



Swifts Creek - Sacred Heart

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.**

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Willemsen
Assistant Priests: Fr Avinash George
Fr Jayakody Francis
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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A 27TH 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.

ST MARY'S CHURCH FLOOR REPLACEMENT

One of the philosophies I try to live by is: ADVERSITY PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY. When we were all plunged into social and working restrictions at the end of March, which has taken a lot of getting used to, one of the repercussions was the closure of our churches at times, including currently. Under such adversity, I for one, was worried our restoration project would see no visible action this year. With churches closed, members of the Restoration Committee saw this as an opportunity to follow through on the generous donation of Leonard Fenning to supply the timber to replace the borer infested floor. Don Roderick prepared a 'Scope of Works', which local builders read through to provide quotes. And, our architect, Arthur Andronas, sought and received approval from Heritage Victoria. As a result of this process, I am pleased to announce Brooker Builders as our contractor for this next step towards the restoration of St Mary's. Work is due to begin in coming days and will take several weeks before completion. There are no weddings or Baptisms booked in Oct-Nov and Gippsland Opera cancelled their November concert. However, funerals will be affected. We will consult with families, offering alternative chapels and churches while the work is underway. Please continue to pray for the success of this project: that as stewards of this iconic 'house of God', we may be faithful to its purpose and faithful in the relationships nurtured in it. Fr Michael

OUTDOOR MASSES FOR UP TO 10 PEOPLE

Under the new restrictions beginning 17 Sept, the following Masses will be held outdoors for up to 10 people. **Phone booking is essential.**

St Mary's, Bairnsdale 9:10am Weekdays
at the Grotto in front of the Presbytery.

As we did in May, Sunday Masses will only be in the high country, on the regular monthly basis, where there is usually less than 10 people anyway.

Weekday outdoor home Masses are also possible. Again, please request by phone.



St Mary's Op-Shop Garage Sale

Sat 3rd October 8am-12 noon

Lawless St Bairnsdale (last shed on right)
Huge variety of household and furniture items
kids books and toys.
All at bargain prices.

ALL COVID SAFE RULES APPLY

Sunday Readings are available on AUDIO via email.

Contact the Parish Centre if you are interested.



Peace begins in the negotiation of differences through apologies and reconciliation in personal relationships and in the learning of other ways of response than lashing out. International Peace Day looks at the largest possible canvas. Peace making begins in the most intimate of relationships and the learning of the simplest of formulae: please, sorry, thank you.

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.



Sacrament of Confirmation

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

St Mary's Op-shop proceeds have supported the following:

- St Mary's Church Restoration Fund,
- Drought Relief Appeal - Cash Donation,
- Bushfire Relief Appeal - Cash Donation, furniture and goods,
- Vinnies - In kind goods, Steers for students,
- Cash Donations to Hope Foundation, Cancer Support Group,
- Ambulance Auxiliary,
- Blanket Appeal - Cash Donation,
- Bible Society - Cash Donation,
- Destitute and people in need - Goods

106th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Remembering, working and praying for migrants and refugees.

On this day we remember, pray for, and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many in 'our own backyard'. We acknowledge and give thanks to the many parish communities across the state, along with those working within our Catholic social services & other organisations and community groups, who are making considerable efforts to assist people seeking asylum, refugees, and other migrants who hold temporary visas—many remain in harsh circumstances in detention centres, & many have been deemed ineligible for any federal government support payments during COVID-19, making many at risk of homelessness and despair. In his message on this day, Pope Francis tells us, "You have to know in order to understand" and "it is necessary to be close, in order to serve." Only when different elements of the community work together can we effectively advocate for systemic change and provide for people's immediate necessities and other spiritual and social needs. We encourage you to read more: <http://www.css.org.au/> You will also find Pope Francis' letter on our website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net

**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.**



Aid to the Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

*Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), arranges Mass stipends to be sent to poor priest overseas. In many regions, the Christian faithful are so poor they cannot support their priests and so Mass stipends are often a priests only means of material support. Have a Mass offered for your family today and the money from your offering will be sent to a poor priest overseas who will offer up the Mass for your intentions. To arrange Mass offerings please visit www.aidtochurch.org/mass-offerings-for-poor-priests or call **1800 101 201** during business hours: 8am-5pm, AEST.*

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.



'Walking with Wisdom' Contemplative Sessions (via Zoom)
Thursdays, 10am-12.30pm (AEST) on 8, 15, 22 & 29 October 2020. We invite you to join us for a series of contemplative sessions with Carole Carmody rsm and Marlene McGrath, providing opportunities for Deep Listening: to oneself at this unique time in our lives; to Divine Wisdom in the Heart, and in the Hearts of Others; and to engage in a gentle, creative response. Join for one or all sessions. \$85 for the Series or \$25 per session. Bookings at www.trybooking.com/BLILH. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Tel 03 9890 0101, www.heartoflife.melbourne

HOLINESS IS A CHALLENGE for us all, whatever our specific vocations. We are called to be holy in all aspects of our lives. This is an ongoing process, often slowed by setbacks. When the saints were alive, they did not regard themselves as saints; rather, they knew they were sinners—and they strived to be saints. The process of becoming holy is, even for saints, painful and filled with struggle. Know you are a sinner; strive to be a saint.

PLEASE PRAY pray for OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Carmel Radziejewski (nee Casey, in Perth), Victims of Covid-19, Victims of terrorist attacks, war and conflict, asylum seekers, Victims of family violence and Victims of poverty.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time... Margaret Kelsey, Salvatore Di Palma, Kathleen Currie, Fortunato Desio, Jose Hickling, Pasquale Morelli, Dick Pepper, Betty Merlo, 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: Sr Barbara Brown-Graham fcj, Roma Greig, Vic & Thelma Smythe, Alan Wilson, 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.

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, Marylin 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.

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

Nagle College: 5152 6122

Principal: Neville Powles

Newsletter: www.nagle.vic.edu.au

St Mary’s Op Shop: 5152 2088

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. The Readings invite us to remember that God is near and like the generous landowner who gives equally to all his workers. We ask forgiveness for taking for granted the gift of country and the people surrounding us.

‘Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he [Francis of Assisi] would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song.’

Pope Francis Laudato

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Introduce Catholic Earthcare during Sunday Mass.
- Explore resources on the US Catholic Bishops eco-web site ww.catholicclimatecovenant.org
- Inquire if Catholic Schools teach ecology.



CALLED AND GIFTED

The Charism of

TEACHING

empowers a Christian to be a channel of God’s truth and wisdom by enabling others to learn information and skills that help them reach their fullest Spiritual and personal potential.



Is this your gift ?

Some possible expressions: Parenting or home schooling, tutoring, volunteer teaching, public school or adult education teaching, counselling, spiritual direction.

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 those who have offered to lead a Rosary session in October and their charism of **FAITH** – being bold in this time of Covid; and to Fr Francis and his gift of **FAITH**—encouraging our parish to offer Mass just for 10 outside. 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 Teaching: St Mary MacKillop 1842-1909

Born in Australia Mary dreamed of becoming a teaching Sister. Mary thought it was natural that her sisters be free to travel to wherever there was the greatest need, rather than be subject to the local Bishop. Many women were attracted to the order and her teaching methods. At one point Mary was excommunicated but was eventually Canonized in the Church.

Scripture References: Matthew 28:19-20, Acts:18 24-26, Romans 12: 7

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.*

Rosary for the month of October

You are invited to be part of the East Gippsland Parishes Community Event for the Month of October: Praying the Rosary... The Rosary may be a favourite prayer of yours, or it may be brand-new. Whether you’re devoted to a daily Rosary or don’t even know how to start, you are welcome to join us for 30 minutes ‘via Zoom’ at 7pm every night – 1st October to 31st October, or perhaps you can only join us when you can... remember, you are always welcome..... Don’t have Zoom? That is okay, you can pray the Rosary at 7pm knowing that others are praying with you.

To register your desire to join in this event, please contact the Parish Centre where a Zoom meeting link will be emailed to you personally. For more information you can contact Pattie on 5152 2942 or Michelle via email: stm.michelleg@gmail.com Hard copies of the Rosary will be available at the Parish Centre .

Readings for 27th Sunday in ordinary time, Year A 4/10/2020

Isaiah 5: 1-7
Psalm 79: 9, 12-16, 19-20
Philippians 4: 6-9
Matthew 21: 33-43

Collections - week ending 20/9/20

Envelopes: \$ 731.00
D/D and Cards: \$ 975.00
1st Collection: \$ 550.00
2nd Collection: \$ 50.00

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Entrance Antiphon:

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel (18:25-28)

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.' The word of the Lord.

Scripture Note:

At the time of Ezekiel there was a belief that the child was punished for the sins of the parent. Ezekiel firmly states that each of us is responsible for his/her own conduct, and will be judged accordingly. We cannot hide behind the goodness or evil of others. There is a tendency today to take responsibility away from the individual. The thrust of modern psychoanalysis often seems to be that someone else is to blame. We are of course influenced by our upbringing and environment. We at some stage will come to a point where we stop blaming others and take responsibility for our actions. We need the Lord to touch our hearts with his love and compassion.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Responsorial Psalm

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (2:1-11)

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Scripture Note:

Self-seeking and rivalry have no place in the Christian community. We must imitate the humility of Christ.

Flor McCarthy SDB

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (21:28-32)

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Scripture Note:

This parable was addressed to the chief priests and elders of the people. Its purpose was to defend Jesus' invitation of sinners and outcasts to the Kingdom, in the face of the sneers of the religious establishment. One of the greatest things we can give other people is our word. Jesus was not holding up either son as an ideal. Yet we can learn from both. The son who said 'No' but later changed his mind could be seen as being weak. It takes humility to admit one's fault and courage to put it right. The ideal son would be the one who immediately and willingly carried out his father's wishes. The son who said he would go but didn't is meant as a warning to us. We call ourselves Christians but outsiders sometimes accuse us of hypocrisy because our lives do not bear witness to the faith we profess. Sin does not necessarily imply doing something wrong. The greatest sin is not to do good: the sin of inactivity, of doing nothing.

The parable teaches us that promises can never take the place of performance, and fine words can never be a substitute for fine deeds. Faithfulness is one of the greatest and most necessary things in life. But it is also costly. It demands unselfishness and a spirit of sacrifice. But even here on earth it brings great rewards in terms of growth, serenity and joy.

Flor McCarthy SDB