



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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Year A

Sunday 21 December 2025



Readings for this
week:

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24



Readings for next
Sunday:

I Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

FIRST READING

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.** Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

REFLECTION

In today's readings, we are invited to trust God's presence even when the future feels uncertain. In the first reading, Isaiah speaks to King Ahaz, who is afraid and unsure. God offers him a sign of hope: a child will be born and will be called Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us." This reminds us that God does not stay distant from human struggles but enters directly into them. In the second reading, Saint Paul opens his letter to the Romans by proclaiming Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promises. Jesus is both fully human, born of David's line, and fully divine, the Son of God. Paul reminds us that faith means responding to God's grace with trust and obedience, even when we do not see the full picture. The Gospel shows us this trust lived out in Saint Joseph. Faced with confusion and fear, Joseph chooses to believe God's message and welcome Mary and her child. His quiet obedience allows God's plan to move forward. Joseph teaches us that faith is often expressed not in words, but in faithful action. As we approach Christmas, these readings call us to trust that God is truly with us. Like Joseph, we are invited to welcome Christ into our lives and allow God to work through us in ways we may not fully understand. 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

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Kevin Donnelly, Monsignor Frank Marriott

ANNIVERSARIES: Christopher Ward, John Coonan, Una Alexander, Nicole Batten, John Williams, Una Mahoney, Patricia Lomer, Brian Putt, Elizabeth Larkin, Catherine Loneran, Greg Dore, Margaret Preece, Hazel LePoidevin, Henrietta Jennings, Benjamin Colville, Patrick Gibb and Silvia Hanlon

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Skyler Levy, Susan Fitzgerald, Tracey Welsh, Elizabeth Waters, Anne Ryan, Brigid Chalmers, Duncan Carradice and Margaret McCrohan



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St. Joseph's Catholic Parish of Benalla



The Carpenter

Building our Parish Community

Have you received your copy of the 'The Carpenter'?

Benalla Parish newsletter 'The Carpenter' is now available. Eleanor MacNamara once again has done an amazing job of producing, the Third edition of the parish newsletter! If you have not received your copy, there will be printed copies in the Narthex.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Carols 6.00pm
 Christmas Eve 6.30pm Wed, 24th Dec
 Christmas Eve 9.00pm Wed, 24th Dec
 Christmas Day 9.30am Thurs, 25th Dec

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Tuesday 16th to Friday 19th Dec 7pm and
 Monday & Tuesday 22 & 23 Dec 7pm



CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERING

Christmas Mass Volunteer Sheet is in the narthex to write your name down. Please write your name if you would like to volunteer at this time. If you are a new volunteer, please add your phone number or call the parish office on 57622060

A Christmas Message from
Fr Brian Boyle -
Administrator of Sandhurst,
Bishops' Position

Copy this link -

<https://youtu.be/Ahvhy9AAAnvl?si=nx9WcNfU1ViSdHwh>



WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
20 Dec	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Shirley Kearney	Cath Duncombe	Janene Humphries	K Elliott & Volunteer
21 Dec	9.30am	Oliver Raschke	Lisa Raschke	Richard Rubira	Joan Berry	W Rettke
27 Dec	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Pat McDonald	Volunteer please	Maureen Murphy	Charlee & Kevin
28 Dec	9.30am	Adrian Daw	Richard Rubira	Marg Daw	Denise O'Brien	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

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