



St Patrick's Paynesville

# THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

## East Region – Diocese of Sale

BAIRNSDALE, PAYNESVILLE, LINDENOW,  
OMEO, SWIFTS CREEK AND 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 Joseph Abutu  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Mark Hughes  
**Presbytery:** 23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale  
Phone: 5152 3106

**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)  
Email: [stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com)

### Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B, April 28, 2024

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.



### Sacrament of First Holy Communion Commitment Masses

Please keep our children and their parents/carers in your prayers as they prepare for their Commitment to the Sacrament of First Holy Communion  
The celebration will be held at Masses on the weekend of May 4-5



Sacramental Preparation

FIRST COMMUNION | FIRST RECONCILIATION | CONFIRMATION

#### WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Monday: 9.10am  
Tuesday: 9.10am  
Wednesday: 9.10am  
Thursday: 9.10am  
Irene Phelan Requiem Mass 11.30am  
Friday: 9.10am  
**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Tuesday to Friday: 8.00am  
**St Patrick's Paynesville**  
Wednesday: Rosary 10.00am

#### RECONCILIATION

Friday: After 9.10am Mass  
Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

#### ROSARY VIA ZOOM

Monday: 7.00pm  
Contact the Parish Centre for a link

#### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**St Mary's, Bairnsdale:** Saturday: 6.00pm  
Sunday: 9.30am  
**St Patrick's, Paynesville:** Sunday: 8.00am  
**St Canice's, Lindenow:** Sunday: 11.00am

**Swifts Creek, Omeo and Benambra**  
Masses held on the 4th weekend of each month.  
**Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek:** 4th Saturday: 6.30pm  
**Immaculate Conception, Omeo:** 4th Sunday: 9.00am  
**St Francis', Benambra:** 4th Sunday: 11.00am

### 6th Sunday of Easter, Year B, May 4-5, 2024

| MASS            | WELCOMER  | COMMENTATOR | READER     | SPECIAL MINISTER | OFFERTORY PROCESSION            |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6.00pm Saturday | J Peachey | K Flannery  | M Schumann | J Peachey        |                                 |
| 9.30am Sunday   | A Chila   | D Fallon    | L Urban    | K Cassidy        | J Delany, R Spierings, J Fallon |

Cleaning: Fortnight ending: May 5 - S Gibson  
Please find a replacement if you are unable to fill your spot.

*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 Helen Van Den Einden who can be contacted through the Parish Centre: 5152 2942. Alternatively contact Bairnsdale Police: 5150 2600 or Towards Healing: 1800 816 030.*

## Alpha Retreat



The Retreat occurs around week 7 of the **Alpha Program** and we were blessed with glorious weather and a great weekend together at Camp Coolamatong on the Banksia Peninsula.

The retreat was very well attended by our Alpha team and guests, and we enjoyed great hospitality, food and fellowship the Alpha way. It was a chance to take our prayer life deeper and to strengthen and grow our relationship with God as we filled up with His love and joy. It was a blessed time of prayer, music, reflection, and grace, in a beautiful natural farm retreat setting. This series concludes on April 26 and we are planning to commence the next one before the end of the year. We will keep you posted and warmly invite you all to consider joining the Alpha journey for faith, fun, food and fellowship.

## Mariana Asylum Seeker Weekend

Mariana Community members, spend time with a family at our home, called 'Oak Maree', in Millgrove, twice a year. The family is referred to us through the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project, (BASP) and our (Mariana) aim is to build a relationship with the participants by having a couple of members present on the weekend. Last weekend Cheryl and I had the privilege of that experience with a Muslim family (parents and 2 children) from Pakistan. We gathered at 'Oak Maree' on Friday evening and went to the Healesville Sanctuary on Saturday. It was a great day! We had many conversations around the table and over meals during the weekend, which concluded Sunday after lunch. It certainly helped us to appreciate the freedom that we have in Australia, and we were inspired by their ability to be cheerful and grateful as they shared their mostly stressful stories. It was good for us all to be together. Mary Saunders



## Childrens Worksheets Available for Collection



Dear Parent/Carer,  
Please collect a worksheet for your child to help them deepen their understanding of the Word during celebration of the Mass. Beginning points for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:

- What are some types of fruit that grow on vines?
- Which is your favourite?
- What do vines look like when they grow?
- Why do the branches need to be pruned or trimmed?
- In today's gospel Jesus tells us that he is the vine, and we are the branches.
- How are we Jesus' branches?
- How can we produce lots of fruit?
- We produce much fruit when we show that we are Jesus' disciples and serve others.
- We pray that we will never be cut off from Jesus and we will produce fruit that will last.

## Free Community Event

### Exploring the Worlds of Cancer

Professor Simon G Gregory will introduce concepts of cancer and autoimmune disease with a focus on brain tumours and MS, touching on developing therapies.

When: **Friday May 10 at 6.00pm**

Where: **Eastwood Club Conference Room**

For more information contact Anne: 0447 697 023

### **POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS: APRIL**

#### **For the role of women**

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination they experience in different parts of the world.



### A Message from Pope Francis on the Bondi Junction stabbings

In a telegram to Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney, Cardinal Secretary of State

Pietro Parolin conveyed Pope Francis' deep sadness over the violent attack at a local shopping centre in Sydney, Australia.

The Pope assured his spiritual support for all affected, offering prayers for the deceased, the injured, and the first responders. He invoked divine blessings of consolation and strength upon the nation.

### Prayer for Peace

As the fever of the day calms towards twilight may all that is strained in us come to ease.

We pray for all who have suffered violence today, may an unexpected serenity surprise them.

For those who risk their lives each day for peace, may their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.

That those who make riches from violence and war might hear in their dreams the cry of the lost.

That we might see through the fear of each other a new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression.

That those who enjoy the privilege of peace might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters.

That the wolf might lie down with the lamb, that our swords be beaten into ploughshares and no hurt or harm

be done anywhere on the holy mountain.

*'Benedictus' A book of Blessings by John O'Donohue*

### READINGS: 6th Sunday of Easter May 4-5, 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Reading:  
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48  
Responsorial Psalm:  
Ps 97:1-4  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 John 4:11-16  
Gospel: John 15:9-17

### COLLECTIONS: April 20-21, 2024

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Envelopes                  | \$ 973.00  |
| DD and Cards               | \$ 795.00  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Collection | \$ 596.65  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection | \$ 1112.55 |
| Pay Wave                   | \$ 200.00  |



### Fr Mark on Thursday May 2

And to whom we send many blessings for what has been, and for the year ahead. May you continue with good health and happiness, with the Lord always by your side.  
From all at St Mary's, St Patrick's, St Canice's, Sacred Heart, Immaculate Conception and St Francis'.

### New multicultural playgroup

Wednesday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am  
in the Parish Hall  
Commences May 1

An initiative of the Early Childhood Development Program at Gippsland Lakes Complete Health and St Mary's Parish.  
Contact Carolyn (MCH Nurse): 0409 078 136

### LOSS AND GRIEF GROUP

Next meeting:  
Parish Centre  
Thursday May 2 at 5.00pm



### Morning Tea next Sunday 5th May



At St Mary's, Bairnsdale following 9:30am Mass and St Patrick's, Paynesville following 8:00am Mass. All welcome—come and meet other parishioners and become part of our Parish community.  
Always well fed and a hot cuppa to be had.

### Anzac Day, April 25

God Bless those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for us; our returned service personnel and those who currently serve. We are forever in your debt.

Lest we forget.



### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Geoff Neeson (Chair), Madelaine Schumann,  
Leonie Urban

Ex-officio members: Fr Joseph, Fr Mark,  
School Principals and Michael Flynn

Parish Directory: available at the Pastoral Centre.

St Mary's Primary School: 5152 3706

Nagle College: 5152 6122

Sacraments: To request information and registration forms email [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 2nd and 3rd weekends 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: 0427 232 682

Special Wedding Anniversaries: 3 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



TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART. PROVERBS 3:5

GLOW is now meeting on  
the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month.

**St Mary's Youth Group**

**May 4 @ 5.00pm**

**in the Parish Hall followed by**

**6.00 pm Mass with Children's Choir.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED**: Gerard McDonald, Irene Phelan, victims of the Sydney stabbings, victims of natural disasters, COVID-19, terrorism, war, conflict, poverty, Family Violence, Asylum Seekers and all others who have passed away.

**ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME**: Don Ward, Kerry Terranova, Monica Ainsworth, Cliff Betts, Lena Betts, Glen Dungey, Des Shanahan, Felicia Bagnato, Fr Damien Gilhooley, Fortunato Desio, Francesca Desio, Teresa Saulle, Baby John Robert Brooks, Norman Dore, Rita Buteyn, Guise Duong Van Ho, Barry Brindle, Bob Carrick, Peter Ross, Paola 'Pauline' Calabro, Domenico Schiafone, Pat Bills, Vicki Hall and Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers 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 REMEMBER THE SICK**: Mary Harrison, Anita De Jesus, Russell Wilson, Benny Garro, Gabrielle Carrasco (great-niece of Chris and Sandie Tilley), Terry Smyth, Pat Coloe, Bill Tilley, Dennis Collins, Bob Marshall, Kathleen Robertson, Margaret O'Reilly, and Arthur Elbourne.

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.

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31**

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

### **Responsorial Psalm 21: 26-28, 30-32**

**R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**

My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever! **R.**

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him.

They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R.**

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: 'These things the Lord has done.' **R.**

### **A reading from the first letter of St John 3:18-24**

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. **Alleluia!**

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

*Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane*

### **Scripture Reflection**

To apply these teachings to your own life, begin by looking at your faith as if it were a branch firmly attached to a vine. Do you believe all that God has spoken through His holy Word? It is useful to regularly examine your conscience regarding your faith. Since faith is the first step in the spiritual life, it must remain firmly grounded in the Truth God has revealed. This means we must regularly study the Word of God as it is revealed through the Scriptures and the catechetical teachings of the Church, and assent to those teachings with all our mind. Reflect, today, upon this holy imagery from Jesus. It's a lesson from nature that reveals the supernatural life of grace at work. Don't be deterred by the pruning God wants to do. Embrace suffering with love, respond to injustice with forgiveness, offer mercy when you don't feel like it, and seek to serve selflessly those who seem undeserving. Doing so will prune you so that God will be able to build up His Kingdom in glorious ways through you.

*My Catholic Life*