



St Mary's— Bairnsdale

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	

3rd SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR B, 7th March 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.

<u>Weekend Mass Times</u>
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 9.30am
St Patrick's, Paynesville
Sunday: 8am
St Canice's, Lindenow
Sunday: 11am

<u>Weekday Masses @ St Mary's</u>
Monday: 9:10am
Tuesday: 9:10am
Wednesday: 9:10am
Thursday: 9.10 am 5.30 pm followed by Stations of the Cross.
Friday: 9.10 am followed by Stations of the Cross.

<u>Reconciliation</u>
Friday following 9:10am Mass
Saturday 9:30am—10am and 5:30pm—5:50pm.
<u>Morning Tea</u> will be served in the Parish Centre after 9.30 Mass Please come, all are welcome.



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



Oliva, 22, didn't have the opportunity to go to school, and was embarrassed that she was unable to read, write or count. Her business was losing money because she couldn't add up. Then Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia's literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes. Oliva has now graduated, attendance at her classes is growing, her kiosk is thriving and she is helping her children with their homework. She aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election - to help her community to 'Be More.'

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Oliva's gain access to education to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone's dignity. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Roster for Masses 13th & 14th March 2021

	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister
6:00pm Sat	T & K Flannery	C Marriot-Smith	C Kenyon	
9:30am Sun	M Owen	D Fallon	F Brown-Graham	J Fallon

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.



**CENTENARY HOUSE
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING
BREAKFAST
WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH
7am—10:30am
HOWITT PARK BOWLS CLUB,
McEACHARN STREET**

\$20 per head - Home cooked or Continental Breakfast and many competition entries.

Reflection (Flor McCarthy)

In pruning a fruit tree, the aim is not to inflict damage on the tree, but to rid it of dead or superfluous branches, so that it can produce more and better fruit. Lent is a kind of spiritual pruning time. There may be things in our lives that sap our energy, and diminish our spiritual fruitfulness. What do we need to prune ourselves of this Lent, so that we may become more fruitful branches of Christ, the true Vine.



Our blessings and Good wishes to
Ben Buurman
&
Emmy McLennan
Married this weekend



We welcome into our church community through
BAPTISM
Thomas William Walsh
son of
Nicole & Matthew

40 HOUR VIGIL - HEALING THE HURTS

Beginning at 6am on Wednesday 31st March we are again offering a time of prayer and reflection to show our compassion and support for the children, women and men, abused by those in whom they had placed their trust. While at the Church we will reflect on their stories that were not believed for so long. All will be invited to pray and reflect, light a candle or simply sit quietly in solidarity for a while, to show our sorrow for what has been done to them. We are asking for people to commit to attending for 1, 2 or maybe 3 hours. Sheets can be found in the foyers of our churches where you can 'sign up' to support this very important initiative.

Following the call of Victorian Bishops, Catholic Social Services Victoria has developed a resource kit for parishes in order to help them better respond to domestic and family violence. **Resource kits** will be distributed to every parish in Victoria, plus leading social services Organisations.



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.



**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.



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.

Gratitude

See the world as a gift from God. 'One expression of (gratitude) is when we stop and give thanks to God before and after meals... {it} reminds us of our dependence on God for life: it strengthens our feeling of gratitude for the gifts of creation: it acknowledges those who by their labours provide us with these goods: and it reaffirms our solidarity with those in greatest need,' (LS 227)

Give thanks to God's gifts that provide for us and sustain us. Learn not to waste resources.

CARING FOR CREATION - The "Global Multi Faith Climate Action" Day to be held on **March 11th 2021**. Details can be found on the website <https://www.arcc.org.au/global>



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.

March: Intention for evangelization - Sacrament of reconciliation.

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.



OUR DREAM HAS BECOME A REALITY!



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

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

**WEEK ENDING
28th February:**

Envelopes \$ 1,382 .00
DD & Cards \$ 2,522.00
1st Collection \$ 646.00
2nd Collection \$ 450.00

**4th Sunday of Lent
Year B, 14/3/2021**

Chronicles: 36.14-16
Psalms: 136
Ephesians 2: 4-10
John 3: 14-21

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.

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>

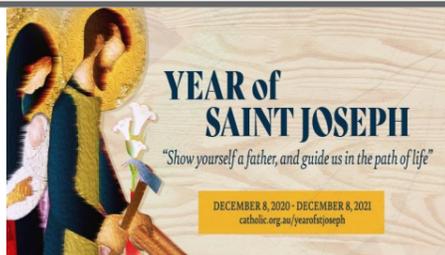
Feast Days of St Joseph:

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*

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. | |

Scripture notes : The first reading has one of the 2 Old Testament versions of the commandments. They were to be seen as a gift, not a burden. They are a map for a people that enjoy a special relationship with God. They have a timeless validity, but must be understood in the light of Christ’s teaching. In the second reading, Paul proclaimed a crucified saviour, knowing that this would shock the Jews and Greeks of his time. In their eyes the fact that Jesus was crucified automatically disqualified him from being the Messiah. However, the cross was a sign of God’s wisdom and a powerful expression of God’s love for the world.

The Gospel depicts an angry even furious Jesus, unlike the traditional meek and smiling one we know. It shows us another side to his character. He could be strong and assertive when necessary. We may have been taught that all anger is sinful, but it is a feeling, neither good or bad morally. Still anger can be a dangerous thing resulting in things we say or do and may later regret. It can also be a good thing as there are times when we ought to be angry. An unjust situation should make us angry and can spur us on to put right something that is blatantly wrong. This is an expression of love. In the Temple Jesus’ anger resulted from his love of God and his neighbour. His action was a protest against the commercialisation of religion and desecration of the Temple. Religion had become narrow, nationalistic and exclusive. The Temple was the jealously guarded preserve of the Jews and was doing away with the notion of exclusiveness. Salvation was for ALL peoples. He was also attacking the nature of Jewish worship – temple worship with its ritual and animal sacrifices was irrelevant and did not help bring people to God. He replaced sacrificial worship with spiritual worship.

Flor McCarthy Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Fr. Tom O’Connell, Maureen Matthews (Julie’s Mum), Cathy Ludeman, Anne Taylor (nee Argentino), 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... Gwenda Leighton, Dino Baccega, Aida Bachetti,

Rachela Dicello, Betty Dimarco, Giuseppe Ganci, Pauline Ganci, Mary Sicura, Lina Ciavarella, Leo Deery, Christian Halligan, Barry Neve, 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: 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, Elizabeth Stehmann, Tricia & Alan Cooke, Damian Greaves, Mary Kirsner, Jim Quigley, Paul McFarlane, Craig Counsel, Roma Greig, Linton Smith, John Butler, Arthur Elbourne, Andre Buxton, Rick Jones, Marcie Hayles, John Buck, Lorraine O’Brien, Alan Wilson, Vic & Thelma Smythe, Trish & Karl Henderson, Brian Rowe, 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.

3rd Sunday of Lent , Year B

Entrance Antiphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

A reading from the book of Exodus (20:1-17)

The Lord spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery. 'You shall have no gods except me. 'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. 'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred. 'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. 'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **R.** They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1:22-25)

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

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

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (2:13-25)

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane



We are sad to advise of the death of **Fr Thomas (Tom) Joseph O'Connell** (born 6th March 1933) who died peacefully on Sunday 28th February 2021, at Andrews House Trafalgar. Fr Tom's death marks the end of the extraordinary ministry of those Irish clergy who for so many years served the people of the Diocese of Sale. Following his Ordination at All Hallows Dublin (17th June 1956) Fr Tom made his way to Australia and commenced at Yallourn, then in the Parishes of Sale, Bairnsdale, Morwell, Leongatha, Neerim South, Wonthaggi, Koo Wee Rup, Cowwarr, Dalyston, Omeo, Fish Creek and Trafalgar and as Director of Propagation of the Faith. Fr Tom will be remembered for his extrovert personality and priestly goodness. He remained a beloved member of St John's Parish, and the wider community of Trafalgar. We pray that he has now met the God he loved and served face to face and enjoys the transfigured life of the resurrection. Fr Tom's Requiem Mass took place at St John's Church, Trafalgar on Thursday.

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: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com Safeguarding Officer: Kath Cassidy



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE