

Love is greater than all of this . . .

Your scattered flock
We now may be
You are always our Shepherd
And ever will be.

Come God, touch us now
Apart from us, you will never be
No distance between us, you and me
You embrace us all, help us to see

A poem written for Fr Joe by Rosey Kilmartin

Love is greater than all of this
Make it clear
And in this knowing
Dispel our fear

When all is done, our hope restored
The dove sent forth, on its search
We will worship together again
Your enduring Church.

Welcome to
St Brendan's
Parish

Helping families stay connected

CathFamily has some great information for families with a special section for our current time:
<https://cathfamily.org>

If you have any stories that you would like to share we would love to hear from you — just ring or email the parish.

We welcome back Seminarian, Deacon Francois Baguma, to St Brendan's while he takes a break from the seminary in Carlton where he has been studying.

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 convenient to you.

LOOSE MONEY DONATIONS

If you would like to make your usual Sunday donation through LOOSE CASH, this can be placed into an envelope and put into the mail slot near the office.

Thank you.

Bulletin

For now, the weekly bulletin will be produced as normal (A4 format) and emailed to all those on the bulletin email list.

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.

We pray that you all stay safe and well in these trying times. God bless.

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 6.00am every Sunday on Channel 10:
<https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home?>

Palm Sunday 5th April

Palms will be blessed next Sunday, Palm Sunday, and will be available after midday for everyone from near the front door of the presbytery.

Please be mindful of good hygiene practices when you pick up a palm - just pick up the one on top and please don't handle several!

Recently Deceased: Gwen Farrell.

Anniversaries: Angela Nicolaci.

****Father will pray for any intentions at a Private Mass****

Serra Club

As we will not be meeting this month we ask all our parishioners to keep the priests of our Diocese in their prayers.

We pray for their protection Lord, keep them safe Lord, give them the strength to carry out their duties. We pray that they may be a Beacon of your love for us, and a comfort to those who seek You at this time. We also pray for more vocations to all religious orders. Lord hear our prayer.

The recent talk given by Bishop Shane at Spirituality in the Pub here in Shepparton is now available to read from the Diocesan website under the heading "Monsignor Peter Jeffrey Oration 2020."
<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/1635-monsignor-peter-jeffrey-oration-2020>



ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

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Office Hours:

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



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

Fifth Sunday of Lent

29 March 2020



Readings for this week:

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45



Readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66



Liturgical Jottings "No Public Worship"

This blunt phrase needs teasing out. Individual members of our congregations may worship their God and maintain a sense of community but not gather together as we are accustomed. Christians may continue to read the scriptures, light a candle, say a pray in the family or individually. Catholics may watch Mass on TV and/or online at home. Dioceses and parishes are providing ways for parishioners to stay connected. Parish Sunday bulletins may be posted online, letter dropped and/or placed at the local supermarket community boards and in special pamphlet racks put near the church doors.

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Looking at the Readings

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.
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Good Idea for the Week

Last week some school children made an Easter Prayer box containing cards of a palm, a cross, a flower, Easter candle, image of the Eucharist and baptism, prayer and scripture cards and an Easter egg to celebrate Holy Week and Easter at home.

Pope Francis Message for Lent 2020

Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God's eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will. In this favourable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. Hosea 2:14), so that we can at last hear our Spouse's voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him. (#2)

On the Lighter Side

No sense being pessimistic. It wouldn't work anyway!

