



St Patrick's Paynesville

# 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 Fr Jayakody Francis	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>	

### 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 13th 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

St Mary's church is open, once again. As we have moved into the "COVID normal" stage, we welcome everyone back to all our churches, including 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 Mass and Reconciliation schedules have returned to normal.

#### Reconciliation

**Friday** following 9:10am Mass

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

Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 9.30am <b>St Patrick's, Paynesville</b> Sunday: 8am <b>St Canice's, Lindenow</b> Sunday: 11am	<b>Monday:</b> 9:10am <b>Tuesday:</b> No Mass due to other commitments. <b>Wednesday:</b> 9:10am <b>Thursday:</b> 9:10am <b>Friday:</b> 9:10am
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#### 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.



#### CHRISTMAS MASSES

St Mary's Church,  
Main St., Bairnsdale

Christmas Eve: 7:00pm Mass

at Presentation Hall, Nagle College,

(Hope Avenue off Lindenow Dargo Road.)

Midnight Mass in St Mary's Church

Christmas Day: 9:30am Mass

**St Patrick's Church, King St, Paynesville**

Christmas Day: 8:00am Mass

**Sacred Heart Church, Cassilis Rd, Swifts Creek**

Christmas Eve: 6:00pm Mass

**St Francis' Church, McFarlane St, Benambra**

Christmas Eve: 7:30pm Mass

#### 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.



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

#### Roster for Masses 19/20 December

	Commentator	Reader
6.00pm	J Peachey	J De Boer
9:30am	H Van den Einden	S Tilley

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

#### 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.

Paul Zaher (spent 6 months in our Parish on pastoral placement on his journey to priesthood) celebrated his 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of Thanksgiving at St Mary's, Bairnsdale last Friday.



We congratulate him on his Ordination and wish him well in 2021 and the years ahead. May he always remember the power of the Holy Spirit. God is good, God is good indeed.

### **ROSARY VIA ZOOM**

Following a very successful 'Praying the Rosary Daily' during the month of October, we have continued this on a weekly basis each Wednesday at 7pm (still via Zoom). 16th December will be our last evening for the year. We will be back again on **Wednesday 27th January at 7pm**. If you need the link, please email Michelle. We look forward to you joining us at any time. Have a blessed Christmas and see you in the New Year.

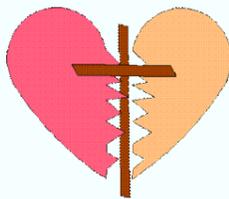
### **STAMPS FOR SALESIAN MISSIONS**

With Christmas here, you are reminded to keep your used postage stamps. They will benefit Salesian Missions.

Please cut the stamps from the envelopes leaving a 5mm border. Stamps can be left at the Parish Centre in the box provided, or on the collection plate in an envelope.



As Parish Sacramental Coordinator, I am preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be celebrated in **March 2021**. Enrolment for candidates can now be made by leaving their name and contact phone number at the Parish Centre and I will follow up. Many thanks Michelle Grimsted.



A small space but a **BIG THANK YOU** to George for polishing all the brass (over the last couple of weeks) used in the church. Be it the vases, candle holders or the fitting on the baptismal font, all is in readiness to celebrate the birth of Christ. God bless you.

### **THE HEART OF LIFE AS A CATHOLIC** [www.sienna.org](http://www.sienna.org)

The Catherine of Sienna Institute was founded in 1997. A programme of the Western Dominican Province, they seek to further the mission of the church to the world by ensuring that lay Catholics (who are 99% of the Church) have access to the formation they need to effectively carry out their unique and essential part in this mission. Every baptised Christian receives from Christ a unique and specific call, therefore every Christian needs the kind of preparation that the Church offers to those seeking to fulfill a specific mission. The Church calls such preparation 'formation', and states that 'formation is not the privilege of a few but a right and duty of all.



- It is lay in approach, spirituality and focus
- Deeply rooted in tradition and teaching of the Church
- Fosters integration of faith, work and relationships
- Takes seriously the gifts given by the Holy Spirit
- Enables each person to discern God's unique call to them
- Prepares one to be an effective, creative apostle
- Geared to the real lives of working adults

### **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.***



### **An Advent reflection and prayer from Joyce Rupp in Prayer Seeds**

In these days before Christmas, there are many things that can keep us from the stillness ready to open us to the wonder and beauty of Emmanuel. Physical illness, emotional and mental distress, social commitments, deadlines at work, relationship differences, shopping, correspondence and other stressful situations can disquiet us. Let us pause to regain stillness so that we can enter these Advent days with a peaceful spirit as we prepared for the great feast of Christmas.

Silent One, as we move within our daily tasks, clothe us with your peace-filled stillness.

Within the cloak of your all-embracing quietness, we can be assured of remaining focussed on what you desire of us.

May our external activities be such that they enable us to stay mindful of you.

May our spirits be quiet enough to welcome you.

Slow us down when we want to speed up.

Move us toward that quiet pool of peace inside of us where we can be attentive to your love.

In these days before Christmas, draw us ever nearer to you in all we are and do.

Protect us from whatever drives peace away.

Anchor us in your love. Amen.

### **COLUMBAN CALENDARS**

are now available from the Parish Centre for \$12.

### **FAREWELL FR. FRANCIS**

'So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu' in a line from the movie "The Sound of Music", we say farewell to Fr Francis. It has been a very strange time for him as he worked in the East Region of the Sale Diocese - always ready with a smile, have a chuckle, did his best to work within the confines of Covid-19 and joined in the Rosary via Zoom. We are most grateful for his time with us and we send him with our blessings to the other side of the continent, specifically Melville Island. Our love and prayers go with you, and may you enjoy your time with our aboriginal brothers and sisters. It will be a whole new wonderful experience. God bless and take care.

From all of St Mary's Parish.

### **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.

### **ORDINATION CARD**

Please pick up your card in honour of the Ordination of our 10th Bishop of Sale, Bishop Greg Bennet. We hope there will be enough for 1 per family.

### **QR SCAN**

As you enter church, you will find a new way of registering your attendance at Mass. Point your camera at the QR code and follow the prompts.

### **OFFICE CLOSURE**

The Parish Centre will be closed from Wednesday 23rd December and reopen on Tuesday 19th January 2021.

**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 3: Vision of an open world.**

'Envisaging and engendering an open world'. In this chapter Francis exhorts us to 'go outside the self' in order to find 'a fuller existence in another', opening ourselves up to others, according to the energy of charity which makes us move towards 'universal fulfilment'. The Encyclical recalls that the spiritual stature of a person's life is measured by love, which takes precedence and leads us to seek better for the life of others, away from self. The sense of solidarity and fraternity begin within the family, which are to be safeguarded and respected in their vital mission of education. The right to live with dignity cannot be denied to anyone, and since rights have no borders, no one should be excluded regardless of where they are born. Francis calls us to consider the ethics of international relations as the goods of the territory cannot be denied to those who are in need and come from another place. Thus, the natural right to private property should be secondary to the principle of universal distribution of created goods. The Encyclical also places specific emphasis on the issue of foreign debt, subject to the principle that it must be paid, it is hoped that this does not compromise the growth and subsistence of the poorest countries.

*Vatican News Isabella Piro*

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B 20/12/2020**

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Psalm 88: 2-5, 27, 29

Romans 16: 25-27

Luke 1: 26-38

### **Week ending 6th December**

Envelopes \$ 2,158.00

D/D & Cards \$ 2,785.00

1<sup>st</sup> Collection \$ 385.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection \$ 203.00

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

Des Lovell, Fr Frank Young, Norman Brennan, John Clark, Victims of mental health issues, of Covid-19, Victims of terrorist attacks, war and conflict, asylum seekers, family violence and Victims of poverty.

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

Joe Pruscino, Eileen Mason, Clem Rooks, Albert Nelson, Eileen Dean, John Kolar, 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:**

Jim Quigley, Paul McFarlane, Craig Counsel, Elizabeth Stehmann, John 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.**

### **3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B**

#### **Entrance Antiphon:**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

#### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah** (61: 1-2, 10-11)

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

*The word of the Lord.*

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

##### **R. My soul rejoices in my God.**

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **R.**

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **R.**

#### **A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians** (5: 16-24)

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

*The word of the Lord.*

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

##### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** (1: 60-8, 19-28)

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*  
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#### **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

John proved to be a courageous and effective witness. He was a strong personality who did not go in for a life of comfort but lived in the desert. He was a living example of what he preached, and on the completion of his task he stood aside, he stood aside to make way for Jesus. We can't be a witness for the light if we are living in darkness.

A good life is a strong effective witness and in itself is a proclamation of the Gospel. When religious practice is divorced from everyday life a vital element is missing. When religious practice leads to deeds, a very effective witness is given. One of the key words in our faith is salvation - what does it mean? This world is full of wonder, riches and beauty. However, it is also a broken world. Salvation was often seen as being purely spiritual - as the salvation of the soul from eternal damnation, and viewed in a very individualistic and self-focused way. Today we are more aware of our common destiny and a tendency to go to the other extreme - as salvation from want, suffering and oppression, and in political, economic and social terms. However, there are nations that are socially and economically advanced where many vices and excesses exist. Salvation is a struggle for life in the fullest sense and a question of a person living in history, not just of saving the soul at the hour of our death. Before the coming of Jesus, God was seen as distant and remote, not really concerned about us and our sufferings and seen as a judge or spy ready to pounce or punish. Jesus, in his coming, has revealed God as a loving, compassionate and forgiving Father, who is concerned about each one of us. A God whose concern is to heal and save and close to the weak, the poor and the overburdened. To know God in this way is a cause for great joy.

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