

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.

22th Sunday in Ordinary Time

30 August 2026

 <i>Readings for this week:</i>	Jeremiah 20:7-9 Romans 12:1-2 Matthew 16:21-27	 <i>Readings for next Sunday:</i>	Ezekiel 33:7-9 Romans 13:8-10 Matthew 18:15-20
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FIRST READING

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength you're your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy **R.**

For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

SECOND READING

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

REFLECTION

We are very good at finding shortcuts. We want faster routes, easier options, less inconvenience, and preferably a Christian life with minimum suffering. Peter seems to want the same thing in today's Gospel. When Jesus speaks about rejection, suffering, and the cross, Peter immediately objects: "This must not happen to you." But Jesus refuses the shortcut. "If anyone wants to become my follower, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Christianity is not a promise that life will become easier. It is an invitation to love as Jesus loves, and real love always costs something: time, patience, forgiveness, generosity, sacrifice. The cross is not about seeking suffering for its own sake. It is about refusing to run away from love when love becomes difficult. There are many shortcuts in life. But there is no shortcut to becoming like Christ. The way is still the same: love, sacrifice, and the cross. **-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, Peter Tanner

ANNIVERSARIES: Sr Celine Nolan fcJ, Denise Cooke, Rhonda Dale, Bob May, Wendy Jones, Joan Stickland, Mary Burns, Ross Jones, Karol Franz Chlerowski, Desmond Reardon, Maureen May, Peter Bennett, James Dunne, Laurence McCallum, Keith Sheridan, Meenah Marchbank

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

CALENDAR

Aug

28 Social Justice Sunday

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

On this SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY, Australia's Bishops call us to respond to growing social division with a "culture of encounter", warning that hatred, racism and hostile public debate are threatening the bonds holding communities together. The Bishops' recently released Social Justice Statement, Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division describes the growing normalisation of "abusive behaviour, incendiary language and violence". They suggest the current climate presents us with an opportunity for public witness. The statement explores recent developments in Australia including the Bondi Beach attack as well as the alarming rise in Islamophobia and other forms of racism. It also lists a range of actions to build social cohesion, which it argues can only come through practising a "culture of encounter".

Renewed and Sent Parish Renewal Summit 2026

1-3 October, St Gregory's College, Campbelltown (western Sydney)

Bishop René RCJ strongly encourages Sandhurst Clergy and Parish Leaders to attend this 'Divine Renovation' Summit to see what God is doing in other parishes and discern what it could mean for their own. For more information, go to:

<https://renewedandsent.com.au> Contact your parish priest to discuss an expression of interest to Bishop René RCJ.

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	Alana Robertson 50 Church Street Benalla 3672 Salon 5762 6006	Currie ELECTRICAL 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	

Formation Opportunities for Parish RCIA Teams

4 x Online Sessions 15, 16, 22, 23 September (7.00 - 8.30 pm) The Mission and Pastoral Life Team (MPL) at the Chancery, in collaboration with experienced local parish RCIA Teams, is offering four online RCIA formation sessions in September. This is designed for current Parish RCIA Teams and priests, and priests/parishioners interested in starting or restarting RCIA in their parish.

The sessions will begin with an overview of the RCIA journey and move into each component more deeply in subsequent sessions. The final session offers two streams: Starting Out for those beginning an RCIA process, and Already on the Journey for teams seeking to deepen and strengthen their current practice. Registration via QR Code required.

In Person Gathering 17 October 10 am – 3 pm at Holy Rosary, White Hills, Bendigo The day will cover similar topics to the online series above, in a face-to-face environment with more time for interaction and exploration of participant questions. Registration via QR Code required.

150 Jubilee Commemorative Items for sale at the old piety stall:

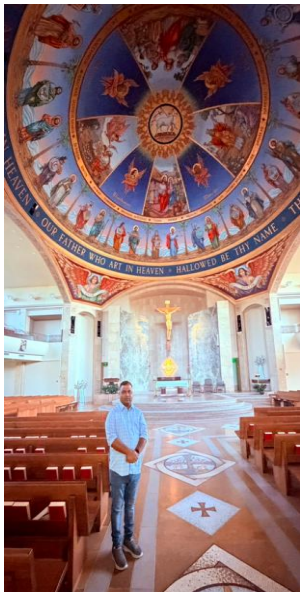
Commemorative Items	Price
Fine China Coffee Mugs	\$10.00
Stemless Wine Glasses	\$15.00
Stemmed Wine glasses	\$15.00
Pictorial History Booklet "150 Years of Faith and Community"	\$15.00
Tarzali Wine: Reisling	\$15.00
Tarzali Wine: Shiraz	\$15.00

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

Live Your Best Life in Love...
A Marriage Encounter weekend is a gift for every married couple and priest
Every married couple and priest deserves to experience this very special weekend.
Time-out to focus on your most precious relationships. You will come away feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep it alive.
No group sharing is required.
The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome.
We have just one weekend remaining for 2026 - don't miss this opportunity to nurture your most precious relationship. Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend:
November 6-8th, 2026
St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.
Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm
Information/Bookings: Please phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or
Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

ENQUIRY INTO THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first enquiry evening. Our next session will be on Tuesday, 8th of Sept, 7:30 pm at the parish house. 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



Fr Vijay visits Austin, Texas
Fr Vijay took some time to enjoy a little sightseeing in Austin, visiting the beautiful Saint Mary Cathedral and the impressive State Capitol.

Season of Creation Mass with Bishop René Ramirez RCJ at Huntly Streamside Reserve 11 am Tuesday 1 September 2026
All are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Season of Creation at the Diocese's now traditional outdoor Mass. A BBQ will follow.
BYO chair, water bottle, hat!



Big congratulations to Fr Vijay!

We warmly congratulate Fr Vijay on successfully completing his Chaplaincy Summer School in Alaska. What a wonderful achievement! He will now head to Italy for a well-deserved break, before returning home to Benalla in the second week of September. We wish him a restful and refreshing holiday and look forward to welcoming him home soon.

Sandpiper e-News out this Friday. Subscribe to have it land straight in your inbox or check it out here:
<https://mailchi.mp/sandhurst/129>

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
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
5 Sept	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Shirley Kearney	Cath Duncombe	Janene Humphries Dan Brown	Kunchacko & Suleena Chacko
6 Sept	9.30am	Oliver Raschke	Lisa Raschke	John Smyth	Joan Berry Louise Beling	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