



Immaculate Conception, Omeo

THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

East Region – Diocese of Sale
BAIRNSDALE, PAYNESVILLE, LINDENOW,
OMEO, SWIFTS CREEK AND 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 Joseph Abutu

Assistant Priest: Fr Mark Hughes

Presbytery: 23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale

Phone: 5152 3106

Parish Pastoral Centre: 135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale

Phone: 5152 2942

Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net

Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

Email: stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com

Divine Mercy Sunday Year B, April 7, 2024

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.



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 6-7



Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU

for supporting Project Compassion 2024. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, *for all future generations.*

You can still donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, using the OR Code, visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S	RECONCILIATION	WEEKEND MASS TIMES
Monday: 9.10am	Friday: After 9.10am Mass Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am	St Mary's, Bairnsdale: Saturday: 6.00pm Sunday: 9.30am
Tuesday to Friday NO MASSES Annual Sale Diocese Clergy Retreat	ROSARY VIA ZOOM Monday: 7.00pm Contact the Parish Centre for a link	St Patrick's, Paynesville: Sunday: 8.00am St Canice's, Lindenow: Sunday: 11.00am
St Patrick's Paynesville Wednesday: Rosary 10.00am		Swifts Creek, Omeo and Benambra Masses held on the 4th weekend of each month. Sacred Heart, Swifts Creek: 4th Saturday: 6.30pm Immaculate Conception, Omeo: 4th Sunday: 9.00am St Francis', Benambra: 4th Sunday: 11.00am

3rd Sunday of Easter, Year B, April 13-14, 2024

MASS	WELCOMER	COMMENTATOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY PROCESSION
6.00pm Saturday	G Dooley	C Marriot-Smith	D Reefman	J Peachey	
9.30am Sunday	L Urban	H Sampson	D Atkins	S Dean	H Sampson, P Pruscino, A Chila
Cleaning: Fortnight ending: April 20 - B and A Cattapan			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 Helen Van Den Einden who can be contacted through the Parish Centre: 5152 2942. Alternatively contact Bairnsdale Police: 5150 2600 or Towards Healing: 1800 816 030.



A very special thank you to everyone who helped make our Easter Services so holy and memorable.

Many people gave of their time and energy in preparing the various Easter Masses and bringing them to us. Your contribution is greatly valued.

St Mary's is blessed to have so many people willing to help enrich our spiritual lives.

Your gift is a joy to behold.

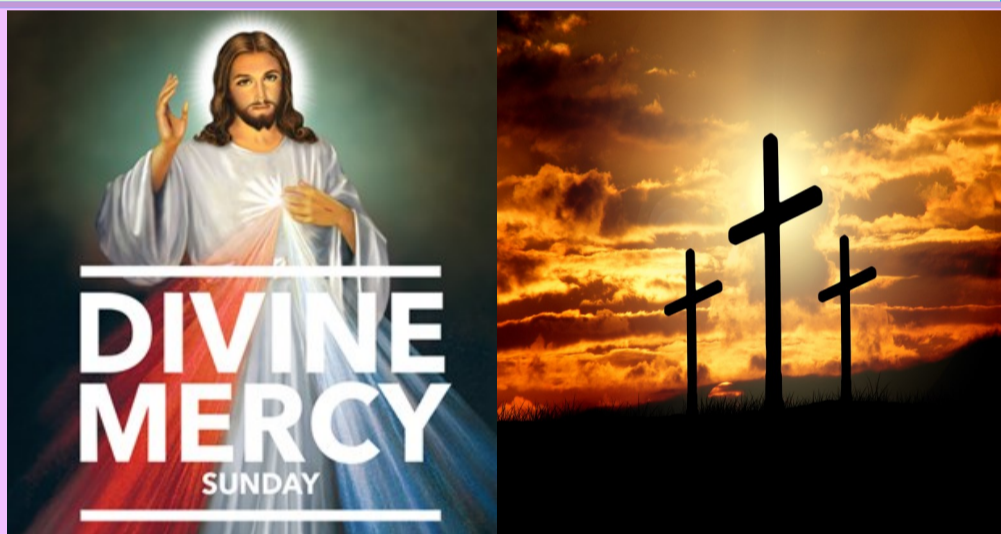
God Bless you all.



April 7

**Morning Tea this Sunday
after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's Bairnsdale
and after 8.00am Mass at
St Patrick's Paynesville
Come and join us for a cuppa and a natter**

Planned Giving envelopes are still available in the Church Foyer. Please collect yours.



**Divine Mercy Sunday Mass
Sunday April 7 at 3.00pm
St Mary's Bairnsdale**

Sacramental Program 2024



St Mary's Parish Sacramental Program for 2024 begins soon.

If you would like your child to participate in the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, enrolment to the program closes on April 19, 2024.

To discuss this further, please contact me at the Parish Centre on 5152 2942 or via email:

stm.michelleg@gmail.com

Blessings always, Michelle Grimsted.

Parish Sacramental Coordinator

Prayer for Peace

As the fever of the day calms towards twilight
may all that is strained in us come to ease.
We pray for all who have suffered violence today,
may an unexpected serenity surprise them.
For those who risk their lives each day for peace,
may their hearts glimpse providence
at the heart of history.

That those who make riches from violence and war
might hear in their dreams the cry of the lost.
That we might see through the fear of each other
a new vision to heal
our fatal attraction to aggression.

That those who enjoy the privilege of peace
might not forget their tormented brothers and
sisters.

That the wolf might lie down with the lamb,
that our swords be beaten into ploughshares
and no hurt or harm
be done anywhere on the holy mountain.

'Benedictus' A book of Blessings by John O'Donohue



Congratulations to Marylin and Norm Elliot, who celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary over the Easter weekend.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS: APRIL

For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination they experience in different parts of the world.

**READINGS: Third Sunday of
Easter April 13-14, 2024**

1st Reading:
Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
Responsorial Psalm:
Ps 4:2, 4, 7, 9
2nd Reading: 1 John 2:1-5
Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

**COLLECTIONS:
March 30-31, 2024**

Envelopes	\$ 1561.00
DD and Cards	\$ 472.00
1 st Collection	\$ 1483.85
2 nd Collection	\$ 1052.15
Pay Wave	\$ 110,00

Parish Pastoral Council

With two PPC members completing their terms, we are looking for Parishioners to take on a leadership role within St Mary's Parish. If you know someone who could contribute to the growth and development of St Mary's, please consider recommending them. Or, if you feel you might be the 'right person', recommend yourself. Recommendation Forms are available and, as you will see, you are able to recommend more than one person. You do not need their permission, as this is only a preliminary part of the process. Please give this some serious thought. **Recommendations close on Friday April 12.** Please leave them in the 'Collection Plate' or at the Parish Centre.

Childrens Worksheets Available for Collection



Dear Parent/Carer,
Please collect a worksheet for your child to help them deepen their understanding of the Word during celebration of the Mass. A beginning point for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:

- In today's gospel, why did the disciples lock themselves in a room?
- How did they feel when they saw Jesus?
- Who did not believe it was Jesus when he was told that Jesus had appeared?
- Why did Thomas stop doubting?
- When can you sense Jesus is with you, even though you do not see him?
- How can we recognise Jesus in other people?
- We pray that we will always have the gift of faith and recognise Jesus in those we meet.



Heartstrings

St John's Anglican Church, Bairnsdale presents Hayden Wiseman, an internationally renowned violinist, who will perform in St John's Church at 2.00pm on Sunday April 21. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online: www.haydenwiseman.com

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Geoff Neeson (Chair), Madelaine Schumann,
Leonie Urban

Ex-officio members: Fr Joseph, Fr Mark,
School Principals and Michael Flynn

Parish Directory: available at the Pastoral Centre.

St Mary's Primary School: 5152 3706

Nagle College: 5152 6122

Sacraments: To request information and registration forms email stmarybairnsdale@gmail.com

Baptisms: Call the Sacramental Coordinator to set a date.

Baptisms are celebrated during or after Mass on the 2nd and 3rd weekends 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: 0427 232 682

Special Wedding Anniversaries: 3 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



Thank You to St Mary's Parish for the generous donation of \$500. This money helps support asylum seekers both in the community and in detention.



The Management Committee, Staff and Residents would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to St Mary's Parish for the donation to Isabel Beardmore Home for the Aged in South Africa. The money will be used to procure food items for those who make the Home their home.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED: Shane Hayles, Bev Broome, victims of natural disasters, COVID-19, terrorism, war, conflict, poverty, Family Violence, Asylum Seekers and all others who have passed away.

ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Stephen 'Michael' Dwyer, Arthur Gilchrist, Brendon Earles, Dennis Prendergast, Francesca Lanteri, Paolo Lanteri, Lorna Gilchrist, Joan Merritt, Mary Sova, Carmel Brown, William Field, John Saunders, Vera Saunders, Patricia Miles, Angela D'Amelio, Gaetano Calabro, and Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers 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 REMEMBER THE SICK: Anita De Jesus, Russell Wilson, Benny Garro, Gabrielle Carrasco (great-niece of Chris and Sandie Tilley), Terry Smyth, Pat Coloe, Bill Tilley, Dennis Collins, Bob Marshall, Kathleen Robertson, Margaret O'Reilly, and Arthur Elbourne.

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.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Entrance Antiphon

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **R.**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die; I shall live and recount his deeds. I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die. **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone, This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked, and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name. *Jerusalem Bible ©Liturgy Brisbane*

Scripture Reflection

God willed that this Sunday, the eighth day of the Octave of Easter, be celebrated as the Feast of Mercy. By placing this Feast on the last day of the Octave of Easter, God is telling us that the message of this Feast reveals the ultimate purpose of our lives. Easter is the culmination of the perfect plan of redemption. And Divine Mercy Sunday is the culmination of that perfect plan. Therefore, nothing is more important than trying to understand the message this Feast presents. Reflect, today, upon The Divine Mercy. As you do, humble yourself through prayer by admitting to God and to yourself that His Mercy is beyond what you will ever comprehend. Do this in prayer. Reading about God's Mercy is important, but it will only be through prayer that we begin our contemplation. And it will only be through this contemplation that we will begin to live the central purpose of our lives. *My Catholic Life*