



St Mary's, Bairnsdale

# THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

## East 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

#### Presbytery:

23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106

Email: [stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com)

#### St Mary's 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)

### 5th Sunday of Lent, Year C, 3rd APRIL, 2022

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

##### St Mary's Bairnsdale

Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 9:30am

##### St Patrick's, Paynesville

Sunday: 8:00am

##### St Canice's, Lindenow

2nd & 4th Sunday monthly: 11am

##### Swifts Creek, Omeo & Benambra -

January, March, May, July, September and November.

##### Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek

4th Saturday: 6:30pm

##### Immaculate Conception, Omeo

4th Sunday: 9:00am

##### St Francis, Benambra

4th Sunday: 11am

#### Weekday Masses @ St Mary's

Monday to Friday: 9:10am

**NO MASS** — Thursday 7th April

#### Stations of the Cross

following Mass each Friday in Lent.

##### Paynesville

Wednesday: 10am Rosary

**RECONCILIATION** is available each

Friday after 9:10am Mass

Saturday 9:30am - 10:00am and

5:30pm to 5:50pm



#### 5th Sunday of Lent

##### Shaniella 23,

from the Solomon Islands was

determined to forge a path out of poverty, moving away to vocational school. With your support, Shaniella was able to overcome further challenges of natural disasters, and gain the skills she needs to create a brighter future for herself.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 so this transformational program can continue to empower and strengthen vulnerable communities *For All Future Generations*.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations***.

You can help students like Shaniella to forge a path out of poverty by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au) or phoning 1800 024 413.



#### HEALING THE HURTS

During Holy Week over the last 4 years, we have held a 40 Hour Vigil at **St Mary's, Bairnsdale**. After discussion at the recent Parish Council meeting, it will now be a **12 hour vigil**. The church will be open for anyone to come and spend some time in reflection as an act of charity for the victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. This event will also contribute to the building up of our community and its culture as a Child Safe Parish.

**When? Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 6:00am - 6:00pm**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will provide a central focus for prayer and contemplation. Everyone is invited to sign up for their hour's watch (Mk 14:37) on a roster, ensuring we constantly have at least two people. This promises to be a loving way for us to conclude this Season of Lent and a deeply meaningful way to enter into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Please sign up to come and pray.

The Roster is in the foyer of St Mary's Church.

#### Roster for Masses – Palm Sunday Year C - 9th & 10th April 2022

	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister
6:00pm Sat	M Schumann	B O'Kelly	S Gibson	J Peachey
9:30am Sun	H Van den Einden	H Sampson	M Elliott	S Tilley

**Cleaning:** Fortnight ending: 2<sup>nd</sup> April—K Cassidy **Please find a replacement if 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 Kath Cassidy who can be contacted via the Parish Centre 5152 2942;**

**or Police 5150 2600; or Towards Healing 1800 816 030.**

### 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.***

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions — APRIL

#### ***For health care workers***

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

#### **PRAYER FOR UKRAINE**

God of peace and justice,  
 we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
 We pray for peace and the laying down  
 of weapons.



We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
 that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
 We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
 for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
 to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children,  
 at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.  
 We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

### LENTEN RETREAT ON RAYMOND ISLAND



Monday sees the beginning of our Lenten Pilgrimage on Raymond Island with Cath Connelly and Russell Smith.

**FULL TIME OPTION** Monday 4th April 2022 – Friday 8 April 2022 Motel-style accommodation – all meals provided  
 Twin /share accommodation: \$690 pp Single accommodation: \$890 per person.

**PART-TIME OPTIONS** Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th April 2022  
 9.30am Meet in the Chapel – walk the tracks of Raymond Island followed by reflection in the Chapel with Cath and shared lunch - \$25 -3.00pm Meet in the Chapel – walk the shore-line of Raymond Island followed by reflection in the Chapel with Cath and shared evening meal - \$40 -Wednesday 6th April 2022 9.30am Meet in the Chapel – longer walk along Island to Gravelly Point beach and option of return walk - \$55 - includes lunch and dinner ( BYO lunch and no dinner \$25)  
 Overnight accommodation 1 night – single \$130 per person Twin Share per person \$70. There are shorter pilgrimages morning and afternoon on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and a longer walk on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April, with overnight options or daily attendance listed as well, along with the costs for each option. **Please contact me if you have any more 'Pilgrimage' questions.** Rev Edie Ashley - Abbey Priest  
 m.0423 400 359 [edieashley@bigpond.com](mailto:edieashley@bigpond.com)  
 For bookings – please contact Anna [info@theabbey.org.au](mailto:info@theabbey.org.au) or on 03 5156 6580, 8.30am- 3.00pm Monday – Friday.



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION WAS RECEIVED AND CELEBRATED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY 35 CANDIDATES on Wednesday evening.

The sacredness of witnessing the candidates being blessed from the Holy Water fountain by their parents, left us in awe and wonder of the children knowing on a deeper level the greatness of God's love and forgiveness received on that special day. Thank you for your continued love and prayers.



### **MORNING TEA - THIS SUNDAY MORNING**

Don't forget our monthly Morning Tea will follow 9:30am Mass at St Mary's, TODAY over in the Parish Centre. All are welcome - come on over & have a chat & a cuppa.

East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support Group invite you to join other locals on **Palm Sunday April 10th for a Silent Vigil for Justice & Freedom for Refugees**

11.00am—1.00pm  
 St Mary's Church Bairnsdale  
 Or

St Brendan's Church Lakes Entrance

#### ***IT'S PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE***

The frightening humanitarian crisis in **Afghanistan**, and now **Ukraine**, stresses yet again the need for our country to respond with compassion and justice to those fleeing persecution and war. There is still so much to be done.

### **LOSS AND GRIEF GROUP**

The next meeting for the Loss and Grief Group will be 7th April at 5pm at Parish Centre. For any enquiries please phone Michael on 5152 2942.

### **Readings: 10th April Palm Sunday, Year C**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7  
 Responsorial Psalm:  
 21:8-9,17-20,23-24  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:  
 Philippians 2:6-11  
 Gospel: Luke 22:14—23:56

### **Collection for 27/3/22**

Envelopes	\$ 3,027.00
DD & Cards	\$ 130.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$ 623.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$ 751.55

### SCRIPTURE NOTES

If there is a common thread running through the readings this Sunday, it would be that each in some way reveals that God's primary intent with respect to human beings, setting them free. How much aberration in Christian spirituality and practice could have been avoided had Paul's sane realistic assessment of present Christian life been adopted. We are not to live back in the guilt of past sin; nor should we require – either of ourselves or of others – a perfection that belongs to the future. We are to see ourselves, as God sees us, as people "on the way. For the scribes and Pharisees, the main point is not to get the woman punished but to set a trap for Jesus; defying the prescriptions of the law of Moses or condemning the woman, usurping the prerogative of the Roman occupying power. Jesus, just points out that the only person who could have a right to condemn another is one who has never sinned.



Jesus has a better way of dealing with sin than condemnation and punishment. He does not deny or condone sin (the episode does seem to presuppose that the woman is in fact guilty – though we might well ask about her male accomplice). His concern is to rescue the woman from her plight and set her free for a new life: "Go and sin no more".

A subtle point about the episode is that Jesus never actually looks at the woman while she is the subject of accusation. It is only when her accusers have melted away that, he actually goes down on the ground and looks up at her to restore her dignity and self-esteem.

The "orphaned" status of this story in the textual tradition probably reflects early Christian uneasiness with Jesus' apparent leniency in a case of sexual misconduct. So much more prone is the religious instinct to condemn and punish rather than to rescue and set on the path to life. And often, of course, the most paralysing accusations are those that we inflict on ourselves. If Lent is about conversion of heart and deeper knowledge of God, nothing could be more helpful than meditation on this precious gem from the gospel tradition.

*Fr Brendan Byrne S.J*

### NEW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**Madelaine Schumann, Narelle Gibbons,  
Peter McMahon, Amanda Vowell and Jacinta Da Costa**

Together with Wilma Collier and Marilyn Elliott  
who are continuing their four year term.

Ex-officio members: Fr Michael, Principals and Michael.

**A Parish Directory:** is available at the Pastoral Centre.

**St Mary's Primary School:** 5152 3706

**Nagle College:** 5152 6122

**Sacraments:** To request information & 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 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.

**St Vincent de Paul Conference/Assistance Centre:**  
5152 6687

**St Mary's Op Shop:** 5152 2088

### ANNUAL CHRISM MASS

At the annual Chrism Mass, Bishop Greg is joined by the priests, deacons and people of our Diocese as he blesses the three Holy Oils (the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of the Holy Chrism) which will be used by parishes for the celebration of the Sacraments. Our clergy will also renew their commitment to their ministry for the Church.

You are invited to participate in this celebration

**Date:** 11.00am Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Venue:** St Mary's Cathedral

**Address:** 47 Foster St, Sale.

**THE MASS SERIES – by Archbishop Mark Coleridge of the Archdiocese of Brisbane**  
Every 2 weeks we will, together with Archbishop Mark, share with you each part of the Mass.  
The series can be found on [YouTube>Archdiocese of Brisbane/playlist>The Mass Series](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

### **8. Liturgy of the Word - Prayers of the Faithful**

We've said we believe what we have heard, we've professed our faith and then our faith becomes a prayer. We sometimes call the 'Prayer of the Faithful' – those who have put their faith in the word they have heard. This prayer is a prayer of priestly intercession, as the whole community of the faithful is a priestly community and part of priestly service is to intercede for the people and for the world. This is a prayer that looks to the Church and to ourselves, our families, whatever the needs might be, but it is the priestly people – the Church – interceding with God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the power of faith, for the whole world. God wants us to enter into dialogue with Him in prayer. He has spoken to us, now we speak to Him. He wants us to be part of bringing peace out of violence, bringing joy out of sorrow, bringing life out of death. He wants us to work with Him. Our prayer of intercessions recognises, that the God who has called us to Himself, is the God who listens to our prayer and wants us to work with Him for the salvation of the world. Normally there is an intention, for the Church in every place on earth and then a silence and then the prayer.

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

Joan Merritt (mother of Pattie Pruscino), Brendan Earles, Jean Kelly, Paul Hawker, Greg Watson, Brian Fletcher, victims of: mental health issues; Covid-19; terrorist attacks, war and conflict; asylum seekers; family violence and poverty.

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

Arthur Gilchrist, Mary Sova, Carmel Brown, Edna Cottrell, William Field, Sam Monk, John Saunders, Vera Saunders, Matt Coco, Gaetano (Tom) Calabro, and 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:**

Kath Gillies, Leo Russell, Michael Counsel, John Spirason, Tricia & Alan Cooke, Lyn Donchi, Paul Fitzgerald, Fr Pax Scarf OFM, Bin Li (husband of Liah), Bob Marshall, Shirley Gilmore (Mary Rowe's sister), Victoria Shaw, Vin Ayres (brother of Pat Coloe), Mark & Elizabeth Rashleigh, Maree Elbourne, Ella Ford (NZ), Craig Counsel, Margaret O'Reilly, Ambrosio (Tony) Da Cunha - Asqueli, Marsha Worseldine, Arthur Elbourne, Jim Quigley, Arthur Roberts, Damian Greaves, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Linton Smith, Marcie Hayles, Brian Rowe, Vic Smythe.

***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.**

## **5th SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

### **The Opening Prayer also known as the Collect**

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah (43:16-21)**

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:  
No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before.  
See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?  
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

#### **R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. R.  
The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. R.  
Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. R.  
They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:  
they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. R.

### **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (3:8-14)**

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

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

With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.

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

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (8:1-11)**

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.  
The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin anymore.'

*Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane*

### **LENTEN REFLECTION**

Lent is a wonderful season in the Church calendar – time set aside to renew and prepare ourselves to receive the fullness of life in the resurrection. It's a time for a bit of a spiritual 'spring-clean'. After all, the word 'Lent' means 'springtime'. Just as a 'spring-clean' in our homes gives us a renewed sense of order and purpose, a spiritual spring-clean lifts our spirits, sweeps out the bad habits and creates space in our lives for God.

Giving up chocolate or other sweet indulgences is a traditional favourite for Lenten promises. However, in order for our Lenten commitments to really serve the purposes of Lent, it is better to approach what we 'give up' from the point of view of how giving it up frees us to more fully embrace life in Christ. It's not deprivation for the sake of deprivation... it's for the sake of greater love, more abundant life, deeper peace, more life-affirming joy. Think in terms of what you are embracing rather than what you are forgoing. For example, instead of 'giving up' sugar, I'm embracing a daily ritual of honouring God – every time I drink my sugarless tea, I am reminded to thank God for his love.

Lent is a great time to sweep our lives clean of any habit, attitude or practice that serves ourselves rather than God and those God sends us to love. Used well, Lent becomes something so rich in blessings that you will look forward to it year after year.

*Australian Catholics*