

Celebrating



1876 – 2026

150 YEARS

of Benalla Catholic Parish



WE THE PARISH OF BENALLA ARE WORKING TOWARDS BEING A WELCOMING, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY, WHICH ENCOURAGES ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN OUR LIFE. RECOGNISING AND RESPECTING THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL, AS WE JOURNEY IN LIVING OUT JESUS' GOSPEL MESSAGE.

We acknowledge the custodians of the land of the Yorta Yorta Nation which, includes the eight clan groups. We also acknowledge the Taungurung clan of the Kulin Nation whose lands are within our parish. We remember their ancestors with respect and commit ourselves to a better future through reconciliation and justice.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 July 2026



Readings for this week:

Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23



Readings for next Sunday:

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43

FIRST READING

Thus says the Lord "As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **R.**

You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**

And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **R.**

The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes they sing. **R.**

SECOND READING

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live forever. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock, where they found little soil, and sprung up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop. Some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears! Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because', he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but for anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case, this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled. You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart and be converted and be healed by me. 'But happy are your eyes because they see your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear and never heard it. 'You therefore are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was shown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no roots in him. He does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the

Parish Priest: Fr Vijay Bandanadam, Parish House: 42 Arundel St, Benalla 3672. Fr Vijay's Mobile: 0435 006 171 Parish House Phone: 5762 2060

www.catholicparish.app/benalla Office Email: benalla@sandhurst.catholic.org.au, Fr Vijay's Email: frbasuoss@gmail.com

For donations/planned giving bank transfers BSB: 083543 Account No: 457724666 Reference: Your name

man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word, and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, the sower seems almost careless. He scatters seed everywhere: on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns, and yes, on rich soil too. Any sensible farmer might say, "That's not very efficient!" But Jesus is not teaching us about farming techniques. Rather, he is showing us the generosity of God. God does not ration grace. He does not wait until the soil is perfect before sowing. He scatters his Word widely, prodigally, hopefully. He gives even to the hard-hearted, the distracted, the overwhelmed, and the weary, because somewhere, somehow, there may be rich soil ready to receive. That is good news for us. We are not always rich soil. Some days we are rocky, thorny, or just plain tired. Yet God keeps sowing. His invitation to us is simple: let one seed take root today, and see what harvest God's grace can bring to you: maybe thirty, sixty or hundredfold. - Fr DJ, Parish Administrator

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Kath Matheson (Sister of Jim Kelly), Omar Soledad, John Downie, Sr Margareth Olsen FCJ,

ANNIVERSARIES: Patrick Ryan, Justin Fraser, Percy Hide, Maureen Tanner, Bill Bryce, Mavis Hales, Marie Langdon, Barry Quinn, Alice Connolly, William Buckley, Eileen Branigan, Ted D'Arcy

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Skyler Levy, Susan Fitzgerald, Tracey Welsh, Elizabeth Waters, Anne Ryan, Duncan Carradice, Margaret McCrohan, Frank Levesque, Trish McCabe, Sari Yoinco, Rebeeca O'Reilly, Paula McPherson, Julie Lynch, Anne Moore and Jacob Smith

☺ Got a Great Parish Story to Tell? ☺

Did something funny happen at church? Do you have a memorable moment, a unique event, or a story that still makes you smile? We'd love to hear it! Share your memories in the submission box at the back of the church and help us celebrate the people, laughter, and moments that have made our parish so special.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

Sandhurst Formation Institute "Growing as Communities of Mission" Friday 21 – Saturday 22 August 2026 at Riverlinks Eastbank, Shepparton

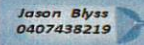
Join people from all over the Diocese at the SFI; two days to explore "Gospel, Mission, and Pastoral Outreach"; the First Direction of the Sandhurst Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals. Opening Reflection and Closing with Bishop René Ramirez RCJ; Keynotes on both Friday and Saturday: "What is the Mission and What Does that Mean?", and "Growing as Communities of Mission". Many seminars to choose from, inter-parish dialogue, intergenerational dialogue and a special Youth Stream (16 – 35s). For more information, go to our website: <https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/3078-sandhurst-formation-institute-2026>

Help Shape the Future of Our Parish

Our Diocese has given us a clear vision through its the Sandhurst Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals. Now it is our turn to ask: What does this look like here in Benalla? We are seeking parishioners to join a Mission and Pastoral Plan Core Group to help develop a local plan that reflects the needs, hopes, and gifts of our parish community. If you are prayerful, willing to listen, and passionate about the future of our parish, we would love to hear from you. Together, let us discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us and help bring forth God's Kingdom in Benalla. Please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr DJ or any members of the PPC if you would like to be involved.

CALENDAR

July	
12	Cuppa after 9:30 Mass for Sr. Liz's 70 th Birthday
17	Birthday lunch for Sr. Liz at the Golf Club
Aug	
7	Exposition & the Rosary
9	Cuppa after Mass in Building 31

Steam It Up CARPET CLEANING  Jason Bliss 0407438219	 Goulburn Murray Credit Union 30 – 32 Bridge Street PH 5762 3380	 Accountants Income Tax Returns Business Advisers 107 Bridge St Benalla Ph 5762 1588
MAHERS TREE SERVICE JOHN MAHER M: 0413 842 525 For all your tree needs, tree tidy up, complete tree removal, tree stump removal, woodchips 	HAIR Alana Robertson 50 Church Street Benalla 3672 Salon 5762 8006 	 Currie Expert Electrical Services in Benalla Ph 0408 572 766
COOKS KERB CONCRETE EXCAVATION PHIL & DEBBIE COOK 0409 950 046		
N.J. TODD Funeral directors Phone: (03) 5762 2461 FEENAN FAMILY Est. 1938 - AFDA Member 81 Baddaginnie Road, Benalla		

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
11 Jul	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Anna Wise	Cath Duncombe	Clare O'Brien Jane Branigan	K Elliott & Volunteer
12 Jul	9.30am	Adrian Daw	Lisa Raschke	John Smyth	Volunteer & Victor Nduka	M & R Miguel
18 Jul	6.00pm	Ryan Miguel	Cath Duncombe	Sr Liz	K & S Chacko	Charlee & Kevin
19 Jul	9.30am	Max Rankin	Oliver Raschke	James Flynn	Joan Berry Susie Buykx	Venal Family

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Weekends – Saturday 6pm. Sunday 9.30 am, Weekdays – Tues to Fri 9.15 am
Rosary and Exposition every first Friday of the month while Fr Vijay is on sabbatical.



Subscribe and receive Parish Bulletin, Newsletter & updates about upcoming events: Subscribe by using the QR Code.

St Joseph's Parish is a Child Safe Parish, and we are committed to the wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults. The Diocese of Sandhurst Safeguarding Committee is part of the structure under the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, which is designed to be implemented by Catholic entities across Australia. Any questions, queries, comments or suggestions are welcomed by the Safeguarding team who can be contacted through the Parish House by phone or email. St Joseph's Parish Child Safe Officers – Xavier O'Kane and Cath Duncombe 0423 203 154



Parish Priest: Fr Vijay Bandanadam, Parish House: 42 Arundel St, Benalla 3672. Fr Vijay's Mobile: 0435 006 171 Parish House Phone: 5762 2060

www.catholicparish.app>benalla Office Email: benalla@sandhurst.catholic.org.au, Fr Vijay's Email: frbasuoss@gmail.com

For donations/planned giving bank transfers BSB: 083543 Account No: 457724666 Reference: Your name