

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.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 July 2026



Readings for this week:

Kings 3:5 7-12
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52



Readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 55:1-3
Romans 8:35 37-39
Matthew 14:13-21

FIRST READING

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father, But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this', the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. **R.**

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts; I hate false ways. **R.**

Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. **R.**

SECOND READING

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justifies he shared his glory.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes'. And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

REFLECTION

What does your heart really long for? St Ignatius of Loyola believed that beneath all our passing wants lies a deeper desire placed there by God himself. We chase success, comfort, security, or recognition, hoping they will satisfy us. Sometimes they do, but only for a while. The heart soon begins searching again. That is why Jesus speaks of a treasure hidden in a field and a pearl of great price. The real treasure is not something we possess, but Someone who possesses our heart. When we discover God, everything else finds its proper place. We do not give up lesser things because they are bad; we let them go because we have found something infinitely better. The deepest desire of the human heart is not for more things, but for God. Every longing, every restlessness, every search is ultimately a search for him who is the treasure for which every other treasure was only preparing us.

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 sabbatica..



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PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Sr Margaret Olsen FCJ

ANNIVERSARIES: Arthur Habla, Eileen Poole, Anna Kaminski, Dr David Richards, Ethel Bryce, Vic Wakley, Chris Elliott, Teresa Beryl Kane, Pauline Leyden, Keith McCauley, Joseph Bot, Bernard Sanson, Brian Hickey, Veronica O'Connor, Kevin Goonan

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 Yoingco, Rebecca O'Reilly, Paula McPherson, Julie Lynch, Anne Moore, Jacob Smith and Tony Meade

CALENDAR

Aug

6	Transfiguration of the Lord
7	Exposition & the Rosary
8	Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross(MacKillop)
9	Cuppa after Mass in Building 31
15	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
18	'The Carpenter' out

♥ Remember that one thing you looked forward to at every parish gathering? ♥

Was it catching up over a cuppa, the laughter with friends, the delicious food, or simply being together? Whatever made your

heart smile, we'd love to hear about it. Share the memories, traditions, and heartwarming moments that made our parish gatherings so special as we celebrate 150 years of faith, friendship, and community. Submission box at the back of the church.



Sister Liz says, "Thanks!"



I've been overwhelmed by all the love that came my way, for my 70th Birthday. I wish to sincerely thank each one of you who made it so! The cards, gifts, words of congratulations, the celebrations and your presence touched my heart deeply. May God bless each one of you, today and always.

" Each time I pray for you, I pray with joy!"



Sr Liz fcJ



Save the Date

Jubilee Concelebrated Mass
Sunday, 25th of October 2026 at 2 PM
Followed by afternoon tea & refreshments

Steam It Up CARPET CLEANING Jason Blyss 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 Dam cleanouts	HAIR Alana Robertson 50 Church Street Benalla 3672 Salon 5762 6006 <i>Manor</i>	 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 FEEHAN FAMILY Est. 1938 - AFDA Member 81 Baddaginnie Road, Benalla

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
25 Jul	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Anna Wise	Vince Branigan	Cath Duncombe Janene Humphries	Dan Brown & Michael
26 Jul	9.30am	Oliver Raschke	Anne McLeod	John Smyth	Louise Beling & Volunteer	P & J O'Brien
1 Aug	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Vince Branigan	Cath Duncombe	Kath Elliot Dan Brown	K & S Chacko
2 Aug	9.30am	Adrian Daw	Norma Pelly	Oliver Raschke	Joan Berry Susie Buykx	Brierley Family

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



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