



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.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

15 February 2026



Readings for this week: Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37



Readings for next Sunday: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

FIRST READING

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power.

He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **R.**

SECOND READING

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

REFLECTION

In today's first reading from Sirach, we are reminded that God gives us freedom. "Before man are life and death, good and evil; whichever he chooses shall be given him." God does not force us to love or obey Him. He respects our freedom. But He clearly shows us the path that leads to life—keeping His commandments. In the second reading, St. Paul speaks about true wisdom. The wisdom of God is not the wisdom of the world. It is deeper and revealed through the Spirit. God's wisdom teaches us to see beyond appearances and to live according to His will. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks strongly about the law. He says He has not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. He goes beyond external actions and looks at the heart. It is not enough to avoid killing; we must avoid anger. It is not enough to avoid adultery; we must keep our hearts pure. Jesus calls us to a higher righteousness — a change of heart. Today, the Lord invites us to choose life by choosing love, purity, forgiveness, and faithfulness. True holiness begins in the heart. 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



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

WELCOME FATHER JOE TAYLOR

The parish community warmly welcomes Fr Joe Taylor, who will be celebrating Mass with us over the next two weeks. We are grateful for his presence and ministry among us, and we invite all parishioners to extend to him a sincere and gracious welcome. Weekend Masses will be celebrated at the usual times.

Ash Wednesday Mass

will be held on 11 February at 6.00pm.

2026 JUBILEE – SAVE THE DATE

To assist you in planning for our 2026 Jubilee celebrations, "Save the Date" cards with a magnet are now available. Please take one home and place it on your fridge as a reminder of the special events planned for our parish and wider community.

Benalla Catholic Parish
Celebrating 150 years
1876 – 2026

Save the Dates
Sat 21.03.26 6:00pm & Sun 22.03.26 9:30pm
Special Mass to celebrate St Joseph's Feast day followed by a Cuppa after Mass
Fri 01.05.26 & Saturday 02.05.26 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Benalla Parish in conjunction with Benalla Heritage Festival tours of the Parish House and St Joseph's Church between 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Afternoon tea will be provided in the 31 Building.
Tours of St Joseph's Primary School by appointment TEL: 5762 1347
Sunday 25.10.26 2:00pm Jubilee concelebrated Mass followed by afternoon tea and refreshments

Project Compassion Donation

Envelopes: How do I use them?



PROJECT COMPASSION

UNITE AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

This Lent, like we did in 2025, there is a single Project Compassion donation envelope – rather than the six weekly envelopes used in previous years. This change was made to reduce waste and support our shared commitment to caring for our common home. You can still give weekly by taking several envelopes at once or simply make your offering when you're ready. Thank you for *Uniting Against Poverty* with us this Lent.

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 MTS COMPLETE LANDSCAPING DANIEL MAHER M: 0412 083 618	HAIR Alana Robertson 50 Church Street Benalla 3672 Salon 5762 6006 	 Expert Electrical Services in Benalla Ph 0408 572 766
 KERB CONCRETE EXCAVATION PHIL & DEBBIE COOK 0409 950 046		 Funeral directors Phone: (03) 5762 2461 FEEHAN FAMILY Est. 1938- AFDA Member 81 Baddaginnie Road, Benalla

PRAYERS FOR RECENT DEATHS:

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

ANNIVERSARIES:

Bridget (Margaret) McCauley, Christopher Harrison, Jenny McKenna, Sebastiana Attard, Frank Hicks, Kim Kolodziejczyk, Jim Flynn, Doug Lynch and Irene Levesque

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

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.



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

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
14 Feb	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Cath Duncombe	Clare O'Brien	Janene Humphries	K Elliott & Volunteer
15 Feb	9.30am	Ruth Jelliff	Anne McLeod	James Flynn	Denise O'Brien	T & N Pelly
21 Feb	6.00pm	Ryan Miguel	Pat McDonald	Sr Liz	Maureen Murphy	Charlee & Kevin
22 Feb	9.30am	Oliver Raschke	Brian Higgins	Paddy O'Brien	Susie Buykx	J Berry & volunteer

Parish Priest: Fr Vijay Bandanadam, Parish House: 42 Arundel St, Benalla 3672. Fr Vijay's Mobile: 0435 006 171 Parish House Phone: 5762 2060

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For donations/planned giving bank transfers BSB: 083543 Account No: 457724666 Reference: Your name