



St Mary's Bungendore
St Bede's Braidwood
St Joseph's Gundaroo
St Peter & Paul's Hoskinstown
St Joseph's Tarago

<http://cg.org.au/bungendore/Home.aspx>

Fr. Sijo Jose, Parish Priest



Sunday 15th March 2026, Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A

BUNGENDORE PARISH TEAM

Fr Sijo Jose: 0470 110 189 email: sijo.jose@cg.org.au

Baptisms: Baptisms will be on Saturday's at 11:00am

Please email the parish office to arrange a baptism.

Weddings: Please contact Parish office; at least six months notice required.

Phone: 02 6238 1247

Email: bungendore@cg.org.au

Website: <http://cg.org.au/bungendore/Home.aspx>

Secretary: Bernadette Coman

Office hours: Thursday 9:30-4:00, Friday 9:30-1:30.

Please email your enquiries.

BUNGENDORE, BRAIDWOOD and REGION MASS TIMES

Bungendore: Sunday 8:30am; **Weekday Mass:** Wednesday and Friday 9:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: After Wednesday or Friday Mass

Braidwood: Thursday 10:15am and Saturday 6:00pm

Gundaroo: 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month at 10:30am; **Baptisms** will be conducted during Mass

Hoskinstown: 1st Sunday of each month at 10:30am

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

'So many forms of poverty oppress our world!', Pope Leo cries. 'The tragedy that cuts across them all', he adds, 'is loneliness.'

This plague of loneliness, the Pope suggests, 'challenges us to look at poverty in an integral way, because while it is certainly necessary at times to respond to urgent needs, we also must develop a culture of attention.'

In short, he suggests we need to learn how to be aware of those people who the world overlooks: those who are pushed to the edges of our politics, our economic system, our communities.

The Pope encourages us, therefore, to 'be attentive to others, to each person, wherever we are, wherever we live.' We all have a calling to be sensitive to the needs of others, whether at home, at work, abroad or online. As individuals and communities, he says, we should always be 'reaching out to the marginalised and becoming witnesses of God's tenderness.'

'In the midst of persecution, suffering, struggles, and oppression in our personal lives and in society,' the Pope reminds us: 'God does not abandon us. He reveals himself as the One who takes our side.'

But more than that, 'the presence and word of Christ become gladness and jubilee for the poorest', inviting us to play our part in making him present in the here and now, always taking the side of those in need.

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Please pray for: Robert & Rhoda Murdock, Frank Shugg, Erwin Feeken, Sheather family, Diana Robertson, Luke Alam, Bob Angel, Peter Gagliardi, Stewart Briggs, Annie Nikolaou, Ed Cory, Cassandra Mallia, Bob Yates, Ann Reardon, Mary Coombe, Wayne Smith, Ken & Cathy Vine, Elizabeth Van Gessel, Barb Rayner, Fr Mick Burke, Adrian van Prooyen, Carol-Jayne McManus, Mary & Peter McCullagh, Peter Hugonnet, Terry Reardon, Fr Michael Mullens

If you would like to add or remove a name please email Bernadette at bungendore@cg.org.au



The Parish of St Mary's, Bungendore acknowledges the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Entrance Antiphon **Cf Isaiah 66:10-11**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading **1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13**

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 22 R. v.1**

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. 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.)**
2. 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.)**
3. 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.)**
4. 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 Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation **John 8:12**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel **John 9:1-41**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

'As long as the day lasts
I must carry out the work of the one who sent me;
the night will soon be here when no one can work.
As long as I am in the world
I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give

glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him. Jesus said:

'It is for judgement
that I have come into this world,
so that those without sight may see
and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf John 9:11,38

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

PARISH NEWS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation - 29 March

A very warm welcome to Blaique, Laker and Grace, and their families, as they prepare for their first reconciliation at the end of March.

Save the Date! Palm Sunday Breakfast - 29 March

Palm Sunday Breakfast after Mass. Please RSVP for catering to the Parish Office or use the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

St Vincent de Paul Society Needs You

The local conference of St Vincent de Paul is looking to recruit new members to help in our work of serving the needy in our area. We would particularly encourage people who share the aims of the Society and are available Mon-Fri 3-6pm. There are not too many visits per month but it would mean we are could share the visits. For further information please contact Conference President: Julie-Ann 0413 049 819. Thank you.

Garden Angels Calling—Urgent Help Required around Church Grounds

Work required:

- Whipper-snipping around carpark and Labyrinth
- Slashing the grass in the flood-zone and around sheds
- Mowing, weeding

A truck/trailer is needed to remove green waste.

If you can spare any amount of time to help maintain the church grounds, please contact Tess Montesin 0400 174 034. Thank you!

29 March | Palm Sunday Rally in Support of Refugees and Migrants | 1:00pm

In September last year, Archbishop Christopher called for Australians "to reject fear and stereotypes in the wake of nationwide anti-immigration protests, urging a spirit of hospitality and hope instead".

This year's Canberra Refugee Rally on Palm Sunday, which is under the theme, 'Refugees and Migrants Welcome Here' responds to the same issue. Join Vinnies to support Australia's 53-year-old commitment to an immigration program, which does not discriminate on the basis of race.

Fri 17-Sun 19 April | Cursillo Weekend, St Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong

Contact michaelderaadt@gmail.com

Info and registration:

<https://tinyurl.com/cursillo2026> or scan the QR code



Positions Vacant: Parish Officer - Gunning Parish / Narooma-Cobargo Parishes / West Wyalong Mission

Essential Requirements:

- > Experience with database packages & Microsoft Suite
- > Strong communication and liaison skills
- > Strong organisational skills
- > Ability to work on your own, as part of a team, and take direction
- > Understand and administer areas of church and regulatory compliance (e.g. parish sacrament registers, Working With Children Check, WHS, child protection, copyright)
- > Recent experience in an office environment
- > Understanding and respect for the Catholic Church and its teaching

For more information and a copy of the Duty Statement please email Leanne Boyd, Parish Support Manager (leanne.boyd@cg.org.au). Applications addressing the Selection Criteria and current CV to be sent to Parish Priests by Friday 27 March 2026.

Volunteer Scripture Teacher Needed – Bungendore Public School

St Mary's and The Sisters of Charity are seeking a volunteer to teach Grade 1 Scripture at Bungendore Primary School on Tuesdays from 2:10pm -2.40pm. You'll be using the *Christ Our Light and Life* program, which includes student books and a clear teaching manual to guide each lesson. The current volunteer Mary-Anne Curran is happy to speak with anyone interested, phone 0450 917 865. A Working with Children Check is required - the parish office can assist you with this process, email bungendore@cg.org.au
Your time could light the way for the next generation.

Volunteers for Easter Ceremonies

We are over halfway through Lent and it is time to organise our Easter celebrations. Please nominate yourself in anyway you can. Either contact the Parish Office or sign up in the Church.

Easter Masses for the Bungendore/Braidwood Region:

Bungendore - St Mary's:

Palm Sunday (29 March) - 8:30am
Holy Thursday (2 April) - 6:00pm
Good Friday (3 April) - Stations of the Cross 10:00am
- Passion 3:00pm
Easter Sunday (5 April) - 8:30am

Gundaroo - St Joseph's:

Good Friday Liturgy (3 April) - 3:00pm
Easter Sunday (5 April) - 10:30am

Braidwood - St Bede's:

Palm Sunday Vigil (28 March) - 6:00pm
Holy Thursday Faith Celebration (2 April) - 6:00pm
Good Friday (3 April) - Stations of the Cross 10:00am
- Passion 3:00pm
Easter Sunday Vigil (4 April) - 5:00pm (please note time change)



LITURGICAL ROSTER

Sunday 15th March 2026 8:30 am
R1; R2: Louella Reeves; Luke Reeves
Minister of the Altar; David Bishop
Offertory: Jenny Amey; Helen Jewell

Sunday 22nd March 2026 8:30 am
R1; R2: David Bishop; Alison Bishop
Minister of the Altar; Chris Murdock
Offertory:

BUNGENDORE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Catherine Mueller (Chair)
Helen Jewell
David Bishop
Jenny Amey
Chris Murdock

BUNGENDORE PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Michele Murdock (Chair)
Greg Darmody
Richard Konarski
Ian Cusack
Stephen Dunkerley

Church Cleaning

March: Penny Ford; Helen Jewell
April: Sarah Darmody; Christine Allard
Thank you!



Social Sunday Morning Tea:
15th March 2026

Please stay for a cuppa after Mass.



9:00am Mass Wednesday & Friday @ St Mary's

- followed by Rosary. Join us on
Wednesday, after Mass at
The Gathering for a cuppa.



Plaques for Memorial Wall

We are taking orders for plaques for the memorial wall. Please contact the office for more details. The format shown here will be the one used.



The Parish of St Mary's, Bungendore and the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. We endeavour to create safe spaces where we can have meaningful conversations with children and adults at risk about their safety. If you wish to discuss something with our Safeguarding Representative please talk to Sarah Dunkerley or confidentially email: bungendore.safeguarding@cg.org.au You may also wish to contact Maria Hicks (Manager) Institute for Professional Standards & Safeguarding 6239 9806 / ipss@cg.org.au