



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.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 August 2026

 <i>Readings for this week:</i>	Isaiah 55:1-3 Romans 8:35 37-39 Matthew 14:13-21	 <i>Readings for next Sunday:</i>	Isaiah 55:1-3 Romans 8:35 37-39 Matthew 14:13-21
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FIRST READING

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant, out of the favours promised to David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The Lord is kind all full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts. **R.**

The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. **R.**

SECOND READING

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go; give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me', he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

REFLECTION

Today's readings reveal God's abundant generosity. Like the crowd gathered around Jesus, people across Benalla carry kinds of hunger: for food, companionship, healing, dignity and hope. The disciples see only five loaves and two fish, but Jesus asks them to offer what they have. In his hands, their small contribution becomes more than enough. The miracle points to the Eucharist, where Christ welcomes and nourishes us as a generous host. The twelve baskets left over invite us not to "eat and run." We are called to pause, gather the fragments and remember the graces present in our families, parish and Benalla community. Yesterday's blessings can strengthen today's faith. The installation of Bishop René Ramirez reminds us that Christ gathers his Church and sends us outward in service. Whatever gift we offer: time, kindness, food or attention, all this can become part of Christ's miracle. No crumb of God's grace is wasted.

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.



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PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Sr Margaret Olsen FCJ

ANNIVERSARIES: Mick Shallue, John Mangan, Owen Noonan, Gertrude Donoghue, Nancy O'Shanassy, Ron Daniel, Maria Flynn, Nell Gibbs, Stefan Pyrcz, Beryl Peacock, Ada Smith, Robert Strochnetter, Brian Bourke, Alice Crimmins, Elaine Cole, Rylea Johnson, Hazel Griffiths, Mary Brock, Lorna Dodemaide, Michael Romaniszyn, Geraldine Hevey, Myles Reilly, John Henry Robinson

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**

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

Baptism Information Session

Thinking about Baptism for yourself or your child? Or do you know someone who may be interested? We warmly invite you to join our Baptism Information Session, where you'll learn about the meaning of Baptism, the preparation process, and have the opportunity to ask any questions. We look forward to welcoming you. To register or find out more, please contact the Parish Office on **5762 2060** or email benalla@sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

Steam It Up CARPET CLEANING Jason Bluss 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 	 Alana Robertson 50 Church Street Benalla 3672 Salon 5762 6006	 Expert Electrical Services in Benalla Ph 0408 572 766
 KERB CONCRETE EXCAVATION PHIL & DEBBIE COOK 0409 950 046	 Funeral directors Phone: (03) 5762 2461 FEEHAN FAMILY Est. 1938 - AFDA Member 81 Baddaginnie Road, Benalla	

150th Jubilee 2026 – Commemorative Items Now Available!

Celebrate our 150th Jubilee with a special commemorative keepsake! Please complete and return order form to the Parish Office, 1-4 pm, Mon-Fri. Thank you for supporting our Parish as we celebrate **150 years of faith and community**. We look forward to sharing this special Jubilee year with you all!

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF FR VIJAY**

In Between studies, Fr Vijay had the opportunity to go salmon fishing with the locals. They caught 80 salmon that day!



We warmly welcome Bishop René to the Diocese of Sandhurst and assure him of our prayers as he begins his ministry among us. We look forward to working together in faith and mission in the years ahead. Thank you to all who contributed to and participated in the Installation of Bishop René Ramirez RCJ.

Sandpiper e-News – Bishop René RCJ's Installation Feature

If you missed the Bishop's Installation Mass, you can catch up with the highlights in the latest edition of Sandpiper e-News, here:
[https://mailchi.mp/sandhurst/ninthbishop\(live from 4pm Fri 31 July\)](https://mailchi.mp/sandhurst/ninthbishop(live from 4pm Fri 31 July))

St Martin of Tours, Muskerry 150th Anniversary Celebrations

Sunday 30 August 2026

Pray for Vocations National Vocations Awareness Week (3-9 Aug)

Please join us to pray for our wonderful Priests, Religious, Seminarians and for Vocations.

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
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
8 Aug	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Cath Duncombe	Clare O'Brien	Janene Humphries Dan Brown	K Elliott & Volunteer
9 Aug	9.30am	Max Rankin	Anne McLeod	James Flynn	Denise O'Brien Louise Beling	Daw 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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Celebrating

1876 - 2026

150 YEARS

of Benalla Catholic Parish



Order Form

Customer Name:
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Commemorative Items	Quantity	Price	Total Amount
Fine China Coffee Mugs		\$10.00	
Stemless Wine Glasses		\$15.00	
Stemmed Wine glasses		\$15.00	
Pictorial History Booklet <i>"150 Years of Faith and Community"</i>		\$15.00	
Tarzali Wine: Reisling		\$15.00	
Tarzali Wine: Shiraz		\$15.00	
Payment Method: ☐ CASH ☐ Bank Transfer BSB: 083543 Acct. No: 457724666 Ref: [Your Name], Jubilee			
Item(s) Delivered:	Date Paid:		

****Limited Stocks Only****

To avoid disappointments, please return the order form and payment to the Parish Office, from 1 to 5 pm, Mon-Fri, or email benalla@sandhurst.catholic.org.au.