

Celebrating



1876 – 2026

150 YEARS

of Benalla Catholic Parish



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.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 February 2026



Readings for this week: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12



Readings for next Sunday: Isaiah 58:7-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

FIRST READING

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord. In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen - those who are nothing at all to show those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord. '

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; Your reward will be great in heaven. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

REFLECTION

The readings today gently turn our attention to where true happiness and strength are found. In the first reading, the prophet reminds us that God looks with special care on the humble, the poor in spirit, and those who seek what is right. God's kingdom is not built on power or pride, but on trust and simplicity of heart. In the second reading, Saint Paul tells us that God often chooses what the world considers weak or insignificant to reveal His wisdom. This is a comforting message for all of us. We do not need to be perfect, powerful, or impressive to be loved and used by God. What matters is openness to His grace. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims the Beatitudes. He calls "blessed" those who are poor in spirit, gentle, merciful, pure of heart, and peacemakers. This teaching challenges the values of the world, but it shows us the path to deep and lasting joy. Happiness, Jesus teaches, comes from living with love, humility, and compassion. Together, these readings invite us to trust God more than ourselves, to live gently with others, and to seek holiness in everyday life. In choosing this path, we discover the true joy God desires for all His people. God Bless always, 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

Opening Jubilee Mass 150 Years of Benalla Catholic Parish – Jubilee Prayer

Loving God, we praise and thank You for the gift of 150 years of faith, hope, and love in Benalla Catholic Parish, within the Diocese of Sandhurst.

We remember with gratitude all those who came before us—the pioneers, priests, religious, and faithful people who built this parish through prayer, sacrifice, and trust in You. May their lives inspire us to remain faithful witnesses of the Gospel.

We place our parish under the gentle care of St Joseph, our patron and protector. Teach us, like him, to listen attentively to Your will, to serve with humility, and to live with courage and quiet faith.

As we journey toward our Jubilee celebration, renew our hearts and deepen our unity as one parish family. Strengthen our commitment to prayer, service, and mission, so that we may joyfully pass on the faith to future generations.

Bless our families, our young people, the elderly, and the sick. Guide our leaders and all who serve in this parish.

May this Jubilee be a time of renewal, gratitude, and hope, as we continue to walk together in Your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please stay for a cuppa after Mass to reflect on the 150 Years and the Opening Jubilee Celebrations!

ON LEAVE – FR VIJAY

Dear Parishioners,

It is that time of the year again and I am taking a shorter break to India and to my Society, Holy Spirit Fathers and family this year. I will leave on February 9th and return home on February 27 away for two weekends. Father Joe Taylor will help out while I am away and anyone who could offer him hospitality on the two Saturday nights, it would be appreciated. Just contact me or the Parish office. I will say a special mass for you all at Holy Spirit Fathers (Provincial House). Yours in Christ. Fr Vijay.



**HAPPY 90TH
BIRTHDAY!**

Congratulations, John
Harris turning 90 this past week.



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

Please note: Parish Office will not be
open this coming Monday 2nd February.

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Esmae Dries-Barnes (Niece of John Binon),
Brigid Chalmers (daughter of Brian & Una Harrington) and John Dale

ANNIVERSARIES: Debra Morrissey, Yanka Worboys, Roman Bednarz,
Jack Ellis, Nancy Spencer, Zogia Pawelec, Joy Guppy, Norma Hefferman,
Grace Davis, Peggy Allen, Marie Brennan, Phyllis Vallence, Ricky Bowers
and Florence Maureen French

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 Leveque

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
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COOKS KERB CONCRETE EXCAVATION PHIL & DEBBIE COOK 0409 950 046		N.J. TODD Funeral directors Phone: (03) 5762 2461 FEENAN FAMILY Est. 1938- AFDA Member 81 Baddaginnie Road, Benalla

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER						
Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
31 Jan	6.00pm	Volunteer Please	Anna Wise	Vince Brannigan	Clare O'Brien	K & S Chacko
1 Feb	9.30am	Adrian Daw	Anne McLeod	Paddy O'Brien	Joan Berry	W Rettke
7 Feb	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Vince Brannigan	Cath Duncombe	Maureen Murphy	Charlee & Kevin
8 Feb	9.30am	Ryan Miguel	Norma Pelly	Oliver Raschke	Victor Nduka	P & J O'Brien

 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

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