

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.

Ascension of the Lord

Sunday 17 May 2026



Readings for this week:

Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20



Readings for next Sunday:

Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23

FIRST READING

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**
God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

SECOND READING

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all the people my gospel I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

REFLECTION

The Feast of the Ascension reminds us that Jesus did not leave the world; rather, He entered into glory to remain with us in a new way. In the first reading from Acts, the disciples stand looking at the sky after Jesus ascends. The angels gently remind them that their mission is not to keep staring upward, but to go forward as witnesses of Christ. The Ascension is therefore not an ending, but a sending. In the second reading from Ephesians, Saint Paul prays that the "eyes of our hearts" may be enlightened. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, above every power and authority, yet His strength continues to work through His Church. We are called to live with hope, knowing that Christ reigns and guides us even in uncertain times. In the Gospel, Jesus blesses His disciples before ascending into heaven. Instead of sadness, they return to Jerusalem filled with joy. True faith transforms fear into courage and waiting into trust. The Ascension teaches us that heaven is our destination, but our mission is here and now: to live as joyful witnesses of Christ's love, carrying His presence into the world every day. God Bless always, Fr Vijay

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

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Weekends – Saturday 6pm. Sunday 9.30 am, Weekdays – Tues to Fri 9.15 am
Benediction 1st Friday of each month, 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: Jim McKenna

ANNIVERSARIES: Pat Greenway, Josephine De Fazio, Judith Landewee, Leo Edward Hernan, Julie McPherson, Kathleen Downes, Helena Mackerell, Harry Klopsteins, Wilma Greenwood, Anna Simmons, Cyril Black, Paola D'Arma, Linda Horsburgh, Robert Beard and Maria Daniel

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, Trish McCabe, Sari Yoingco, Rebeeca O'Reilly, Paula McPherson, Julie Lynch and Anne Moore



Laudato Si' Week 2026

Laudato Si' Week is a celebration held annually from May 17-24 May to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical on caring for our common home. Sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, this global celebration unites Catholics to listen and respond together to the cry of creation, rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing *Laudato Si'* to life, and intensify our efforts through the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform as well as other opportunities for education and action. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference committed to celebrating *Laudato Si'* Week annually in their Social Justice Statement (2021-22): Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor. 2026. Please pick up reading information in the Narthex.

Laudato Si' Week Project

Sr Liz project needs help on the 17th May to start garden in front of Building 31. Things in need cardboard, water cans, shovels/spades, compost and gardening gloves but most of all, hoping for helpers.

If you would like to donate plant bulbs for this project, please find a labelled basket in the narthex for dropping off plant bulbs.

Caritas

Our wonderful Benalla Parish Community has raised \$3444.00 for the Easter Caritas project this year. Well done everyone!

CALENDAR

May

17 Ascension of the Lord.
Thoon Mass

24 Pentecost

31 The Most Holy Trinity

June 1 Fr. Vijay on Sabbatical Leave

5 The Rosary

Corpus Christi - The
Most Holy Body &
Blood of Christ

14 Cuppa after Mass
In the Parish House

16 'The Carpenter' - Publish

21 Mass at Thoon [To Be
Confirmed]

MEALS – VOLUNTEER GROUP NEEDED

We are seeking volunteers to assist with preparing meals that can be kept on hand for individuals and families in need within our parish community. If you are able to help by cooking or donating prepared meals, your generosity would be greatly appreciated and will provide practical support and comfort to those experiencing difficult times. For more information, please contact Cath Duncombe or talk to anyone on our Parish Pastoral Council.

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

For all your tree needs, tree
tidy up, complete tree
removal, tree stump
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HAIR

Alana Robertson
50 Church Street
Benalla 3672
Salon 5762 6006

Manor



Expert Electrical
Services in Benalla
Ph 0408 572 766

COOKS

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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

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
16 May	6.00pm	Ryan Miguel	Pat McDonald	Sr Liz	Maureen Murphy	Charlee & Kevin
17 May	9.30am	Oliver Raschke	Brian Higgins	Marg Daw	Susie Buykx	J Berry & volunteer
23 May	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Anna Wise	Cath Duncombe	Suleena Chacko	Dan Brown & Michael
24 May	9.30am	Adrian Daw	Paddy O'Brien	Wendy Rettke	Victor Nduka	M & R Miguel

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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