

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.

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time — 25 Oct 2026

Readings for this week:	Exodus 22:20-26 Thessalonians 1:5-10 Matthew 22:34-40	*Readings for next Sunday:*	Exodus 22:20-26 Thessalonians 1:5-10 Matthew 22:34-40

FIRST READING

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans. "If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him. "If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge;my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed. **R**.

SECOND READING

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them. **Alleluia**!

GOSPEL

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

REFLECTION

The Greatest Commandment of Love. The central message of all three readings today is love—a love that must be expressed through our words, actions, and daily lives. In the first reading, God reminds us to care for the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger. God hears the cries of those who suffer, and He calls us to be compassionate and kind, especially towards the most vulnerable. In the second reading, St Paul praises the Thessalonians for their strong faith and their example to others. Their lives show us that genuine faith is not simply something we profess; it is something we live and share with others. In the Gospel, Jesus gives us the two greatest commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." These two commandments are inseparable. We cannot truly love God while ignoring the pain and suffering of our neighbours. Our prayers become meaningful when they lead us to kindness, forgiveness, generosity, and service. Today, let us ask ourselves: Can others recognise God's love through the way we treat them? The greatest sign of our love for God is the love we show to one another. May our faith become visible through our compassion, and may our lives become a beautiful reflection of God's love in the world.- God Bless always, Fr Vijay

REGULAR MASS TIMES
Weekends – Saturday 6pm. Sunday 9.30 am, Weekdays – Tues to Fri 9.15 am
Benediction 1st Friday of each month, Thoona Mass – Third Sunday of each month,12 noon

Subscribe and receive Parish Bulletin, Newsletter & updates about upcoming events: Subscribe by using the QR Code.

PRAYERS FOR

RECENT DEATHS: Meryleen Blyss, Anabelle Catherine Martin, Roland McCarthy

ANNIVERSARIES: Dmytro Mazurak, Thomas O'Brien, Diane Purcell, Jean Fuleky, Faith Hicks, Theresa Corboy, Frank Quinn, Elaine Stafford, fcJ Sr Mary John (Ita Haskings)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:
Skyler Levy, Susan Fitzgerald, Tracey Welsh, Anne Ryan, Duncan Carradice, Margaret McCrohan, Frank Levesque, Trish McCabe, Sari Yoingco, Rebecca O'Reilly, Julie Lynch, Anne Moore, Jacob Smith, Tony Meade, Catherine de la Cruz, Maria Celeste Pasia, Neha Bharadwaj, Justin Smith, Colleen Murphy

CALENDAR

Oct	
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**
Nov	
1	All Saints Day (Solemnity)
2	All Souls Day
6	Rosary and Benediction 6 pm

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Prayer for the Holy Father

Let us continue to keep Pope Leo in our prayers. May God surround him with His love and grace, and grant him renewed health and peace.

Prayer for Healing and Recovery

We pray for our political leader, Helen Haines, as she recovers from the recent attack. May the Lord grant her strength, healing, courage, and peace during this difficult time.

150th Jubilee Celebration – You're Invited!

Join us as we celebrate the 150th Jubilee of Saint Joseph's Church, Benalla, on Sunday, 25 October 2026, at 2:00 PM.

Can't join us in person? You can still be part of this special occasion! Watch the celebration live here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKmFXkZ7SnA



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Date	Times	Laptop	Commentator	Reader	Eucharist	Offertory
24 Oct	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Vince Branigan	Cath Duncombe	Kunchacko & Suleena Chacko	K Elliott & Volunteer
25 Oct	**2.00pm**	**Ryan Miguel**	**Anne McLeod**	**Cath Duncombe Sr Liz FCJ**		**Daw Family**
31 Oct	6.00pm	Sr Liz	Cath Duncombe	Clare O'Brien	Janene Humphries Jane Branigan	Dan Brown & Michael
01 Nov	9.30am	Max Rankin	Lisa Raschke	James Flynn	Louise Beling Oliver Raschke	Brierley 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