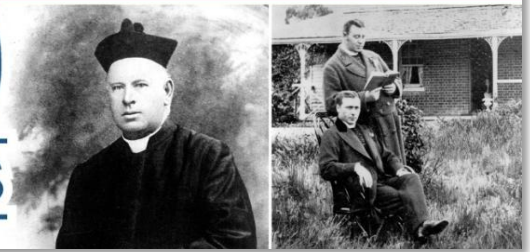




1876 – 2026

150 YEARS



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.

Second Sunday of Lent

1 March 2026



Readings for this week:

Genesis 12:1-4
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9



Readings for next Sunday:

Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

FIRST READING

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. 'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.' So Abram went as the Lord told him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.
For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

SECOND READING

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud The Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

REFLECTION

On this Second Sunday of Lent, the readings invite us to journey in faith, trust, and hope. In the first reading, God calls Abraham to leave his country and go to a new land. Abraham does not know where he is going, but he trusts God and obeys. Lent is also a journey for us. God asks us to leave behind our sins, fears, and comforts, and to walk toward a new life with Him. Like Abraham, we are called to trust even when the future is unclear. In the second reading, St. Paul reminds Timothy that God has saved us and called us to a holy life. This call is not because of our merits, but because of God's grace. During Lent, we remember that our strength comes from God. He gives us courage to carry our crosses and remain faithful. In the Gospel, the Transfiguration shows Jesus in glory before His disciples. This moment strengthens them before His suffering and death. Likewise, God gives us moments of light and consolation to strengthen us in difficult times. As we continue our Lenten journey, may we trust like Abraham, live courageously like Paul, and keep our eyes fixed on the glory of Christ.

God Bless always, Fr Vijay



REGULAR MASS TIMES

Weekends – Saturday 6pm. Sunday 9.30 am, Weekdays – Tues to Fri 9.15 am
Next week - communion service with Sr Liz will be in the Church.
Thoon Mass – Third Sunday of each month, 12 noon



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

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS:

Jean McKellar
Christine Smith (nee Ryan),
Esmee Dries-Barnes (Niece of John & Marie Binion)

ANNIVERSARIES: Eileen Bourke, David McRoberts, Joe Gebauer, Michael Silva, Anne Holland, John Firth, Robert Harper, Roza Rusinowski, Jack French, Benjamin Waters, Therese Hernan, Jan Weryk and George Kennedy

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Skyler Levy, Susan Fitzgerald, Tracey Welsh, Elizabeth Waters, Anne Ryan, Duncan Carradice, Margaret McCrohan, John Downie, Frank Leveque, Deb Higgins and Trish McCabe



FORTY STEP FORWARD AT THE RITE OF ELECTION

Forty adults from seven parishes gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Five adults from Benalla Parish on 22 February for the Rite of Election — a decisive step in their faith journey and towards becoming Catholic.

At the Easter Vigil, the Elect will receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, while Candidates will receive Confirmation and Eucharist. Their journey continues in the Period of Mystagogy, as they deepen their sacramental life and learn to live what they have received.

Please keep Jayhe-Lee, Peter, Julieann, Kirsty and Renae in your prayers as they continue their Lenten journey towards Easter. Above Photo – Fr Jackson Sauders, Jayhe-Lee Quattrocchi, Peter Holmes, Julieann Richardson, Sr Liz, Very Rev. Brian Boyle, Cath Duncombe, Kirsty Renkin, Renae Hughes, Paddy O'Brien, Jane Branigan, Fr Jake Mudge



2026 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

First Eucharist (First Communion) and Confirmation – information night will be held on Tuesday 10th March at 5:00pm in the St Joseph's primary school library. If you have been through the Reconciliation program, now is the time to start the program for First Eucharist and Confirmation. The program is for children approximately 8/9 years and upwards. Please contact the Parish Office 5762 2060 benalla@sandhurst.catholic.org.au or Cath Duncombe on 0423 203 154 cath.duncombe@yahoo.com.au.

Steam It Up CARPET CLEANING  Jason Blyss 0407438219	 Goulburn Murray Credit Union 30–32 Bridge Street PH 5762 3380	 SMITH DOSSER Accountants Income Tax Returns Business Advisers 107 Bridge St Benalla Ph 5762 1588
MAHERS TREE SERVICE JOHN MAHER M: 0413 842 525 MTS COMPLETE LANDSCAPING DANIEL MAHER M: 0412 083 618	HAIR Alana Robertson 50 Church Street Benalla 3672 Salon 5762 6006 <i>Manor</i>	 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	

Easter Calendar Dates

MARCH

Wednesday 4th	Stations of the Cross at 6 pm.
Friday 6th	Rosary, Adoration & Benediction at 6 pm.
Friday 13th	Stations of the Cross at 6 pm.
Thursday 19th	St. Joseph's Day-Patronal celebration on 21st & 22nd
Friday 20th	Stations of the Cross at 6 pm.
Saturday 21st	St Joseph's Day Celebration for 150th Anniversary
Sunday 22nd	St Joseph's Day Celebration for 150th Anniversary with St. Joseph's School children participating.
Thursday 26th	Reconciliation at 6 pm
Friday 27th	Stations of the Cross at 6 pm.
Sunday 29th	Palm Sunday
Tuesday 31st	Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo

APRIL

Thursday 2nd	Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6.30 pm
Friday 3rd	Good Friday Stations of the Cross 9 am, followed by hot cross buns
Saturday 4th	Easter Vigil Mass at 7.30 pm
Sunday 5th	Easter Day Mass at 9.30 am.



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

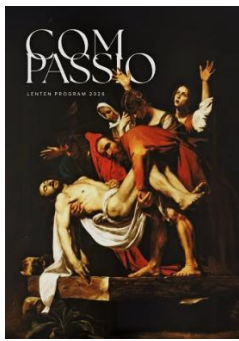
WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
28 Feb	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Anna Wise	Cath Duncombe	Suleena Chacko	K Elliott & Volunteer
1 Mar	9.30am	Max Rankin	Paddy O'Brien	Anne McLeod	Victor Nduka	M & R Miguel
7 Mar	6.00pm	Ryan Miguel	Anna Wise	Clare O'Brien	Cath Duncombe	K & S Chacko
8 Mar	9.30am	Max Rankin	Anne McLeod	Wendy Rettke	Oliver Raschke	P & J O'Brien

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



LENTEN PROGRAM BOOKS

Lent reminds us that this is the season to turn away from our worldly distractions and journey home to God.

We have Lenten Program books available, if you are interested, you can find one in the narthex.

These Lent resources are from Diocese of Wollongong, available free for our parishioners.

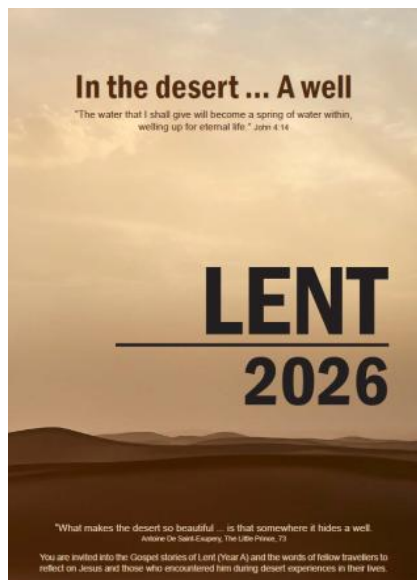
LENT REFLECTION BOOKLET 2026

Preparing for Easter during Lent, you are invited into the Gospel stories of Lent (Year A) and the words of fellow travelers to reflect on Jesus and those who encountered Him during desert experiences in their lives.

This reflection booklet, prepared by the Diocese of Sandhurst, is a resource for prayer and reflection. In 2026 it is offered in a single booklet covering both Lent and Easter, replacing the traditional weekly Lent leaflets.

These booklets are available in the narthex or you can read them online at the following link.

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/adult-faith-education/2453-lent-2026-rs/file>



Benalla Catholic Parish St Joseph's Church

150 Year Jubilee

Photo Memorabilia Request

This year, **Benalla Catholic Parish** proudly celebrates 150 years of faith and community. As part of our Jubilee celebrations, we will participate in the Heritage Tours on 1–2 May and host a Jubilee Afternoon Tea on 25 October.

To help mark this significant milestone, we are gathering photo memorabilia from across the years and warmly invite parishioners to share their treasured memories. We are seeking photographs of: Weddings, Baptisms and other Sacraments, Altar servers, Parish picnics and events, Pre-fire photos of the church, Any other special parish memories.

If you are happy to contribute, please scan and email your photos to the Parish Office. When submitting photos, kindly include – 1 Your name (who the photo belongs to). 2 What the photo is of (event, location, or item). 3 When the photo was taken (an approximate date is fine). 4 Names of people or items shown in the photo

Alternatively, you may bring a copy of your photo to the Parish Office. Please write the above details on the back of the photo or place it in a clearly labelled envelope. Our office staff will make a copy and promptly return your original.

Thank you for helping us celebrate and preserve the rich and wonderful history of our parish community as we mark 150 years of **St Joseph's Parish Benalla**.

FROM FELLOW TRAVELLERS

In the three temptations of Christ we see him learning to say an emphatic "no" to the temptation to create a false self. After forty days of intense fasting, Jesus was a hungry man. The tempter easily suggested that Jesus might establish himself by 'doing'. It would be easy enough for the man who would later feed five thousand from five loaves to create a tempting meal for himself from a few stones. But Jesus had a better food. Then how about establishing himself by building esteem? Off to the high point of the temple they went. The courtyards were full of devout worshippers. Surely if he suddenly descended from on high and stood in their midst they would recognise him as the Messiah. But Jesus needed no such acclaim to know who he truly was. Then how about 'having'? What a sense of power, to have all the kingdoms of the world! That would certainly make him something. But this man was poor in spirit. He knew himself in his relation with God. He would not find his identity in what he could do, in what others thought of him, in what he had. He was who he was before God and in God. *Richard Rohr, Contemplation in Action, 89-90.*

Jesus, the Blessed One, is poor. The poverty of Jesus is much more than an economic or social poverty. Jesus is poor because he freely chose powerlessness over power, vulnerability over defensiveness, dependency over self-sufficiency. ... Jesus calls us, who are blessed as he is, to live our lives with that same poverty. *Hans Reiser, Strayed for the Journey, 164.*

Jesus reaffirmed and took up into himself everything authentically human. Everything that is truly human is pointing towards God and moving towards him. Jesus takes it upon his back and carries it to the destiny it could not otherwise reach. ... What is unique to Christianity, and at its heart, is the recognition that it is God who sanctifies us; that we ourselves cannot add one cubit to our spiritual stature. Of ourselves, we can do nothing at all. ... Christianity demands a death; it brings it about. In some mysterious way man must die. ... *Ruth Scurr, To Believe in Jesus, Chapter 4, The Word of the Cross.*

Of myself, I could do nothing, but when I told our dearest Lord in the Most Holy Sacrament of certain things required of me, I went about the task with confidence in Him to make me say or write when He saw most fitting. I was utterly powerless, but He always guided me.

Mary MacLeod quotes in Pauline Trench, God Will Take Care of Us All, 87.

Continue week 1 reflection.

All along God has been helping us forward and always his grace results not in our feeling full of light and understanding, not in high feelings of devotion, but in becoming aware how poor and shoddy we are; how everything we do is riddled with selfishness. This is not an easy situation to accept – it is the last thing we want. We can bear all sorts of hardships and difficulties provided we have a spiritual self-assurance, but when that is taken away the savour of life has gone....Can we begin to trust Jesus alone? ... Can we rely on his goodness? Ruth Burrows, *To Believe in Jesus*, Chapter 5, 'The Narrow Gate'

'Do you not care that we suffer leprosy and cancer; do you not care that we suffer injustice and violence and hunger?' The background to the incarnation was that God heard these cries of the poor. The cries could be phrased as a challenge to God, for often they were so phrased: 'Will you drink the cup that we must drink? The cup of our suffering, our dying, our loneliness and our despair? When Jesus consented to do this he chose the most effective way of showing us that, indeed, God is a God who cares. He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, dying on a cross. God sent the only Son to drink the cup that we must drink, so that we might learn to believe in God's love. St Thomas Aquinas, ... in what is a free but accurate paraphrase, said: "Jesus drank the full cup of our human suffering ..." E. Cusick, *Walking the Way of Jesus*, 23



FROM FELLOW TRAVELLERS

... Jesus prays a lot. And the lesson isn't lost on his disciples. They sense that Jesus's real depth and power are drawn from his prayer. They know that what makes him so special, so unlike any other religious figure, is that he is linked at some deep place to a power outside of this world. And they want this for themselves. That's why they approach Jesus and ask him: "Lord, teach us to pray!" Howard Robinson, *Prayer: Our Deepest Longing*, 22

On more than one occasion Mary MacKillop wrote that she 'did not pray much'. She would then go on to add 'but feel calm and tranquil and near our dear good God', or 'God's presence seems to follow me everywhere and make everything I do, or wish to do, a prayer.' There has never been a saint who thought she prayed enough. But Mary's sisters had a quite different



FOR THINKING AND TALKING

- What words or phrases stand out for you?
- In the desert Jesus was tempted to reject human frailty and limitations. What is the source of his ability to live through this experience?

REVIEW OF LIFE

A prayerful review of each day or week can help us to grow in closeness to God in Jesus, drawing from the life-giving spring of his life and love. Allow 10-15 minutes for prayer. You may like to light a candle. Become aware of God's loving presence. Ask for help and guidance:

- For what moment, event or person are you most grateful? For what are you least grateful? Talk with God in Jesus about what has come to mind.
- Ask for wisdom and guidance for tomorrow.

WEEK TWO



FOR THINKING AND TALKING

- What is standing out for you here? Any particular words or phrases?
- The disciples wanted to stay with Jesus in prayer, but he led them back down the mountain side. What place does prayer have in your life? What might help your prayer?

REVIEW OF LIFE

A prayerful review of each day or week can help us to grow in closeness to God in Jesus, drawing from the life-giving spring of his life and love. Allow 10-15 minutes for prayer. You may like to light a candle. Become aware of God's loving presence. Ask for help and guidance:

- For what moment, event or person are you most grateful? For what are you least grateful? Talk with God in Jesus about what has come to mind.
- Ask for wisdom and guidance for tomorrow.

version of the way she prayed: 'In prayer she would stay up for hours praying. I have known her to stay frequently for a couple of hours praying.' 'She was always praying when I was a Novice. She was a woman of prayer.' ... for many busy people who desire to serve God: 'The life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of the thrice-holy God and in communion with him.' (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*) ... in the spiritual life we should try to develop this habit of being in the presence of God's watchful love. E. Cusick, *Walking the Way of Jesus*, 59 - 60.

There is something very important, dear friend, that we must be reminded of here. Jesus was very explicit about this when he said, 'Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father' (Mt 7:21). He is telling us that our prayer must extend over into our actions. It is not enough to acknowledge we are all children of the Father in heaven; we must act upon it. The joys and the successes, as well as the sorrows and needs, of all men and women, are our joys, our sorrows. They are the successes and the needs of our brothers and sisters. ...I cannot say "Our Father" without reaching out to all of them and trying to love them. I must do this if I am to pray as Jesus taught me. I also have to help them in some way. What is the will of the Father for me in this regard? But what can we do, you might ask? William Meninger, *The Loving Search for God*, 122-123.

Prayer can never be separated from life. Does this prayer involve their whole life? Are they struggling to overcome their bad tendencies, their selfishness, and are they trying to fulfil the law of God? Ruth Burrows, *To Believe in Jesus*, Chapter 4, 'The Word of the Cross'

For discernment, then, we have to be in touch with our heart, and learn to be still. If our heart is busy, we won't pick up what's going on. Just as water has to be still to give a true reflection, so there will be no true reflection of reality if we are in turmoil. As well as the above, a number of other factors are important for discernment to be a reality for us.

Prayer. First, we need a regular prayer life. My times for prayer need to be long enough for me to feel I am taking the relationship seriously ... a living relationship with Jesus cannot depend on my moods. Self-discipline (mortification) [is required]. The purpose of our life is built into the very cells of our body. Hence, a certain self-discipline is needed so that the intangible world of faith is not drowned out by the immediate attractions of the tangible. Moreover, we must be prepared to go out of our comfort zone for the sake of others. Patrick O'Sullivan, *I Call You Friends*, 71.