

Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter

It went so well and I am very excited. I have such great volunteers who mingled with our guests. 3 out of the 4 of our guests were very friendly and extremely social it was hard to believe they live on the streets. I just wanted to bring them home. They were so grateful, and I hope the 4 of them are on the programme the entire time.

3 of them were 31 ,34 and 45, the other a little older, very willing to tell their story without anyone asking or prompting for any information from any of us.

They didn't want to go to bed and just wanted to stay up and chat. The older gentleman was a little quieter, but was very tired and went to bed reasonably early.

I could do this every day of the week if it made a difference to someone in their lives.

One Volunteer , Brett who just talked and talked to them all evening, and they loved him, said that was just a breeze.

Fr Joe came for tea, which was wonderful, and we had a lovely breakfast.

The Monsignor Peter Jeffrey Centre needed works approval and works completed for (1) of the nights for the Winter Night Shelter Project to be hosted there. We would like to thank Vincent Chriss Architect Shepparton for their (AT NO COST) Site Plan and Location Plans which needed to be submitted to Council. The GSAC waived the Building Permit Application Fee and the Temporary Occupancy Permit also. Firewatch Safety Results Group were commissioned to install (2) smoke alarms, Emergency Light and the Luminaire Exit Sign in the Centre. Whilst the Parish had to pay for the labour costs, the materials were not charged and so we thank Firewatch Safety Results. Also we have had donations of either vouchers, money or product given to us help us. Thank you Kitchen Wise, Iga, the Teller Collective/Fryers St Food Store and In Hospitality and Paddy Kerrins from Bega came over from Tatura with so much product to give us as I couldn't get over there yesterday. He said that's ok I am going to bring it to you. What kindness. There are many more that Kim O'Keeffe has received money from for the running of the programme. Without these people and businesses how would we have programmes like this?

We are indeed very lucky in Greater Shepparton.

~ Jenny Doherty, Volunteer Co-ordinator

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH – BOOK

This is the year of St Joseph, Head and guardian of the Holy Family, and Protector of The Church. In these days when both the family and the Church are under threat we should turn to St Joseph in prayer. To assist us in prayer, and to get to know St Joseph better, a wonderful new highly recommended book by Father Donald Calloway, " CONSECRATION TO SAINT JOSEPH - The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father " is available at a greatly discounted price of \$22 by phoning Sebastian on 0439 847 894.

Spirituality in the Pub

15th June 7.30 – 9pm (meals from 6pm optional). Sr Joan Chittister's virtual event, *The Future of Catholicism in Australia*, held early May, will be screened. For more information, phone: Kerry 0408 579904, Frank 5821 4362 or Fran 0409 012228. **This event is still on.**



Ashley & Vanessa Madeira

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302 Wyndham St Shepparton
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Stronger Tonight – Cancelled Due To Covid Restrictions

The Sandhurst Youth Ministry Team are sorry to announce that the Stronger Rally to be held at Wangaratta on the 18th of June has been cancelled due to the latest Covid restriction rules. We apologise for the inconvenience and would like to thank all those involved in the organisation of this event for your help we hope to catch up with all our Sandhurst Diocese youth soon. Follow Sandhurst Youth and Stronger Youth on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with the latest info.

Continuing the Journey of Discernment to the Plenary Council

The final Diocesan-wide Zoom Discernment Sessions on the 6 thematic papers will take place on **Tuesday 15th June at 7:30pm**.

All are invited to take part in this process of discernment focusing on the Thematic Paper "How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is missionary and evangelising?" Email plenary@sandhurst.catholic.org.au to register and receive the Zoom details.

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.

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

13 June 2021

First Reading Ez 17:22-24

I have made the small tree great.

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar,
from the highest branch I will take a
shoot
and plant it myself on a very high
mountain.
I will plant it on the high mountain of
Israel.
It will sprout branches and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Every kind of bird will live beneath it,
every winged creature rest in the shade
of its branches.
And every tree of the field will learn that
I, the Lord, am the one
who stunts tall trees and makes the low
ones grow,
who withers green trees and makes the
withered green.
I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

Second Reading 2 Cor 5:6-10

Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing the Lord.

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight - we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is a wonderful example of the teaching style of Jesus. It even tells us that 'he would not speak to them except in parables'. Jesus used the parable form almost exclusively to share his message. He used imagery that was familiar to his audience: parables about the everyday life of a rural community: seeds, planting, growing, harvesting. The secret of Jesus' parables, when we understand the cultural context, is that there was always a 'twist in the tale' – what is called a 'discomfounding shift' – that turns the expected outcome of the story on its head.

This is nowhere more evident than in the image of the mustard seed. On the surface the parable is about the kingdom of God starting from very small, humble beginnings and growing into something great. However, immediately prior to this kingdom parable, Jesus has reminded us that the community makes a living out of growing grain crops like wheat for bread, etc. His parable about the mustard seed describes a tiny seed that grows into a great shrub 'so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade'. A farming community that was growing grain crops would be greatly alarmed at the thought of actually attracting birds to their fields or even nearby. Jesus' message about the kingdom of God is that it is actually disruptive and invasive. The kingdom brings unrest and disquiet to the predictable. The kingdom of God is unsettling. This is a much more challenging parable than it appears from a literal reading.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. see v.2

(R.) Lord it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

Gospel Mk 4:26-34

The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

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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

Office Manager: Diane Teitzel

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm

Child Safety Officer: Paul White, phone 0437 290950



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

Recently Deceased: Aileen Keane, the older sister of Msgr Peter Jeffrey, Corvan Townsend (Lorraine Stein's brother).

Anniversaries: Cliff Ash.

PRIESTS' RETREAT

One of the most important weeks of the year for our priests is the annual retreat. We were to go to Carlton Seminary on the 14th June for the week, but now this is not possible. Instead, we will stay in our parishes and participate in our retreat with our daily input online from Fr Mark Freeman, parish priest of Launceston. There will be the usual morning parish mass and we will cover any sick calls, etc, but for the rest of the time we will appreciate quiet time, so unless something is really urgent, please hold it over till Friday afternoon when we finish our retreat. Obviously, our parish office is open and our wonderful staff will help you with your needs. Please keep us all in your prayer.

~ Fr Joe

Office Closure

The Parish office will be closed this Monday 14th June due to the public holiday.

Child Safe Update

The child safe team are: Fr. Joe, Sr. Agnes Murphy, Kathy Hunt, Di Teitzel and Paul White.

Do you ever look around our parish with an eye to safety?

Not just physical safety of power points and steps etc. but with a caring eye for the safety of our children?

Do you ever notice any signs of neglect or abuse?

We can miss indications if we don't every so often practice observing and looking. We want our children to feel safe and loved when they attend our services – it is a whole of parish responsibility not simply that of the Child Safe Team or Parish Pastoral Council.



Readers & Commentators 19th & 20th June, 2021

6pm C Dainton, B Lindsay

8am M Johnson, A Leahy

11am Volunteers required

St Brendan's Parish Debutante Ball

was held on Friday the 21st of May, 2021 at the Sherbourne Terrace and was a fantastic night for all involved. Everyone looked lovely, dancing gracefully into the night.

The Debutantes presented included:

Macy Taylor partnered by Aston Sloper, Natalie Barbaty partnered by Jamie Bedwell, Brodie Wileman partnered by Brady Wileman, Talia Caldwell partnered by Kane Andrews, Crystelle Gundrill partnered by Declan Pillingham, Gabby Sanders partnered by Cameron Exton, Hannah Freeman partnered by Lachlan Ludeman, Sarah Tolliday partnered by Xavier Scott, Danielle Tolliday partnered by Jack Hooper, Beatrice Woods partnered by Jack McDonald and Alex Marshall partnered by Agamm Singh.

A huge thank you to all those involved in making this very special night possible for all the debutants, to the Deb Committee, Kathy Hunt, John Cortese and Father Joe Taylor for all their kind words and honouring the debas with being able to be presented to them. To Bruce the dance instructor, for all his patience and wisdom over the training period. To Mary-Ann Barton for helping to keep all Debutants organised and in line, as well as a wonderful MC job on the night. Finally, to Maree Curtis-Geisler, for the amazing chaperone job and all her encouragement and chocolates she provided to all debutants.

A beautiful experience that will never be forgotten!



Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am

Saturday 8.30am *Syro Malabar Rite*, Sunday 5.30pm *Syro Malabar Rite*

Rosary—The Rosary is prayed in the Marian Chapel after weekday mass.

Holy Hour—Thursdays 7pm to 8pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament—Fridays 5pm to 6pm

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation Saturday 10am to 10.30am (in the Church)

Mass Bookings — New limit 75

St Brendan's Church & Parish Office are open but with restrictions and limitations.

We are using TRY BOOKING to book in for weekend Mass (not necessary for weekdays).

Please use the link below to access TryBooking.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BRXTH> (Bookings close 2pm Friday)

If you have any difficulties or cannot book yourself please phone the parish office for assistance.

Anointing Mass

There will be an Anointing Mass in the church on Wednesday 30th June at 11am

Save the Date Shepparton Interchurch Council Ecumenical Service

Sunday 25th July at 5pm at the Uniting Church.

ST SEBASTIAN'S MERRIGUM REUNION

On **Sunday, 27th June 2021** all Merrigum ex-parishioners are invited to celebrate Mass at St Sebastian's Church, Merrigum at 11.30am.

Following Mass, there will be a luncheon at the Kyabram Club beginning at 1.00pm.

If you require further information or would like to attend the luncheon, please contact Joe Chant on 0428 552 466 by Wednesday 23rd June 2021.

We are very grateful to the Deb Ball Committee

who this year hosted 2 (two) Deb Balls – one in March and one in May.

A total of \$4,000 was donated to the Parish. A lot of work goes into these nights and from all reports, they were a success and enjoyed by many.

Women's Group

Women's Group gathering will be held next **Friday 18th of June 7.00PM**

in the Parklake,

481 Wyndham St, Shepparton.

Please come and spend time in the friendly atmosphere.

The following meeting will be on the 16th of July 2021. Please mark it in your calendar.

Anyone new to the parish are most welcomed.

RSVP bozena59@yahoo.com

Something to think and pray about this week

How can we pray in a time of Covid-19? In times when we push up against our limits, we are tempted to take the path of denial and numbness, with our heads in the sand and our eyes closed. But prayers that come from that space will be hollow and meaningless. Or we may want to turn to prayer as a kind of magic to find the incantations that will make God do something or change the world. But that makes both God and prayer too small. It denies God's freedom and it refuses the gift that God is offering us in this strange space. However when we recognize that our prayer is itself a part of the journey, when we except the invitation of these psalms to bring our deepest fears, angers, and doubts in to prayer, we open ourselves to the God who can lead us through this strange terrain. With the spirits help we learn to sing Gods song in a foreign land.

Maynooth College reflects on Covid -19.New realities in uncertain times. Sacred space 2021.