



St Canice's Lindenow

**THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO**  
**Eastern Region – Diocese of Sale**  
**PAYNESVILLE,**  
**LINDENOW, 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.**

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Michael Willemsen	<b>St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:</b>	
<b>Assistant Priests:</b>	Fr Avinash George Fr Jayakody Francis	135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942	
<b>Presbytery:</b>	23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106	Email: <a href="mailto:stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com">stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com</a>	
		Website: <a href="http://www.stmarysbairnsdale.net">www.stmarysbairnsdale.net</a>	
		Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale">St Mary's Church Bairnsdale</a>	

**TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 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.

**What is Season of Creation?**

**Season of Creation** started on 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation and ends on 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Today the Readings remind us that where two or three gather, God is there guiding us. We ask forgiveness for the times we have ignored the advice of others and hardened our hearts.

***recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change ... We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart .***

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #218

**WHAT CAN I DO?**

- Learn some facts about global warming.
- Learn the Young Christian Workers' method of See-Judge-Act campaigning.
- Make a list of environmental websites.

**Go to:** [https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational\\_resources/a-catholic-season-of-creation-sundays-of-september-year-a](https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational_resources/a-catholic-season-of-creation-sundays-of-september-year-a)



This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk. Find out more at: [www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday](http://www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday) and [www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding](http://www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding)

**POPE FRANCIS SPEAKING WITH A GENERAL AUDIENCE:**

"The Coronavirus pandemic is a crisis affecting the whole world, but you cannot come out of a crisis the same. You come out better or you come out worse.....After the crisis, will we continue with this economic system of social injustice and contempt for the care of the environment, of Creation, of the common home? On the one hand it is imperative to find the cure for the small but terrible virus, which is bringing the world to it's knees. On the other hand, we must cure a great virus, that of social injustice, contempt, inequality of opportunity, marginalisation and the lack of protection of the weakest."

**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.

**PARISH CENTRE CLOSED**

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

### **HOLY LAND COLLECTION**

This year, due to the closure of churches during Holy Week and the cancellation of the annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection, Pope Francis has rescheduled this collection to **Sunday September 13th 2020**, so it coincides with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on Sept 14th. This weekend will be the whole Church's opportunity to stand in solidarity with the people of the Holy Land in their ongoing needs for pastoral and humanitarian assistance, made much greater due to the Covid-19 pandemic. If you wish to donate directly the details are: **Holy Land Commissariat**

**BSB 062-267 Account No. 1001 4847**

A video clip regarding the Collection for the Holy Land for this weekend is available on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o62bhQoaCTw&feature=youtu.be>

Below is a link to watch **Fatima** ... a powerful story of faith based on historical events, the 3 young shepherds in Fatima, Portugal, reporting the visions of the Virgin Mary, inspiring believers, and angering officials of the Church and the government, who try to force them to recant their story.

<https://youtu.be/oaQTQBFyHhA>



### **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**

This year 23 St Mary's Primary School students and 6 Catechist's are preparing 'on line' to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** later this year, please keep them in your prayers. If you would like to send them an email/letter of encouragement, please email them to Michelle at [stm.michelleg@gmail.com](mailto:stm.michelleg@gmail.com) or drop them off at the Parish Centre. Thankyou and God Bless.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
to 2 wonderful ladies,  
**BRENDA MURRAY &  
MARGARET DUNGEY**  
May God continue to bless you  
and keep you. Amen.  
Love from all at St Mary's Parish

### **RECONCILIATION**

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



*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.***

### **PLENARY COUNCIL**

Michelle has been notified that the thematic papers are  
now available as an **AUDIO VERSION**.....

Logon to the plenary 2020 website, click onto Discernment-  
Thematic Discernment Papers - Audio Version for each  
theme. Also **HARD COPIES** are available at the Parish Centre.

### **REFLECTION**

When we forgive, we free ourselves of the burden of  
bitterness, and we free the other person from the burden  
of guilt. But our forgiveness must come from the heart,  
which means it must be true, sincere and warm. A cold  
forgiveness is not much use. Forgiveness should start  
now. Putting it off only deepens the wound, prolongs  
bitterness and postpones happiness. Life is short and  
time fleeting. Today is the day to forgive.

*Lord, deliver us from the poison of bitterness,  
And give us the grace to forgive from the heart.*

*Amen*

*Flor McCarthy SDB*

***Please pray for OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:***

Brian Gray, Geoff Downie.

**ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...**Glenda Moulton, Evan Dungey, Luciano Brovedani, Vince Capobianco, Agnes Neligan, James Duggan, Mary Keady, Fr Ted Cooper SDB, Mary Field, Owen Gibbons 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:** Trish & Karl Henderson, Brian Rowe, Robert Coleman, Lorraine O'Brien, Elaine Ariens, Andre Buxton, Rick Jones, Margaret Nugent, Marcie Hayles, John Pruscino, Dennis (Danny) Phelan, John Graves, Julie Frew, John Buck, Peter Grimsted.

***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.**

## **24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

### **A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 27:30 – 28:7**

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence. The word of the Lord.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless His holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

His wrath will come to an end, he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R.** For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

### **A reading from the letter of St Paul Romans 14: 7-9**

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. The word of the Lord.

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you. **Alleluia!**

### **A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 18:21-35**

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
© Copyright Liturgy Brisbane 2020 (Jerusalem Bible)

**Scripture Note :** Today's Gospel deals with a subject that concerns us all – forgiveness.

None of us can go through life without getting hurt, or hurting others. How do we cope with these hurts? They can provide us with an opportunity to grow or they can become a stumbling block to human and spiritual development. Hurts are not easy to deal with. Once we are hurt, self-pity walks in the front door – which is normal! However once self-pity is entertained, it produces bitterness, resentment and anger. It poisons our spirit and destroys our capacity to love.

Some people have years of stored hurts inside them. From time to time the cellar of the mind and heart need to be swept away. Feelings of hurt and bitterness need to be dug up, owned and then thrown away. This allows us to experience a sense of freedom, relief and cleanness, and we can once again devote our energies to loving, which is the only activity that befits a Christian.

To forgive in a high-handed way is not a Christian way to forgive. We have to be willing to admit that we may have been at least partly to blame for what happened. We are expected to forgive even if the offender does not repent. Jesus makes it clear that if we want God to forgive us, we must forgive others too. We all know how hard it can be to forgive, but equally we know how lovely it is to be forgiven. To ask for forgiveness can be even harder. It is to put yourself into a position of weakness, poverty and humility. You have to ask another for something which you may or may not receive. You are not in control. It is a holy task- only God can help us.

Flor McCarthy SDB

**Parish Pastoral Council:** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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.

**Funerals:** Please check with priest before setting dates & times.

**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.

**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:** 5152 3706

**Principal:**

Michelle Garbutt

**Newsletter:**

[www.stmbairns.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmbairns.catholic.edu.au)

**Nagle College:**

5152 6122

**Principal:**

Neville Powles

**Newsletter:**

[www.nagle.vic.edu.au](http://www.nagle.vic.edu.au)

**St Mary's Op Shop:**

5152 2088

**A message from POPE FRANCIS** In his first public audience in six months, Pope Francis told his global audience that the Covid-19 pandemic "has highlighted our interdependence, [that] we are all linked to each other, for better or for worse.

"Solidarity today is the road to take towards a post-pandemic world," the pope said, "toward the healing of our interpersonal and social sicknesses.... A solidarity guided by faith enables us to translate the love of God in our globalized culture, not by building towers or walls that divide and then crumble but by interweaving communities and sustaining processes of growth that are truly human and solid."

Francis concluded: "We do not come out from a crisis the same as before. We either come out better or worse. We must choose. Solidarity is the way to come out better. Not with superficial changes or a coat of paint. No! Better! "To come out of this crisis better than before," he said, "we have to do so together, all of us, in solidarity."

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2020/09/02/pope-francis-general-audience-better-world-pandemic-lebanon>

### CALLED AND GIFTED

*The Charism of*

#### CRAFTMANSHIP

*empowers a*

*Christian to be a*

*channel of God's*

*love through artis-*

*tic or*

*creative work that beautifies*

*and/or orders the physical*

*world.*



**Is this your gift ?**

#### Some possible expressions:

Artist, Cook, Designer, Architect, Interior Designer, Landscape Designer, Gardener, Woodworker, Illustrator, Handyman or Creative Homemaker.

**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 the parents/carers of all school children and their charism of **TEACHING** – supporting their children as they 'school' from home; and all teachers and their gift of **TEACHING**—a very strange time but are able to find new ways to use their gifts and continue to encourage their students. 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 Craftmanship:** St Joseph –was a Carpenter in his lifetime.

**Scripture References:** Exodus 28:2-5, 31:1-11; Ecclesiasticus 38:27-34; Acts 18:3

#### STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM –

There are 5 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 mark 1st or 2nd Collection.
2. or, go into your bank with this information and they will do it for you.
3. or, send cheques to St Mary's Parish, 23 Pyke Street, Bairnsdale, Vic, 3875
4. or, drop off at the Parish Centre Thursday or Friday between 10am-2pm.
5. or, 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.*

#### ARE YOU A SPIRITUAL LEADER?

The Spiritual Leaders Program is a one-year, part-time program held on Friday mornings (and some Friday afternoons). It is suitable for people in outreach ministries and various positions of leadership within their faith community, such as priests, ministers, members of religious Orders, lay ecclesial ministers, community and spiritual leaders, chaplains, pastoral carers, and those in health and education. The program, which commences in Feb 2021, focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. Previous participants have commented that this Program has been transformational in terms of their personal spirituality and their leadership skills. The Program may be available online via Zoom, face-to-face, or a combination of both. Apply to Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Fee-Help is available to qualifying participants. Brochure and application form at [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) or Telephone: 03 9890 1101.

#### Readings for 25th Sunday 20/9/2020

Isaiah 55:6-9  
Psalms 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18  
Philippians 1:20-24,27  
Matthew 20:1-16

#### Collections - week ending 13/9/20

Envelopes: \$ 974.00  
D/D and Cards: \$ 1,365.00  
1st Collection: \$ 300.00  
2nd Collection: \$ 40.00