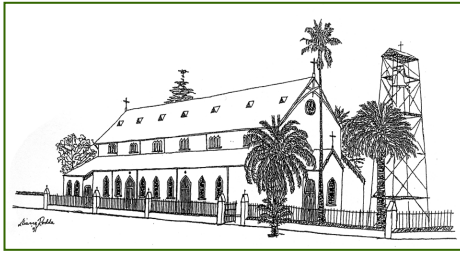


PARISH OF ST KILIAN, BENDIGO

Vision Statement

The purpose of St Kilian's, Parish is to be a Catholic presence in the heart of Bendigo which promotes sharing, developing and celebrating a community of faith which is open to all.



St Kilian's Primary School • Principal: Kimberley McSweeney. Phone -5443 4071

St Peter's Primary School • Principal: Jeremy Darmody. Phone 5443 9319

Doxa School Bendigo • Principal Vanessa Brown. Phone 5442 8140

Parish Administrator: Fr Junray Rayna (0403 677 769)

Assistant Priest: Fr Rob Galea

Pastoral Assistant: Helen Mewburn

Annette Holmes-Sacrament Co-ordinator

Hospital Chaplain: Peter Young

Office: Michelle Verbeek

Parish Office: 161 McCrae St, Bendigo

Phone: (03) 5441 6244

Email: stkilians@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Website: stkiliansbendigo.com.au

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Year C

14th September 2025

Readings for this week: Number 21:4-9
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17



Readings for next week: Amos 8:4-7
1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16:1-13



Liturgical Jottings

Liturgy and Justice II

Liturgy and justice are interconnected aspects of faith, with the former being the public worship of God and the latter being the pursuit of fairness and righteousness in human relationships. Many believe that a truly reverent liturgy should inspire and be informed by a commitment to social justice, while also recognizing that justice-oriented actions should be rooted in a deep understanding of God's call to love and mercy.

Since Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum* and Pope John XXIII's *Pacem in Terris* the Church has brought social justice and faith together. The liturgical movement at the same time has recognised that prayer and the liturgy are at the foundation of the Catholic social mission. The Word of God celebrated, reflected upon and prayed about inspire Catholics to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

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Looking at the Readings

The first reading from the Book of Numbers reveals God's ready willingness to forgive and to heal the Israelites by transforming an image of the cause of their suffering and death into the source of healing for them. To look upon the bronze image of the serpent "lifted up" on a pole they were healed.

In today's gospel, In the Gospel of John, the term "lifted up" has a double meaning. First it refers to Jesus being "lifted up" on the cross, lifted up in the cruel and shameful death resulting from the sinful actions and ways of his people. But it also refers to Jesus being "lifted up" in the glory of his resurrection and ascension to God. That "lifting up," he promises Nicodemus and us, will be given to everyone who believes in him. The passage closes with a clear statement meant to relieve any fears or anxiety we might have because of our sins: God sent his Son into the world that through him the world might be saved."

In the passage from Paul's Letter to the Philippians Belief in Christ means embracing that life of self-emptying service for the forgiveness and healing of the sins of our time and our people.

The Gospel passage closes with a clear statement meant to relieve any fears or anxiety we might have because of our sins: "For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." *From Peace with Creation by James E Hug SJ.*

Pope Leo on Creation

With infinite love, God has created all things and given them life. That is why Saint Francis of Assisi could call every creature his brother, his sister and his mother. Only a contemplative gaze can change our relationship with creation and bring us out of the ecological crisis brought on by the breakdown of our relationship with God, with our neighbours and with the earth that is the effect of sin (*cf. Laudato Si'*, 66). *Homily Pope Leo XIV, on 9 July 2025*

Prayer for the Day

Lord, holy Father, you placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree, might likewise on a tree be conquered, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

On the Lighter Side

Q. Why did St Patrick drive the snakes out of Ireland?

A. It was too far to walk or swim!

Q. What do you call a snake who works for the government?

A. A Civil Serpent!

MASS & RECONCILIATION TIMES

SUNDAY	Saturday Vigil	6.30pm
	Sunday	8am, 10am & 6pm
WEEKDAYS	Tuesday	12.10pm
	Wednesday	12.10pm
	Thursday	12.10pm
	Friday	12.10pm
	Saturday	8am
RECONCILIATION	Friday	11.30am-12pm
<i>Live streaming of 10am Sun & 12.10pm weekday Mass</i>		



As we come to worship we remember the original custodians of this land.

24th Sunday in Ordinary time			14th September
Mass	Commentator	Reader	Ministers of Communion
6.30pm	Marie Bonne	Di Hicks	Philippe Bonne
8am		Sharon Moloney	Zenny Davidson
10am	Josephine York	Andrew Wood	Cara Pawsey/Karen Doolan
6pm	Rose McSweeney	Nancy Nowers	B O'Sullivan
25th Sunday in Ordinary time			21st September
6.30pm	Ronnie Graham	Michael Carr	Debbie Wilson
8am		Zenny Davidson	Liz Carthew
10am	Anne Bourke	Ben Landsberg	Angela Dudley/Julie McGregor
6pm	Helen Mewburn	Jo Hudson	Jenny Roberts
Altar Rosters	Group D	12th Sep-25th Sep	Ronnie Graham, Angela Dudley
	Group A	26th Sep- 9th Oct	Kath O'Farrell, Mary Eltringham, Marj Davis, Lyn Byrne
Counting Teams	Team 5	8th Sep-21 Sep	P Bonne, J Brennan, P Sheehan, D Pell
	Team 1	22 Sep- 5 Oct	K Egan, M Egan, D Harrington, E Jenkins

Shop Roster	14th September	Karen Doolan	21st September	Geraldine Jeffrey
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Prayer for the sick

May all who are sick or suffering experience God's love and healing through the care and kindness of those around them.

If you are an inpatient at Bendigo Health and would like to see the Hospital Chaplain please ask a staff member to refer you to Spiritual Care or phone Peter on 0427681267.

Thank you

St Kilian's shop

Open 11.30am-12pm Frid and after 6.30pm Sat & 10am Sun Mass.

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is located in the cabinet at the rear of the Church on the Chapel Street side. Please be aware of its location and share this information.

Calendar—September/October

19th Sep Candlelight Concert— 6pm & 8pm
 28th 6pm Youth Mass
 1st Oct Baptism Preparation evening
 3rd Mass of Anointing-12.10pm
 5th 6pm Sunday Mass moves to the Cathedral

Prayers for Recently Deceased:	Dianne Chisholm,
Prayers for Anniversaries:	Br Brian Connell, Gwen Carter, Mary Dillon. Mary Brennan, John Rainbow, Andrew Barry, Nancy Mattsson, John Harty, Jonathan Potter, Sr Marueen HowleyRSM, Marian McPherson, Martha Hickey, Helen Brennan
Prayers for the Sick:	Betty Holland, Rani Fernando, Kelly Tomlinson, Liliosa Legaspi , Tammy Abeynayake, Peter Downing, Garth & Yvonne Graham , Luis Basille, David Peters, Dianne Pell, Olivia Slattery, Archer Turner, Matthew Turner , Carmel Brennan , Brenda Lydiate

Spirituality in the Pub - Season of Creation St Kilians Earthcare Team invite you to join us for Spirituality in the Pub
DATE & TIME: Thursday September 18th at 6PM for a meal and Speaker at 7PM
VENUE: The Cambrian Hotel, 200 Arnold St, North Bendigo.
GUEST SPEAKER: Ian McBurney, a local, passionate, leader in sustainability. Through his work over decades, Ian has inspired and enabled tens of thousands of people to move towards a better future. In recent years, he has directed the City of Greater Bendigo's Climate Collaboration, working with numerous groups in our community to create a roadmap for our city to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2030. Like Pope Francis' in Laudato Si', he recognises that at this time in history, when much of our natural system is in decline, only when people work together will we be able to restore a sustainable society. That society will be better for everyone in nearly every way. We'll be more local and connected, happier, healthier, more profitable and more proud of who we are.
CONTACT FOR DETAILS: 0438 889 834
 Marie Philippe Bonne, St Kilian's Parish Earthcare Team

Registrations Now Open!

Be part of **Building Communities of Belonging** at the Diocesan Formation Gathering on Friday, 11 October at Notre Dame College, Shepparton; a day to learn, connect, and explore how we can strengthen and grow communities of belonging in our parishes. Keynote presentations will reflect on the place of community and belonging in a Catholic parish:
 Why does belonging matter in today's culture?
 How does it shape the mission of our parish and the wider Church?
 What can we do, together, to strengthen it?
 With six practical workshops to choose from, the day offers insights and tools to help parishes grow a deeper sense of welcome and connection among parishioners and beyond.
 There'll also be opportunities to share ideas and experiences through:

Registrations close 30 September — secure your place now and be part of shaping the future of our parish communities!
 Register at: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1394762>

MARIAN FESTIVAL 2025:

Pray for World Peace at the 51st Marian Festival – a day of prayer, devotion and community, hosted by the Bendigo Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima with their Chaplain Fr Stephen Bolling.
 Sunday 12 October 2025
 Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo
 11.00 am Mass celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Les Tomlinson.
 3.40 pm Festival concludes with ringing of the bells and afternoon tea All welcome! **For more information go to:**
www.bendigofatima.com or contact info@bendigofatima.com

Sandhurst Pilgrimage to Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) Melbourne 2025: REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!!

The Diocese of Sandhurst is taking 200 young pilgrims to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival — a vibrant journey of faith, music, prayer and encounter. The pilgrimage is a partnership between Catholic Education Sandhurst, parishes and schools, offering young people a chance to grow in faith and community, to be formed, inspired, and sent. Support is available to make the journey possible — but the call is for commitment, curiosity, and courage. Talk to your parish and say 'yes' to be part of something that will shape the Church and your place in it.
 When: 29 November - 3 December
 Travel: Return Coaches departing from Shepparton, Wangaratta & Bendigo, with 4 nights' accommodation at Queens College
 Cost: \$1450 package expense, with large upfront subsidies available to eligible year 10 & 11 students, and parishioners aged 18-25

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT— ST KILIAN'S

For anyone who would like to attend another concert or missed out this time the next two concerts in St Kilian's Church will be on Friday 19th September at 6pm & 8pm. Tickets or more information go to
[https://feverup.com/en/bendigo/candlelight?](https://feverup.com/en/bendigo/candlelight?srsltid=AfmBOorEfVCxajBq4NMIFeStGwvPVzF-ZZsqg3n7zl6IilYFZonDDh_t)
 srsltid=AfmBOorEfVCxajBq4NMIFeStGwvPVzF-ZZsqg3n7zl6IilYFZonDDh_t

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY St Kilian's Parish is looking for a Cook to join our staff. You will need an ability to research, prepare and serve healthy delicious lunches for 3– 8 people and be friendly with great communication. Hours flexible and would suit school hours (2 x 6 hrs -Wed & Thurs each week). If interested or you have any questions please contact the office on 54416244 or email your resume to stkilians@sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

Bendigo Winter Night Shelter

BWNS was extended for another two weeks so we had our last night on Wednesday. We wish to thank Pat, and his staff at The Rising Sun Hotel, for providing the main dish this week and Bernie for her scrumptious dessert. It has been greatly appreciated by our guests as well as Dinali and Beth.
 We will provide a summary of the whole program next week.
 Beth and Dinali

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL for retired Priests of Sandhurst. We have 12 retired Priests. 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 20th /21st of September and is the major fundraiser of the year. Your Donations (tax-deductible) are essential. This day is an opportunity to thank God for their ministry and dedication, and to pray for our priests, active and retired. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. Those requiring receipts of donations over \$10 are to please use the envelopes provided. Thank you.

BAPTISM PREPARATION; for parents seeking their child's Baptism is held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in St Kilian's Church. Our next evening will be on Wednesday, October 1st. Please phone the parish office on 54416244 if you would like to attend.

“A new parishioner is looking for a room/granny flat for short-term rental. Reliable young professional gentleman moving from interstate, from mid-Oct 2025 to April 2026. Call Lauren if you can assist: 0419296276. Thankyou!”



ROSARY FOR PEACE AT LAKE WEERONA
 Tuesday, 16 September, 5pm

SPIRITUALITY AT THE PUB WITH IAN MCBURNIE
 Thursday, 18 September, Dinner 6pm & Presentation 7pm
 The Cambrian Hotel

COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE FOR GAZA
 Saturday, 20 September, 7:00am
 Meeting place: Lake Weerona

Ride with us from Bendigo to Axedale via O Keefe Trail to raise awareness and funds for the Gaza Crisis Appeal through Caritas Australia.

FLOWERS IN BLOOM
 Friday, 26 Friday, 10:00am

Join at the Community Garden for a morning of flower arrangement with Mary Eltringham and Parish Flower Ladies & Morning Tea.

SANDHURST JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE
 Saturday, 4 October, 8:00am

Journey together as pilgrims of hope, visiting the Sandhurst Pilgrimage Sites. Transport arrangement: Carpool

8:00 am – St. Kilian's, Bendigo

Distribution of Pilgrim Passports
 Morning Blessing of Pilgrims

10:30 am – Mary MacKillop Indigenous Garden

St John the Baptist Catholic Church
 20A Tocumwal Rd, Numurkah

12:30 pm – "The Mass Tree"

Short Street, Wahgunyah
 Celebration of the Holy Mass

1:30 pm - Picnic Lunch



This week's feast is an ancient one, known as The Triumph (or The Exaltation) of the Cross. Legend has it that on this date, September 14 in 330, St Helena, a Christian, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, discovered "the true cross" on which Jesus had died in Jerusalem.

Over the centuries, the cross has become the universal symbol of our Christian faith. Some people wear it around their necks. Many have a crucifix at home. A cross hangs in every Catholic Church. We venerate the cross during the liturgy on Good Friday. And every day we, like our forebears who have gone before us in the Faith, begin and end our prayers, including the celebration of the Mass, making the Sign of the Cross while we say, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

In this one simple gesture and prayer, the Sign of the Cross, we express the two great mysteries that lie at the very heart of our faith as Christians: God is Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the One God – and God revealed his great mercy and steadfast love for us in Jesus' death on a cross, for "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16).

We can easily forget how shameful and humiliating

death by crucifixion was. In the Roman Empire crucifixion was an oft-used form of execution that was calculated to instil fear and dread in the people and to discourage any would-be political agitators or subversives.

As St Paul writes, the cross was a scandal, a stumbling block, to the Jews and a folly, sheer foolishness, to the Greeks. No wonder that it was about three centuries before the symbol of the cross was represented in Christian art, life and worship, so shameful a death it was. And yet, as St Paul insists: "We preach Christ crucified."

The second reading is one of the most important of St Paul's writings. He writes that Christ, though enjoying a divine status, "emptied himself," freely taking "the form of a slave," humbling himself, even to death on a cross. "Therefore, God highly exalted him" so that all should confess that "Jesus Christ is Lord." His crucifixion was not his defeat or failure but rather his victory and triumph.

St Paul exhorts his readers, including us: "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." St John captures succinctly what this "mind of Christ Jesus" involves: "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another" (1 Jn 4:11).

When we make the Sign of the Cross, we also symbolise the cross that is ours to carry in our own lives, mindful at the same time of the resurrection and life of the world to come that Jesus' victory wrought for each one of us. May the cross be our comfort in times of suffering, our refuge in times of trouble, and our safeguard on life's journey.

Anne Hunt
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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn)

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 77)

RESPONSE: Do not forget the works of the Lord!

LECTOR: Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past. **R.**

LECTOR: When he slew them then they would seek him, return and seek him in earnest. They would remember that God was their rock, God the Most High their redeemer. **R.**

LECTOR: But the words they spoke were mere flattery; they lied to him with their lips. For their hearts were not truly with him; they were not faithful to his covenant. **R.**

LECTOR: Yet he who is full of compassion forgave their sin and spared them. So often he held back his anger when he might have stirred up his rage. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn)

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.