



THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO
Eastern RegionDiocese of Sale
INCORPORATING PAYNESVILLE , LINDENOW,
SWIFTS CREEK/ ENSAY & 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 .**

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Willemsen
Assistant Priests: Fr Avinash George
 Fr Jayakody Francis
Bairnsdale Presbytery:
 23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106

St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:
 135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942
 Email: stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com
 Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net
 Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 30TH AUGUST 2020

We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai 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 and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.



SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30 August.

This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: 'To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today'. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. The Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community.

Download the Statement at http://bit.ly/Social_Justice_2020.

PARISH CENTRE CLOSED

Please contact through the numbers above especially to arrange baptisms, weddings or funerals.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS MONDAY

31st AUGUST 2020 AT 7PM



Time out in a suffering world. As the last light of the last day of winter fades, stand in your front garden, and spend some time in silence, perhaps light a candle, to remember all those who have lost their lives to the Corona virus, or to violence. Then as the first night of spring begins, look to the future with prayer and hope. Let us move from the cold and the dark into warmth and light together.

This is a joint initiative by Victorian Council of Churches and the Catholic Archdiocese Of Melbourne.

PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP



POSTAGE STAMPS: Please remember to collect used stamps for the Salesian Missions. They can be left at the Parish Centre, Nicholson Street. The funds raised are dispersed for education and relief purposes in Samoa, Guatemala and Timor Leste.

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.

PRAYER FOR BISHOP-ELECT GREG BENNET - We warmly

welcome Bishop-elect Bennet to our Diocese and pray for him as we prepare for his episcopal ordination on 20th October 2020.



*Eternal God, our Shepherd and Guide
 We bless and thank you for the appointment*

*of your servant, Greg Bennet,
 as the tenth Bishop of Sale.*

*May your Holy Spirit grace him
 with the gifts of wisdom and strength,
 gentleness and compassion,*

as he prepares to take up his role as our pastor and teacher.

*May he be a shepherd after your own heart,
 who will walk in your ways and, with loving care, watch over your people.*

May he be a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth.

*As Bishop-elect Bennet prepares to make his home among us,
 may we welcome him joyfully into our Diocesan community,
 now entrusted to his care and leadership.*

*May we, as the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Sale,
 through our work and prayer*

together bear witness to Christ and the building up of your kingdom.

We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen,

Our Lady of Perpetual Help pray for us

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop pray for us.



NATIONAL EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR LEBANON

In response to the horrific explosion in Beirut on the 4th of August, the Australian office of the international Catholic Charity *Aid to the Church in Need*, has launched a national emergency appeal to raise funds to support the people of Lebanon. To read more about the appeal, and to make a donation, please visit: www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon or call **1800 101 201** during business hours: 8am-5pm, AEST.



Please continue to pray for the Plenary Council . Due to the current situation the process is on "hold".

Prayer for the 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.

CATHOLIC CARE APPEAL

August is the month for our annual CatholicCare Appeal across the Diocese of Sale. Therese Kearney is currently available by phone on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for anyone who might need someone to talk to. If not for yourself, perhaps someone you know who is struggling (ph 0400 783 342). Counselling services are a major part of what CatholicCare offers people in Gippsland. They currently have a fundraising target of \$1.5 million for a 3-year commitment to bushfire recovery in East Gippsland. Please consider donating online at www.ccam.org.au/Sunday Appeal or call (03) 9287 5513. Contact the Parish Centre for reply paid envelopes. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.



What is Season of Creation?

Pope John Paul II in 1990 named environmental care as integral to the Catholic faith and named St Francis of Assisi as the patron of ecological conversion. Pope Benedict XVI reinforced this Catholic vocation delivering homilies and speeches asking world leaders to take action. Pope Francis, in his 2015 Encyclical *Laudato Si'* detailed the call to See, Judge, Act on care for our common home. Every year, Christians of all denominations join in prayer and action for our common home and celebrate the **Season of Creation starting on 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation and ending on 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.** Pope Francis encourages us to use this 'season' as an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the care of creation.
7 Days of Creation Reflection - Retreat: a prayerful way to prepare to celebrate 1st Sept **World Day of Prayer for Creation.** Go to: www.columban.org.au

SPECIAL COLLECTION: 6 SEPTEMBER 2020

FATHER'S DAY APPEAL FOR THE PRIESTS' WELFARE FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF SALE: This Fund supports the priests and deacons of our diocese in times of sickness or retirement. At present the Foundation is supporting eleven priests and three deacons and their wives in retirement and is responsible for the other priests, including our overseas priests, and deacons in time of sickness. The budgeted expenditure of the Foundation for them over the next year will be over \$200,000. Donations can now be made by clicking on <https://www.cdsale.org.au/priestswelfarefoundation>
The foundation is most grateful and appreciative of your support for our priests and deacons in these difficult times. All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible and a receipt for tax deduction purposes will be automatically sent if an email address is provided. Donations may also be made through your local parish.



RECONCILIATION

If you would like to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation you may ring the Presbytery on 51523106 and speak with one of the priests to make an arrangement.

Please pray for OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ronnie Bruce, Colin Appleton, Max O'Connell, Graham Boucher.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...Pina Ciaglia, Manfred Ratzman, Bill Greenwood, Helen Gagalowicz, Chris McKenna, Neil Wigg, Leo Bills, Mark Morgan, Jan Ross Feltham, Francesco & Francesca Aloisio, Nicolina Tedeschi, Pasquale Tedeschi, Jack Donchi, Fr Joe Pulis SDB, 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: Geoff Downie, Elaine Ariens, Andre Buxton, Amy Hood, Josie Anderson, Rosa Lanteri, Ena Morris, Margaret Nugent, Ebony Corr, Luke Roberts, Monique Lewis, Joshua Kelly, Alan Cooke, Rick Jones (Tess Gillies S-i-Law), Val Jamieson, Marcie Hayles, John Pruscino, John Graves, Julie Frew, Cathy Tickle, Mary Johnson, Dennis (Danny) Phelan, Jacek Dutkiewicz, Tahlia De Felice, Nicholas Browne, Carmel Kenyon, Matthew Brunt, Yvonne Roy, Mark Kelly, Fr Carl Schafer ofm, Guy Newman, Jane Rowlands, Peter Grimsted, Bernadette Wolters, Joan Wriggel, Paul Hamilton, Arthur Elbourne, Billy Sant, John Buck, Holly Box, Pauline Northway (nee Mason), James Warren, Michael Counsel, Trish Henderson, Paul McFarlane, Brian Rowe, Coral Prendergast, Joyce Harrington, Shannon Helmers, Tammy Ewing, Rose Gallagher, Elizabeth Knight, Gerry McDonald, Tracey Moffatt, Tyson Chapman, Anne Armstrong, Ray & Fran Adamson, Julie Ann Milnes-James, Elizabeth Stehmann.

Please remember all parishioners who are unwell or recovering from illness or surgery.

With the bulletin changes, those on the "sick list" will remain on it for one month.

If you would like to keep them on the list after this time, please contact the Parish Centre.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Entrance Antiphon

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah (20:7-9)

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. 'Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. R.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. R.

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. R.

For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. R.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (12:1-2)

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.

Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (16:21-27)

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Scripture Note : Jeremiah did not know what he was letting himself in for when he agreed to become God's prophet. He was so overwhelmed by the demands of his task that he wanted to pack it all in. His cry will find an echo in the heart of anyone who serves God in a difficult situation. It is never easy to bear witness in the face of hostility and indifference. Only a profound conviction of vocation can hold one to the task. But it is comforting to know that even a Jeremiah could contemplate opting out.

This is a struggle which we all experience in some way. There are things we don't like doing, but which we know we have to do if we want to be faithful to our responsibilities and obligations. Sacrifice is not an easy road, but it is through this that we become a person of character and integrity. This is also the road to happiness. The one thing that makes sacrifice easier is love. It enables us to turn a difficulty into a stepping stone on the journey.

Jesus told the disciples that the Messiah would suffer and be put to death. That God wanted to show us the depth of His love for us. The notion of a suffering Messiah was completely unacceptable to Peter hence, out of his concern for Jesus, his attempt to stop Him. It has been claimed that religion asks too little of people. It is too ready to offer comfort and to console, but has lost the courage to challenge. The result is that for many religion is just a crutch—something to lean on in times of weakness and infirmity, but in times of well-being, they more or less forget about it. It is true that faith is the best support we can have at these times, but it is so much more. It should be a positive force in our lives, and should be a pair of wings in times of joy and strength. Religion should challenge and stretch one to one's limit and beyond. A religion of devotion is a religion of comfort, and is often centred on self rather than others. A religion of commitment is religion of challenge, of risk and unselfishness. Jesus asks commitment of his followers. Being a disciple is a serious business. Our following of Christ can be in small steps. God is patient. His challenge is invitation. What does following Christ mean in practice? It means faithfulness to one's way of life, concern for others in whatever manner, the caring gesture, the kind word and action. The Lord does not overlook the painful decision, the unspoken sorrow, the secret suffering. There can be much heroism in everyday life. There are many more saints than those recognised by the church.

Flor McCarthy SDB

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.

A Parish Directory: is available at the Pastoral Centre.

Sacraments: Information & registration forms available at stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com

Baptisms: Call the Sacramental Coordinator to make 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 Office.

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.

Parish Business Manager :

Paul Heaton Harris

Pastoral Care:

Pattie Pruscino

Sacramental Coordinator:

Michelle Grimsted

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Kath Cassidy

Pastoral Centre: 5152 2942

Presbytery: 5152 3106

St Marys' Primary School: 51523706

Principal:

Michelle Garbutt

Newsletter:

www.stmbairns.catholic.edu.au

Nagle College: 51526122

Principal:

Neville Powles

Newsletter: www.nagle.vic.edu.au

St Mary's Op Shop: 51522088

A message from Fr Avinash—Australian Bush-life Experience

This is a time when we adapt to new ways of living. We do things differently these days. Online meetings, remote learning, live streaming masses and homilies etc. Have you ever heard that on a fine Sunday morning, a priest was walking in the bush looking for wild life and going for off road drives? That's what I did two weeks back.

That doesn't mean that I did not say Sunday mass, I said it in the evening.

I had this wonderful experience of living in a hut for two days somewhere near Dargo with Paul H H. We did a lot of bush walking, observing various sounds of wild life and spotting footprints of various animals. Most exciting was the four-wheel driving, river crossings and visiting a place called 'Dogs Grave'.

This experience brought back memories of country life back in Kerala, India where I grew up as a child. As a teenager I had the experience of going with my dad for shooting wild boar and sleeping in a little hut built on top of a tree.

I explain all this to let you know that you have a priest in your parish who likes such adventurous activities and if time and place permits, an invitation to any such expeditions will be given serious consideration, but not on a Sunday morning!!!

Fr. Avinash

CALLED AND GIFTED

The Charism of

HEALING



Empowers a Christian to be a channel of God's love through whom God cures illness and restores health when healing is unlikely to occur quickly or to happen at all.

Is this your gift ?

Some possible expressions:

Medical Professional, caregiver, Pastoral Staff, Spiritual Direction, Counselling.

In our Community: Our Parish is blessed with many people who share their gifts/charisms within our Church and wider community. We give thanks to Krystal and her charism of **GIVING**— busy with a young family and finds time to make masks for others; to those delivering bulletins during this time and their gift of **HELPS**— supporting parishioners who don't have the internet etc stay connected with parish. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us and our community and ultimately we thank GOD who has given them.

Patron saint for the charism of Healing:

St Martin de Porres (1579-1639). He began life as the illegitimate son of a Spanish officer and a free black woman in Peru. He was apprenticed to a physician as a child and entered the Dominican Order as a lay brother at 15. Martin was a skilled physician with a reputation as a healer and miracle worker. The sick and poor flocked to him and many remarkable healings were attributed to him during his lifetime. He is revered as the patron saint of inter-racial justice.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM –

There are 4 ways to fulfil your commitment.

1. Bank your contributions into this account—
BSB: 083-879 ACCOUNT: 48919 4022
ACCOUNT NAME: St Marys Parish Bairnsdale/Omeo
Ref: Your Name and Envelope number and marked 1st or 2nd Collection.
1. send cheques to St Mary's Parish, 23 Pyke Street, Bairnsdale, Vic, 3875 or, go into your bank with this information and they will do it for you.
2. drop off at the Parish Centre Thursday or Friday between 10am-2pm.
3. keep your envelopes with your commitments, saving them until we return to Sunday services. *Our Parish finances have been affected during this pandemic and we will make necessary adjustments to manage the challenges it presents. Please call Paul Heaton-Harris 0418 377 076 if you have any questions.*
THANK YOU for your support.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Over the past 20 years, St Mary's Parish has put aside 2.5% of Planned Giving receipts for local, national, and international needs. Your suggestions are warmly invited for this year's disbursement of accumulated funds. Please leave your written suggestions at the Parish Centre by 4th September. *"Our challenge is to accompany people from the margins into a journey towards the fullness of life and love. We are meant to be in the coalface, in the messiness of it all and at the same time in fidelity to the Gospel... Like Christ in his ministry among the sick and the lost, we are called to meet God in the most unlikely people and places. We too, must be in that frontier space."* socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Readings: 23rd Sunday, Year A

06/09/20

1st Reading: Ezekial 33:7-9

Psalm: 94:1-2;6-9

2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel : Matthew 18:15-20

Collections week ending

23/8/20

Envelopes: \$ 545.00

D/D and Cards: \$ 525.00

1st Collection: \$ 0.00

2nd Collection: \$ 140.00