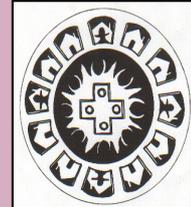




ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

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Christ in community...the heart of our faith

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am,
Thursday Ave Maria Village 4.30pm.
Saturday 8.30am *Syro Malabar Rite*

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm,
Sunday 8am & 11am,
Sunday 5.30pm *Syro Malabar Rite*

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Sunday 10 January 2021



Readings for this week:

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 or 55:1-11
Act 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9
Mark 1:7-11



Readings for next week

1 Samuel 3:3-10,19
1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20
John 1:35-42



Liturgical Jottings

Baptismal Water

During the Pandemic and when Church celebrations of Baptisms were allowed, fresh water was required for each Baptism. This demanded the recitation of a very lengthy blessing prayer. The new Order of Baptism of Children 2020, however contains shorter options with responses by the people. The two paragraphs, here, distinguishes Christ's Baptism from the later Christian Baptisms:

*Blessed are you, God the Holy Spirit, for you anointed Christ at his baptism in the waters of the Jordan, that we might all be baptised into you: **Blessed be God.***

*Sanctify this water you created, that those baptised through it into Christ's Death and Resurrection, may be conformed to the image of your Son: **Hear us, O Lord.***

Focus on the Gospel

Water is a rich symbol. Essential for life, it represents fertility and bounteous prosperity. It possesses the mysterious ability to transform the barren desert into a luxurious carpet of blossoms. It refreshes and nourishes; it is the source of life; it is life itself. Water is also a symbol of the spiritual life. It issues from some hidden wellhead in God, and it gushes forth as a fountain of refreshment and regeneration. The messianic age, a time of well-being and complete fulfilment, is envisioned as a time of feasting on the fruits of a fertile and productive land, a land that resembles a well-watered garden. (First Reading)

The baptism of Jesus was an event that marked him as the Son of God. But how could this be confirmed? Who but God could authenticate such a claim? And God did authenticate it! The heavens were torn apart; the Spirit descended upon Jesus; the voice of God acclaimed him 'Son'. A similar testimony confirms Jesus' divine sonship – the Spirit, the water and the blood. These witnesses now testify to his victory over death and the glory of his resurrected life. By faith we too enter his victory; with him we pass through water and blood; and the testimony of God authenticates our own resurrection life. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a relatively new feast. The accounts of Christ's baptism, however, were included either on the Feast of the Epiphany or a day in its octave. In 1960 it became a feast in the Roman calendar in its own right, the date was determined in 1969 and the choice of Readings expanded in 1981 to include three cycles, but cycle A may be used in any year.

The Work of Christmas

This litany was written by Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. Today we pray for the understanding and the deep peace that comes after all the celebration of the past few weeks have died down. Today we pray for our hearts, that we encase it in what Christmas is all about. If Christmas ended with us– with the physical gifts we received, with the material gifts we gave, then we may have lost the point, then we may have lost it's meaning. Christmas did not end in Bethlehem. It ended in the Cross.

The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Recently Deceased: Fr Frank Hart (brother of Marie Clurey), Sr Margaret Kenny, Anne-Marie Robinson.

Anniversaries: Aldo Landini, Domenico Romeo, Caterina Cucinotta.

Fr DJ Sugitan will be here with us next weekend and will celebrate all masses.

Readers, Commentators and Ushers/Greeters

For the month of January if you intend to be at mass please consider volunteering to be the **reader or commentator**—come a little earlier and see Father when you get to the church.

Also we need helpers as **usher/greeters**—helping people with the QR system or completing the attendance form as they come into the church. If you can help please come about twenty minutes earlier.

If you are able to help with **sanitising** after mass, please see the sacristans after mass.

Thank you all.

St Brendan's Catering Group

(Bereavement Catering Team)

After 15 years of dedicated service to the parish, the catering team are now finishing up.

A huge thank you to all of them, their work included preparing, purchasing, setting up and cleaning up for wakes for funerals and parish functions in the Mons Jeffrey Centre. This could take 3 days each time. In doing this they have also raised much needed funds for the parish.

Thank you all for your generous service.

**THANK
YOU!**

Masses

It is currently not necessary to book for weekend and weekday Mass.

But, but, but . . .

We must record your name & number:

- We have a QR Code that can be used with your smart phone as you come into the church.
- Or you can complete the attendance form with your name and contact number.

***Face masks are required to be worn
whilst inside the church.***

Thank you for your assistance.

Catholic Women's League

Mass to Celebrate 90 years of CWL in Shepparton Thursday 21st January 9.15am

Members and families, old and new, are invited to mass to give thanks for 90 years of the Catholic Women's League in Shepparton. This will be an opportunity for members, past and present, to get together and reminisce. Morning tea will be served in the Mons Jeffrey Centre after Mass.

For enquiries phone Hazel on 0400 214989.



Ashley & Vanessa Madeira

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Shepparton. 5821 0311

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Personalised thorough eye

Examinations

Christmas Collection beneficiaries 2020:

Fr Gerard Kalumba, Uganda \$700;

Fr Godwin Muhangi, Uganda \$700;

Voice for Silent People's Project, Congo \$750.

Thank you all for your generosity.

NEW PARISH PROGRAM 'TO KNOW HIM IS TO LOVE HIM'

St. Brendan's Parish will be beginning a weekly Adult Faith Education program in 2021, where we will provide an opportunity for ongoing faith formation for all parishioners. Led by a local Theology teacher, we will explore what the Catholic faith teaches and why. Each week, we will unpack the teachings of the Church in a clear and approachable way.

The sessions will run on Tuesday evenings, 7:30pm-8:30pm in the Monsignor Peter Jeffrey Centre, beginning on **February 2, 2021.**

All are welcome! For more information, please contact Hayden on 0438 071 630.