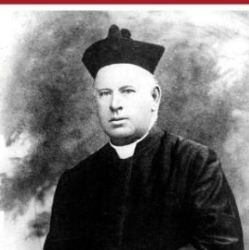




1876 – 2026

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.

Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday)

5 April 2026



Readings for this week:

Acts 10:34, 37-43
Col 3:1-4 or 1Cor 5:6-8
John 20:1-9 or Matt 28:1-10



Readings for next Sunday:

Acts 2:42-47 1
Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. This is the day the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' **R.**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. **R.**
The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:1-4

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Alternative Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:6-8

You must know how even a small amount of yeast is enough to leaven all the dough, so get rid of all the old yeast, and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be. Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast, by getting rid of all the old yeast of evil and wickedness, having only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. .

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:1-9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.'

Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples. And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

REFLECTION

As we celebrate the joy of Easter, we are reminded that hope is never lost, even in the darkest moments. Today's world is filled with uncertainty, conflicts, suffering, and divisions among people and nations. Yet the message of Easter speaks powerfully into our present situation: life triumphs over death, light overcomes darkness, and love is stronger than hatred. The resurrection of Christ invites us to renew our faith and trust in God's presence among us. It calls us to be instruments of peace in a world wounded by war, to bring healing where there is pain, and to offer compassion where there is loneliness. Easter is not only a celebration of what happened long ago, but a living message for today, it urges us to rise above fear, despair, and indifference. Let us become bearers of hope in our families and communities. A kind word, a forgiving heart, and a helping hand can reflect the risen Christ to others. May this Easter fill every heart with courage, strengthen our unity, and inspire us to build a world rooted in justice, peace, and love. Alleluia!

God Bless always, Fr Vijay

	REGULAR MASS TIMES Weekends – Saturday 6pm. Sunday 9.30 am, <u>Weekdays</u> – Tues to Fri 9.15 am <u>Thoon Mass</u> – Third Sunday of each month, 12 noon	 Subscribe and receive Parish Bulletin, Newsletter & updates about upcoming events: Subscribe by using the QR Code.
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WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
4 Apr	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Shirley Kearney	Clare O'Brien	Cath Duncombe	K & S Chacko
5 Apr	9.30am	Oliver Raschke	Brian Higgins	Paddy O'Brien	Susie Buykx	Brierley Family
11 Apr	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Anna Wise	Cath Duncombe	Clare O'Brien	K Elliott & Volunteer
12 Apr	9.30am	Adrian Daw	Lisa Raschke	Wendy Rettke	Victor Nduka	M & R Miguel

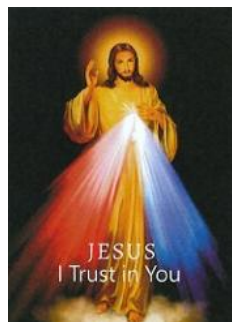
Easter Message from Fr Brian Boyle

For this year's Easter message Very Rev. Dr Brian Boyle, (Administrator of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst), takes us to St Martin's of Tours, Muskerry, a place where he remembers sitting next to his grandfather at Mass. He reflects on the way his grandparents and the people of Muskerry passed down their faith from one generation to the next and asks us all to think how we can be missionary disciples in our world. Watch a video of Fr Boyle message on youtube link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eW_KWCEJhDc

Read Fr Boyle the full Easter message on link below.

<https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/3041-easter-2026>



The Divine Mercy Sunday

**St Brendan's Catholic Church,
121 Knight Street, Shepparton**

Come to the Feast of the Divine Mercy this Easter.
12th April, 2026 Holy Mass Celebrated by Fr Jackson Saunders.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation 2:00pm, Time for you to reflect with God Music selected by Loretta Grace. Divine Mercy Chaplet-In song, 3:00pm Benediction. Holy Mass, 3:30pm Celebrated by Fr Jackson Saunders. 4:30pm Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image Enquiries: Parish Office 5821 2633 or Tom Melis 0431 706 296

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Suzanne Cane (nee Stivey)

Leodegario Minoza (father of Louie Minoza)

ANNIVERSARIES: David Sinnott, Giovanni Paolini, Michael Flynn, Raymond McNamara, Josephine Besley, Francis McHugh, Bill Goudie, Kath Codd, Marie Maher, Agnes (Ann) Sloan, Jones, Allan "Spike", John Hossack, Michael Bourke, Adrian Buykx, Julie Bridgfoot and Margaret Mullins

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 and Julie Lynch



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

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

Steam It Up CARPET CLEANING Jason Blyss 0407438219	gmcu. Goulburn Murray Credit Union 30—32 Bridge Street PH 5762 3380	SMITH DOSSER 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 removal, woodchips Dam cleanouts	HAIR Manor Alana Robertson 50 Church Street Benalla 3672 Salon 5762 6006	Currie ELECTRICAL Expert Electrical Services in Benalla Ph 0408 572 766
COOKS KERB CONCRETE EXCAVATION 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

Easter Calendar Dates	
MARCH	
Sunday 29th	Palm Sunday
Tuesday 31st	Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo
APRIL	
Thursday 2nd	Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6.30 pm
Friday 3rd	Good Friday Stations of the Cross 9 am, followed by hot cross buns The Passion of the Lord at 3 pm
Saturday 4th	Easter Vigil Mass at 7.30 pm
Sunday 5th	Easter Day Mass at 9.30 am.
MAY	
Friday 1st	Australian Heritage Festival at St. Joseph's Church, Parish House Open day 1pm – 4pm
Saturday 2nd	Second Open Day 1pm – 4pm St Joseph's School Open for tour 2pm – 4pm




Easter Sunday
4 – 5 April 2026

Happy Easter from all of us here at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty. There is still time to donate!




UNITE AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

Please donate today.
You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

RCIA – BECOMING A CATHOLIC

On Saturday 4 April at the Easter Vigil five candidates will be welcomed into our Parish Church, become Catholic and celebrate their Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist.



And one candidates will be baptised. Please keep them in your prayers as they journey through Holy Week. All parishioners are welcome and invited to refreshments after Mass in the

Parish House.

Parish Office and Service Closure Following Easter

Following the many blessings and commitments of Holy Week and Easter, Fr Vijay and staff of our parish will be taking a short period of rest. Please note that all parish services and the parish office will be closed from Monday 6 April to Friday 10 April to allow Fr Vijay and staff a well-earned break after their Holy Week duties. During this time all daily Masses will be suspended. Masses and other regularly scheduled liturgical services will resume on Saturday 11 April. Parish office will reopen on Tuesday 14 April during regular hours. We thank you for your understanding and continued support. Your prayers for Fr Vijay and staff during this time of rest are greatly

FROM FELLOW TRAVELLERS

The resurrection of Jesus did not end the suffering of the world. Crosses keep on being set up throughout history, and agony perdures. But Christ crucified and risen discloses the truth that divine justice continuously leavens the world ... The victory is won not by the sword of a warrior god but by the power of compassionate love that brings the living God into solidarity with those who suffer in order to heal and set free. The resurrection, then, discloses in a profound way the character of divine mystery: compassionate, faithful, powerfully loving, close even in darkness and failure, bringing forth the new ... Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of the resurrection of all the dead. Indeed, we are dealing here with an event of the future that has arrived in advance of the last day.

Elizabeth Johnson, *Abounding in Kindness*, Chapter 13, 'Resurrection: Promise of the Future'

God's future for the world ... is already with us. The kingdom is God's future, but it is a future anticipated in the healing, liberating ministry of Jesus. Furthermore, it is a future already present in all the good that ordinary women and men do, in every act of genuine love and in every work of peace and justice. The image of the kingdom of God draws attention to all the ways in which God is already at work in our world, liberating human beings and renewing the whole of creation. It directs us to a transcendent, always greater God, who escapes our comprehension and our plans, yet who breaks it upon the world, overturning our expectation, calling us to conversion of heart, and to the transformation of structures of oppression. Denis Edwards, *Jesus and the Cosmos*, 60.

The whole process of the world's self-transcendence into God reaches its climax in the 'yes' to God embodied in Jesus' person and life. This 'yes' finds expression in Jesus' prayer, in his preaching of a liberating and gracious God, in his acts of healing and liberation, in his critique of oppressive structures, in his partiality for the poor, the sick and the outcast, in his mediation of reconciliation, in his joyous meals, in his confrontation with those who kept others bound. In his relationships, in his formation of a new community and, above, all, in his struggle with, and acceptance of, his death as the consequence and outcome of his life.

Denis Edwards, *Jesus and the Cosmos*, 62.

Love demands action. Love reaches out to others despite negative feelings or no feelings at all. The lover perceives what the beloved can be and encourages his / her growth. Even in the face of obstacles and rejection, authentic love is not paralysed. All that matters is that others might become what they are meant to be.

Robert Mornieu, *Pathways to God*, 64.

Do not waste time bothering whether you "love" your neighbour; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will probably come to love him.

C.S. Lewis in Robert Mornieu, *Pathways to God*, 64.



FOR THINKING AND TALKING

- Is there a fresh insight into Jesus' resurrection that has emerged for you? What is it?
- What new hope will you take into tomorrow?

REVIEW OF LIFE

A prayerful review of each day or week can help us to grow in closeness to God in Jesus, drawing from the life-giving spring of his life and love. Allow 10-15 minutes for prayer. You may like to light a candle. Become aware of God's loving presence. Ask for help and guidance:

- For what moment, event or person are you most grateful? For what are you least grateful? Talk with God in Jesus about what has come to mind.
- Ask for wisdom and guidance for tomorrow.



- FROM THE EASTER VIGIL

The celebrant takes five grains of incense which represent the five wounds of Christ and, in blessing them, recalls the atoning power of Christ's suffering and death. Without these wounds, without this death, we would not be here tonight. The grains of incense, the five wounds, are now inserted into the paschal candle which is to represent the risen Christ. The celebrant cuts a cross in the wax of the candle with a stylus, and traces the Greek letter 'alpha' above the cross and the letter 'omega' below it while saying:

Christ yesterday and today

the beginning and the end,
Alpha
and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all the ages,
to him be glory and power,
through every age and forever. Amen.

Description from the Easter Vigil in Sheila Cassidy, *Good Friday People*, 179.



EASTER SUNDAY