



Benambra: St Francis of Assisi

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 | St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre: | |
| Assistant Priests: | Fr Avinash George Fr Edwin Ogbuka | 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 | |

2nd SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR B, 28th February 2021

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.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Weekend Mass Times | Weekday Masses @ St Mary's |
| Saturday: 6pm | Monday: 9:10am |
| Sunday: 9.30am | Tuesday: 9.10am |
| St Patrick's, Paynesville | Wednesday: No Mass - Clergy Reflection Day in Warragul. Morning Prayers - 8:45am; Rosary - 9am. |
| Sunday: 8am | Thursday: 9.10 am at ST MARY'S SCHOOL 5.30 pm at St Mary's Church followed by Stations of the Cross |
| St Canice's, Lindenow | Friday : 9.10 am followed by Stations of the Cross |
| Sunday: 11am | |



Please donate to
**Project
Compassion
2021**
to help



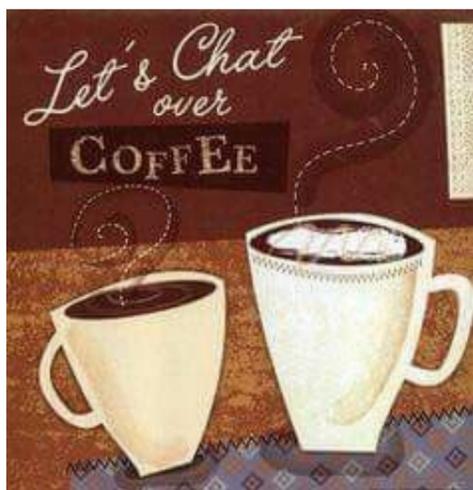
Margret, a teacher at
a vocational school for deaf students in
the Solomon Islands



Reconciliation

Friday following 9:10am Mass

Saturday 9:30am—10am and 5:30pm—5:50pm.



NEXT SUNDAY 7th MARCH

Morning Tea after 9.30am
Mass at St Mary's, in the
Parish Centre.

It has been quite a while
since we have been able to
do this,
so come along for a chat
with other parishioners
over a coffee
or cup of tea.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Margret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security.

Please donate to **Project Compassion 2021** and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Roster for Masses 6th & 7th March 2021

| | Welcomer | Commentator | Reader | Special Minister |
|------------|----------------|-------------|------------|------------------|
| 6:00pm Sat | T & K Flannery | B Calabro | M Saunders | |
| 9:30am Sun | M Owen | T Kosmer | S Tilley | J Delany |

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.

**MEDITATIONS ON THE ROSARY
FOR PARISH RENEWAL**

Our Blessed Mother is the one who teaches us to “do whatever he tells you,” (John 2:5) and she is the intercessor par excellence. For this reason, all parishioners in the East Region of our Diocese are invited to seek her intercession for the missionary renewal of our Parishes, by the frequent praying of the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Join us via Zoom **Wednesday night’s at 7pm** for 30 minutes or you may pick up a hard copy (from St Mary’s Parish Centre) of the Mystery and Intention to pray in your own time. Please contact either Pattie or Michelle at the Parish Centre – 5152 2942.

World Day of Prayer

is an ecumenical prayer event held on the first Friday in March each year all around the world. This year the theme is

‘BUILD ON A STRONG FOUNDATION’

and has been prepared by the women from the Republic of Vanuatu. The Prayer Service will highlight their culture, joys and problems. St Mary’s Parish welcomes the local community to join them.

**1:30pm on Friday 5th March,
in St Mary’s Parish Centre.
(instead of the Church)**

Followed by afternoon tea.

Please bring some afternoon tea to share.



**WEEK ENDING
21st February:**

Envelopes \$ 3,512.00
DD & Cards \$ 975.00
1st Collection \$ 730.00
2nd Collection \$ 444.00

**3rd Sunday of Lent
Year B, 28/2/2021**

Exodus 20: 1-17
Psalm 18: 8-11
Corinthians 1: 22-25
John 2: 13-25



The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network
(Apostleship of Prayer)

Pope’s Worldwide
Prayer Network

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

**FEBRUARY: Universal intention -
Violence against women**

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



Blessing of the Crosses Mass – Sunday 21st March



You are invited to bring your family cross, crucifix, rosary beads or religious item(s) for a blessing. It is a wonderful way to renew our interior life by putting God first and Jesus at the centre of our life. This Mass marks the beginning of Christ’s Passion and Holy Week, a time of preparation for the

Resurrection of Jesus at Easter. Any enquiries, please contact Michelle or Pattie at the Parish Centre on 5152 2942.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Apologies the Hearing Loop system is not working at the moment.



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.**



**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.

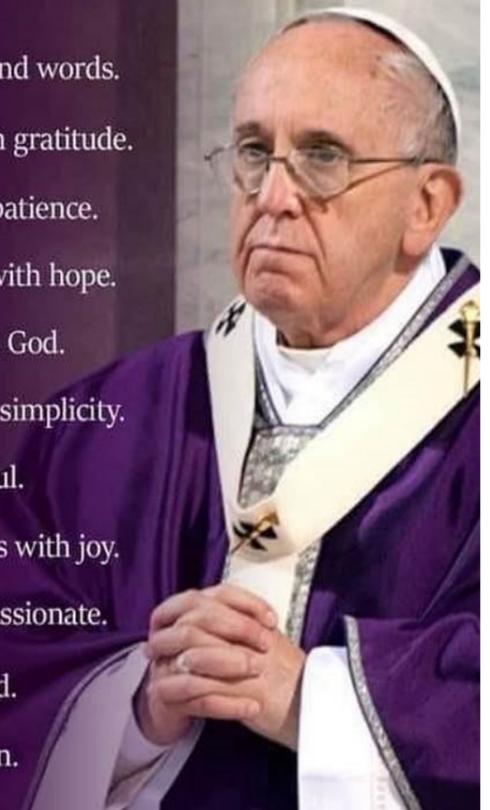
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

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.



**CENTENARY HOUSE
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST**

KEEP THE DATE!!! WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH

7am—10:30am

HOWITT PARK BOWLS CLUB, McEACHARN STREET

\$20 per head includes Home cooked
or Continental Breakfast

And many competition entries.

GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

This group is reconnecting again now restrictions have eased, and we can gather in person. Obviously we are still being careful - sanitising, social distancing and if you so desire wear your mask. The first meeting for the year will be **4th March at 5:00PM** in the Parish Centre. Entry is through the doors on Nicholson Street. For any information please contact Pattie at the Parish Centre 5152 2942.

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, 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
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 contact your preferred Funeral Director for arrangements. **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.

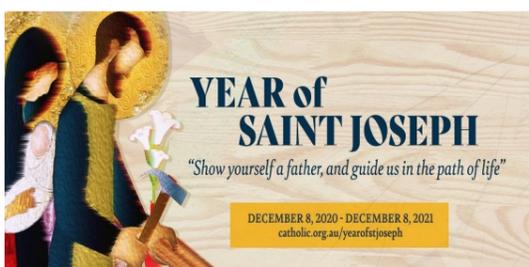
Becoming ecologically virtuous

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. All the terrible things that are happening to the environment – coral bleaching, bush fires, mass extinction and global warming are the result of human actions. We need to care for God’s creation because it is on loan to us, until we pass it to future generations.

Praise To praise and glorify God, to contemplate the beauty of creation. ‘They also invite other creatures to join us in this praise: “Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created” (LS72)



Reconnect with nature, spend more time in awe and wonder of creation.



YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

This year the Church all over the world celebrates 2021 as the Year of St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church. In his Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively

courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>

Feast Days of St Joseph:

Friday 19 March - Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 1 May - Memorial of St Joseph the Worker

Year of St Joseph - Spouse of Mary and loving father to Jesus.

St Joseph is the patron saint of: Universal Church; Workers; Families; The Dying; Fathers & Married couples.

Prayer to St Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
 Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 To you God entrusted his only Son;
 in you Mary placed her trust;
 with you Christ became man.
 Blessed Joseph, to us too,
 show yourself a father
 and guide us in the path of life.
 Obtain for us grace,
 mercy, and courage,
 and defend us from every evil.*

Amen.

By Pope Francis



The Autumn issue of **AustralianCATHOLICS** is available in the porch of all our Churches.

“A song yet to be heard”
 Dreaming of a reconciled Australia. This article can be found on page 10, and much more.

OUR DREAM HAS BECOME A REALITY!

We have opened a New Assistance Centre at 92 MacLeod St in Bairnsdale. Within this Centre we have a facility where homeless people can have a shower and do their washing. Whilst we can’t provide a home, at least we can maintain their self-respect and dignity. We are looking for extra volunteers to staff this facility. St Teresa of Avila writes,

*Christ has no body but yours;
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours
 You are the eyes through which
 Christ looks compassion into the world,
 Yours are the hands which Christ Blesses the world.*

So, we’re asking you to be those hands, those feet, those eyes.
 Any time you can spare would be of assistance.

Please phone: Cath - 0448 525 462; Jo - 0409 530 423; Trish - 0408 320 169



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Cathy Ludeman, Anne Taylor (nee Argentino), John Graves, victims of mental health issues; of Covid-19; victims of terrorist attacks, war and conflict and asylum seekers, and victims of family violence and poverty.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time... Lina Ciavarella, Leo Deery, Christian Halligan, Barry Neve, Kath Connelley, Marie Francis, Sheila Lees, Ursula McCarthy, 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: 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, Roma Greig, Tricia & Alan Cooke, Damian Greaves, Mary Kirsner, Jim Quigley, Paul McFarlane, Craig Counsel, Linton Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, John Butler, Arthur Elbourne, Andre Buxton, Rick Jones, Marcie Hayles, Lorraine O’Brien, Alan Wilson, Vic & Thelma Smythe, Trish & Karl Henderson, Brian Rowe, John Pruscino, 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 Lent , Year B

Entrance Antiphon:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

A reading from the book of Genesis (22:1-2, 9-13,15-18)

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (8: 31-34)

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (9:2-10)

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Jerusalem Bible

© Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Notes:

At face value Abraham's story is disturbing. It is also disturbing in how it portrays both God and Abraham. It starts by seeming to say that God approves of human sacrifice, which is abhorrent to God, but it's aim is to show the opposite.

Abraham lived among the Canaanites who practised human sacrifice. There he got the idea that God was demanding this deed of him. God showed him otherwise and this led to the abandonment of the practise. Why was Abraham put through this cruel ordeal? So that the world would know that if anyone tells us, 'I am committing murder in the name of God,' we will know he is a liar. That is the unanimous opinion of the Orthodox Jewish tradition. The point lies in the end of the story - in the voice from heaven that stopped the trial and said: Choose life, not death. Sadly, killing in God's name has been practised widely down the ages. Present day there are people who kill for religious beliefs and who think they are honouring God.

God does not want us to mete out hurt for hurt, life for life. The pages of history are stained with the blood spilled by people who see themselves as 'God's avengers'. This story showed how great Abraham's faith was. However, God is not honoured by fanatical blind obedience. Besides, God will never ask anyone to do something that is intrinsically evil, or that goes against one of his commandments.

The story condemns the idea of honouring God by taking a life. Jesus introduced the idea of honouring God by giving our lives in the service of God and others. The transfiguration, found in all 3 synoptic Gospels is a contrived story. We don't know exactly what happened on the mountain but Jesus felt himself comforted and affirmed in the course he was taking in heading into the lions' den of Jerusalem. We too, can experience rare moments of light and joy. In his love for us God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come.

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 Safeguarding Officer: Kath Cassidy



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE