



Immaculate Conception, Omeo

# THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

## East 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

#### Presbytery:

23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106

Email: [stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com)

#### St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:

135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942

Website: [www.stmarysbairnsdale.net](http://www.stmarysbairnsdale.net)

Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year C, 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2022

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

##### St Mary's Bairnsdale

Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 9:30am

##### St Patrick's, Paynesville

Sunday: 8:00am

##### St Canice's, Lindenow

2nd & 4th Sunday monthly: 11am

##### Swifts Creek, Omeo & Benambra -

January, March, May, July, September and November.

##### Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek

4th Saturday: 6:30pm

##### Immaculate Conception, Omeo

4th Sunday: 9:00am

##### St Francis, Benambra

4th Sunday: 11am

#### Weekday Masses @ St Mary's

Monday to Friday: 9:10am

#### Stations of the Cross

following Mass each Friday during Lent.

#### Paynesville

Wednesday: 10am Rosary

**RECONCILIATION** is available each

Friday after 9:10am Mass

Saturday 9:30am - 10:00am and  
5:30pm to 5:50pm



As a person with a disability living in remote India, **Biru** faced the prospect of a life of poverty and discrimination.



With your support, he participated in

entrepreneurship training and gained the skills to become financially independent.

#### Please donate to Project Compassion 2022

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

*You can help people like Biru continue to thrive by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes or envelopes, visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au) or phoning 1800 024 413*

#### TOP 10 LENTEN PROMISES - Things to Embrace

- Tongue biting** – practice restraint and humility. Let the criticism die in your mouth, let someone else speak first, give others space to voice their opinion.
- Early Rising** – If your day is too busy for God, rise early to enjoy a few quiet moments together.
- Half-serves** – we really don't need nearly as much food/clothing/music/TV/stuff as we think. Practice taking half serves and let hunger bite occasionally.
- Secret Giving** – there are so many in need - be generous, then double it and enjoy God's blessings.
- Apologise** – seek unity in all circumstances. Apologise when you have wronged someone... even when they started it!
- Forgive and let live** – set yourself free. Forgive someone against whom you hold a grudge. Let them go. Let yourself go. And start living again.
- Gratitude** – give thanks every day, all day. Thank God, thank others. Gratitude is one of the most effective ways to lift your spirit and increase your awareness of God's presence.
- Blessing** – bless those you love. Bless those you dislike. Bless those you envy. Bless God for the joys. Bless God for the sorrows. In all things, bless.
- Random Acts of Kindness (RAK)** – nothing will inspire more delicious delight than doing a RAK – compliment a stranger, assist an elderly person, top up the parking meter, bring sunshine into someone's life.
- Listen** – stop talking and listen...to your spouse, to your children, to the lonely neighbour, to the homily, to the sounds of creation, to God's word in your life.

#### Roster for Masses – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent Year C - 19-20<sup>th</sup> March 2022

|            | Welcomer      | Commentator | Reader     | Special Minister |
|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------------|
| 6:00pm Sat | M Saunders    | J Peachey   | C Shanahan | C Marriot-Smith  |
| 9:30am Sun | G & K Cassidy | T Kosmer    | G Neesom   | H Sampson        |

**Cleaning:** Fortnight ending: 26<sup>th</sup> March - P Pruscino **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.

### Prayer for Plenary Council 2020

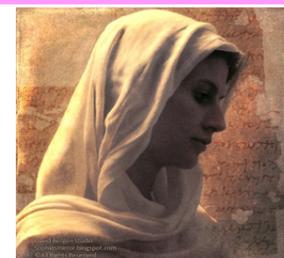
Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.  
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.  
O God, bless and unite all your  
people in Australia and guide us on the  
pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.  
Give us the grace to see your face in one another  
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.  
Give 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' MESSAGE FOR LENT 2022

In preparation for Lent 2022, Pope Francis [released his annual message](#), reflecting on St Paul's epistle to the Galatians: 'Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up' (6:9-10) Here is an extract from paragraph 3: *In this season of conversion, sustained by God's grace and by the communion of the Church, let us not grow tired of doing good. **The soil is prepared by fasting, watered by prayer and enriched by charity.** May the Virgin Mary, who bore the Saviour in her womb and "pondered all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:19), obtain for us the gift of patience. May she accompany us with her maternal presence, so that this season of conversion may bring forth fruits of eternal salvation.*



### **LENT A TIME TO REFLECT.....**

The Parish is offering this small, easy to carry, booklet for individuals or groups.

#### **'The Spirit and the Cross'**

**will nourish and nurture prayer each day**

**during Lent and into the first week of Easter.**

Each day includes a scripture reading and a reflection upon it, some questions to aid prayer and discussion, and relevant quotes from Pope Francis.

The Parish is also offering **LENTEN SMALL GROUPS Tuesdays 2pm (face to face at the Parish Centre);**

**7.30pm (via Zoom); or Thursdays 10am at Parish Centre.**

Contact Pattie at the Parish Centre PH 5152 2942 for more info.

**SMALL GROUPS ARE A REWARDING AND IMPORTANT PART OF THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**

Friendships are strengthened, and new friendships developed. Hearing opinions and thoughts from others helps **broaden and strengthen our own beliefs and be aware of God's presence** in our lives.



### **Top Ten Lenten Promises - Things to Surrender**

- 1.Grumpiness** – irritability is a choice. We can choose to be grumpy and hang on to our right to be foul-tempered, or we can choose to be pleasant and good humored.
- 2.Blame** – when things go wrong, stop looking for a scapegoat. Practice acceptance and responsibility.
- 3.Superiority** – A judgmental attitude is like a rotting corpse – it spreads it's bile over everyone in criticism and put downs.
- 4.Gossip** – resist taking delight in someone else's failure. Protect their reputation and let the bad news stop with you.
- 5.Vanity** – give up self-obsession and the fantasy that the world revolves around you. Start revolving your life around God and you'll find more joy than you ever dreamed.
- 6.Self-pity** – everyone has to deal with setbacks and disappointments. Self-pity won't change your circumstances; it just makes you feel powerless.
- 7.Resentment** – unforgiveness and resentment hangs over a person's life like dark thunder clouds. It makes your life gloomy & your presence unpleasant. It's not worth the cost.
- 8.Tiredness** – if you're always tired, go to bed early. Be self-disciplined and resist the TV, internet or other recreation that steals your sleep. And if you choose not to, then at least stop whining about how tired you are! (Parents of young children exempted!)
- 9.Busyness** – you have all the time you could ever need for the things that are important to you. Stop using a lack of time as an excuse for neglecting relationships or your health.
- 10.Cynicism** – it's easier to be cynical than it is to be optimistic and hope-filled. Take the path less travelled.

### DID YOU KNOW

The forty days of Lent, taken from the forty days Jesus spent in the desert, do not include Sundays – the day Christians celebrate the Resurrection. Forty is a symbolic number in the Hebrew scriptures: it signifies an irreversible event, something from which there is no turning back.

### **PRAYER FOR UKRAINE**

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of  
weapons.



We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children,  
at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Anglican Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell



### RESTORING FRESHNESS IN THE TIME OF LENT –

**Michael Elligate**

Online Lenten Series presented by Emmaus  
Spirituality Ministry. Emmaus is a joint ministry of the  
Catholic Diocese of Sale and  
Jesuits and Ignatian Spirituality Australia.

The Online series will be held

**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and April 7<sup>th</sup> Thursday morning @**

**10:30am OR Thursday evening @ 7:30pm**

**Facilitators:** Theresa Denny & Geraldine Naismith

**-Bookings:** [salespirituality1@gmail.com](mailto:salespirituality1@gmail.com) **Cost:** \$25 per session.

ALL are welcome and don't let cost prevent you from participating.

### **Readings: 20<sup>th</sup> March** **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year C**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading:  
Exodus 17:3-7  
Responsorial Psalm:  
102:1-4,6-8,11  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians  
10:1-6,10-12  
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

### **Collection for 6/3/22**

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Envelopes                  | \$ 1,137.00 |
| DD & Cards                 | \$ 3,070.00 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Collection | \$ 718.20   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection | \$ 698.90   |

**PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD**

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.**

**With You alone to guide us,  
make yourself at home in our hearts;**

**Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.**

**Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity**

**so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and  
time, in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen**

***Suggestions for Fasting and Feasting***

*Fast from discontent; feast on thankfulness.*

*Fast from worry; feast on trust.*

*Fast from anger; feast on patience.*

*Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.*

*Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayers.*

*Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.*

*Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.*

*Fast from media hype; feast on the honesty of the Bible.*

*Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.*

*Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that  
strengthens.*

**Your Parish Pastoral Council**

meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Items for the Agenda  
to be given in to the Parish Centre  
by 10.00am Tuesday the week before.

**Members: Wilma Collier, Marylin Elliott,**

**Madelaine Schumann, Narelle Gibbons,**

**Peter McMahon, Amanda Vowell & Jacinta Da Costa.**

Ex-officio members: priest, principals and Pattie.

**A Parish Directory:** is available at the Pastoral Centre.

**St Mary's Primary School:** 5152 3706

**Nagle College:** 5152 6122

**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 Vincent de Paul Conference/Assistance Centre:**  
5152 6687

**St Mary's Op Shop:** 5152 2088

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions -March**

***For a Christian response to bioethical challenges.***

We pray for Christians facing bioethical changes;  
May they continue to defend the dignity of  
all human life with prayer and action.

**THE MASS SERIES – by Archbishop Mark Coleridge of the Archdiocese of Brisbane**  
Every 2 weeks we will, together with Archbishop Mark, share with you each part of the Mass.

The series can be found on **YouTube>Archdiocese of Brisbane/playlist>The Mass Series**

**7. Liturgy of the Word – Creed**

Once (we), the people of God, have heard the Word of God, we stand up and recite the Creed together. This is our way of saying "Yes, we believe the Word that we have heard. We put our trust in the God who has spoken to us." There are two Creeds that we use: one is the Creed of the Council of Nicea, in 325AD using very old words; the other we know as the Apostles' Creed is the baptismal creed used in the early centuries of the Church of Rome. They are similar in that they say, we believe in God Father, Son and Spirit; the God who has called us into His own life; who speaks to our heart. In the Council of Nicea's creed, we say, "that Jesus is consubstantial with the Father". It means that He is in perfect union with the Father. In the Apostles' Creed, we say that Jesus descended into the realm of the dead, he descended into hell. This means that He goes into the dark world of the dead and in so doing, floods that world with the light of Easter. Some of the language is strange but at its heart the creed, is the same in every age and every place. It is God's people saying yes to the God who speaks and yes to the word that we have heard here and now.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

John Mahoney, Jack Monette (father/f.i.l of Jennifer & Stephen Butler), Kate D'Brass, Ron DeBoer, Guido Maglione, Dorothy Warner, Joe Duffy, Ben Buckley, victims of: mental health issues; Covid-19; terrorist attacks, war and conflict; asylum seekers; family violence and poverty.

**ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...**

Margaret Bills, Marguerite Leone, Joan Browne, Terry Boyd, Lorraine O'Brien, David Eldridge, Agnes Gibson, John Confait, Graeme Summerton, John Tilley, Christian Halligan, Barry Neve, Gwenda Leighton, Madge Marshall, Dino Baccega, Aida Bachetti, Rachela Dicello, Betty Dimarco, Guiseppe Ganci, Pauline Ganci, Mary Sicura, and 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:**

Leo Russell, Michael Counsel, John Spirason, Tricia & Alan Cooke, Lyn Donchi, Paul Fitzgerald, Fr Pax Scarf OFM, Bin Li (husband of Liah), Bob Marshall, Shirley Gilmore (Mary Rowe's sister), Victoria Shaw, Paul Hawker, Vin Ayres (brother of Pat Coloe), Michael Flynn, Mark & Elizabeth Rashleigh, Maree Elbourne, Ella Ford (NZ), Craig Counsel, Margaret O'Reilly, Ambrosio (Tony) Da Cunha - Asqueli, Marsha Worseldine, Arthur Elbourne, Jim Quigley, Arthur Roberts, Damian Greaves, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Linton Smith, Marcie Hayles, Brian Rowe, Vic Smythe.

***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. Please contact the Parish Centre to extend this time.**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C**

### **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.

### **The Opening Prayer also known as The Collect**

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

### **A reading from the book of Genesis** (15:5-12,17-18)

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

### **Responsorial Psalm**

#### **R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' **R.**  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face. Dismiss not your servant in anger;

you have been my help. **R.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord **R.**

### **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians** (3:17 - 4:1)

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

### **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 Luke** (9:28-36)

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'. And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

*Jerusalem Bible* © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

### **Scripture Notes**

The transfiguration was not only a stage in the disciple's education, it was to affirm and confirm Jesus on the remainder of his life's work, namely rejection and death to ultimate and certain glory. The same 3 disciples witness this and the agony in Gethsemane, indicating a connection between this and Calvary.

The transfiguration occurred while Jesus was *praying*, everything bright, and he was enveloped by a luminous cloud symbolising God's presence. On Calvary, the sky was dark and Jesus' face would be covered by blood and sweat and he would be *praying*. The prayerful relationship with the Father is what sustained Jesus all his life. So, too it is with us. We have moments of great joy and exhilaration which reassure and strengthen us. But we, more familiarly, have moments when life is dark and difficult, that we feel that we are on our own and have been abandoned by God. This is when we must do what Jesus did on Calvary, turn to God in prayer and commit our cause to him. The road of suffering is narrow and difficult, but since Jesus travelled it, there is a bright light illuminating it, culminating in a sharing of Christ's glory and becoming a source of blessing for others.

*Flor McCarty SDB New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies Year C*