



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.

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	

4th SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR B, 14th 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.

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

Weekday Masses @ St Mary's
Monday: 9:10am
Tuesday: 9:10am
Wednesday: 9:10am
Thursday: 9.10 am St Mary's Primary School 5.30 pm followed by Stations of the Cross.
Friday: 8.00am at Nagle College 9.10 am followed by Stations of the Cross.

Reconciliation
Friday following 9:10am Mass
Saturday 9:30am—10am and 5:30pm—5:50pm.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2021



Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet in his home. He and his family had to walk into the forest to the open defecation area, even overnight or in the rain. Around 17 percent of Indonesia's rural population practice open defecation, with many unaware that it contributes to spreading diseases. Arsad's family was often sick and open defecation caused neighbourhood disputes. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, he took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He decided to fund the building of a toilet in his house and help others in his neighbourhood save up for toilets. Now Arsad and his family are healthier and have reduced their medical expenses. Their community no longer practices open defecation and is more harmonious. A community event called 'Declaration of Open Defecation-Free' was even held to acknowledge their achievements. Improved hygiene practices also helped Arsad's community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Caritas Australia through Laz Harfa shared prevention measures and distributed soap and masks. Arsad has inspired his neighbourhood to 'Be More'.

"We help each other, the 'togetherness' is growing. Our solidarity had increased," Arsad says.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Arsad 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	C Power	J Peachey	J De Boer	
9:30am Sun	M Owen	J Coverdale	A Vowell	K Cassidy

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, EAST BAIRNSDALE

WEEK ENDING

7th March:

Envelopes \$ 1,445 .00
DD & Cards \$ 1,288.00
1st Collection \$ 470.00
2nd Collection \$ 392.00

**5th Sunday of Lent
Year B, 21/3/2021**

Jeremiah 31: 31-34
Psalm : 129
Hebrews 5: 7-9
John 12: 20-30



**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. 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.

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.

**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. 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

A RETURN TO TWO COLLECTIONS

Beginning next Sunday, we will resume the two collections at St Mary's, as we did pre-Covid: first collection for the Parish and second collection for the Presbytery. The latter is meant to cover priest's stipends and household expenses. While those in planned giving have continued to be faithful and others have been generous, one of the many consequences of COVID restrictions has been a significant decline in Parish income, especially the second collection, resulting in the income for church costs having to cover the clergy costs as well, which then puts pressure on the budget for church expenses. Now that restrictions have eased, collectors will present the baskets to people within reach. The baskets will not be offered for passing around. We still want to do this in a COVID-safe way. This will start next week. Please be prepared to assist with the collection, because doing it this way will require twice as many collectors. Thank you all for your generous support, in so many ways.

Fr Michael



Catholic women are being invited to participate in an online national consultation on March 27th, with the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry. The consultation invites women to articulate and celebrate their contribution and vision

for the mission of the Catholic Church in Australia. Bishop Michael Morrissey said he is looking forward to hearing from Catholic women from across the country. "The thoughts, the voices and the actions of women within the Catholic Church are absolutely central to our life and mission, and the national consultation invites a sharing and listening that will benefit the whole Church," he said. "All the bishops have women acting in senior roles within their dioceses; this conversation provides another forum for broader national conversation." Consultation Details:

Date: Saturday 27 March Time: 2pm-4pm AEDT

Platform: Zoom Read more and register

at <https://nce.catholic.org.au/catholicwomen>



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.

**March: Intention for evangelisation -
Sacrament of reconciliation.**

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



Nagle College
Bairnsdale

OPEN NIGHT

Nagle College's Open Night will take place on Wednesday 17 March from 4-7 pm. Open Night is a great opportunity for past, prospective and current families to visit the College, meet staff and students and participate in activities. This year, to ensure we remain COVID-compliant, all families wishing to attend Open Night are asked to please register in advance by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/K6NS7FD. We look forward to welcoming you on Wednesday 17 March.



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.

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. **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.

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>

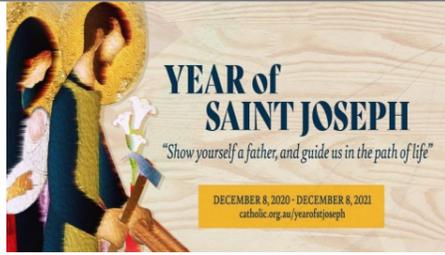
Feast Days of St Joseph:

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 sadness and be filled with gratitude.	Fast from anger and be filled with patience.	Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.	Fast from worries and have trust in God.	Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.	Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.	Fast from words; be silent and listen.
Fast from complaints contemplate simplicity.	Fast from hurting words and say kind words.	



FAMILY COUNSELLOR, BUSHFIRE RECOVERY -CatholicCare Victoria

- Full-time or Part-time, fixed-term position until March 2023.

East Gippsland The Bushfire Response team was established to support, address and provide paths of assistance to people affected by grief and trauma within the bushfire affected regions in East Gippsland. The Bushfire Response program will provide an out-reach mobile service to the community, with a particular focus on remote townships using a CatholicCare vehicle where Community Development activities, material assistance and referrals can be made from. This role will travel to Churches, Community groups, Sporting Groups, Schools, Festivals and Markets to support the community on a rostered and regular basis. Applicants are required to have a degree in Psychology, Counselling or Social Work with a proven track record in grief, loss or trauma counselling and relationship counselling to be considered for this role. **Applications close:** Sunday, 21 March 2021 For further details Visit “Careers” on the CatholicCare Victoria Website www.ccam.org.au or on the Diocesan Website Job board www.cdsale.org.au/job-vacancies

GARAGE SALE St Marys Op Shop ****Garage Sale****, Sat 20th Mar, 8.00am - 12 noon, Lawless St, Bairnsdale, last shed on right. Huge variety of household and variety items as well as kids books & toys, nic nacks etc at cheap prices. All Covid rules apply.

English Language LEARNERS CatholicCare Pakenham holds English Conversation Classes for people of many cultures to assist them to learn English and enjoy friendship and fun. We are seeking several volunteers who would be willing to give an hour of their time either once a week or once a fortnight. If this interests you, please call Denise Lacey: 56221188

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Fr. Tom O’Connell, Maureen Matthews (Julie’s Mum), 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... Margaret Bills, Marguerite Leone, Joan Browne, Terry Boyd, David Eldridge, Agnes Gibson, John Confait, Graeme Summerton, Jogn Tilley, Robert (Camm) Kilpatrick, Dino Baccega, John Shanahan, Gwenda Leighton, Aida Bachetti, Rachela Dicello, Betty Dimarco, Giuseppe Ganci, Pauline Ganci, Mary Sicura, 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.

4th Sunday of Lent , Year B

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

A reading from the second book of Chronicles (36:14-16, 19-23)

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation. 'And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. **R.**

For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' **R.**

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?

If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **R.**

O let my tongue cleave my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (2:4-10)

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 (3:14-21)

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost

but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Notes:

In the first reading we see how God has remained faithful to his people despite their infidelities. They were exiled to Babylon because of their sins but God's mercy is seen in their homecoming. Paul stresses the enormity of God's love in that he loves us even when 'we were dead through our sins'. God set the process of our salvation from sin in motion, by sending his Son into the world not to condemn us, but to save us. God through the old Testament was presented as a stern, angry and unforgiving. Jesus, however, was presented as kind, gentle and forgiving. In sending his Son, God took the first step in changing our attitude to Him. He is not an absolute monarch wanting abject obedience but is not happy until all His wandering children have come home, demonstrating how his love is directed to all nations, to those in the light and the dark. The Gospel also talks about judgement and condemnation. How come? Condemnation and judgement come from people's response not from God's actions. God condemns no one. Jesus is like a light that shines in the heart of each person and the way we react to that light determines our destiny. Those who accept him are saved; those who reject him condemn themselves. Coming to the light (Sy. John) is conditional on doing what is right, accepting that there is darkness in our lives and in our world. So, what must we do? The shortest journey to the light is by doing good so we must try to ensure the light of truth and justice shines in our words and deeds. It is not enough for us to just avoid doing evil and in doing so we will become luminous. The danger for us if we settle for a kind of twilight existence: we dabble in the dark and never quite declare for the light, and so we become a mediocre person. People who have come to know the love of God do not deny the darkness but they choose not to live in it. In doing things the light will shine for us; the light is love; which lights up everything. The image of God is at its best and brightest in us when we love.

Flor McCarthy SDB New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies

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