

The Pilgrimage of St Therese and her parents Ss Louis and Zelig Martin
The relics that were to be in Sacred Heart Church in Tatura in April have now been **cancelled**.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE WORKING PARTY UPDATE
School Governance is to change on 31st December this year in all four Victorian Dioceses.
Monthly updates by way of Governance Bulletins with information regarding the work of this significant Diocesan Working Party will be provided throughout the year. You are invited to email any questions or comments that you might have to sgwp@ceosand.catholic.edu.au

Listening Assemblies:
The first of the Listening Assembly consultations for priests, principals and school board representatives will be held on March 17 and 18 in Shepparton. These will focus on five key objectives:
i. Understanding the rationale as to **why** incorporation is occurring in our schools and how, if done well, it can be of great strategic benefit to our children’s education into the future;
ii. Recognising valuable dimensions of our current governance processes at the local parish level that should be captured and inform future models of governance;
iii. Discerning the key ‘Guiding Principles’ with respect to governance structures and processes that should underpin the decision-making process for a new model of Governance;
iv. Identifying some of the major priorities and challenges facing Catholic education in the diocese in the coming decade and beyond; and
v. Briefing participants on the further stages of the Working Party’s project plan.
~ Excerpt from Governance Update Bulletin One

Counselling offered by Estela Hutchings, Psychologist
This service has been cancelled for now.

The bus that was to go to the Chrism Mass on 7th April has been cancelled.

Mass Times in Neighbouring Parishes
St Mel’s, South Shepparton:
St Mary’s, Mooroopna:
St Mary’s, Dookie:
St Bernard’s, Katandra West:
**** All Masses cancelled for now ****

The Journey Catholic Radio Program
Airs 22 March 2020
This week on the Journey, The Gospel reading by Bishop Brian Mascord, reflections on physical and spiritual blindness by Fr Chris Sarkis and Sr Anastasia Reeves, taking us beyond the physical cure to the true & deeper meaning of spiritual sight. Plus, all your favourites and great music! Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email – for free. If you love the show, let your local radio station know that you’d like to hear it broadcast locally each week.

St Brendan’s Debutante Balls POSTPONEMENT
We have re-scheduled our Deb balls until 9th and 23rd October.
Hopefully this will give us enough time to get past the virus situation.
~ St Brendan’s Deb Ball Committee

Project Compassion 2020
Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.
Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.
Let’s Go Further, Together. You can donate through boxes and envelopes by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Prayer for our time . . .
May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country, let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.
Amen.
~ Found on Facebook this week

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.



Fourth Sunday of Lent **22 March 2020**

 <i>Readings for this week:</i>	1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	 <i>Readings for next Sunday:</i>	Ezekiel 37:12-14 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45
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Liturgical Jottings
Gospel Sequence
Each of the three cycles for the Gospels of the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent have their own themes: Year A; Baptismal instruction, Year B on the Death and Resurrection of Christ and Year C: repentance. Year A we read about the Samaritan at the well where Jesus taught about the life giving water; this week about the blind man washing his eyes in the pool, Jesus proclaims: “I am the light of the world.” And next week the Raising of Lazarus to life when Jesus said: “I am the Resurrection”: all instructing us on baptism.

Quote for the Week
We can believe what we choose. We are answerable for what we choose to believe.
St John Henry Newman

Looking at the Readings
Lenten readings are renown for their length. Today we have a good example in the long passage about the cure of the man born blind. The Lectionary offers a shorter version, but it would be more beneficial to choose the longer version. John the Evangelist took great care in writing this passage, we should take great care in reading it. We may reread it a few times because we will discover that it is not just a report of a miracle but a discourse on the coming to faith. We may also read it at different levels and progress with the blind man in understanding the real purpose of the miracle.
On the first level it is an account of giving sight to a man born blind. Restoring sight to one who has lost it is one thing, but to give sight to one who has never had it is quite a different matter, we hear that it was never done before. The account is rather brief, four verse of 41 verses.
On another level are the reactions of bystanders who see the wonderful works of God, the Pharisees, and the “investigators” who question everything: the cure itself, the man and his parents and Jesus himself.
On the deeper level there is the movement from ignorance to knowledge, from darkness to light and from sin to wholeness. For the reader enters the narrative for he/she must answer the question on where they stand in their faith and may recognise Christ as “The Light of the World” (v5).

Pope Francis Message for Lent 2020
It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God’s mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a “face to face” relationship with the crucified and risen Lord “who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God’s love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. (#2)

On the Lighter Side
While other nations mock Australians for their recent buying frenzy, Reasonably minded Australians are also baffled by their friends’ behaviour as illustrated here:
“I’d never been embarrassed to be related to anyone until today when I found out my brother is one of the Australians panic buying toilet paper.”





ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

121 Knight Street, Shepparton

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Website: sheppartoncatholic.org.au Facebook: /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*

Coronavirus

After the recent announcement by the Prime Minister that non-essential indoor gatherings will be limited to 100 people and outdoor events of more than 500 people will be disallowed, effective 18th March, 2020.

The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the following actions:

- Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice.
- All gatherings are suspended. For clarification of any concerns, please contact your local diocesan authority.

In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the Church, through activities such as time in personal prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

~ Excerpt from the Statement made by the Bishops of Victoria 18th March, 2020

The full statement will be included as an insert in this week's bulletin or emailed to those who receive the weekly bulletin by email.

At St Brendan's Parish we are first and foremost concerned with caring for each other and the vulnerable in our community.

In light of these developments we have taken the following steps:

- ♦ **All masses have been suspended for now.**
- ♦ Even though our masses have been cancelled, **the church will be open during the day.**
- ♦ **The weekly bulletin** will be available in the narthex to collect from Friday afternoons and those that receive it by email this will continue as usual. (If you would like the bulletin emailed to you let us know on 5821 2633 or email us).
The bulletin can also be viewed from the Parish website.
- ♦ **All parish groups have been suspended for the time being.**
- ♦ Fr Joe will place a reflection on the parish facebook page each day: www.facebook.com/sheppartoncatholic
- ♦ Check the parish website: www.sheppartoncatholic.org.au
- ♦ Also check the Diocesan website: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au
Mass is to be streamed from the Cathedral in Bendigo.
- ♦ Mass for You at Home: See the next page.
- ♦ **Palm Sunday 5th April: There will be no Masses on Palm Sunday weekend however palms will be blessed and will be available to collect from the church at that time.**

If you feel unwell at all please stay home.

We will remember all our parishioners in our prayers at this trying time. God bless and stay well.

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am

Saturday 8.30am Syro Malabar Rite

Sunday 5.30pm Syro Malabar Rite

Reconciliation — Saturday mornings 9.30am to 10.30am

Holy Hour — Thursdays 7pm to 8pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament — Fridays 3pm to 6pm

The Rosary is recited in the Marian Chapel after Sunday 8am Mass & after each weekday Mass.

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am,

Thursday Ave Maria Village 4.30pm

Recently Deceased: Sr Mary Sebastian.

Anniversaries: Michael Francavilla, Catherine Stein, Peter Murray, Edith Ferrera.

Readers & Commentators

6pm

8am

11am

Office Closure

The Parish office will be closed UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE however communication will continue via phone and email and these will be attended to each day.

We encourage you to please LEAVE YOUR MESSAGE and we will get back to you - Phone 5821 2633.

Fr Joe will be available for emergencies and for anyone who needs to be anointed.

Thanksgiving Program

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

For those who use the envelope (CASH) system, your envelope/s can be dropped into the mail slot next to the parish office at a time convenience to you.

LOOSE MONEY DONATIONS

If you would like to make your usual Sunday donation through LOOSE CASH, this can be put into the "Parish Donations" slot in the narthex (right hand side as you come into the church) **OR** loose cash can be placed into an envelope and put into the mail slot near the office.

Bulletin

The weekly bulletin will be produced each week as normal and emailed to all those on the bulletin email list and some copies will be left in the church on Friday afternoons.

If you would like to receive the bulletin by email please let us know.

If you know of anyone else who may like the bulletin by email please ask them to contact the office.

The bulletin can also be viewed via the Parish website.

Mass for You at Home

Here are some more options for you:

'MASS ON DEMAND' every day from Our Lady of the Way Parish, Nth Sydney & Lavendar Bay Livestream or video archive:

<https://cathnews.com/> (Scroll down) and

Facebook: 'Mass on Demand'.

DAILY TV MASS Livestream or video archive from the National Catholic Broadcasting Council of Canada: <https://dailytvmass.com/> and **Facebook: 'Daily TV Mass'**

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME live streamed at

6.00 am every Sunday on Channel 10:

<https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home?>

Palm Sunday . . . 5th April

Palms will be blessed by Fr Joe and will be available to collect from the church entrances on Palm Sunday weekend.



St Brendan's Parish Sacramental Program 2020 POSTPONEMENT

Due to current circumstances regarding COVID-19, the St Brendan's Parish Sacramental Program has been postponed to a later date. Please hold off on enrolling your children until we can clearly assess when the program will continue. St Brendan's are looking at a few different scenarios on how to deliver the program and will keep you updated on when the program will recommence.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at sacramental.coord@bigpond.com