

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.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

20 Sept 2026

 <i>Readings for this week:</i>	Isaiah 55:6-9 Philippians 1:20-24, 27 Matthew 20: 1-16	 <i>Readings for next Sunday:</i>	Ezekiel 18:25-28 Philippians 2:1-11 Matthew 21:28-32
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FIRST READING

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. **R.**

The Lord is kind and 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, who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

SECOND READING

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION

- There is something in today's Gospel that can be unsettling. Those who worked only one hour receive the same wage as those who carried the burden of the whole day. "Unfair," we instinctively say. Perhaps that is precisely the point. Jesus is not giving us a lesson in employment practices. What he does is revealing the heart of God. We tend to measure: who deserves more, who has done enough, who arrived first, who has earned their place. God does not stop counting because justice does not matter; rather, his generosity goes beyond our calculations. The workers who came late were not given less because they arrived late. They received what they needed to live. Perhaps the real challenge of the Gospel is not accepting God's generosity towards us, but rejoicing when that same generosity is shown to someone else. Grace is not a wage we earn. It is a gift, and God is wonderfully extravagant with it. - Fr DJ

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Peter Tanner, Marie Rhodes, Jennifer Williams, Marion Empey, Peter Grundman (Sr. Liz's cousin), Carmel Weston

ANNIVERSARIES: Tilda Kiraly, John (Jack) Greenwood, Mainie Cantwell, Megan McMillan, Robert Munro, John Kearney, Robert Harrison, Bob Besley, Francis Green, Anne Burke

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 and Tony Meade and Catherine de la Cruz, Maria Celeste Pasia

Thank you Fr DJ!

Our Heartfelt thanks to Fr DJ for his service and pastoral care of our parish community while Fr Vijay is on sabbatical. We keep him in our prayers as he continues to serve among us.
Thank you Fr DJ for being part of St Joseph's Parish!

TIME & TALENT/ CENSUS 2026

Thank you to everyone who participated in our time and talent/census drive. We are grateful for your willingness to share your time, talents and gifts in service of our parish. We will be reaching out to parishioners who have expressed interest in serving in various ministries. Orientations and training sessions will be offered. More information and details about upcoming orientations and trainings will be shared soon.

Welcome Home Fr Vijay! 🌸💖💖🌸

Let us all warmly welcome back Fr Vijay after his sabbatical. Fr Vijay, we are delighted to have you back with us and look forward to continuing our journey of faith together. Welcome Home!

CALENDAR

Sept

20 Thoona Mass 12 noon

Oct

2 Benediction & the Rosary 6 pm

11 Cuppa after Mass in Bldg. 31

13 'The Carpenter' out

18 Mass at Thoona at 12 noon

24 Vigil Mass 6 pm

25 NO 9:30 am MASS

25 **150th Jubilee Mass at 2pm, followed by afternoon tea and refreshments in St. Joseph's Hall**

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REGULAR MASS TIMES

Weekends – Saturday 6pm. Sunday 9.30 am, Weekdays – Tues to Fri 9.15 am

Benediction 1st Friday of each month, Thoona Mass – Third Sunday of each month, 12 noon



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

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
19 Sept	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Volunteer	Vince Branigan	Kath Elliot Dan Brown	Kunchacko & Suleena Chacko
20 Sept	9.30am	Max Rankin	John Smyth	Paddy O'Brien	Brendan Rettke Victor Nduka	Daw Family
26 Sept	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Vince Branigan	Clare O'Brien	Kunchacko & Suleena Chacko	Dan Brown & Michael
27 Sept	9.30am	Oliver Raschke	Brian Higgins	Marg Daw	Susie Buykx Joan Berry	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



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

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