROM MARIA FORDE

During these uncertain times we have experienced grief, loss, uncertainty, anxiety. However, we have also witnessed wonderful acts of kindness, generosity, compassion, selflessness. We are being called to the death of old ways, to transformation.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we live in hope for a better world after COVID 19.

I wrote the song 'We will Rise' as a way of inspiring hope.

Through Christ, we are an incarnational people filled with hope of resurrection. And with God's grace, we will rise!

Stay well, Sincerely Maria Forde <https://youtu.be/uwySfplh0hQ>

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS want us to know that they are available to people who wish to speak with them at any time. If there is some problem you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to call Bruce (0412 938 772) or Jeanette (0409 662 925). They will be very glad to speak with you.

DATES TO REMEMBER

31st May: Masses to resume???

25th Dec: Christmas Day



STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Our weekly collections have dropped off significantly. People have asked if there is a way of getting their Stewardship contributions to the Parish. So, suggestions are: -

Internet Banking Direct Credit the Church Account with your name and Envelope Number as a reference.

BSB: 083-879 **ACCOUNT:** 48919 4022

ACCOUNT NAME: St Marys Parish Bairnsdale Omeo

Ref: **Your Name and Envelope Number or Marked 1st or 2nd**

Collection OR send cheques to St Mary's Parish, 23 Pyke Street, Bairnsdale, Vic, 3875 **OR** go into your bank with this information and they will do it for you **OR** drop off at the Parish Centre Thursday or Friday between 10am and 2pm.

Otherwise - Please keep your envelopes with your commitments, saving them until we return to Sunday services. Our Parish finances are severely affected during this pandemic and we will make necessary adjustments to manage the challenges it presents. Please call Paul Heaton-Harris 0418 377 076 if you have any questions.

THE GREAT REHABILITATOR (An Easter Reflection)

Asked to remember someone in her prayers, the lady dismissed the request out of hand. "Don't ask me to pray, my prayers are good for nothing." Questioned over this statement she went on, "I'm hopeless, absolutely hopeless, forget it." She was serious!

What was behind this bleak picture of herself and her relationship with the Risen One? Was it some failure or dream unfulfilled, or some disaster, some shame in her distant past, or had the grind of life just worn her down to a dejected frazzle?

The Risen One, emerging from the tomb was on the side of life. His first concern was to deal with his dream shattered, broken, shamed disciples. They had pinned their hopes on Him. Maybe the hopes had a tinge of earthly ambition – a Kingdom which provided jobs for the boys! But they had abandoned their livelihoods and businesses (even if it was only a half share in a frayed fishing net) and had thrown their lot in with His. Besides, they loved this man and respected Him deeply, His goodness, His compassion, His inner strength and integrity, His fearlessness. He was a dear friend, yet they had run like rabbits when He was arrested. Only one fronted for the final scene on Calvary Hill. Peter, as usual led and excelled. Three times he publicly denied Him.

Frightened, ashamed, broken, desperate, they bolted the doors and put up the shutters, literally and symbolically. A couple took off for home – out Emmaus way.

Then He appears, always with a 'Shalom', 'Peace' and those deep, forgiving and understanding eyes. Down by the Lake He prepares a barbeque breakfast and invites them to share. This is the face of God! What is He up to? He is Jesus, the Grand Rehabilitator! He is putting broken lives back together, healing their deep hurts, reassuring them that all is well, injecting hope, reigniting the snuffed-out flame, and they responded. How they responded!

And the disciples in 2020? The Coronavirus Kids? The Risen Lord is always on our side, on the side of Life. He is always the Lord of new beginnings, always the Great Rehabilitator, always putting us back together when like a shattered jigsaw, we are in pieces. Always seeking to fire our enthusiasm when we are flat lining. Always He is on the side of Life.

It is said Christmas is for kids, Easter for Adults. There is a bit of truth in this. In varying degrees life beats us up and we need rejuvenating. We need not just an Easter Day, we need an Easter Season, 5 or 6 weeks of it to focus and dwell on the positives, the extraordinary positives.

Lord, stay with us on the journey!

SMILE:

What's a ghost's favourite ice cream flavour? Shock-olate chip.

CALLED AND GIFTED

Charism is simply the Greek word used in the New Testament for "favour" or "gratuitous gift".

Appreciating charisms, or spiritual gifts, helps us to see our parish as a place of gifts, rather than a place of needs.

Everyone is given unique gifts. Many people can recognise their charisms and abilities, but there are many who are unsure of their gifts. We must all do our little bit to encourage and help discern how we may use our gifts/ charisms. No gift is too small or insignificant.



The Charism of **LEADERSHIP**

empowers a Christian to be an agent of God's purposes by sharing a compelling vision of a better future with others and by directing the overall efforts of a group as they work together to make the vision a reality.

Is this your gift?

Our Parish is blessed with many people who share their gifts/charisms within our Church and wider community. We give thanks to all our teachers and their charism of **TEACHING** – doing what they can to guide their students through this difficult time; to all parents/carers of student aged children and their gift of **TEACHING (and patience)** – being the best they can be to help their children through this difficult time; and to our Bulletin deliverers and their charism of **HELPS** – sharing the load and connecting with many who are house bound at the moment. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us and our community and ultimately we thank GOD who has given them.

CatholicCare TELEPHONE COUNSELLING SERVICE AVAILABLE

Therese Kearney from CatholicCare is available by phone on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for any parents who might need some one to talk to. Whether be it about themselves or about their children. If they are anxious or worried about the effect that the Corona Virus is having on their lives, the bushfires or anything else that may be a worry to them. Please take advantage of this offer, for anyone in need. Telephone Therese Kearney on 0400 783 342 any Tuesday or Wednesday.

THANK YOU FROM MAREE

I would like to thank everybody for their phone calls, cards, visits and presents; and Mary S for cooking a roast lunch for myself and Arthur and bringing Arthur over to spend time and share my 70th birthday with him. Thank you everybody, God bless and take care.

Maree Elbourne

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Considered the oldest and original novena of the Church, the novena to the Holy Spirit begins on the Friday of the 6th Week in Easter (22nd May) and ends on Pentecost Sunday. It originates in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, when the bewildered disciples and believers gathered to pray and await the mysterious Advocate that Jesus promised to send after his ascension. The traditional *Novena to the Holy Spirit for the Seven Gifts* is quite long. In keeping with the spirit of the tradition, CathFamily has adapted it to a simplified version using the the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* prayer. This simple, but powerful prayer asks for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Give it a go! This is a simple way to spiritually prepare yourself and your family for Pentecost and grow closer to that critical and amazing experience of those early Apostles that set the world on fire!

INSTALLATION OF ARCHBISHOP PATRICK O'REGAN

Archbishop-Elect Patrick O'Regan's installation as Archbishop of Adelaide is on May 25th at St Francis Xavier Cathedral and will be livestreamed.

Prayer for the Plenary Council 2020

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.

Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.

Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.

Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.

Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

6th SUNDAY of EASTER

Entrance Antiphon

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8: 5-8, 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

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

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **R.**

'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!'

Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. **R.**

Come and hear, all who fear God.

I will tell what he did for my soul:

Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 3: 15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans. I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14: 15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave your orphans; I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Copyright: Jerusalem Bible, Liturgy Brisbane

Readings for 24/05/2020
The ASCENSION of the LORD, Year A
1st Reading: Acts 1: 1-11
Psalm: Ps 46: 2-3, 6-9
2nd Reading: Ephesians 1: 17-23
Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20

HOLY WATER

Upon entering a Church, we customarily sign ourselves with holy water. This simple gesture reminds us of our Baptism when we were first brought to life in Christ by sacred waters. St Mary's Parish would like to gift you and your family a bottle of Holy Water, which was blessed by Fr Michael during this year's Easter Vigil Mass. These can be collected from the Presbytery front porch, 23 Pyke Street at any time. *God Bless – Michelle Grimsted*

Collections for week ending 10th May 2020

Envelopes	\$ 1,256.00
D/D & Cards	\$ 505.00
1 st Collection	\$ 0.00
2 nd Collection	\$ 500.00