

# 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.*

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

3 May 2026

|                                                                                                          |                                           |                                                                                                             |                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|  Readings for this week: | Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9<br>John 14:1-12 |  Readings for next Sunday: | Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18<br>John 17:1-11 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|

### FIRST READING

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R.** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

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.**

### SECOND READING

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples; 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said; 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?' 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

### REFLECTION

This week's readings teach us about faith, service, and trust in Jesus. In the first reading, the apostles see that some people in the community were being overlooked, so they chose helpers to serve everyone fairly. This reminds us that serving others is part of living our faith, and God calls each of us to care for people around us. In the second reading, Peter tells us that we are like living stones, built into a spiritual house, chosen by God. Each of us has value and a purpose in God's plan. We are called to live holy lives and to offer what we do to God as a way of serving Him and others. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us not to be afraid. He is going ahead to prepare a place for us and shows us the way to the Father. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. When we trust Him and follow His example, we can have peace even in difficult times. This week, we can try to help others, remember our special place in God's plan, and trust Jesus to guide us. Small acts of kindness, faith, and trust can bring His love.

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

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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  
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.

## Parish Secretary Position Available

We are seeking a dedicated individual to take on the role of Parish Secretary. If you are interested, please speak with Fr Vijay.

This position involves a variety of administrative responsibilities, including managing the parish's internal database. Applicants should be confident in Microsoft applications, Adobe Acrobat, and in handling networked data systems.

## 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.

## DONATION REQUEST

Sr Liz is requesting if parishioners would kindly donate plant bulbs for a project she is undertaking. Please find a basket in the narthex labelled for dropping off plant bulbs, the basket will be in the narthex for the next few weeks.

## Wednesday Exercise Group

We are changing the start time to 9.30am instead of 9.00am.

## CALENDAR

|        |                                                       |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| May    | Cuppa after Mass -                                    |
| 10     | Mothers Day- morning tea                              |
| 17     | Ascension of the Lord. Thoon Mass                     |
| 24     | Pentecost                                             |
| 31     | The Most Holy Trinity                                 |
| June 1 | Fr. Vijay on Sabbatical Leave                         |
| 5      | The Rosary                                            |
| 7      | Corpus Christi - The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ |
| 1      | Cuppa after Mass                                      |
| 4      | In the Parish House                                   |
| 16     | 'The Carpenter' - Publish                             |
| 21     | Mass at Thoon [To Be Confirmed]                       |

## PRAYERS FOR

### RECENT DEATHS:

Jacqueline Ryan and Anthony Lynch

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Bridget (Irene) Mack, Ellen Boyd, Doreen Gray, Joan Mathews, Peter Tiddy, Ian McPherson, Vicki Rettke, Mary Finch, Lorraine Higgins, John Dodemaide, Jacqueline Allison Caghey, Shirley Harrison, Karin Jones, Vincenzo Vaccaro and Julie McPherson

### 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, Rebecca O'Reilly, Paula McPherson, Julie Lynch and Anne Moore



## Celebrating our Growing Parish Family

Our parish has been shaped by the many cultures and communities who now call it home—and we'd love to honour that journey. As we celebrate 150 years, we're inviting photos, stories, and memories that reflect our migrant community—first arrivals, special traditions, and the friendships built along the way. Help us tell this rich and vibrant story—please send contributions to the parish office.

Steam It Up  
CARPET CLEANING

Jason Blyss  
0407438219



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Benalla

## WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

| Date   | Times  | Laptop     | Commentator     | Reader         | Eucharist        | Offertory             |
|--------|--------|------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 May  | 6.00pm | Sr Liz     | Vince Brannigan | Cath Duncombe  | Maureen Murphy   | K & S Chacko          |
| 3 May  | 9.30am | Adrian Daw | Norma Pelly     | Oliver Raschke | Victor Nduka     | Brierley Family       |
| 9 May  | 6.00pm | Sr Liz     | Cath Duncombe   | Clare O'Brien  | Janene Humphries | K Elliott & Volunteer |
| 10 May | 9.30am | Max Rankin | Anne McLeod     | James Flynn    | Denise O'Brien   | Daw Family            |

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



We are committed to the  
NATIONAL CATHOLIC  
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

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