



Benambra: St Francis of Assisi

THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

Eastern Region – Diocese of Sale

PAYNESVILLE, LINDENOW, SWIFTS CREEK & 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	St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:	
Assistant Priests:	Fr Avinash George Fr Jayakody Francis	135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942	
Presbytery:	23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106	Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com	
		Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net	
		Facebook: St Mary's Church Bairnsdale	

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 29TH NOVEMBER 2020

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.

MASS BACK IN THE CHURCH

Last Sunday, the State Government lifted the restriction of 20 people at indoor religious services. This was warmly welcomed, especially the news that we can have up to 150 people for Mass, subject to the density quotient of one person per 4 square metres. For St Mary's church, this equates to a 110 person limit until we move to the "COVID normal" stage. So, we look forward to welcoming a lot more people back for Mass on our newly refurbished floor. And, we hope our smaller churches will be at maximum limit, too. With these increased limits, **the St Mary's 11am Mass will cease as of this weekend.** We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Also, as of Monday you are no longer need to 'book' for Mass. You will still be required to give your 1st name and a contact number though. The Sunday homilies online have served their purpose and we thank Fr Avinash for posting them and his ongoing work with our Parish website.

TOWARDS THE MISSION FIELDS IN DARWIN.

With the intentions of gaining a different pastoral experience and my personal preference, from the month of December this year I will be attached to the Diocese of Darwin. From the time I arrive in Darwin I will be priest in residence on Melville Island with two parishes namely Pirlangimpy and Milikapity which are First Nation communities. I am confident that with grace and blessings from God and my pastoral experiences of thirty eight years as a priest, I will be able to immerse myself with the mission work there.

I wish to thank the parish communities here in Bairnsdale, the staff at the Pastoral Centre and the Presbytery, along with the priests, Frs. Michael and Avinash, and Bernie for their extended support and solidarity.

My prayers will be with you all and I am certain that you will remember me in your prayers. May God bless.
Fr. Francis

Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 9.30am

St Patrick's, Paynesville

Sunday: 8am

St Canice's, Lindenow

Sunday: 11am

Monday: 9:10am

Tuesday: 9:10am

Wednesday: 9:10am

Thursday: 9:10am

Friday: 9:10am



We welcome into our Parish family this weekend

Rubi Carla-Rose

*daughter of
Melissa & Luke*

ADVENT PRAYER ONLINE

Join your prayer and preparation with others in a weekly Advent Prayer via Zoom.

2.00 pm Monday 30th November - Accepting Quiet

2.00 pm Monday 7th December - Exploring Hope

2.00 pm Monday 14th December - Revealing Faith

2.00 pm Friday 18th December - Releasing Joy

TIME: 2pm for 1-1.5 hours.

To register your interest and for further

information, please **contact Sale Diocese Emmaus**

Spirituality Centre: Phone 0477 474 848 or

Email: salespirituality1@gmail.com

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 phone: Kath 5152 2942;

Police 5150 2600; or Towards Healing 1800 816 030.



Congratulations on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Confirmation is a very significant step in the faith life of a Catholic Christian. It is when a candidate takes on the responsibility for their own faith and beliefs for themselves (with the support of family and their sponsor). It is also the final step of initiation into the Catholic faith. Our candidates have met the challenges of preparation this year by participating in Zoom sessions with our Sacramental coordinator, Michelle Grimsted. They have also been prepared at home by their families and in the classroom by their teachers. The children were confirmed on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th November, by Fr Michael and Fr Avinash.

Please keep these children in your prayers:

- Izaak Alleaume*
- Makayla Baldock*
- Blake Duffy*
- Reece Foy*
- Jobe Froud*
- Ava Galati*
- Elizabeth Gray*
- Hunter McLellan*
- Paul Onte*
- Ryan Scott*
- Sophie Scott*
- Layla Bartlett*
- Andi Barron*
- Pearl Miguel*

- Xavier Hack*
- Audrey Hodge*
- Louise Hurley*
- Halle Jackson*
- Emily Kool*
- Wil Malady*
- Grace McKenna*
- Ishan Palatty*
- Chloe Mooney*
- Nathan Scott*
- Bailey Webster*
- Blake Bartlett*
- Nick Sweetman*
- Rei Gonzales*

A sincere thank you to all who were involved in any way with preparing the candidates, especially Michelle from the Parish, the grade 6 teachers—Nicole Mott, Gemma Radford and Matt Falls, parents, carers, family and friends.

May Jesus come to bless you on your Confirmation Day. May you feel His loving presence in a very special way, and as you strive to follow in His footsteps may He bless your life with many graces and



EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF BISHOP-ELECT GREGORY BENNET AS TENTH BISHOP OF SALE

Bishop-elect Greg Bennet will be ordained Tenth Bishop of Sale on **Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 11am at St Mary's Cathedral Sale**. We hope you will join us via live-streaming as we ordain and welcome our new bishop.

<https://tinyurl.com/Cathedral-YouTube-channel>

Rev Fr Peter Slater, Diocesan Administrator

Advent Daily Reflection Book - ADORE

The books have arrived and can be picked up at the Parish Centre (a gold coin donation, if possible). You can follow the book at home OR you can join a group – an opportunity to share your thoughts, cares and concerns in a caring non-judgemental environment. At this stage we are happy to offer a gathering at 10am Thursdays during Advent. If this time doesn't suit, please phone 5152 2942 and we can make suitable arrangements. 'Zoom' is also available.

Prayer for 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.***

ADVENT STUDIES: "Hammer on Anvil"

This series of 4 studies will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm by zoom and Thursdays at 12:30pm (12:00 for a BYO lunch) in the meeting room at the Uniting Church or at the manse next door (dependent on COVID restrictions). Apart from the first session which will include an introduction (and may go a little longer) each session will go for about an hour including discussion and sharing.

1. Waiting: Luke 1:5-24 24th and 26th November
2. Accepting: Luke 1:24-38 1st and 3rd December
3. Anticipating: Luke 1:39-56 8th and 10th December
4. Journeying: Luke 2 :1-6 15th and 17th December

Contact Rosalie 0497164087 or

email: Rosalie_john@bigpond.com for more details, to book in, and for the zoom link. All are welcome.



FRATELLI TUTTI

Pope Francis's Social Encyclical.

(Just google Fratelli Tutti)

It's aims are to promote a universal aspiration towards fraternity and social friendship amid the global Covid 19 pandemic. It has helped demonstrate that no one can live life in isolation.

Vatican news and Isabella Piro

THOUGHT OF THE DAY:

Baptism is more than a way to spiritual freedom. It is also the way to community. Baptising a person, whether child or adult, is receiving that person into the community of faith. Those who are reborn from above through baptism, and are called to live the life of sons and daughters of God, belong together as members of one Spiritual family, the living body of Christ. When we baptise people, we welcome them into this family of God and offer them guidance, support, and formation as they grow to the full maturity of the Christ-like life.

Henri Nouwen

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM –

There are 5 ways to fulfil your commitment.

1. Bank your contributions into this account—
BSB: 083-879 ACCOUNT: 48919 4022
ACCOUNT NAME: St Marys Parish Bairnsdale/ Omeo
Ref: Your Name and Envelope number and mark 1st or 2nd Collection.
2. or, go into your bank with this information and they will do it for you.
3. or, send cheques to St Mary's Parish, 23 Pyke Street, Bairnsdale, Vic, 3875
4. or, drop off at the Parish Centre **Tuesday to Friday** between 10am-3pm.
5. or, keep your envelopes with your commitments, saving them until we return to Sunday services.

Our Parish finances have been 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.

THANK YOU for your support.

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

Members: Angela McKail & Michael Flynn: co—Chairpersons; Angelo D'Amore, Rita Bowers, Marylin Elliott and Wilma Collier. Ex-officio members: priests, principals and Pattie.

A Parish Directory: is available at the Pastoral Centre.

Sacraments: Information & registration forms available at stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com

Baptisms: Call the Sacramental Coordinator to set 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 Centre.

Communion to the Housebound /Aged Care: Call Pattie Pruscino 51522942 or 0427 232 682

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

Wishing to obtain a Bible?

NRSV and Good News Bibles are available at St Mary's Parish Centre. Call in and see Pattie...

WANTED: ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR

Telephone Michael 51525707

THE HEART OF LIFE AS A CATHOLIC

"FOLLOWING JESUS (CCC, 519-521) - LIKE THE FIRST DISCIPLES, WE MAY STRUGGLE AS WE START TO TRY TO FOLLOW JESUS. WE MAY BE SCARED. WE MAY NOT KNOW HOW TO START. WE RESIST LETTING GOD ENTER CERTAIN AREAS OF OUR LIVES. WHERE CAN WE FIND THE COURAGE, THE LOVE, THE WISDOM, THE POWER TO FOLLOW JESUS AS A DISCIPLE? FROM EXACTLY THE SAME SOURCE AS THE FIRST CHRISTIANS— FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT."

SHERRY WEDDELL www.catherineofsiennainstitute.org

COLUMBAN CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS

These are now available from the Parish Centre. The calendars are now \$12 each. The Christmas cards come in 2 sizes (and from different suppliers). A packet of 8 cost \$4 and a packet of 12 is \$10.

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B 6/12/2020

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
Psalm 84: 9-14
2 Peter 3: 8-14
Mark 1: 1-8

Week ending 22nd November

Envelopes	\$ 996.00
D/D & Cards	\$ 505.00
1 st Collection	\$ 387.00
2 nd Collection	\$ 85.00

The delivery of bulletins will also cease— 4th December being our last day. We understand that some of you may not attend Mass, if you would still like to receive a bulletin, ring the Parish Centre and let us know.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Norman Brennan, John Clark, Jozef Majka, Matt Verde, Barbara Sievers, Victims of mental health issues, Victims of Covid-19, Victims of terrorist attacks, war and conflict, asylum seekers, Victims of family violence and Victims of poverty.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...

Gerald Rashleigh, Steve Klobukowski, Fr Tim McInnes, Robert Rhodes, Gioconda Capobianco, Barry Rowe, Rick Bourke, Sue D'Amelio, Damien Johnson, and the 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 ALSO REMEMBER THE SICK: Fr. Frank Young, Elizabeth Stehmann, John & Sue Butler, Arthur Elbourne, Linton Smith, Sr Barbara Brown-Graham FCJ, Roma Greig, Andre Buxton, Vic & Thelma Smythe, Alan Wilson, Trish & Karl Henderson, Brian Rowe, Robert Coleman, Lorraine O'Brien, Dennis (Danny) Phelan, Rick Jones, Marcie Hayles, John Pruscino, John Graves, Julie Frew, John Buck.

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, if you would like to keep someone on the list after this time, please contact the Parish Centre.

1st Sunday of Advent, Year B

Entrance Antiphon:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8)

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see, Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1: 3-9)

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (13: 33-37)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:

"Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down". The deepest cry of the human heart is for union with God, that all distance and separation from him might be overcome. In Advent, the Church recognises that God answers that prayer: first, in the Incarnation of His Son, and the end of time, when he returns in majesty. Both comings of Christ reveal that "by calling you (God) has joined you to His Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful". Therefore we "stay awake" and give over our lives to God, because we desire to be found irreproachable, spending our days in ardent hope for the full revelation of our Lord, when we will see his face and be saved.

OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We commit to making our Church a safe place for children and young people and protecting them from harm.



You are special and will always be welcome in our Church.



What you think and feel is important to us.

We will make sure our leaders and helpers understand their responsibilities to keep you safe.



We respect you just the way you are.



If you feel unsafe or are worried about someone else's safety, we will listen and take this seriously.



We will help you to be safe. This means that if you are being hurt or are in danger of being hurt, we will speak to the Police or another person who can help you.



St Marys Parish Bairnsdale Omeo

Confidential help is always available. Ph 5152 2942
Email: stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com Safeguarding Officer: Kath Cassidy



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE