



Swifts Creek:
Sacred Heart

THE PARISH OF BAIRNSDALE AND OMEO

East 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 Email: stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com Website: www.stmarysbairnsdale.net Facebook: St Mary's Church Bairnsdale
Presbytery:	23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106	

The Ascension of the Lord YEAR B, 16th MAY, 2021

Welcome to all who have joined us as we celebrate Mass.

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.

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am

St Patrick's, Paynesville

Sunday: 8am

St Canice's, Lindenow

Sunday: 11am

Weekday Masses for 10th - 14th May

Monday: 9:10am - St Mary's

Tuesday: 9:10am - St Mary's

Wednesday: 9:10am - St Mary's

Thursday: 9:10am - St Mary's

Friday: 8am Nagle College Chapel

9:10am - St Mary's

Monday to Friday @ St Mary's

Morning Prayers: 8:45am

Rosary: after 9:10am Mass

Paynesville: Rosary 10am Wednesday

Reconciliation is available on

FRIDAY following 9:10am Mass.

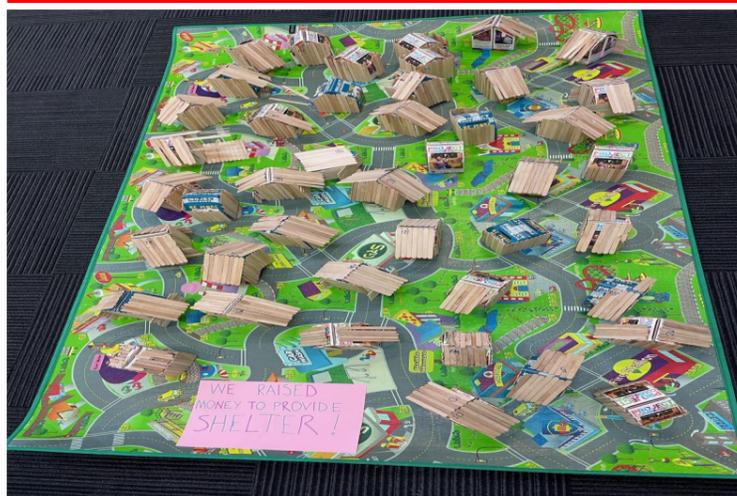
SATURDAY

9:30am - 10:00am and

5:30pm to 5:50pm

This week marks the annual occasion for the promotion of volunteering. It also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of our many volunteers currently serving our Parish and the wider community. You continue to inspire us. So many remarkable stories from our Vinnies Conference, our Parish Op Shop and the many individuals who are quietly providing for the needs of others without seeking anything in return; serving on committees and serving in the various roles at Mass. It shows that your motivation comes from the heart and fulfils Jesus' command to love as he has loved us. You all know who you are. And, I know who most of you are and sincerely thank-you. Most importantly, God knows who you are. And, the fruits that you bear as a branch of the vine, will endure forever (Jn 15:16). Fr Michael

NATIONAL 17-23 MAY 2021
VOLUNTEER
WEEK
RECOGNISE. RECONNECT.
REIMAGINE.



This photo follows on from an article in last weeks bulletin. Here is a photo of the 'village' the students at St Mary's Primary School helped to build as they worked together to raise money for Project Compassion. Together they made 47 shelters and with a 'Jeans for Jesus' day they raised over \$1500. A job well done with students, teachers and families all working together.

Roster for Masses 23rd & 24th May 2021

	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister
6:00pm Sat	P Pruscino	B O'Kelly	D Reefman	P Elliott
9:30am Sun	J Fallon	D Fallon	P Brown Graham	J Coverdale

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.

WANTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a program running over a number of months, exploring different aspects of Church life - what are the Sacraments, what role does Mary play, why does the priest wear the robes that he does, what relevance do Gospel stories have for us today? Anyone wishing to find out more please contact the Parish Centre on 5152 2942.

NATIONAL COUNT IN THE MONTH OF MAY

A national count of Mass attenders is taken every 5 years and the time has come again. At each weekend Mass for the first 4 weeks of May, we will be 'counting sheep'. The count will happen at the time of the first collection.



'LIFE IN THE SPIRIT' SEMINAR

The Diocesan Service of Communion of the Charismatic Renewal 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. Looking forward with great excitement to catching up with you all (Fr Francis). Seminars will be held in a central location in the Diocese as follows:

Venue: St Ita's, Drouin **Time:** 10.30 am each day.

Dates: Saturday, 22 May, New Life in God's Spirit
Saturday, 19 June, Community in the Lord;

Commissioning Mass with Bishop Greg

The other seminars will be organised on Prayer Group/Parish levels. Details to follow. "May our Diocesan Life in the Spirit Seminar be an opportunity for us to fan into a flame the gift of God anew (1 Tim 1:6) and renew the gift of our baptism which calls us forth in missionary service." (Bishop Greg Bennet, Sale Diocese).

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP - THANK YOU

The Aboriginal Literacy Foundation thank St Mary's Parish for the generous donation of \$500. The Foundation works to develop the literacy, numeracy and IT abilities of Indigenous children so that they can succeed in school and beyond.



The Bairnsdale Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul thank you for the generous donation of \$500 they received earlier this year from Parish funds that are distributed once a year. The conference is very grateful for your continued support of their work. If you would like to know more about 'who they are' and 'what they do' please contact: Cath - 0448 525 462; Jo - 0409 530 423; Trish - 0408 320 169

Collections for week ending 9th May:

Envelopes	\$ 2,232.00
DD & Cards	\$ 898.00
1 st Collection	\$ 395.00
2 nd Collection	\$ 597.60
Church Tours	\$ 200.70

Readings for 23rd May Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2: 1-11
Psalm 103: 1, 24, 29-31, 34
2nd Reading: Galatians 5: 16-25
Gospel: John 15: 26-27;
16: 12-15



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.**



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

An opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication.

Come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing! The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. The next residential weekend is on **21 -23 May 2021 in Wantirna South** (Book early to avoid disappointment)

Information/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au



May 2021 Appeal

The collection will take place THIS weekend.

Bishop Greg Bennet has urged the members of the diocese to generously support the annual appeal for Trinity Families, in our parishes this year.

He said "As good stewards of the gifts that God has given us, we must always find a necessary place for those who need our help. To achieve this, Trinity Families Fund needs to continue to grow its funds so that this mission of service can be more effective. I have been reliably informed that the demand placed upon Trinity Families' funding in the 2020 COVID year was actually three times more than was available for distribution. It is important to keep to the forefront of our minds that this is our own charity arm specifically set up to serve and support the needs of families in the Greater Gippsland area. While there are many calls upon our donations at this time, what is both worthwhile and unique about Trinity Families is that it is locally based and supports the particular needs of our area."

Bishop Greg urges everyone to give generously to the May 2021 Appeal by donating. Those wanting a receipt for Taxation purposes are asked to use the envelopes available in the church.

Welcomers

Proclaimers of the Word

FAITH FORMATION

Eucharist Minister

Commentators

ACU Centre for Liturgy is proud to present a public lecture by Monsignor Professor Kevin W Irwin.

"Liturgy and Sacraments in a COVID World: Renewal not Restoration"

THIS Monday May 17, 2021, 10am-11:30am via Zoom in the Library Meeting Room St Mary's Parish Centre. Please register your interest with Pattie, 5152 2942 or Kath 5152 3635

Renewal and restoration are not luxuries, they are essentials.

Parish Pastoral Council: meets 2nd Thursday of the month. Please submit items to the Parish Centre by 10.00am Tuesday the week before. **Members:** Michael Flynn and Angela McKail (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

St Vincent de Paul Conference/Centre: 5152 6687 **St Mary's Op Shop:** 51522088

Psst....Don't let Fr Michael know what we are doing, but he will celebrate 20 years of priestly ordination on **Tuesday 18th May**. If you can, come along to **9:10am Mass** and celebrate with him. This weekend we have 'cards' on which you can express your gratitude and well wishes - they will be at the 2 entrances of St Mary's; St Patrick's and St Canice's. Following Mass on Tuesday you are welcome to have a cuppa in the Parish Centre.

SOS SOS HELP! HELP!
Church cleaning takes approximately 1 hour each week. If we can find 12 volunteers it will mean doing the job once every 3 months or so. Can you help?
BE ONE OF THE TWELVE. Of course more than 12 volunteers will make the commitment even lighter, almost non-existent! And menfolk! Menfolk! Please remember this is an inclusive parish. The ladies are more than happy to include you in what in the past has been an exclusively female activity. Yes, menfolk, get in touch with your sensitive inner dust-free self. Grab a broom. "Grab a broom for Jesus" (This is the church cleaner's motto). Please give an hour and enjoy the benefits. Please call Pattie on 5152 2942. (This is a serious call for help, currently we have only 2 volunteers).



ROSARY BEFORE MASS
During the month of May Rosary will be offered at 9am BEFORE 9:30am Mass. You are most welcome to come along and join in.



St Joseph the Migrant Worker
"Have you ever imagined St Joseph as a migrant worker?"

Would he have taken with him as many tools of trade as he could carry when he fled with Mary and the child Jesus into Egypt?
What would it have been like for him trying to find work in a foreign land to support his family?
Would anyone help them, or would these 'outsiders' be exploited or left to fend for themselves?"

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:
Paul Garro, Bill Plozza, Margaret Bull, Barbara Conquest, victims of mental health issues; of Covid-19; terrorist attacks, war and conflict, asylum seekers, of family violence and poverty.

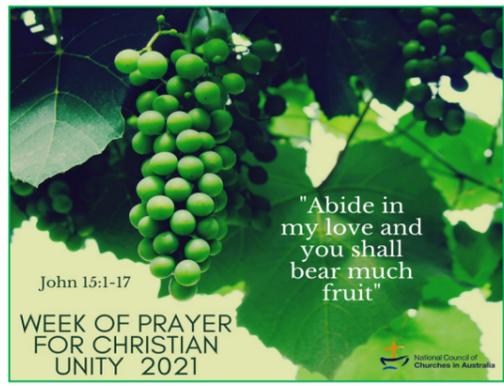
ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...
Brendan Deery, Caterina Calabro, Rick Lightowler, Saverio Calabro, Noreen Godridge, April Herrick, Domenico Capobianco, Leo Cahill, Nicodemo Tedeschi, Lindsay Pepper, June Bennett, Grace Calabro and the priests who have worked in the Diocese.
"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace."

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THE SICK:
Mary Johnson, Maree Elbourne, Mateusz Iwanowicz, Paul Hawker, Bev Miller (mother of Val Bersey), Ella Ford (NZ), Andrew Kenworthy, Carmen Golonski (Grimsted), Victoria Shaw, Tricia & Alan Cooke, Damian Greaves, Jim Quigley, Craig Counsel, Roma Greig, Linton Smith, Andre Buxton, Marcie Hayles, Brian Rowe, Vic & Thelma Smythe, 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. Please contact the Parish Centre to extend this time.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (16th -23rd May)
between Ascension and Pentecost.

Prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp which is a monastic community that brings together sisters from different churches and various countries.

The theme that was chosen, **"Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit"**, is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and the human family.



PENTECOST SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND
Pentecost Sunday - often referred to as the birthday of the Church. Perhaps, consider wearing something red to Mass as a way of acknowledging this special day in the Church calendar.

Work to be stewards to creation, to till and to keep.

'Developing the created world in a prudent way is the best way of caring for it, as this means that we ourselves become the instrument used by God to bring out the potential which he himself inscribed in things.' (LS124)

Start a vegetable garden at home as a way of becoming a steward of the earth.



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

UNIVERSAL INTENTION -
The world of finance.
Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.



The Ascension of the Lord 16th May 2021, Year B

Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1:1-11)

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,/ cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,/ great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy;/ the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God, sing praise,/ sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

God is king of all the earth./ Sing praise with all your skill.

God is king over the nations;/ God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (1:17-23)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. **Alleluia!**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (16:15-20)

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane

Scripture Notes

St Luke is believed to have been the author of the Acts of the Apostles and in the first reading gives us an account of the ascension of Jesus into heaven. The ascension is a mystery which is beyond words as Jesus returns to the Father. 'Unless I go, the Spirit will not come; but if I go, I will send him to you.' (Jn16:7) The ascension represents the Lord's liberation from all restrictions of time and space, so that he can be present everywhere on earth. 'I will be with you always; yes, to the end of time (Mt 28:20).

Mark gives us an account of the final commissioning of the apostles 'He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned.'

These are troubling words that seem to suggest that the gospel comes with an attached threat. But this would contradict everything that Jesus stood for.

The gospel comes as a gift from God and is a sign of God's love for us. Yes, there are consequences for those who reject it, but things are not as black and white as that today. Unbelief springs from many factors, not least from the poor witness or example given by those who claim to believe in Jesus.

Flor McCarthy SDB -New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies. Year B