



Swifts Creek: Sacred Heart

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
Assistant Priests: Fr Avinash George
Fr Jayakody Francis
Presbytery:
23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106

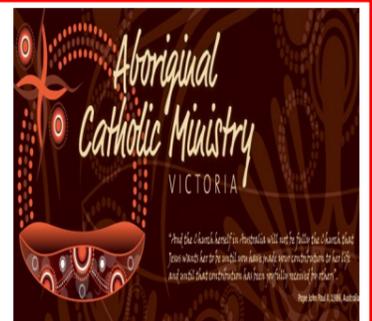
St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:
135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942
Email: stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net
Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

32nd SUNDAY, YEAR A—8th 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.

NAIDOC WEEK: 8-17 November 2020

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920's which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. NAIDOC Week is held in the first full week of July. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society. Go to Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria <https://www.cam1.org.au/acmv> for further information/resources and links.



RETURN TO INDOOR MASSES

Maximum 20 people

at Parish Centre

Entry via Pyke Street or McDonald's Carpark.

Parish Centre, Bairnsdale
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 9.30am, 11am
St Patrick's, Paynesville
Sunday: 8am
St Canice's, Lindenow
Sunday: 11am

Monday: 9:10am
Tuesday: 9:10am
BUPA/Eastwood
Mass 10:30am
Wednesday: 9:10am
Thursday: 9:10am
Friday: 9:10am

Advent, which begins 29th November, is the time that is given to us to welcome the Lord who comes to meet us. He returns to us on the feast of Christmas.

However, He comes to us every time we are disposed to receive Him and He will come again at the end of time," to Judge the living and the dead". Therefore, we must always be vigilant, "Take heed, watch and pray, for you do not know when He will come."



The person that takes heed is one that, in the noise of the world, doesn't let himself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality, but lives in a full and aware way with concern first for others. With this attitude, we are aware of the tears and the needs of our neighbour and we can also grasp their human and spiritual capacities and qualities.

The person that heeds then turns to the world, trying to counter the indifference and cruelty in it, and rejoices over the treasure of beauty that also exists.

(Pope Francis—part of the Angelus address on the meaning of Advent)

Advent Retreat Experience on Inner Peace in Divine Love

A Retreat based on one of four 'First Spiritual Exercises' by St Ignatius of Loyola

For those who want to deepen their spirituality.

15 November – 17 Dec 2020

Guided Spiritual Listening and Conversations each week.

Online Zoom meetings To register your interest, please provide your name, email and phone number and preferred day **by 1st Nov**, to Chris Gardner at mjgard@inet.net.au or at 0429 995 591 and all necessary login details etc. will be forwarded to you by email.

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.

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

In your prayers reflect on the following questions:

- **How have I expressed my faith in my spoken words as well as my inner thoughts?**
- **When has my life demonstrated what my faith is all about?**
- **When have I asked others to do something that I was not willing to do? Why did I do that?**
- **When have I used any power or influence I might have, in a way that was humble and served the needs of others? How did I do that?**

Try looking at the same questions each week or month.

The Examen Prayer

Prayer for Light: I am before God who loves me and welcomes me, who enlightens me and guides me. I embrace God who lives and grows in me.

Gratitude: I give thanks for what I have done and for what I received this day, both pleasant and difficult, for the word of encouragement and generous gesture, for my family and work, my community, for the time to pray and to laugh and to cry.

Review of the day: What has happened to me in my life, my work, my relationships? How has God been working in me? What has been asked of me? What has been the quality of my response: with love or selfishness, with honesty or deceit?

Ask for forgiveness: I ask pardon for when I refused to understand my sisters and brothers in their pain. For passing up the opportunity to be useful, for my failure in loving, for injustices, for oppression. I ask pardon for not loving God and all creation in every part of my life.

Hopeful Recommitment: I seek to respond and trust God, aware of my weakness but confident in God's strength and mercy. I want to flourish for my sisters and brothers. I renew my commitment to follow the path that God offers me to be a source of light for all creation.

Our Father.....

Links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=pDQgizJlNdk>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVItxNMnNnw>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHnSSmFOHQc>

SPIRITUAL DRYNESS

Sometimes we experience a terrible dryness in our spiritual lives. We feel no desire to pray, don't experience God's presence, get bored with worship services and even think that everything we ever believed about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit is little more than a childhood fairy tale. Then it is important to realise that most of these feelings and thoughts are just feelings and thoughts, and that the Spirit dwells beyond our feelings and thoughts. It is a great grace to be able to experience God's presence in our feelings and thoughts but when we don't, it does not mean that God is absent. It often means that God is calling us to a greater faithfulness. It is precisely in times of spiritual dryness that we must hold on to our spiritual discipline so that we can grow into a new intimacy with God.

Henri Nouwen

SPIRITUALITY AND AGING

Journey through The Second Half of Life Saturday 21 November 11am — 2pm

This program consists of two sessions which look at the journey into the second half of life. They are presented via zoom by Dr Susie Hii, a Victorian CLC member and geriatrician.

Looking back 11—12pm
30min lunch

Looking Forward 12.30-2pm

Sessions are free. To register please email Susie
Susiehii.hc@gmail.com
by 18th November, for a ZoomLink



EAST REGION GATHERING

Due to drought, bushfires and Covid-19 we have not gathered for 12 months. The East Region consists of Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Orbost and Omeo. Next Tuesday we will meet via Zoom, to share our stories, be a support to each other and hear of new ways of being 'Church'. If you would like to join us please email Pattie stm.pattipruscino@gmail.com and she will send you the link. **DATE:** Tuesday 10th November **TIME:** 10:30am

INVITATION to BRING A FRIEND TO MASS

Share the blessings of your faith with someone special in your life when you invite them to mass.

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.**



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Barbara Sievers, Gabriel Moylan, Margaret Nugent, 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...

Ellen Delany, Huynh Van Tuan, Michael Dudley, Pietro Carioli, Domenico Rettino, Silvana La Porta, Kathleen Marshall, Peter O'Donohue, Norm Mann, Robert Bills. 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:

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, Peter Grimsted.

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.

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 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.

Parish Business Manager :

Paul Heaton Harris

Pastoral Care:

Pattie Pruscino

Sacramental Coordinator:

Michelle Grimsted

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Kath Cassidy

Pastoral Centre: 5152 2942

Presbytery: 5152 3106

St Marys' Primary School: 5152 3706

Principal: Michelle Garbutt

Newsletter:

www.stmbairns.catholic.edu.au

Nagle College: 5152 6122

Principal: Neville Powles

Newsletter: www.nagle.vic.edu.au

St Mary's Op Shop: 5152 2088

THE HEART OF LIFE AS A CATHOLIC

“WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT” FOUND IN ISAIAH 11, AND THE “FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT” LISTED IN GALATIANS 5, AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS (CHARISMS)?

There are gifts of the Holy Spirit that we are given to *keep* and gifts we are given to *give away*. The traditional “seven gifts of the Holy Spirit” and the “fruits” of the Spirit are gifts given to us to keep. They are part of our inner transformation as Christians and provide inner “Christ-likeness” necessary for the effective use of our charisms (CCC, 1830-1832). Charisms, on the other hand, are gifts given to us to give away. Charisms are always focussed outward: they are especially empowered ways by which God's love and goodness reaches our neighbour through us.

Advent and Christmas Daily Reflection Booklets 'Adore'

We are happy to offer the booklets (not yet arrived) and an opportunity to join a small prayer group on Zoom, as we prepare for Christmas through Advent. If you would like to join a Zoom group, please contact Pattie at the Parish Centre. No zoom experience needed and very easy to learn. Give it a try, you will be amazed how easy and personable it is. Starting date TBA.

AustralianCATHOLICS

The summer edition is now out. Always a great read. Being NAIDOC week this coming week, there is a story of Elsie Heiss that will touch your heart. Another article explores the question 'Who is Jesus'. Pick up your copy from the back of the hall.

ST MARY'S OP SHOP GARAGE SALE

Sat 14th Nov, 8.00AM - 12 noon, Lawless St, Bairnsdale, last shed on right. Huge variety of Christmas items as well as kids books & toys, nic nacks etc at cheap prices. All Covid rules apply.

MONTH OF NOVEMBER



During the month of November we remember those loved ones who have gone before us. This week you will receive a purple cross (for those who receive emails, call into the Parish Centre where you can pick up your cross), on which you can write the names of loved ones passed. We welcome you to bring the cross in and pin it onto the large wooden cross found in the hall.



If you would like to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** you may ring the Presbytery on 51523106 to speak with one of the priests to make an arrangement.

Readings for 33rd Sunday, Year A 15/11/2020

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Psalm 127: 1-5
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25: 14-30

Week ending 1st November

Envelopes	\$ 2,625.00
D/D & Cards	\$ 3,780.00
1 st Collection	\$ 565.00
2 nd Collection	\$ 250.00



**ROSARY
ZOOM
DURING
OCTOBER**

Here is a snapshot on the last night, all wearing something blue, of most of those who joined in at 7pm each evening during October to pray the Rosary together. The 'beads' stretched from Glen Iris to Orbost. As a result we are now meeting each **Wednesday at 7pm** via Zoom and we will pray a different mystery each week. Would you like to join? Please email Michelle stm.michelleg@gmail.com and she will send you the link. Not used Zoom before, no problem, bring in your 'device' (computer, phone, ipad) and we will do our best to set you up.

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.

32nd SUNDAY, Year A

Entrance Antiphon:

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

A reading from the book of Wisdom (6: 12-16)

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R. My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-14)

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

you know not when the Son of Man is coming. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (25: 1-13)

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Scripture Note:

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians is talking about grieving. This and the gospel reflect that grieving and rejoicing are a part of life. To live fruitfully after the death of a loved one, people need to go through a period of mourning. To deal with grief one should not run away from it, or pretend it isn't there, but to face it and work through it with as much courage and honesty as one can. Faith can be a wonderful comfort and support at a time of death and enables us to grieve with hope. The last section of Matthew's gospel, before Jesus' death and resurrection, is a collection of Jesus' teachings urging readiness for death and judgement. The wedding customs of Palestine have not changed in many centuries. The parable of the bride's attendants is a warning that the Lord is giving us a wake-up call, to shake us out of our apathy and complacency. To be 'turned away from the feast' (heaven) and left in the 'dark' would be terrible. What is the lamp? It is the lamp of love. Love, in order to be genuine, doesn't have to be extraordinary. What we need is love without getting tired or cynical. How does a lamp of that time burn? Through a continuous input of small drops of oil. If the drops of oil cease, the lamp will go out. In our life these small drops of oil are the small things of daily life: faithfulness, punctuality, small works of kindness, a thought for others, our way of being silent, of looking, of speaking, of listening and of acting. Jesus shared our life, our loneliness, our anguish, our death. He is not far away from us, He is very close. We can touch, serve, and love Him every day of our lives. With the oil of prayer and good works we must keep the lamp of faith burning, and He will recognise us. We won't be judged on a momentary lapse but on our life as a whole. We must be prepared for the hour of the Lord's coming by being a doer rather than a mere hearer of the word.

FLOR MCARTHY 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