



Immaculate Conception Church - Omeo

THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO
Eastern 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	St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:	
Assistant Priests:	Fr Avinash George Fr Edwin Ogbuka	135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942	
Presbytery:	23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106	Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com	
		Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net	
		Facebook: St Mary's Church Bairnsdale	

PALM SUNDAY, YEAR B, 28th March 2021

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.

HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

TUESDAY 30th March

Parish Reconciliation 6:00PM

THURSDAY 1st April

ST MARY'S 7:00PM

FRIDAY 2nd April

ST MARY'S Stations of the Cross 9:30AM

ST CANICE'S, Lindenow Stations of the Cross 11:00AM

ST MARY'S Passion Liturgy 3:00PM

SATURDAY 3rd April

ST MARY'S Easter Vigil 7:00PM

SUNDAY 4th April

ST PATRICK'S, Paynesville 8:00AM

ST MARY'S, Bairnsdale 9:30AM

ST CANICE'S, Lindenow 11:00AM

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 7pm

Sunday: 9.30am

St Patrick's, Paynesville

Sunday: 8am

St Canice's, Lindenow

Sunday: 11am

Weekday Masses @ St Mary's

Monday: 9:10am

**Tuesday: 11:00am Sale Cathedral -
Chrism Mass.**

Wednesday: 7:00am

Thursday: See Holy Week Timetable

Friday: See Holy Week Timetable

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We advise that for the 3pm Service at St Mary's on Friday 2nd April (Good Friday); 8am Mass at St Patrick's, Paynesville AND 9:30am Mass at St Mary's Bairnsdale on Sunday 4th April (Easter Sunday) you are required to book your seat. For all other liturgies we recommend you come early to get a seat to avoid disappointment. 'Sign in' sheets are available at the back of the church this weekend for you to book yourselves in if you intend to attend 1 or 2 of the liturgies mentioned above.

For over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion, supporting vulnerable communities before, during and after natural disasters, conflicts and crises – making it one



of the nation's longest running charity campaigns. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413. **WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING YOUR PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES/ENVELOPES TO THE THURSDAY EVENING LITURGY.**



Roster for Masses 3rd & 4th April 2021

	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister
6:00pm Sat		Easter Saturday Vigil - all positions have been assigned.		
9:30am Sun	M Owen	H Van Den Einden	S Tilley	J Delany

Please find a replacement if unable to fill your spot.

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

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.

CASH COUNT

Weekend 21st March:

Envelopes	\$ 1,112.00
DD & Cards	\$ 820 .00
1 st Collection	\$ 513 .00
2 nd Collection	\$ 767 .00

Sunday of the Resurrection Year B, 4th April 2021

1 st Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43
Psalm: 117
2 nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 5: 6-8
Gospel: John 20: 1-9



Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer)

is an international movement. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer.

March: Intention for evangelisation - Sacrament of reconciliation.

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Tuesday, 30th March, 6.00pm at St Mary's, Bairnsdale

Pope Francis' prayer intention for March seeks to highlight the joy that the sacrament of Reconciliation brings and reminds the faithful it is a loving and merciful encounter with God. In The Pope Video for March, Pope Francis offers an invitation to rediscover the power of personal renewal that the sacrament of confession has in a person's life. The video opens with the Pope going to confession, "in order to be healed, to heal my soul".



When I go to confession, it is in order to be healed, to heal my soul.

To leave with greater spiritual health.

To pass from misery to mercy.

The centre of confession is not the sins we declare, but the divine love we receive, of which we are always in need.

The centre of confession is Jesus who waits for us, who listens to us and forgives us.

Remember this: In the heart of God, we come before our mistakes.

And let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the forgiveness and infinite mercy of God.

And let us pray that God may give his Church merciful priests and not torturers.

Source: Vatican News.

becoming ecologically virtuous

Laudato si was written by Pope Francis in 2015 to outline the Catholic Church's position on the climate crisis. In 2016 Fr Joshtrum Kureethadam wrote an article that proposed seven ecological virtues that he said all people should aim to heal the environment and to live a life that has minimal impact on the planet. We need to care for God's creation because it is on loan to us, until we pass it to future generations.

Justice



To ensure justice for the earth, for the poor, and for future generations. 'Every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and underprivileged. (LS 93) **Consider the impact of our consumer choices on workers Buy 'fair trade' Purchase items from local farmers. These economical actions send a message to producers not to waste resources.**

We need to care for God's creation because it is on loan to us, until we pass it to future generations.

Life in the Spirit Seminar—**SAVE THE DATES**

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Sale Diocese is conducting a Diocese wide Renewal Seminar for everyone in the Diocese of Sale. This follows the advice of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who encourages all Catholics (and all Christians) to embrace this spiritual renewal program. Bishop Greg has blessed this initiative. It will be an exciting moment with the Holy Spirit, please do not miss this opportunity. 3 seminars will be held in a central location in the Diocese as follows:

Venue: St Ita's, Drouin

Dates: Saturday, 17 April, God's promise of the Holy Spirit

Saturday, 22 May, New Life in God's Spirit

Saturday, 19 June, Community in the Lord; Commissioning Mass with Bishop Greg.

Time: 10.30 am each day. More information is to come.



Franciscan Four- Fold Blessing

May God bless you with *discomfort* at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart. *Amen.*

May God bless you with *anger* at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. *Amen.*

May God bless you with *tears* to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy. *Amen.*

May God bless you with enough *foolishness* to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. *Amen.*

40 HOUR VIGIL - HEALING THE HURTS

Beginning at 6am on Wednesday 31st March we are again offering a time of prayer and reflection to show our compassion and support for the children, women and men, abused by those in whom they had placed their trust. While at the Church we will reflect on their stories that were not believed for so long. All will be invited to pray and reflect, light a candle or simply sit quietly in solidarity for a while, to show our sorrow for what has been done to them. If you haven't already, there is still time to add your name for an hour of your time. Please ring the Parish Centre if you have any questions. Don't forget, you can pop in at any time during the 40 hours to prayer, light a candle and tie a ribbon on the front fence of our church.



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.**

'Valuing Water' - World Water Day - 22nd March

has been celebrated since 1993. Now a core focus of the day is to support the achievement of

Sustainable Development

Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

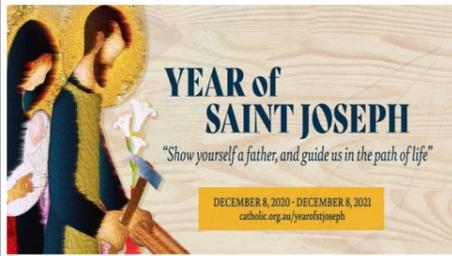


Walk for Justice for Refugees - Palm Sunday

This Sunday - Palm Sunday rallies and vigils will once again be taking place across Australia calling for justice for refugees. Each year the East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support group has organised a local Silent Vigil to coincide with capital city rallies. At this stage EGASS is awaiting local 'COVID Safe' approval for the vigil to go ahead on the middle medium strip Main St opposite 754 State School.

IF YOU SEE THE SILENT VIGIL HAPPENING IN MAIN ST - COME JOIN IN.

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. 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. **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 Mary’s Primary School: 5152 3706 **Nagle College:** 5152 6122



This year the Church all over the world celebrates 2021 as the Year of St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church. St Joseph was born in Bethlehem, a descendant of King David. He lived in Nazareth, where he worked as a carpenter. He was betrothed to Mary.

How did St Joseph respond to his astonishing call to be the foster father of Jesus and spouse of Mary? What does this mean for father figures in today’s world?

St Joseph teaches us much about the roles of being a loving husband and father.

Listening — Find silence and stillness everyday so we can hear from the sacred that resides in us.

Obedience/Action — Reject the pervading passivity of our culture and accept responsibility.

Selflessness — Live for others — this will change us and the world.

Humility — Be prepared to serve, love, provide and protect.

Courage — Find ways to be calm in the chaos and stress of life. God is with us.

Prayer to St Joseph
*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
 Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 To you God entrusted his only Son;
 in you Mary placed her trust;
 with you Christ became man.
 Blessed Joseph, to us too,
 show yourself a father
 and guide us in the path of life.
 Obtain for us grace,
 mercy, and courage,
 and defend us from every evil.
 Amen. By Pope Francis*



As we celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord last Thursday, may we be inspired by Mary’s courageous response to God’s invitation. As the author of one article on the Annunciation reflects: *As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord and peer into the home of Nazareth where, according to accounts, the angel Gabriel prepared to announce that the Saviour was to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary, let us see it as an invitation to deeper prayer. Engage your imagination with meditative prayer about the events. But most of all, be inspired by Mary’s prayerful disposition, so that whenever a major decision has to be made, it will be done with much prayer. In the end we will make Mary’s prayer our own: “May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).* By Fr Edward Looney in Catholic Digest <http://www.catholicdigest.com/faith/spirituality/what-do-we-know-about-the-annunciation/>


Catholic Theological College
Newman and the Nineteenth Century Church
 Online unit via zoom on 12 Saturday mornings
 Lecturer:
 Rev. Prof. Austin Cooper OMI AM
Audit, Undergraduate and Postgraduate Options available
 Enquiries: Dr Rosemary Canavan, Academic Dean
 T: 9412 3333 E: dean@ctc.edu.au

 **Aid to the Church in Need Australia**
A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia:
 Across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith. Could you help stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters and help ease their heavy burdens? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/refugees

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:
 Michelle Grumley (nee Scott), Kathleen (Kath) Clarke, Lorraine O’Brien, Christine Harrop (nee Websdale), Lillian Paez (Mother of Irish & m-i-l of Michael O’Kelly), victims of mental health issues; of Covid-19; terrorist attacks, war and conflict, asylum seekers, of family violence and poverty.
ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time... Carmel Brown, Edna Cottrell, William Field, Sam Monk, John Saunders, Vera Saunders, Matt Coco, Frank Wardley, Betty Kirwan, Rosa Lamanna, Dennis (Drake) Prendergast, Ron Hannaford, Mary Sova, Francesca Lanteri, Lorna Gilchrist, 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: Mateusz Iwanowicz, Paul Hawker, Mark Kelly, Bev Miller (mother of Val Bersey), Ella Ford (NZ), Luke Withers (grandson of Sandie & Chris Tilley), Andrew Kenworthy, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Angie McKail, Victoria Shaw, Mary Kirsner, Elizabeth Stehmann, Tricia & Alan Cooke, Damian Greaves, Jim Quigley, Craig Counsel, Roma Greig, Linton Smith, John Butler, Arthur Elbourne, Andre Buxton, Rick Jones, Marcie Hayles, John Buck, Alan Wilson, Vic & Thelma Smythe, Brian Rowe, Trish & Karl Henderson, John Pruscino, Julie Frew.
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.

Palm Sunday 28th March 2021 Year B

Entrance Antiphon:

Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (50: 4-7)

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' **R.**

Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled.

'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory.

Revere him, Israel's sons.' **R.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (2: 6-11)

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus 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.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

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

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (14: 1 – 15: 47)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane



Something to think and pray about each day this week.

Is Holy Week a strange name for the week of Jesus' passion? It seems a week of torture, pain, imprisonment, denial and betrayal, ending in death for Jesus. It was a week of enormous crisis for the followers of Jesus, and a week of intense pain for Mary, his mother. Why call it holy? Why call Good Friday 'good' when it seems to be one of the worst days of human history? A key would be in the letter of Pope Francis on Holiness, *Gaudete et Exsultate* (2017). His view of holiness is of a life marked by, among other things, perseverance, patience and gentleness (112-21), boldness and passion (129-39) and constant prayer (147-57).

In Holy Week Jesus did not give up, and he prayed often. This is why the week is holy – Jesus is totally committed to God in this week in ordinary and extraordinary ways. Palm Sunday reminds us of the victory of Jesus over death, the washing of the feet reminds us of the call to all of service; the cross of Friday of the huge love of Jesus for us, and Holy Saturday of patient waiting for the victory of Jesus. This is Holy Week. For us Holy Week is not just a memory. It is a week to remember all that Jesus did to save us; a week to grow in holiness ourselves, and a week that leads into the joy of the resurrection, which is the beginning of the new life of Jesus. It is the high point of the Church year; we can mark it by taking part in the ceremonies of the last three days (the triduum), by praying and spending time with readings in quiet prayer before attending the ceremonies; we can go to a Lenten confession, to mass during the week, and keep an eye out for how we can be of loving service to those near to us, and far away. Then it will be a holy week for ourselves, and a sharing in the holiness of God.

Donal Neary SJ, The Sacred Heart Messenger, April 2020

OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We commit to making our Church a safe place for children and young people and protecting them from harm.



You are special and will always be welcome in our Church.



What you think and feel is important to us.

We will make sure our leaders and helpers understand their responsibilities to keep you safe.



We respect you just the way you are.



If you feel unsafe or are worried about someone else's safety, we will listen and take this seriously.



We will help you to be safe. This means that if you are being hurt or are in danger of being hurt, we will speak to the Police or another person who can help you.



St Marys Parish Bairnsdale Omeo

Confidential help is always available. Ph 5152 2942
Email: stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com Safeguarding Officer: Kath Cassidy



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE