

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.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

04 Oct 2026



Readings for this week:

Isaiah 5:1-7
 Philippians 4:6-9
 Matthew 21:33-43



Readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 26:6-10
 Philippians 4:12-14 19-20
 Matthew 22:1-14

FIRST READING

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt;
 to plant it you drove out the nations.
 It stretched out its branches to the sea,
 to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**
2. Then why have you broken down its walls?
 It is plucked by all who pass by.
 It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
 devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
 look down from heaven and see.
 Visit this vine and protect it,
 the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**
4. And we shall never forsake you again:
 give us life that we may call upon your name.
 God of hosts, bring us back;
 let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

SECOND READING

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

REFLECTION

The three readings today invite us to look at how we respond to God's love and the responsibilities He gives us. In the first reading, Isaiah speaks about the vineyard that God carefully planted and cared for. Yet it produced wild grapes. God has given us so much-life, love, family, faith, and many opportunities. He hopes that our lives will produce good fruits. In the second reading, St. Paul tells us not to be anxious but to bring everything to God in prayer. He encourages us to fill our minds with what is true, good, just, pure, and worthy of praise. Our relationship with God should shape the way we live. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the wicked tenants. The landowner sends servants and finally his own son, but they reject them. The story reminds us that God continually reaches out to us, but we must respond with faith and responsibility. Today, let us ask ourselves: What fruits am I producing in my life? Are people experiencing God's love through my words, forgiveness, kindness, and service? May our lives become a beautiful vineyard where God's love can grow and bear good fruit. God Bless always, Fr Vijay

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Jennifer Williams, Marion Empey, Peter Grundman (Sr. Liz's cousin), Carmel Weston, Paula McPherson, Elizabeth Waters

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Saunders (Gladys) nee Dodemaide, Monica Parker, Gordon McNair, Mons. Michael O'Reilly, Susanne Collins, Pino Paolini, Theresa Stevens, Kevin Brennan, Jeff Jewell, Scott Simmons, George Keifer, Deanne Leist, Pat Brennan, Bill Ward, Syd Sloan

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Skyler Levy, Susan Fitzgerald, Tracey Welsh, Anne Ryan, Duncan Carradice, Margaret McCrohan, Frank Levesque, Trish McCabe, Sari Yoinco, Rebecca O'Reilly, Julie Lynch, Anne Moore, Jacob Smith, Tony Meade, Catherine de la Cruz, Maria Celeste Pasia and Neha Bharadwai

Meeting Room Available for Hire

A meeting room suitable for groups of up to 8 people is available for hire at Building 31. For further information or to enquire availability, please ring the Parish Office at 5762 2060.

CALENDAR

Oct

- 11** Cuppa after Mass in Bldg. 31
- 13** 'The Carpenter' out
- 18** Mass at Thoona at 12 noon
- 24** Vigil Mass 6 pm
- 25** NO 9:30 am MASS
- 25** **150th Jubilee Mass at 2pm, followed by afternoon tea and refreshments in St. Joseph's Hall**

Season of Creation – Living Water

At the beginning of September, we entered into the International Season of Creation. This coming Sunday we will conclude this Season on the feast of St Francis. There is no better way to finish this Season with St Francis as our focus. The Living Water display has depicted different scenarios of a flowing river. We are all reminded that each of us are part of this flowing water. Let us not forget those who don't have the luxury of water.

Sr Liz Brown fcJ

Steam It Up CARPET CLEANING

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Fr. Michael Morley has again arranged for copies of the "Good News- Daily Reflections" publication at the same price as last year of \$20. If you would like a copy please contact Cath at the Parish House.

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL - for retired priests of Sandhurst.

We have 15 retired priests, and our fundraising assists the provision of housing, annual recurrent and everyday expenses. The Foundation relies on the generosity of the priests and people of the Diocese.

A special collection will be taken on the weekend of 10th and 11th of October and is the major fundraiser of the year. Your Donations are essential.

This day is an opportunity to thank God for their ministry and dedication, and to pray for our priests, active and retired.

All donations are tax-deductible. Those requiring receipts for donations, please use the envelopes provided. Thank you.

★ SINGING GROUP PRACTICE ★

All members of the **Singing Group** are reminded to attend the upcoming practice session.

Date: October 18, 2026

Time: 1:30 PM

Venue: St Joseph's Church Benalla

Your participation and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated! 🎵

SAVE THE DATE

Jubilee Concelebrated Mass
Sunday, 25th of October 2 PM
Followed by afternoon tea
& refreshments in St. Joseph's Hall



SAVE THE DATE

CHRISTMAS PARTY to be held on
Dec. 6, 2026 Sunday, from 5:00 pm to
8:00 pm on the lawns of the Parish
House.

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.

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
03 Oct	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Anna Wise	Vince Branigan	Janene Humphries Clare O'Brien	K Elliott & Volunteer
04 Oct	9.30am	Adrian Daw	Lisa Raschke	Volunteer	Louise Beling Denise O'Brien	M & R Miguel
10 Oct	6.00pm	Ryan Miguel	Shirley Kearney	Sr Liz	Jane Branigan Kath Elliot	Kunchacko & Suleena Chacko
11 Oct	9.30am	Max Rankin	Oliver Raschke	Anne McLeod	Brendan Rettke Victor Nduka	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



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