



**St Frances of Assisi  
Benambra**

# 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

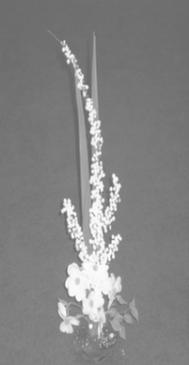
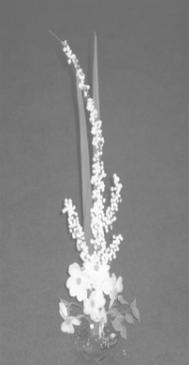
Live the message of Jesus Christ taking inspiration from Mary, the Mother of God.  
Empower our community to activate their gifts to build a better world.  
To strengthen and grow our faith.

|                           |   |  |  |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Parish Priest:</b>     | Fr Michael Willemsen                      | <b>St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:</b>   |  |
| <b>Assistant Priests:</b> | Fr Avinash George<br>Fr Edwin Ogbuka      | 135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942  |  |
| <b>Presbytery:</b>        | 23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106 | Email: <a href="mailto:stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com">stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com</a>                  |  |
|                           |   | Website: <a href="http://www.stmarysbairnsdale.net">www.stmarysbairnsdale.net</a>                    |  |
|                           |   | Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale">St Mary's Church Bairnsdale</a> |  |

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY), YEAR B, 11th April, 2021

We welcome all who have joined us today as we celebrate Mass.

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.

|   |   |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Weekend Mass Times</b><br>Saturday: 6pm<br>Sunday: 9.30am<br><b>St Patrick's, Paynesville</b><br>Sunday: 8am<br><b>St Canice's, Lindenow</b><br>Sunday: 11am |  | <b>Weekday Masses @ St Mary's</b><br><b>Monday:</b> 9:10am<br><b>Tuesday:</b> 9:10am<br><b>Wednesday:</b> 9:10am<br><b>Thursday:</b> 9:10am<br><b>Friday:</b> 9:10am |  | <b>RECONCILIATION</b><br>is available on<br><b>FRIDAY</b><br>following 9:10am Mass.<br><b>SATURDAY</b><br>9:30am - 10:00am and<br>5:30pm to 5:50pm |
|---|---|--|---|--|



#### **SALESIAN MISSIONS, AUSTRALIA – Appeal for Timor Leste Flood Victims**

As you may have heard in the news this week, Timor Leste and Dili, in particular, has suffered devastating floods. Roads and bridges have been destroyed and deaths now exceed 100. Support is urgently needed as the schools are converted into evacuation centres. To make matters worse Dili is in lockdown to tackle the nations rising COVID transmission. We will have collectors outside following Masses this weekend – please support this very worthy cause. You probably have come unprepared for this, you are welcome to come to the parish centre during the week to give what you can. We will keep the 'collection' going for 2 weeks and then send off our donations so they can be received as soon as possible – there is an urgent need for food, clean water and medicine. All monies collected will go to 'The Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund' who will then direct the monies to wherever needed. Donations are tax deductible. You can also send cheques to: Salesian Missions Australia, PO Box 264 Ascot Vale, Vic, 3032 OR go to [www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au](http://www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au) OR phone 03 9377 6060 OR email [salmiss@salesians.org.au](mailto:salmiss@salesians.org.au) OR Give now: <https://www.givenow.com.au/salesianmissionstimorleste>



#### **Roster for Masses 17th & 18th April 2021**

|            | <b>Welcomer</b> | <b>Commentator</b> | <b>Reader</b> | <b>Special Minister</b> |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 6:00pm Sat | P Elliott       | J De Boer          | D Reefman     | P Elliott               |
| 9:30am Sun | M Owen          | J Neeson           | N Nash        | S Tilley                |

**Please find a replacement if unable to fill your spot.**

#### **WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH**

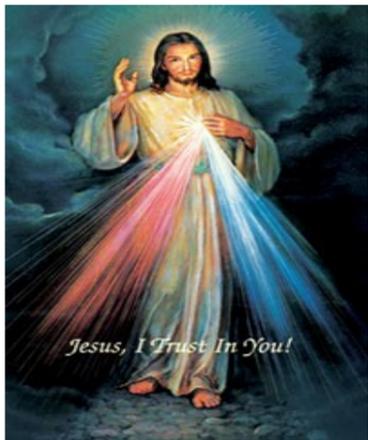
Our Parish of The Immaculate Conception (also known as St Mary's) is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk. Our Safeguarding Officer is Kath Cassidy who can be contacted via the Parish Centre 5152 2942; or Police 5150 2600; or Towards Healing 1800 816 030.



### Stations of Glory

We have prayed the Stations of the Cross during Lent and Holy Week. We

now have an opportunity to reflect on the Paschal Mystery in the Easter Scriptures. 'CathFamily' has published the Stations of Glory for use in communal prayer and prayer at home. Copies of this can be found at the back of the church.



### **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter.

Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Blessed John Paul II at the canonisation of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000.

The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina. The most comprehensive revelation can be found in her *Diary* entry 699:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity.

Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy.

Nevertheless, Divine Mercy Sunday is NOT a feast based solely on St. Faustina's revelations. Indeed, it is not primarily about St. Faustina — nor is it altogether a new feast. The Second Sunday of Easter was already a solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter. The title "Divine Mercy Sunday" does, however, highlight the meaning of the day.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM.

Enrolments for First Holy Communion are now being accepted. Catholics in grades 4 & 5 are prime candidates.

Children who do not attend St Mary's please ensure we have your details.

Preparation for this sacrament will begin once school returns on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Please ring the Parish Centre 5152 2942 to enrol or for any queries.



### 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.***

### Pope Francis Urbi et Orbi Message (Easter 2021)

Read Pope Francis message of hope given on Easter Sunday this year.

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco\\_20210404\\_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20210404_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html)

Hard copies can be found at the back of the church.

### *Becoming ecologically virtuous*

**Laudato si** was written by Pope Francis in 2015 to outline the Catholic Church's position on the climate crisis. In 2016 Fr Joshtrum Kureethadam wrote an article that proposed seven ecological virtues that he said all people should aim to heal the environment and to live a life that has minimal impact on the planet. We need to care for God's creation because it is on loan to us, until we pass it to future generations.



### *Justice*

To ensure justice for the earth, for the poor, and for future generations. 'Every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and underprivileged. (LS 93) **Consider the impact of our consumer choices on workers ..... Buy 'fair trade' Purchase items from local farmers. These economical actions send a message to producers, not to waste resources.**

*We need to care for God's creation because it is on loan to us, until we pass it to future generations.*

### Collections for Week ending 4th April:

Envelopes \$ 1,631.00  
DD & Cards \$ 2,712.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 877.30  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$ 655.75

### Readings for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19  
Psalm: Ps 4:2,4,7,9  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 John 2:1-5  
Gospel: Luke 24:35-48



### The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer)

is an international movement. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer.

**April** - Universal intention - Fundamental rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

**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:** Michael Flynn and Angela McKail (Co- Chairpersons) Angelo D'Amore, Rita Bowers, Marilyn 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. **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 5152 2942 or 0427 232 682

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

**St Mary's Primary School:** 5152 3706 **Nagle College:** 5152 6122

### AN UPCOMING 'LIFE IN THE SPIRIT' SEMINAR



The Diocesan Service of Communion of the Charismatic Renewal is conducting a Diocese-wide Renewal Seminar for everyone in the Diocese of Sale. This follows the advice of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who encourages all Catholics (and all Christians) to embrace this spiritual renewal program. Bishop Greg has blessed this initiative. It will be an exciting moment with the Holy Spirit, please do not miss this opportunity. Looking forward with great excitement to catching up with you all (Fr Francis). Three seminars will be held in a central location in the Diocese as follows:

**Venue:** St Ita's, Drouin **Time:** 10.30 am each day.

**Dates:** Saturday, 17 April, God's promise of the Holy Spirit  
 Saturday, 22 May, New Life in God's Spirit  
 Saturday, 19 June, Community in the Lord; Commissioning Mass with Bishop Greg

The other seminars will be organised on Prayer Group/Parish levels. Details to follow.

General enquiries please contact: John Duiker (Cranbourne, Diocesan Moderator); Anushka (Berwick, Diocesan Secretary), Julie Powell (Prayer Group leader, Warragul/Drouin), Fr Francis Otobo (Chaplain).

"May our Diocesan Life in the Spirit Seminar be an opportunity for us to fan into a flame the gift of God anew (1 Tim 1:6) and renew the gift of our baptism which calls us forth in missionary service." (Bishop Greg Bennet, Sale Diocese).

### OCEANIA WEBINAR: PARISHES AND SCHOOLS: ONE COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

You are invited to participate in this upcoming webinar on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April from 11.00 am – 12.15 pm. Join with others at this online gathering, where we will be sharing best practice, challenges and initiatives in how parishes and schools collaborate in living out the mission of Jesus Christ.

- What is the identity and role of the parish?
- What is the identity and role of the Catholic primary school, secondary, Pre to Post, State School with SRE?
- What is the interrelationship between school and parish?
- What is best practice for how school and parish come to a shared vision, shared engagement, and shared goals – inclusive of students, families, staff, and parish community?

**Keynote Presenters -Colin MacLeod** - Colin is Director of the National Centre for Religious Studies, which is part of Te Kupenga – Catholic Leadership Institute in New Zealand. He lives in Dunedin and taught at Kavanagh College there serving in various capacities as Director of Religious Studies and Assistant Principal.

**Ms Nichii Mardon** - Director Catholic Education, Diocese of Port Pirie. Prior to her appointment as Director Catholic Education Diocese of Port Pirie in 2018, Nichii Mardon exercised leadership in Reception to Year 12 Catholic schools for almost 30 years. **Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/oceaniawebinarapril20>**

### **NEW 'PLANNED GIVING' ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

**Please pick up your new set of envelopes for the 'Stewardship Program'. Some of you may now have new numbers, this is okay, the system knows what you have given with your old number and will connect it to your new number. If you have any old envelopes, please discard them. Your new set of envelopes can be found in the foyer of the church. We appreciate your help in this matter.**

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Tarcisio Vanzin (brother of Mario), Tom Calabro, Tracey Moffatt, Michelle Grumley (nee Scott), Kathleen (Kath) Clarke), victims of mental health issues; of Covid-19; terrorist attacks, war and conflict, asylum seekers, of family violence and poverty.

**ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...** Ray Cook, Peter Duggan, John McMahon, Veronica Saunders, Lucy de Moel, Guise Duong Van Ho, Barry Brindle, Bob Carrick, Arthur Gilchrist, 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:** Maree Elbourne, Mateusz Iwanowicz, Paul Hawker, Mark Kelly, Bev Miller (mother of Val Bersey), Ella Ford (NZ), Luke Withers (grandson of Sandie & Chris Tilley), Andrew Kenworthy, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Angie McKail, Victoria Shaw, Mary Kirsner, Elizabeth Stehmann, Tricia & Alan Cooke, Damian Greaves, Jim Quigley, Craig Counsel, Roma Greig, Linton Smith, John Butler, Arthur Elbourne, Andre Buxton, Rick Jones, Marcie Hayles, John Buck, Alan Wilson, Vic & Thelma Smythe, Brian Rowe, Trish & Karl Henderson, John Pruscino, Julie Frew.

**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 Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday, 11th April 2021, Year B**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk,  
that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles** (4:32-35)

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

*The word of the Lord.*

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'  
Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **R.**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die. **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone, This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

### **A reading from the first letter of St John** (5:1-6)

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is—keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world—our faith. Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness—since the Spirit is the truth.

*The word of the Lord.*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;  
happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe! **Alleluia!**

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** (20:19-31)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Jerusalem Bible*

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### **Scripture Notes**

The second reading is taken from the first letter of St. John, whose primary aim is to make his readers understand that they are born of God and abide in Him. Through faith in Jesus Christ, Christians become children of God, and in loving God they will surely love their fellow Christians.

The Acts of the apostles gives us great insight into the life of the early Christians. It consists of an idealised way of life and activities highlighting the unity, their sharing of possessions, the powerful preaching of the resurrection and their concern for the poor. The celebration of the Eucharist and service of others were at the centre of their worship for God.

As humans we have a deep need for community, but we also need it in our faith lives. Sadly, parishes can be large and anonymous, both in population and geographically. Maybe a network of small faith sharing groups are one answer for people to experience a sense of community and comradeship. They can also be a stimulus to prevent a parish from stagnating, as a parish can prevent a small group from becoming narrow and inward looking. To be a believer in today's world can be a lonely business. With the help of a community we can be helped to resolve our doubts and sustain our faith. Community is also an essential part of Christian witness of our love and concern for the poor and enables us to stay true the origins of our faith. Christians don't just believe that Jesus rose, but that He is alive today, a living person, a presence.

*Flor McCarthy SDB*