



St Mary's Bairnsdale

# THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

## Eastern Region – Diocese of Sale

### BAIRNSDALE, PAYNESVILLE, LINDENOW, OMEO, 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  
**Assistant Priests:** Fr Avinash George  
Fr Jayakody Francis  
**Presbytery:**  
23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106

**St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:**  
135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942  
Email: [stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stmarysbairnsdale.net](http://www.stmarysbairnsdale.net)  
Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

### 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 6th December 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.

#### OUR CHURCH DOORS ARE OPEN

YAY, the front doors of St Mary's church are open, once again. As we prepare to enter into the "COVID normal" stage, we welcome everyone back to all our churches, including the increasing numbers of visitors. Our smiling church volunteer guides at St Mary's are back and they would love to have a few more join their ranks.

Our normal Mass schedule is back, as is sacramental reconciliation times: Fri morning after Mass; Saturday morning at 9:30am and Sat evening before Mass.

Our Parish feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception on Tuesday has special significance this year with the Ordination and installation of our new Bishop. He will then ordain 3 new priests for our Diocese in the following days. We pray for them. And, in thanks to God.



#### Congratulations

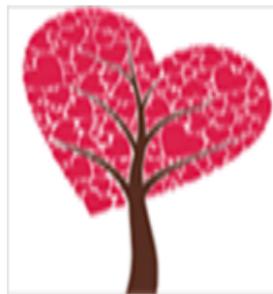
and many blessings to

*Donrita &*

*Peter Reefman*

on their

40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.



#### THE GIVING TREE

The festive season is upon us – the Giving Tree has appeared in the Church and all can donate non-perishable food items and gifts for the less advantaged people of the region. While many of us are surrounded by family, friends and an abundance of presents, for others Christmas is one of the loneliest times of the year. The donations will be dispersed through St Vincent de Paul prior to Christmas. We are asked to bring our gifts by Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Donations can also be left at St Patrick's, Paynesville and St Canice's, Lindenow.

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; 5:30pm

#### ADVENT PRAYER ONLINE

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

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](mailto:salespirituality1@gmail.com)**

#### SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

This annual Advent liturgy will be held at St Mary's on Wednesday 16th December at 6pm. A great way to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

All Welcome.

#### 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.

**Bulletin delivery has now ceased.**  
**We understand that some of you may still not attend Mass, so if you would still like to continue receiving a bulletin, ring the Parish Centre and let us know.**

**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 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 11am at St Mary's Cathedral Sale.**

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

We are delighted to announce that our three transitional deacons will be ordained to the priesthood at St Mary's Cathedral Sale in the same week as we welcome our new Bishop: Paul Zaher on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am, Confidence Masvosva on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am, and Jithin Anto during the Vigil Mass on the same day. We shall rejoice with them, their families, friends and parishes of Sale as they are ordained to join us in the ministerial priesthood. The Ordinations will be "invitation only" events with livestreaming (links to be provided at a later date).

A very small group of singers will lead the music at each of the three ordination ceremonies. If you would like to volunteer to be in this small group, please contact Director of Music: Sophy Morley as soon as possible.

E: [smorley@sale.catholic.org.au](mailto:smorley@sale.catholic.org.au) or M: 0413 590 007.

Please note that selection may depend on the expressions of interest received.

Fr Peter Slater

Bishop-elect Greg Bennet

Diocesan Administrator

**We are pleased to advise that Paul Zaher (Paul spent 6 months in our Parish on pastoral placement on his journey to priesthood) will celebrate his 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Bairnsdale at 5:30pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. How wonderful if we had a full house of 110 to celebrate with him, and to give thanks to his family for their support in his faith journey. God is good, God is good indeed.**

**COLUMBAN CALENDARS**

These are now available from the Parish Centre.  
The calendars are now \$12 each.

**REFLECTION**

The voice of John the Baptist was a lonely voice  
Which many of his contemporaries ignored.

There are many lonely voices in our world.

Somewhere at this moment a child is crying-

Crying for love or maybe simply for bread.

Somewhere a young person is crying-

Crying for a listening ear or an understanding heart.

Somewhere an old person is crying –

Crying for a visit or a word from their children.

There are a thousand unheard cries in our world,  
Coming from the victims of injustice and neglect.

Lord, help us to listen to those voices.

Above all, help us to listen to your voice,  
Whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts,

Telling us that we are loved by you,

And that we are to love one another.

Flor McCarthy sdb

**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.***



**A FEEL GOOD STORY FROM  
ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Chilled Slinky Apples

The now famous slinky apples will be on sale again tomorrow, Thursday and Friday. They are 50 cents each. The profits will go to the St Mary's Parish Advent Giving Appeal, raising money for those in need in our community this Christmas. A reminder that the Apples are from Picnic Point Apple Farm and according to the students are the best apples in the world.



**BAIRNSDALE FRIENDS OF TIMOR LESTE**

Earlier this year we informed our friends in Timor Leste that our group will be disbanding at the end of this year -2020. With many members having other commitments and the energy levels diminishing we all agree that this is the time.

Since 2005 our group has worked to help raise the education standards for young people in Timor Leste. This has involved raising funds that have assisted with a school luncheon program, supported some families with school fees and subsidised costs of English/Tetum dictionaries for students at St Antonio's Secondary School in Baucau. They have also offered tertiary scholarships to many students who wished to continue their education at University in Jogjakarta Indonesia, (mainly Engineering Degrees) Dili Institute and Don Bosco Trade School and the Marist Teachers College (ICFP) in Baucau.

In more recent years BF of TL has supported locally employed Timorese horticultural seasonal workers by providing pastoral care which has involved helping them settle into the local community, giving guidance regarding housing, how to access the health system and social opportunities that has enabled them to mix with the local people. We offer a **BIG THANK YOU** to the St Mary's Parish and the wider community for your support and encouragement. We have felt very blessed to have had an opportunity to support Timorese people as they rebuild their country.

**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.

+Anticipating: Luke 1:39-56 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Dec'ber  
+ Journeying: Luke 2 :1-6 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Dec'ber  
for more details, to book in, and for the zoom link. Contact Rosalie 0497164087 or email: [Rosalie\\_john@bigpond.com](mailto:Rosalie_john@bigpond.com) All are welcome.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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.



**FRATELLI TUTTI Pope Francis's Social Encyclical**

**Chapter 2: Strangers on the Road**

To many shadows, the Encyclical responds with a luminous example, a herald of hope: The Good Samaritan, to which this chapter is dedicated. The Pope emphasises that, in an unhealthy society that turns its back on suffering and that is "illiterate" in caring for the frail and vulnerable, we are called to become neighbours to others, overcoming prejudices, personal interests, historic and cultural barriers. We all are co-responsible in creating a society that is able to include, integrate and lift up those who have fallen or are suffering.

*Vatican News Isabella Piro*

**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](http://www.catherineofsiennainstitute.org)

**Third Sunday of Advent,**

**Year B 13/12/2020**

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

Psalms: Luke 1: 46-50, 53-54

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

**Week ending 29th November**

Envelopes \$ 1,416.00

D/D & Cards \$ 185.00

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 493.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$ 220.00

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Norman Brennan, John Clark, Jozef Majka, Matt Verde, 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, Dennis Crane, Frank Burton, George Burton, Jack Burton, Pat Brennan, Peter Brown, Max Kelsey, Maureen Connolly 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:**

Craig Counsel, 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.**

## **2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B**

### **Entrance Antiphon:**

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah** (40:1-5,9-11)

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be Revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. 'Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**R.** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

### **A reading from the second letter of St Peter** (3:8-14)

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark** (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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### **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

We hear John the Baptist's voice today announcing the good news that the long-awaited saviour is about to arrive and urging us to prepare a way for Him. The Israelites had lived on God's promise – first of a land, then of a saviour. What sustained them during all the bad times was the belief that God would not abandon them or forget the promise he had made to them. Advent reminds us of God's faithful love for his people, and how his promise was fulfilled in Jesus. Like the Israelites of old, we too can forget god's promise There are lots of voices calling us in other directions. The most obvious are the strident, hate-filled voices of demagogues and bigots calling us to racism, discrimination and bigotry. There are voices in the newspapers, radio and television which entertain us, inform us and distract us, and of course there are the persuasive voices of the commercials calling us to self-indulgence. But some of the voices that call us come from inside ourselves.

The inner voices may not be so loud, but they are even more dangerous because they are so insidious and persistent. But God too is calling us.

God's voice is perhaps the smallest and loneliest voice of all. It can be so easily drowned out in the torrent of words, and in the din of daily life.

God's voice is not heard in the midst of the crowd, but rather in quiet solitary places. God is faithful. God is true to his word. God keeps his promises. We sometimes make God's fidelity conditional on our behaviour. It's as if we believe God won't come to us unless we prove ourselves worthy. But if we were worthy, he wouldn't need to come at all. He comes **because** we are sinners, in need of redemption.

God comes to free us from our sins and deliver us from the power of evil.

He comes to rid us of fear and enable us to live in holiness and justice all the days of our lives.

He comes to give light to us when we are in darkness and the shadows of death surround us.

He comes to guide our feet in the way of peace.

Flor McCarthy SDB

# 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](mailto:stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com) Safeguarding Officer: Kath Cassidy



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE