

WELCOME TO

# ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH



St Brendan's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

17 May 2020



*Readings for  
this week:*

Acts 8:5-8,14-17  
1 Peter 3:15-18 or 4:13-16  
John 14:15-21 or 17:1-11



*Readings for  
next Sunday:*

Acts 1:1-11  
Ephesians 1:17-23  
Matthew 28:16-20



## Liturgical Jottings

### Liturgical Language II

After Rome adopted Latin into its liturgy, a century after most of the provinces of the Christian Roman Empire was using Latin. Latin now became the unifying language in commerce, government and public worship. At the same time other cultures in Mesopotamia, Upper Nile, Ethiopia, Armenia, Persia began using local languages in their public liturgies. This remained the norm until the 16<sup>th</sup> century when new vernacular languages were developing in Western Europe. Also the Protestant Reformers were calling for the vernacular in worship. The Counter Reformation, in the Council of Trent stated it was not opportune but permitted the vernacular languages for sermons, pastoral instructions and short explanations during the liturgy.

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## Looking at the Readings

Peace and Persecution seem contradictory terms. Yet the Apostles and followers of Christ experienced both in the first years of the Church. We hear that after the persecution of Christians and after Saul's conversion, they were at peace (Acts 9). Then Saul, now called Paul, was himself, persecuted many times (2 Corinthians 11:23-27) but endured and even flourished by it all for the sake of Lord. Today's first reading records a "severe persecution" in which many Christians fled Jerusalem. However the flight from the city led them to other regions where they proclaimed Christ, healed in his name and received many into the faith. The new converts were baptised but waited for the Apostles to come to lay hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit. They endured the persecution with the love of the Lord in their hearts and the peace of God in their spirits.

What are the commandments that Jesus urges his disciples to keep? There are many instructions of Christ in the Gospel: turn away from sin, feed the hungry, be servants to others, proclaim the Good News, follow me, forgive, baptise, love your enemies, love one another. John in today's Gospel links keeping his commandments with remaining in his love. We are reminded: "I give you a new commandment, love one another just as I have loved you (John 13:34) and the greeting: "Peace be with you: and with your spirit!"

## Good Idea for the Week

Monday 21 May is the UN International Day for Cultural Diversity promoting dialogue among cultures and peoples, based on mutual understanding, respect and the equal dignity of all cultures. They are essential prerequisites for constructing social cohesion, reconciliation among peoples and peace among nations.

## Pope Francis Prayer Intention

During his Mass on Tuesday 12 May, International Nurses Day, Pope Francis prayed especially for nurses. Nursing is more than just a profession, it is a vocation, a calling that, especially in this time of pandemic, is marked by heroism – even to the point of giving one's life. He invited us to pray for nurses. In his homily, Pope Francis reflected on Jesus' words: "Peace I leave you; my peace I give you" (Jn 14:27). This peace is not "universal peace", the peace that comes from the absence of war, rather it is "peace in the heart, peace in our souls, the peace we all have within."

## On the Lighter Side

When I went to get my flu vax the young nurse was very nervous; she told me that I was her very first patient. I said to her: "Give it your best shot."







## ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

121 Knight Street, Shepparton

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Website: [sheppartoncatholic.org.au](http://sheppartoncatholic.org.au) Facebook: [/sheppartoncatholic](https://www.facebook.com/sheppartoncatholic)

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor

Priest in Residence: Fr Varghese Vithayathil

Deacon: Rev Francois Baguma

Office Manager: Diane Teitzel

Office Hours: Mon & Tue 9am - 3pm | Wed - Fri, 9am - 4pm



*Christ in community...the  
heart of our faith*

**Recently Deceased:** John Ganci.

**Anniversaries:** Newrie Kingham, Nola Appleton, Tom Carey, Jack Dixon, Mary Dixon, Mary Catherine Dixon, Margaret Anne Dixon, Anne Maree Dixon, Ned Dixon, Vera Dixon.

*Fr Joe will pray intentions at a Private Mass - please phone or email the parish office.*

### ***Stories of your time in isolation***

Over the next few weeks we would like to put together in these pages your stories whilst in isolation, eg:

*Has this time helped your prayer life; How have you been keeping in touch with others;*

*How have your groups been going—have you used Zoom or Messenger for your meetings;*

*Funny stories; Have you had any special celebrations during this time;*

*Have you grown spirituality; Any challenges you may have faced;*

*Any stories you would like to share.*

Please keep your stories to a small paragraph, about 100 words, and we will publish in the bulletin over the coming weeks. First names would be great but if you would prefer to be anonymous, that's ok.

Please pass this information onto other parishioners.

Your stories can be emailed to us or you could drop them into the parish office mailslot.

*We look forward to hearing about your feelings and experiences during these times.*

***See page 4 to read about your stories.***

**Exciting News!!**

***We have a new Website!***

[www.sheppartoncatholic.org.au](http://www.sheppartoncatholic.org.au)

*Our new Website is now up and running and we encourage you to visit. There is much information and you can also view the weekly bulletin.*

*You can also google 'St Brendan's Shepparton.'*

*There is a link to our Facebook page — see spiritual and newsy posts from Fr Joe, Kathy Hunt and Anthony Kilmartin.*



*The website is still a 'work in progress.' Take a look and let us know your ideas—we're open to suggestions!*



## BEGINNINGS

Despite the many weeks of worry and social restrictions, we are delighted that as of 11.59pm, Tuesday 12 May 2020, churches in Victoria may now be open in certain circumstances.

"The conditions under which a church can be open include a collection of contact details (for the purposes of contact-tracing if it becomes necessary), strict monitoring of numbers, ongoing hygiene requirements, publicising the scheduled times for private worship, and public worship limited to ten people at a time." (Bishop Shane.)

### ST BRENDAN'S SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY MASSES

- Will resume as of Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at St Brendan's with very limited numbers.
- **According to State regulations only 10 people can attend any given Mass or be present in the church at any given time; this will be strictly adhered to by our parish.**
- To attend one (and only one) of the masses in May please phone the Parish Office, 03 5821 2633, on Monday or Tuesday to register your full name and phone number in order to attend a mass.
- There are 13 daily and weekend masses for you to attend in May.
- We are very conscious that many of our dear parishioners will not be accommodated by these new government regulations so we ask your absolute patience please.
- **Weekday Masses** will be in the Marion Chapel. **Sunday Masses** at the main altar.

### **When you arrive for your designated Mass:**

- There will be someone at the church door to welcome you. You must write your first name and a phone number (government regulations) in the register
- Please sanitize your hands as you enter and exit.
- You must still practice social distancing of 1.5 metres (seats will be marked.)
- You will need to enter and leave the church via the Marion Chapel.
- The church needs to be sanitized between liturgies and private prayer. Because of this the back section of the church will be closed.

### PRIVATE PRAYER TIME IN ST BRENDAN'S CHURCH

"This opportunity for small gatherings and for some quiet moments of prayer in the sacramental presence of Our Lord is a gentle first step in the right direction, and rightly a moment of rejoicing for God's people. We are pleased to work constructively with our communities to make appropriate adjustments. Strict restrictions still govern our actions due to the risks of COVID-19 and we are all being asked to show patience and fortitude." (Bishop Shane.)

- St Brendan's Church will be open from the hours of 7.30 -8.30 am and 4.00 -5.00 pm each weekday for quiet prayer.
- As with Mass, there will be a monitor at the door for supervision.
- Again, only 10 people can enter the church at any given time for private prayer. If you are waiting then perhaps our lovely garden would be a quiet place.
- As you come for personal prayer please be conscious that other people may be waiting to come in.
- You must follow the above mass procedures on entering the church.
- We are asking for some volunteers to monitor the entry/exit of people from the church.
- To view the full documentation, please go to St Brendan's website.

"It is clear that whatever direct participation might be possible in particular parishes, the vast majority of our people will continue to rely on participation via live-streaming – at least until the end of May, when the current restrictions will be reviewed again."

- Bishop Shane

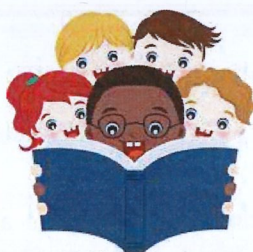


Congratulations Fr Joe  
on your 46th  
Anniversary of Ordination  
Monday 18th May

*May is the month  
of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary*



## Your Stories



Please keep your stories  
coming—we would love to  
hear from you!

If someone had told me in January that by April catching up with friends would involve Skype, I'd be "Zooming" and turning to YouTube to watch our Sunday Mass, I would have been seriously concerned that one of us was losing it! Yet, that is exactly what we have had to do to stay connected. However, I do miss the human touch and can't wait to hug family and friends again.

Having our adult children moving back home, through necessity and for the sake of safety has been wonderful. Within the house our world has been confined to a little bubble. It's not unusual for work meetings to be going on in bedrooms or the kitchen table, and I've only managed to walk in on a live podcast recording once! The house will be very quiet when they leave, but at least my husband and I won't have to hide the chocolate anymore!

Thank goodness for our Sunday Mass being accessible still via the internet. This and the live Facebook reports from our parishes are so important in maintaining the connection to our faith and our community. Yet what joy will fill my heart when we are able to sit in our beloved church, and join together in receiving the sacraments once again.

~ Frances

### Women's Group

Everyone is welcome to join our monthly Women's Group meeting on Zoom on Friday 22 May 2020, 7.00PM.

Topic for discussion Julian of Norwich.  
For information and how to connect please email Bozena on [bozena59@yahoo.com](mailto:bozena59@yahoo.com) or ring 0426 867647.



*St Brendan's  
Feast Day  
Saturday  
16th May*

'Notre Dame College's enrolments for prospective 2021 students are now open. Prospectus, Enrolment Information and Applications for Enrolment are available from Notre Dame College Knight Street Reception or via: <https://www.notredame.vic.edu.au/our-college/enrolment-information>

For further information please email [enrolments@notredame.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@notredame.vic.edu.au) or phone the College on 5822 8400.

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

St. Brendan's is looking at the possibility of starting an ongoing faith formation (Catechesis) program for adults, and we are keen to hear your thoughts.

If you are interested in seeing Catechesis become a regular part of the parish life, we would appreciate it if you would complete our short survey by clicking this link:

<https://forms.gle/9wg7575tCVbKRuNy5>



Dear Monsignors, Fathers and staff members,

I am sure you are aware of the very welcome news that restrictions on our churches will begin to be relaxed from midnight tonight.

In summary, the following will now be permitted in churches or other parish properties:

- Private prayer for up to 10 people (in addition to door attendant)
- Liturgies or prayer groups with up to 10 attendees (in addition to celebrant, ministers, door attendant, etc.)
- Funerals indoors with up to 20 attendees (in addition to celebrant and funeral staff)
- Funerals outdoors with up to 30 attendees (in addition to celebrant and funeral staff)
- Weddings with up to 10 attendees (in addition to bride, groom and celebrant)

In all cases, the following requirements apply:

- Distancing of at least 1.5m between attendees
- Signage at the church door specifying the maximum number permitted at any time, allowing 4 square metres/person
- A register of attendees, including: name, phone number, date & time of attendance
- Reasonable time between events to allow for cleaning
- Cleaning by wiping with disinfectant:
  - Frequently touched surfaces (at least twice/day)
  - Whenever a surface is visibly soiled
  - Immediately after a spill

I have attached relevant parts of the official regulations for your reference. The full document is available on the following website: [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/state-emergency](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/state-emergency)

I am very mindful that opening churches to only 10 people is problematic, especially on Sundays, and I provide the following by way of advice and suggestion:

- The canonical limit of celebrating no more than three masses/day continues to be relevant
- It may be helpful to ask parishioners to book in advance, preferably by a web-based booking service like TryBooking, Eventbrite or Calendly
- Ensuring the contact register, attendance limits and cleaning regime are enforced will require an attendant whenever churches are open; therefore, you should probably advertise particular periods of time when your church will be open, with intervals between for cleaning
- As not every parishioner will be able to be accommodated, we need to continue to be mindful of keeping contact with those who are not physically present

I wish you and your people every blessing as we begin to gather again in person for prayer and worship.

Yours sincerely,

+Shane Mackinlay



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**Subject:**

FW: FRG Ministry update

Hi there

It is a challenging time for many people during the Covid-19 restrictions but hopefully we will all be back at Mass very soon.

Just a quick update on what has been happening at FRG Ministry. You may wish to pass on some details through your Parish networks.

It has been a busy time for all of us at FRG - the outreach across the world has kept Fr Rob in front of the camera recording videos & music, zoom meetings to youth groups and live Mass each week.

The FRG team have been focused on the Stations of the Cross school and Parish resources as well as the new Pentecost video resource currently being distributed. Later this year will see the release of our Encounter school resource.

Despite the circumstances God has provided some amazing opportunities to engage with those seeking to strengthen their faith.

Please check out

[www.youtube.com/frrobgalea](http://www.youtube.com/frrobgalea) for some great new videos ( including a recent ABC Compass documentary on Fr Rob including ACYF 19.

<https://youtu.be/uebcVjpOgf4>

To gain support for FRG Ministry we have also started a Patreon fund. Anyone who may be interested in giving a little to help share the FRG Ministry message of love & hope please go to

[www.patreon.com/frgministry](http://www.patreon.com/frgministry)

May God bless you and your family.

Kind regards

Carol

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