

## Stories of your time in isolation

**Thanks for sending in your stories—please keep them coming!**

Over the next few weeks we're continuing to print 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.*

**Your Stories**  
Thank you for  
sending in.  
Please keep  
them coming.

More:

I've done more walks with my wife.

I've gardened more and dug holes and planted trees and shrubs with my son.

I've noticed more the change in autumn colours in trees nearby

Missed:

I've missed Friday nights in front of the TV watching the footy.

I've missed seeing people I love, particularly my parents, and giving them a hug.

I've missed celebrating mass as a gathered community ( and I can't wait for a full church at an 11.00am mass in full voice!)

*Peter*

**Have you checked out the new  
Parish Website yet?**

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

There is much information and you can also view  
the weekly bulletin.



Try viewing it from your mobile phone.

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



Still a 'work in progress' so take a look and let us  
know your ideas—we're open to suggestions!

## Caritas Project Compassion

Thank you to all who have given  
so generously.

Total so far \$3170.55.

Last chance for caritas money to  
be dropped into Parish this week.

**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**  
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

## Connecting with one another . . .

Many have observed the dedication with which parishes are responding to present challenges. Creative responses across the Diocese have included new social media pages, websites and webpages, an online youth rally, video messages, email newsletters, online prayer meetings, phone trees, letterbox drops & telephone pastoral care.

~ from the Chancery, Diocese of Sandhurst

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.

## Ascension of the Lord

24 May 2020



Readings for  
this week:

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



Readings for  
next Sunday:

Acts 2:1-11  
1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13  
John 20:19-23



## Entrusting Australia to Mary Help of Christians

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

## Looking at the Readings

Each of the Synoptic Gospels concludes with Jesus' departure from earth and from the company of the Eleven. This year, Year A, Matthew's Gospel does not mention the Ascension. It gives the account of the Apostles last meeting with Christ, his command to preach, teach and baptise and his promise that he will be with them to the end of time. The first reading from Luke's Acts of the Apostles gives us a detailed account of the Ascension of Christ, of Jesus word's to them and their actions at the time of his departure and afterwards.

The Second reading, (Ephesians 1:17-23) provides a deeper insight to the event and mystery of the Ascension. It is St Paul at prayer. While a great missionary in action, he is also a theologian and man of contemplation. He is sharing his hope and trust in his Saviour and his words of praise and blessing with us.

## Galilee

Jesus grew up in Nazareth in Galilee, where he started his ministry (Luke 4:14); his first disciples were Galileans; the women of Galilee were the first witnesses to the empty tomb (Luke 23:55-24:8). The Risen Lord said he will meet the Apostles in Galilee (Matt 28:16, Mark 16:7). At the Ascension the angels addressed them as "You men from Galilee" (Acts 1:11). The Apostles feet were firmly on the ground, their eyes were fixed upward into the sky when Christ was lifted up. The Apostles started in Galilee, the border region to the Gentiles, preached and baptised in every land but remained lifted up in spirit to the heavenly realm. We, too, here on earth have our spirits and hearts lifted up to the Lord.

## Mary Help of Christians

At the videoconference of the Australian Catholic Bishops last week they passed the motion: "That the Australian Bishops entrust Australia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title Our Lady Help of Christians, seeking her intercession for the safety of all our people especially in this time of COVID-19 pandemic." Mary Help of Christians has been the official patroness of Australia since 1844. Her feast day is 24 May. But this year it coincides with the feast of the Ascension and so is transferred to Monday 25 May. See prayer in left column.

## On the Lighter Side

Meeting with my new priest, I asked if I could have vigil prayers and a requiem Mass when I eventually die. "Of course," he said, grabbing his diary. "What date do you want?"



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## ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

121 Knight Street, Shepparton  
Phone: 5821 2633 | Email: shepparton@cdos.org.au  
Website: sheppartoncatholic.org.au Facebook: /sheppartoncatholic

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor  
Priest in Residence: Fr Varghese Vithayathil  
Deacon: Rev Francois Baguma

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

Office Manager: Diane Teitzel

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



### Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Mark & Peter O'Brien, Anne Lowe (nee O'Brien), Angela Maria Sfirro.

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

*Feast of Our Lady Help of  
Christians  
Patron Saint of Australia  
24th May*



*May is the month  
of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary*

### NEW SETS of PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES READY to be DELIVERED

We are currently 6 months in with our NEW STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME (Mission, Ministry, Maintenance) which commenced on 1st December 2019. I have been overwhelmed with the generosity of contributions through planned giving during COVID-19 and thank you sincerely for maintaining your contributions during this time.

As I state on our NEW WEBSITE [sheppartoncatholic.org.au](http://sheppartoncatholic.org.au) we operate with a sense of Mission and Maintenance, continually looking at expanding our vision while maintaining what we have. To this end, I am happy to report that work has *finally* commenced on the church to replace the guttering and downpipes. Weather permitting this should be completed by the end of June.

Our Sunday Liturgies are the centre of our parish and enable us to grow as deeper followers of Christ. I am delighted with the **revised** restrictions with COVID-19 (even though small numbers) as we have been allowed to open the church for just 10 people at a time for weekday and weekend Masses and time for quiet prayer.

**This coming week/early June we have a number of our parishioners who will be delivering the next lot of ENVELOPE PACKS to those on our Planned Giving Programme. I thank these people for their time in assisting the Parish in not only reducing postage costs, but more importantly, by connecting possibly with you in some short small way to say THANK YOU.**

Take care and stay well. With God's blessings  
Fr Joe Taylor

### NEWS!

#### HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND THE WORD OF GOD IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION?

You are now able to access videos of three talks on Scripture in the Catholic Tradition given by Fr Brian Boyle in March 2020 at the Sandhurst Diocese website and Youtube channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCspalz5eJB47CWuu46kvRqw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCspalz5eJB47CWuu46kvRqw)

### 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/XR9HA7xaD1HRdniL6>

***Whilst we are opening our church for prayer and mass in a very limited and controlled way, we also must be very aware that Victoria is still in a state of emergency and that anyone over 70, or those whose health is at risk, are advised to remain home for their safety.***

### 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