

ST MARY'S PARISH, SALE

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SALE; ST PATRICK'S, STRATFORD;
ST ROSE OF LIMA, ROSEDALE; ST PATRICK'S, BRIAGOLONG;
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF LOCH SPORT.

47 Foster Street, PO Box 183, Sale.

Parish Office Tel: 5144 4100 Hours: Tues - Fri 9.15am to 3pm (Closed Mondays)

Parish email: Sale@cdsale.org.au Parish website: <https://www.catholicparish.app/sale>

Bishop of Sale, Most Reverend Gregory Bennet DD

Dean of the Cathedral: Very Reverend Francis Otober, Mobile 0448 529 712

Assistant Priests: Fr Joy Muthappan IVDei, Mobile 0461 560 666

PARISH OFFICE: Parish Staff: Clare O'Brien, Parish Secretary. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.15am - 3pm. Mark Durrant, Finance Manager.

Hours: Wednesday 9am - 3pm. Jennifer Fitzgerald, Sacramental Coordinator Email: Sale.sacraments@cdsale.org.au.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Fr Francis, Fr Joy, Tim Morrison-Chair, Romulo Sanchez-Deputy Chair, Rose Lee-Secretary, Teresa Tantaró-Deputy Secretary, Doug Waite, Andrew Pagatpat, David Erdmann, Jonathan Peckley, Michele Wakeham, Joel Brayshaw, Jodie Ware, Filomena Padula, Jenny Fitzgerald.

Safeguarding Statement: Our Parish is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk. Our Safeguarding Officer is Tim Morrison. Ph 5144 4100



TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A ***10 - 11 October 2026***

Celebration of Priesthood: Fr Francis' 25th Ordination Anniversary

This year marks the 25th anniversary of my priestly ordination. To mark this milestone, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated here at the Cathedral on **Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 9:30 AM** (two weeks away). I warmly invite all parishioners to join me in worship and thanksgiving for these years of ministry. Following the Eucharistic celebration which will be presided over by Bishop Greg and concelebrated by Fr Francis, a community morning tea will be held. I am counting on you, my dear parishioners and friends, to help make this morning tea a success. Your contributions of finger foods, baked goods, or light refreshments would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your constant generosity and support. I look forward to celebrating this special day together with our parish family.

A Storm of Blessings at Benambra

The pilgrimage to St Francis of Assisi Church, Benambra, began on the evening of October 2nd with the Transitus prayer service (at St Mary's, Bairnsdale), commemorating St Francis of Assisi's transition from earthly life to eternity. The following morning, after morning prayers at St. Mary's Church, we commenced our journey to Benambra. Despite the persistent rain and cold weather, which raised shared concerns about the outdoor conditions awaiting us, we proceeded with a spirit of trust.

Bishop Greg had optimistically "prophesied" that we might witness a miracle, and indeed, the first manifestation of this was the remarkable turnout. Over 200 pilgrims traveled the winding roads to the small town of Benambra—a testament to faith. As the pilgrimage progressed through Bruthen, Ensay, and Swifts Creek, the landscape gradually dried. By the time we traveled from Omeo to Benambra, the weather had cleared beautifully, allowing for a warm welcome from the local parishioners.

However, just before Mass commenced, the sky darkened. In an open-air ceremony, Bishop Greg blessed a variety of animals, including a horse, dogs, and poultry, before the procession for Mass began. At the start of the Eucharistic celebration, a heavy downpour of rain and hail struck the town. Remarkably, this severe weather lasted precisely until the conclusion of the Penitential Act. As the Bishop pronounced the absolution, "May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life," the rain ceased on the congregation's "Amen." This sudden, profound stillness powerfully recalled the Gospel narrative where Jesus rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" (Mark 4:39). A lasting calm followed, allowing the Liturgy of the Word, the remainder of the Mass, and the subsequent outdoor luncheon to proceed undisturbed, facilitating wonderful fellowship among the pilgrims.

During his homily, Bishop Greg reminded the pilgrims that a pilgrimage is an opportunity for encounter..., this time, an encounter with a fellow Christian, St Francis of Assisi. He highlighted the radical conversion of St Francis, noting how an encounter with the Lord completely transformed his life after he was born into a wealthy merchant family. Bishop Greg emphasised the spiritual significance of the gathering saying: "Today, we have not simply remembered St Francis of Assisi. We have walked in his footsteps. We have gathered as pilgrims, attentive to God's presence in creation, in one another, and in sharing the Word and breaking the Bread." Drawing his homily to a close, he offered a blessing: "As we leave this place, may we carry with us the peace that marked Francis' life: peace with God, peace with one another, and peace with all creation."

The pilgrimage culminated later that afternoon at its final station, Immaculate Conception Church, Omeo, where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for pilgrims' quiet time. The serene dignity of the historic church provided a reflective space to anchor the extraordinary events of the day.

Reflecting on the day, the initial downpour can be understood not as a disruption, but as a shower of divine blessings. God timed the elements precisely, demonstrating His presence and mercy without obstructing the day's events. It is my prayer that the blessings of this pilgrimage forever remain with us, our parishes, and our Diocese. As Bishop Greg asserted in his homily, "We will be able to tell our friends that we have been on pilgrimage to St Francis of Assisi, Benambra." That was prophetic! I look forward to hearing more stories from the pilgrims.

May St. Francis of Assisi continue to intercede for us as we remain open to the movements of the Holy Spirit. Amen! (see photos inside).

Fr Francis

PARISH CALENDAR

Sat 17 & Sun 18 Oct: Mission Sunday leaving collection at all parish churches.

Sat 17 Oct 5.30pm: Youth Mass, Cathedral

Sun 18 Oct 12pm: Parish Lunch at Legends

Sun 25 Oct 9.30am: Fr Francis' 25th Ordination Anniversary & morning tea, Cathedral

PARISH NEWS

CATHOLIC COLLEGE SALE Dear Members of St Mary's Parish Sale I am writing to you to ask for volunteers who could assist some of the students involved in a Marist Game Changers Club. The students are from Yrs 7-11, and there are around 20 students in total involved in the program. The students are currently crocheting a blanket to donate to the homeless people in our community. The aim is to complete the blanket by November. The students meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1.30pm until 2.10pm. If you are interested in assisting our students from Marist Game Changers Club in completing this blanket, the students and I would greatly appreciate your help. For more details please contact Damian Hogan on email dhogan@ccsale.catholic.edu.au or contact Catholic College Sale directly on 5143 9700. Kind Regards, Mr Damian Hogan

YOUTH MASS our next Youth Mass will be held in the Cathedral at 5.30pm on **Saturday 17 October**.

PARISH LUNCH will be held at 12pm on **Sunday 18 October at Sporting Legends**, Princes Hwy Sale. No need to sign up. Just come along if you can.

RITE OF WELCOME AND BAPTISM: This weekend at St Mary's Cathedral, we welcome for Baptism **Mahli Lipman** daughter of Bridget & Joel as well as **Tiana Covino** daughter of Nyssa & Peter. Congratulations to the families from us all.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Included are photos from the feast of St Francis of Assisi celebration at Bairnsdale, Benambra and Omeo last weekend



BAPTISMS: By arrangement through the Parish Office phone 5144 4100. No baptisms during Lent.

ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament, Friday before Mass 10.00am — 11.00am

At St Rose of Lima, Rosedale on 1st Wednesday of each month 9.30am — 10.30am

RECONCILIATION: Cathedral: Friday 10.30-11am before Mass.

At Other times: Available on request

Stratford and Briagolong on Sunday or Rosedale on Saturday evening: Available on request.

MARRIAGES: Not less than six months notice please.

COLLECTIONS Last Quarter:

Planned Giving:

Presbytery:

Credit Cards

Direct Debits & Credits:

Cathedral EFTpos:

With thanks from a grateful parish.

To be provided

in November

on a Quarterly basis

in the bulletin from

now on.



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GIPPSLAND
FUNERAL SERVICES

Mass Timetable this week
Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
10 - 11 October 2026

Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 10 October	9.30am	Cathedral
	11.00am	Loch Sport
	5.30pm	Rosedale
Sunday 11 October	5.30pm	Cathedral
	9.30am	Cathedral
	9.30am	Briagolong
	5.30pm	Cathedral
WEEKDAY MASSES		
Monday 12 October	NO	MASS
Tuesday 13 October	9.30am	Cathedral
Wednesday 14 October	9.30am	Cathedral
Thursday 15 October	9.30am	Cathedral
Friday 16 Oct <i>Benediction / Exposition & Mass</i>	10.00am	Cathedral
	11.00am	Cathedral
WEEKEND MASSES		
Saturday 17 October	9.30am	Cathedral
Youth Mass	5.30pm	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Rosedale
Sunday 18 October	9.30am	Cathedral
	9.30am	Stratford
	5.30pm	Cathedral

Cathedral Date & Time	Saturday 10 Oct 5.30pm	Sunday 11 October 9.30am	Sunday 11 October 5.30pm
Welcomer	Theo Smolenaars	Marie & Nick Centra	Mary Chiller
Commentator	Liz Tabuteau	Mildred Semodio	Please offer
Reader	Sandra Smolenaars	Vince Beer	Lyn Althaus
Eucharist	Emma M, Claire L	Brenda B, Dr Salle	Len & Lyn Althaus
Eucharist	Brenda Burditt	Abi Udiano	Please offer
Counters	Sue Harvey & John Dykun		

Cathedral Date & Time	Saturday 17 Oct 5.30pm	Sunday 18 October 9.30am	Sunday 18 October 5.30pm
Welcomer	YOUTH MASS	Catherine Mackinnon	Veronica Stewart
Commentator	YOUTH MASS	Nick Hall	Andreena Jolly
Reader	YOUTH MASS	Maya Useni-Vowell	Faye Flint
Eucharist	Tim & Emma M	Abi Udiano, Sue H	Doug & Leny Waite
Eucharist	Jonathan Peckley	Margaret Shirreffs	Len Althaus
Counters	Len & Lyn Althaus		

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun 11 October 9.30am: Leo Harkin (A)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We offer prayers for those who have died **Tenesha Fieldsend** and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Leo Harkin, Emilia Turra, Joseph Turra, Frank Turra, Sr Margaret Fahey OLSH**, and **deceased Clergy of the Diocese**. We pray for those who are sick Mary Harkin, Priyankara, Chandanie, Jayantha, Mallika, Georgia Jones, Helen O'Kane, Wendy Adamo, George, Rochelle, Meraya, Suzanne O'Doherty, Hayden, Shama, Manel, Michelle, Lou, Daniel, Teresa Bennett, Emma O'Hare, Jim Clottin, Moira Petrie, Dushyanthi, Michael McGrath, Troy Barney, Bill Harkin, **We pray in thanks for all who are sick and those who care for them.**

NEPAL FLOODS

Caritas teams are on the ground assessing the scale of the disastrous Nepalese floods and how to respond. It is expected that the needs will most likely include: emergency shelter and essential items, access to clean water and sanitation, access to food and immediate and long-term recovery. If you are able to support Caritas Australia's Nepal Floods Appeal, visit:

www.caritas.org.au/nepal

PRAYER FOR NEPAL AND TIBET

Loving God,

Be close to all those caught in the devastation of the floods in Nepal and Tibet.

Comfort those who have lost loved ones, strengthen those waiting anxiously for news, and guide rescuers and emergency workers as they search for survivors.

Give courage to displaced families and compassion to communities offering shelter, food and care.

May those who are missing be found, and may those who mourn know they are not alone. God of mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.



DIOCESAN WOMEN'S EVENT

You are cordially invited to join the women of the diocese for a dinner and talk by Dr Kim Daniels celebrating the strength, resilience and expanding horizons of women in the life and mission of the Catholic Church

**NAVIGATING THE UNSEEN
WOMEN LEADING WITH
RESILIENCE**



DR. KIM DANIELS

**7:00 pm Oct 14th
St. Patrick's Parish Hall,
Pakenham**

Kim Daniels directs the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University, where she is an adjunct theology professor & Mission Advisory Board member. She served on the Vatican Dicastery for Communication (2016-2026) and as a Synod on Synodality expert leading digital mission study. An advisor to Catholic leaders—including the USCCB—on religious liberty, immigration, and human dignity, Kim holds degrees from Princeton University and the University of Chicago Law School.

COST: \$30/ person

Tickets Essential.
Register by October 4th

To register, scan QRcode or visit
trybooking.com/DOZKU

Dinner and soft drinks provided.



NEW TO THE PARISH? CHANGED ADDRESS IN THE LAST YEAR? NEED PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES OR TO UPDATE THE PARISH RECORDS?

Please let us know we'd like to meet you!

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

Please tick: If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program ☐

If you would like to join a Family Group ☐

Please place on the plate at Mass or drop into the Parish Office

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

**If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**



COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

**The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.**



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Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Cathedral
Every Friday 10 - 11am
Reconciliation: Cathedral Friday 10.30 - 11am

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1st Reading: **Isaiah 45:1, 4-6**

2nd Reading: **1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**

Gospel: **Matthew 22:15-21**

WEEKEND MASS TIMETABLE

Saturday: Loch Sport - 11.00am (2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month)

Saturday: Cathedral - 5.30pm

Saturday: Rosedale - 5.30pm

Sunday: Cathedral - 9:30am and 5.30pm

Sunday: Stratford - 9.30am (1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of the Month)

Sunday: Briagolong - 9.30am (2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month)

Please check the bulletin each week for weekday Mass times.