



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 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.

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 30 November 2025



Readings for this
week:

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44



Readings for next
Sunday:

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

FIRST READING

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.** It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **R.**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' **R.** For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **R.**

SECOND READING

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

REFLECTION

The season of Advent invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ—with hope, faith, and readiness. In Isaiah 2:1–5, the prophet envisions a time of peace when all nations will walk in God's light. Swords will be turned into ploughshares, and people will no longer make war. This beautiful vision reminds us that God's plan is one of harmony and unity, and we are called to live as children of that light. In Romans 13:11–14, Paul urges us to "wake from sleep," for our salvation is near. Advent is a time to leave behind darkness—selfishness, anger, sin—and to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ." It's a call to renewal and conversion, to live each day as if Christ could come at any moment. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us to stay awake and be prepared, for we do not know the hour of His return. Like the people in Noah's time, we can easily be distracted by daily life and forget what truly matters. Advent reminds us that Christ comes not only at Christmas but every day—in our hearts, our neighbors, and our world. Let us walk in His light with joy and readiness. God Bless always, Fr Vijay



CHRISTMAS PARTY AND WELCOME BACK FOR FR VIJAY

Keep This Date Free, Sunday 7th December, Parish Christmas Party 5.30 – 7.30pm, On The Parish Lawns. Food Provided, Soft Drinks, Christmas Carols, Father Christmas, Fun For All, Everyone Welcome!

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Weekend – Saturday 6pm. Sunday 9.30 am

Weekdays – Tues to Fri 9.15 am

Thoon Mass – Third Sunday of each month, 12 noon

NOW IN THE CHURCH - Prayers and communion with Sr Liz weekdays, in Fr Vijay's absence**PRAYERS FOR****RECENT DEATHS:** Monsignor Frank Marriott, Peter Sireh (brother of Fr Paul Sireh), Michael Dwyer & Edward Dennett (Husband of Connie Dennett)**ANNIVERSARIES:** Leslie Russell, Lorna Holian, Alma Ryan, Pauline Spencer, Grace Smith, Marilyn Reardon, Lil Irwin, Maureen Richards, Mark Bridgfoot and John Ellis**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Skyler Levy, Susan Fitzgerald, Tracey Welsh, Elizabeth Waters, Anne Ryan, Bridgid Chalmers, Duncan Carradice and Margaret McCrohan

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**Welcome! Fr Michael Grace to Benalla Parish.**
celebrating this weekend Mass. ❤️

Wednesday, December 3, marks the International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) and provides an

opportunity to celebrate the lives, contributions and achievements of the 4.4 million Australians with a disability. The Day aims to raise awareness and take steps towards a more inclusive and accessible community. The United Nations Official for 2025 is: "Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress", writes **Mary Pianta**. SANDHURST DIOCESE DISABILITY CONTACT COORDINATORCopies of the booklet in the narthex. ➡
Embark on a spiritual journey of hope this Advent and Christmas with **The Promise: Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2025****Vale Monsignor Francis Kelly (Frank) Marriott**

Monsignor Francis "Frank" Marriott OAM, beloved Bendigo-born Catholic priest and community leader, died peacefully on Sunday, 23 November 2025, after 63 years of priestly ministry and a lifetime of service to the Church and the wider

community he loved. For more than six decades, Monsignor Frank's influence reached far beyond parish walls. He made an enormous contribution to central Victoria, strengthening local institutions, championing social cohesion, supporting families,

engaging in grassroots activism, and offering pastoral care to people from every background and walk of life. His leadership in education, interfaith relations, civic advocacy, social justice and community wellbeing made him a respected and unifying presence across the region.

Requiem Mass – A Pontifical Concelebrated Funeral Mass for Monsignor Frank Marriott will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 1pm on Wednesday 3 December, 2025. The funeral will be livestreamed. To watch, go to <https://bendigofunerals.com.au/streaming/> Following the funeral, Monsignor Frank will be interred at Bendigo Monumental Cemetery, 70 Carpenter Street, Quarry Hill.**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL** Over the next two weekends (Nov 29&30, Dec 6&7) SVDP Benalla Conference will be holding their annual Christmas Hamper Appeal.

Donations can be made in a variety of ways: cash (in an envelope or via QR Code), gift card to Toyworld or Sportspower or buy a toy. Please place your donation in envelopes on 2nd collection for the next 2 weeks. We thank you for your continued support of the Benalla Conference.

**WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER**

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
29 Nov	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Shirley Kearney	Volunteer please	Maureen Murphy	K & S Chacko
30 Nov	9.30am	Ryan Miguel	John Smyth	Wendy Rettke	Denise O'Brien	M & A Daw
6 Dec	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Clare O'Brien	Vince Brannigan	Kath Elliot	Charlee & Kevin
7 Dec	9.30am	Adrian Daw	Oliver Raschke	Marg Daw	Loiuse Beling	P & J O'Brien

*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

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