



St Francis of Assisi,  
Benambra

# 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  
**Assistant Priests:** Fr Avinash George  
Fr Hiep Van Nguyen  
**Presbytery:**  
23 Pyke Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 3106

**St Mary's Parish Pastoral Centre:**  
135 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale Phone 5152 2942  
Email: [stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbairnsdale@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stmarysbairnsdale.net](http://www.stmarysbairnsdale.net)  
Facebook: [St Mary's Church Bairnsdale](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchBairnsdale)

### The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Year B, 15th August, 2021

Welcome to all who have joined us to 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

##### St Mary's Bairnsdale

Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 9:30am

##### St Patrick's, Paynesville

Sunday: 8:00am

##### St Canice's, Lindenow

Sunday: 11:00am

#### Weekday Masses for 16th-20th August

**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:** 9:10am - St Mary's

#### Monday to Friday @ St Mary's

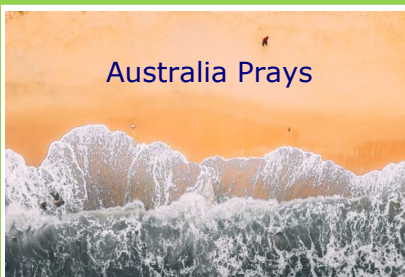
**Morning Prayers:** 8:45am

**Rosary:** after 9:10am Mass

**Paynesville:** Rosary 10am Wednesday

**RECONCILIATION** is available on  
**Friday** following 9:10am Mass  
and **Saturday**

9:30am - 10:00am and  
5:30pm to 5:50pm



Australia Prays

#### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – THE CHURCHES TOGETHER 22nd AUGUST 2021



*But you O Lord, are a God full of compassion and gracious  
longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth. Psalm 86:15*

Across all our services on Sunday 22nd August, Australian Churches are invited to pray for our local, national and global communities experiencing great need and distress caused by Covid-19. For anyone wanting to go deeper and commit additional time or individual participation:

- Nightly Prayer calls from 16-21 August will take place with input from a different church leader each night.
- Daily devotions will be sent out to those who register. Each daily devotion will include a prayer from a different church leader.
- All day online prayer service on Sunday 22nd August 2021 9am-9pm.

Register for any of the above online—[Sign up for Devotions & Prayer Call ID](https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/LordHaveMercy/)

For more information visit: <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/LordHaveMercy/>

There is an extra collection today for

**CatholicCare** Victoria, (see insert)



We pray for each other, for those who are sick with the virus, experiencing hardship because of loss of employment or suffering loneliness, anxiety, or mental illness due to isolation. May we also give thanks for leaders and frontline workers who generously continue to strive to provide the best for our nation.

### Roster for Masses 21st - 22nd August 2021

	Welcomer	Commentator	Reader	Special Minister
6:00pm Sat	C Power	B O'Kelly	D Reefman	M Saunders
9:30am Sun	M Owen	T Kosmer	G Neeson	H Sampson
<b>Cleaning:</b> Fortnight ending 21st August: M Saunders		<b>Please find a replacement if unable to fill your spot.</b>		

#### 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.



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

**Intention for evangelization - The Church**

Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.



We have 38 candidates preparing, over the next few weeks from our community, to deepen and take more responsibility for their faith in readiness to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on Saturday 11th September. Let us keep them, their families and educators in our prayers as they journey together.

Are you searching for a relationship with God? Do you want to learn more about the Catholic way of life? Are you interested in becoming a Catholic Christian? If so, you're invited to **Come & See** in our Parish, August 2021. For more information, please contact Michelle Grimsted on **0409 006 051**.



**Happy 80th Birthday**  
**Jan Coverdale,**  
**may you continue to be**  
**blessed and to share God's**  
**love with others.**

**YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH**

"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"  
 Saint Joseph,  
 head of the Holy Family,  
 you worked with Jesus and for him.  
 Together you knew the hardships and demands of a daily routine.  
 Help us to work fruitfully with one another,  
 and to make good use of the gifts God has given each of us,  
 so that we may model our lives on you and grow in a spirit of service and commitment to the mission of Jesus, who is Lord for ever and ever.



Amen

**Readings:**  
**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time,**  
**Year B, 22/8/21**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading:  
 Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18  
 Psalm: 33: 2-3,16-23  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32  
 Gospel: John 6:60-69

**Collections for**  
**Week ending 8/8/21**

Envelopes	\$	.00
DD & Cards	\$	975.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection	\$	20.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$	170.00

**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.***



**FAN THE FLAME**

Towards Plenary Assembly One  
 October 2021

***'His mercy reaches from age to age'*** Luke 1:39-56

The Council's opening statement and Pope Francis' message is a powerful reminder of our call to mission:  
 God is asking us to refrain from putting barriers and obstacles in the way of God's mercy reaching the least, the lost and those who feel excluded, especially those who do not yet know the love of God. God is asking us to be a Church that walks together and does not leave anyone behind.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 27

**Plenary Snippet:**

**Two types of members. Two types of votes.**

Plenary Councils are governed by Canons 439-446. At the Australian Plenary Council, the active bishops and their equivalents are deliberative members with deliberative (or decisive) votes. These votes define the outcomes of the Plenary. Other members called to the Plenary are consultative members with consultative votes. Consultative members from our Diocese are Fr Peter, Fr Denis, Lize and Katherine while Bishop Greg is a deliberative member. In relation to votes, a question that rightly concerns people is how much importance the bishops will place on the consultative vote. Looking at how the agenda has been produced may give some clues. Canon 441(4) requires the bishops to produce the agenda, but it has only been created after inviting everyone to participate in the process twice, through the Listening & Discernment and Listening & Dialogue phases. Many from our diocese joined the 220,000+ people who contributed to over 17,000 responses. The Agenda was created from listening to the voices of many, not a few. It is a hopeful beginning.

Prayers for the success of the Plenary Council are deeply appreciated. Your issues, concerns, reflections or questions about the Plenary or the agenda items are important and you are welcome to contact the Sale Diocese Plenary Council Members:

Bishop Greg [bishop@sale.catholic.org.au](mailto:bishop@sale.catholic.org.au)  
 Fr Peter Slater [pslater@sale.catholic.org.au](mailto:pslater@sale.catholic.org.au)  
 Fr Denis O'Bryan, St Thomas the Apostle Parish, Clyde North  
 Lize Privitera [lize.privitera@plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](mailto:lize.privitera@plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)  
 Katherine Jelavic  
[katherine.jelavic@plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](mailto:katherine.jelavic@plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)



**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:** 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](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. **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:** 5152 2088

### **'Ephphatha? Be Thou Open?'**

**Saturday 28 August 2021, 10am-4pm (AEST) via ZOOM. This reflection event using a journal / creative materials offers you time and sacred space to be set apart and companioned to explore new ways of attuning and responding to your experiences. You are invited to participate in a self-paced personal journey of sensitively and privately opening your heart to your inner feelings. You will be supported in using various forms of expression to unfold layers of meaning. As a means of valuing and holding your insights, you will be encouraged to capture experiences and reflections in a creative journal of your making. Participants will use their own simple art or creative materials and journal. A suggestion list will be provided to help you choose a few play elements. Led by Margaret Trainor, qualified in spiritual direction and art therapy, for Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost \$60. Book and pay via [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne), email [secretary@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:secretary@heartoflife.melbourne), or tel (03) 9890 1101.**

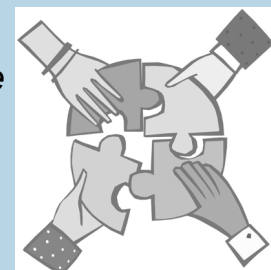


This statement affirms that “we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour”. It draws from Scripture, from the theological tradition, from Catholic Social Teaching, and from the wisdom of the world, including the insights of the First Nations. The Social Justice Statement 2021-22 provides theological foundations to ground and inspire efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. The Statement reflects on creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life. In the Statement, the Bishops invite the whole Catholic community to join them in taking up Pope Francis’ invitation to a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability, guided by seven Laudato Si’ Goals. These Goals are: response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; sustainable lifestyles; ecological spirituality; ecological education; and community engagement and participatory action. The Statement especially encourages Catholic families, communities and organisations to: listen to the First Nations; reflect on the theological foundations offered in *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*; and plan their next steps towards the *Laudato Si’ Goals*. You can download and read the Social Justice Statement 2021-22 and share it with your family, friends and communities. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>

**Hard copies will be available next Sunday. The Social Justice Statement can also found on our website.**

### **ST MARY'S SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP**

*“Jesus makes it clear that what corrupts a person does not come from outside but from within. If hearts are shaped by the compassion and generosity of God, they will hear the cries of the afflicted, and act. The heart here is seen as the core of human will and desire. Real disciples do God’s will when they heal and protect those who suffer, despite any worldly cost or false standard. Jesus is the fulfilment of the true law that others have distorted by their greed. In taking more than we need in any sphere of life, balance is disturbed and something or someone is harmed or deprived. God desires all to have enough to live free and full lives. How do you bring God’s Kingdom to birth in the world?”* Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



The Parish has put aside 2.5% of Planned Giving receipts for local, national, and international needs. Your suggestions are warmly invited for this year’s disbursement of accumulated funds. Please leave your written suggestions at the Parish Centre by 3rd September. These suggestions will be discussed at a subsequent meeting and a list of recipients will be drawn up for the Parish Priest's approval.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Thelma Smythe, Norma Pepper, Chris Hutchins, Trevor Sharp, Peter Rowe (son of Bob & Pauline), victims of: mental health issues; Covid-19; terrorist attacks, war and conflict; asylum seekers; family violence and poverty.

### **ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES occur at this time...**

Penny Hood, Rita Spirason, Maureen Terrill, Freda Carrick, Frank Gregson, Marjorie Dore, Hank Janson, Peter Vanzin, Alma Turzan, Anne Farrell, Dinah Howe, Mary Collins, Ronnie Bruce, Josie Redenbach, Craig Toomey, Michael Trybus, 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:**

Tony Hutchins, Mark Rashleigh, Marsha Worseldine, Arthur Elbourne, Arthur Roberts, Margaret O'Reilly, Maree Elbourne, Paul Hawker, Bev Miller (mother of Val Bersey), Ella Ford (NZ), 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 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.**

## **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15th August Year B**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

### **A reading from the book of the Apocalypse (Revelations)** (11:19; 12:1-6, 10)

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.**

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones. On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words: forget your own people and your father's house. **R.**

So will the king desire your beauty: He is your lord, pay homage to him.

They are escorted amid gladness and joy; they pass within the palace of the king. **R.**

### **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians** (15:20-26)

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy. **Alleluia!**

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke** (1:39-56)

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled. And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy—according to the promise he made to our ancestors—of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

*Jerusalem Bible © Copyright Liturgy Brisbane*

### **Scripture Notes**

Psychologists today trace everything back to childhood, so when things go wrong there is a tendency to blame one's parents. Mary was with Jesus from the very beginning and stayed with him right up to his last moments. She was beside him in all the joyful and sorrowful times in his life. She brought him into the world in a stable and as a newborn fled to Egypt with Joseph to escape Herod's killers. She sought him in sorrow when he got lost in the Temple and during his public ministry she sometimes feared for his safety and sanity. She accompanied him all the way to Calvary staying with him right to the end. This feast is to celebrate her sharing in his risen glory. It gives us great encouragement too. Mary was just a human like us and what she has attained all of us are meant to attain.

As our spiritual mother, fragile and mortal as we are, she wants nothing less for us. She is a model of faith and fidelity. Her life was characterised by a loving service of God and of her neighbour. It is because of where she is now, with God, that she can help us.

*Flor McCarthy SDB New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies*