



ST JOSEPH'S Parish of Benalla



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

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.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

25 January 2026



Readings for this week:

Isaiah 8:23-9:31
1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17
Matthew 4:12-23



Readings for next Sunday:

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12

FIRST READING

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations. The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long,

to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life,

to savour the sweetness of the Lord,

to behold his temple. **R.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness

in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord!

SECOND READING

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollo', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'. [As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.]

REFLECTION

On this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Word of God invites us to move from darkness into light and to respond decisively to God's call. In the First Reading, the prophet speaks to a people weighed down by suffering and uncertainty. Into this darkness, God promises a great light. The message is one of hope: God does not abandon those who feel forgotten or marginalized. Where despair seems strongest, God's saving presence is already at work, bringing joy and freedom. The Second Reading shifts our focus to the life of the Christian community. Paul challenges divisions within the Church, reminding believers that Christ is not divided. Unity is not optional but essential to Christian witness. When pride, rivalry, or personal agendas take over, the message of the cross is weakened. True discipleship calls us to humility and communion centered on Christ alone. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims the fulfilment of Isaiah's promise. He begins his ministry in Galilee, calling ordinary people—fishermen—to follow him. Their immediate response shows that encountering Christ demands a radical change of direction. Jesus still calls today, inviting us to leave behind whatever binds us and to become bearers of his light to others.

God Bless away, Fr Vijay



REGULAR MASS TIMES

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

Thoon Mass – Third Sunday of each month, 12 noon

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

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Brigid Chalmers (daughter of Brian & Una Harrington)

ANNIVERSARIES: Peter Turcsak, Alby Hales, Maria Chamberlain, Alice Argent, Evelyn Simmons, Donato Ciavarella, Grigg Wigney, Emily Williams, Noreen Coughlan, William McKay, Kristy Noonan, Noel Croxford, James Mitchell, Bill McKay, Carri-ann Rowlings, Sophie Bialy, Florence Hide, Lois Horner

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



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 	 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 EEEHAN FAMILY Est. 1938- AFDA Member 81 Baddaginnie Road, Benalla



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

PLEASE NOTE Fr Vijay will be away from 9th Feb to 27th Feb. Fr Joe Taylor will be supplying Weekend Masses in Fr Vijay's absence.

2026 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CATHOLIC COUNCIL



NATSICC calls upon Catholics to approach 26 January with honesty, humility, and a commitment to listening, justice, and deep discernment about what it means to belong to

this Land and to one another, under God. Read their Australia Day Statement at [NATSICC's 2026 Australia Day Statement](https://natsicc.org.au/2026-Australia-Day-Statement)

150th Anniversary of Benalla Parish 1876 - 2026



Digging in the archives of our rich parish history, this old photo (left) was discovered along with some notes by Dean Davy. In 1888 Dean Davy began a project to build, what we know today as the parish house. The original presbytery (Vaucluse) situated near the Midland Hwy roundabout, was too far from the Church. By 1890 after what would have been a great undertaking in those times, a new presbytery was built. The design as Dean Davy describe it as 'very handsome', this building was tendered to cost £1600 but a few additions later the cost when completed extended to about £2000. You can also see in this photo to the left the original St Joseph's Church.

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
24 Jan	6.00pm	Ryan Miguel	Cath Duncombe	Sr Liz	Volunteer please	Charlee & Kevin
25 Jan	9.30am	Max Rankin	Paddy O'Brien	James Flynn	Julia O'Brien	T & N Pelly
31 Jan	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Anna Wise	Vince Brannigan	Kunchacko Chacko	K & S Chacko
1 Feb	9.30am	Adrian Daw	Anne McLeod	Marg Daw	Joan Berry	W Rettke



We are committed to the NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

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