

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.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 August 2026

 <i>Readings for this week:</i>	Isaiah 22:19-23 Romans 11:33-36 Matthew 16:13-20	 <i>Readings for next Sunday:</i>	Jeremiah 20:7-9 Romans 12:1-2 Matthew 16:21-27
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FIRST READING

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

How rich are the depths of God, how deep his wisdom and knowledge and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

REFLECTION

"Who do you say I am?" It sounds like a simple question. Peter gets the answer right: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Ten out of ten for theology. But Jesus' question is not really an exam question. He is not asking Peter to recite what he has learned. He is asking something personal: *Who am I to you?* We can know many things about Jesus. We can recite the Creed, quote Scripture, explain Church teaching, and still avoid that question. Because eventually faith has to move from information to relationship. Peter's answer becomes the rock on which Jesus builds his Church, not because Peter understands everything, but because he has begun to recognise the One standing before him. Jesus still asks us the same question. It's not, "What does everyone else say about me?" but "Who do **you** say I am?" Perhaps our most convincing answer will not be spoken at all. It will be the life we build around him. **-Fr DJ**

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.

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Pasqualina Grieco, Pat Todd, Colleen Burke

ANNIVERSARIES: Helen Brown, Angel TeMoni, Coral Ann (Sally) Hoskin, Kazimierz (Kaz) Bialy, Peter Cooper, Mick Rolewski, Patricia Quinn, Sarah Stapleton, Joan Witney, Frank Rombouss, Peter Duffy, Mary Reardon, Mary Quinlan, George Weston, Ernie Brown (Father of Sr. Liz)

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 Yoningco, Rebecca O'Reilly, Paula McPherson, Julie Lynch, Anne Moore, Jacob Smith, Tony Meade and Catherine de la Cruz

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL SANDHURST Retreat Day

Saturday, 19 September 2026 at St Brendan's, Shepparton 9:30 am – 3:30 pm.

Come be refreshed and renewed, encounter the Presence of God Facilitated by Br Massino Chang and Fr Doroteo Bravi from the Community of the Sons and Daughters of God. Starting at 9:30 am with a cuppa, ready for 10:00 am start. Monsignor Peter Jeffrey Centre, St Brendan's, 121 Knight St, Shepparton.
All welcome Lunch: Please bring a plate to share. An offering will be taken up. Contact: Brigita Hore: 0412 042 196, Mary Zobec: 0427 190 282 Denise Illot: 0407 506 813

Parish Office Notice

Please note that our parish staff will be out of the office on Aug. 25 & 26 while attending a conference. If you have pastoral concerns, please email Fr. DJ dj.suguitan@sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

Inquiry into the Catholic Faith

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Would you, or someone you know, like to know more about the Catholic Faith? We will be holding a series of inquiry meetings over the coming weeks for anyone who wants to join our Catholic community, or learn more about our Catholic faith and traditions. The first meeting will be held in St Joseph's Parish House, 42 Arundel St Benalla on Sunday, August 23rd at 7.00pm. The focus for the meeting will be "Concepts of God" and "What is calling you to the Catholic Faith?" If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic, or is enquiring about the Catholic faith, please contact the staff at St Joseph's parish house by phone on 57622060 or email at benalla@sandhurst.catholic.org.au, or join us on Aug 23rd.

Sandhurst Celebration of Season of Creation

You're all invited to come and celebrate our Care for Creation at Huntly Streamside Reserve on **Tuesday 1st September**, beginning with **Mass at 11am** celebrated by **Bishop Rene RCJ**, followed by **Picnic Lunch**. BYO chairs encouraged although some seating available. Sausage sizzle provided or BYO lunch if preferred. BYO hot/cold drinks; BYO water bottles. **EVERYONE** is invited and encouraged to come along and celebrate in this beautiful bush setting. RSVP not essential but if you & friends are coming then texting 0408 579 904 would be helpful.

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

CALENDAR

Sept

4	Exposition & Rosary at 6 pm
8	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
12	Family Mass 6 pm, followed by light supper
13	Cuppa after mass in Building 31
20	Thoona Mass 12 noon

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

Manor



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

Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Gathering 2026 304 September 2026 3-4 September 2026 10 am – 4:30 pm

A nationwide Online Catholic Ecology Event hosted by Caritas Australia. Bringing together 300 participants from across Australia to deepen formation and inspire practical ecological action grounded in faith. Recognising the urgent environmental challenges facing our world, this event responds to Pope Francis' call for ecological conversion and care for our common home. To register to attend this event online go to:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering/>

Join the Care for Creation Team in the Chancery on Thursday, 3 September as we participate in the **Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Online Gathering**.

For more details and to express your interest to join us at the Chancery: contact mpl@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

150 Jubilee Commemorative Items for sale at the old piety stall- starting next weekend:

Commemorative Items	Price
Fine China Coffee Mugs	\$10.00
Stemless Wine Glasses	\$15.00
Stemmed Wine glasses	\$15.00
Pictorial History Booklet "150 Years of Faith and Community"	\$15.00
Tarzali Wine: Reisling	\$15.00
Tarzali Wine: Shiraz	\$15.00

Hear from leading Vatican journalists

Internationally acclaimed Vatican journalists and authors Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Piqué will be in Melbourne this month for two special seminars.

This is a rare opportunity to hear directly from two of the world's most respected commentators on Vatican affairs, whose experience, insights and personal connections provide a unique window into the life of the Church. Presented by the University of Notre Dame Australia's Global Centre for Catholic Leadership.

[Leading in a Synodal Church](#): Lessons from Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV - Melbourne Tuesday 25 August, 9:30 am to 12:00 pm Sheraton Hotel Melbourne

[The election of Pope Leo XIV](#): The Last Surprise of Pope Francis Tuesday 25 August, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne

Emergency Earthquake Appeal- Colombia

Scan the QR code to donate today and join us in supporting communities affected by the Colombia earthquake. Your generosity will help provide emergency relief, restore vital community services, and bring hope to children and families as they recover.



St Martin of Tours Church, Muskerry 150th Anniversary Celebrations Sunday, 30 August 2026 Mass at 10:30 am

You are invited to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the blessing and consecration of St Martin of Tours Church in Muskerry. Starting at 10:30 am with Mass celebrated by Bishop René RCJ, followed by a BYO picnic lunch in the church grounds. All are welcome to join.

Contact: Fr Caldwell: 5484 1073 or Rene Burke 5432 2283

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
22 Aug	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Anna Wise	Cath Duncombe	Clare O'brien Janene Humphries	Dan Brown & Michael
23 Aug	9.30am	Oliver Raschke	Lisa Raschke	Marg Daw	Sr Liz Louise Beling	Daw family
29 Aug	6.00pm	Ryan Miguel	Cath Duncombe	Sr Liz	Kath Elliot Dan Brown	Charlee & Kevin
30 Aug	9.30am	Max Rankin	Oliver Raschke	James Flynn	Joan Berry Victor Nduka	T & N Pelly

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