



# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

121 Knight Street, Shepparton

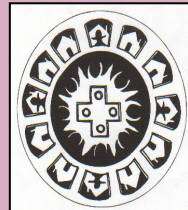
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Mon & Tue 9am - 3pm | Wed - Fri, 9am - 4pm



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

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

16 August 2020



*Readings for  
this week:*

Isaiah 56:1,6-7  
Romans 11:13-15,29-32  
Matthew 15:21-28



*Readings for  
next Sunday:*

Isaiah 22:19-23  
Romans 11:33-36  
Matthew 16:13-20



## Liturgical Jottings

### Rite of Infant Baptism

A new English translation of the Rite of Infant Baptism has been published in Australia. As well as new translation of texts the "Order of Baptism of Children" contains more options for the blessing of water - with people's acclamations, blessings of parents and other times for acclamations by the people. The order contains a new chapter for baptism during the Mass. The "Ephphatha" Prayer now reads:

*May the Lord Jesus, who made the deaf to hear and the mute to speak, grant that you may soon receive his word with your ears and profess the faith with your lips, to the glory and praise of God the Father. All: Amen.*

## Looking at the Readings

From the time of Isaiah in the First Reading to the time of Christ in the Gospel and in the days of Paul's epistles and preaching during his years of mission the question about foreigners, gentiles and pagans has occupied the minds of God's prophets and Christ's disciples. Isaiah cites God's promise to foreigners that they will come to his house (56:8-9), Paul reminds his own people that he is an apostle to the Gentiles. Yet God's people forget, don't make the connection when it matters. Jesus tests his own apostles when the Canaanite woman asks for a miracle. Are they going to remember the prophets and Christ own inclusive ministry with Samaritans, Gadarenes and Romans? Jesus praises the faith of the Canaanite and heals her daughter.

"The number of times Jesus and the apostles minister to the Gentiles are too numerous to need quotations." (J L Mackenzie, Dictionary of the Bible). Yet the first disciples, the early Christians, the Medieval Church and ourselves in present times must relearn this lesson given in Phoenicia (now modern day Lebanon) and apply it to the "foreigner, the outcast, the stranger, the marginalised and the discriminated". "O God, let all the nations praise you." (Ps 67:4-5)

## Church Closure - stage 3 restrictions now in force

Churches must be **closed** to members of the public for liturgies and for private worship. Visiting a church is not a permitted reason for leaving home.

There are some limited exceptions, with continuing requirements for face coverings, cleaning and recording contact details of attendees:

- **Funerals** may be celebrated with a maximum of 10 attendees (in addition to the celebrant and funeral staff).
- **Weddings** may be celebrated with 5 people in total: bride & groom, celebrant, 2 witnesses.

Liturgies that are recorded for broadcast may be attended by those who are necessary for celebrating the liturgy and broadcasting it, up to a maximum of 5 people. The 10am Mass at St Kilian's will continue to be live-streamed.

~ Excerpt of letter from Bishop Shane 6th August, 2020

**Face coverings must be worn in all parish buildings and grounds.**

Feast of the Assumption of  
Our Lady  
Saturday 15th August



The Assumption refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary being assumed — body and soul — into heaven at the end of her earthly life. "Assumption" is different than "ascension" because one is passive (i.e. one is assumed) and the other is active (i.e. one ascends). It is by the power of God Mary was assumed.

Around the world the number of cities (large and small) that host processions or parades for the Feast of the Assumption is staggering. Our Lady is loved and celebrated in every corner of every continent on the planet! Processions range from small and solemn to large and boisterous.

In Europe and throughout the world, it was (and is still) traditional to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption by bringing the summer harvest to be blessed. The first fruits — herbs, tomatoes, summer squash, etc. — are often associated with the Feast of the Assumption both because of the time of year and because Mary was the first believer in Jesus to experience the promised resurrection. She is the first fruit of a great coming harvest.

~ By Caitlin Kennell Kim [www.bustedhalo.com](http://www.bustedhalo.com)

**Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversaries:** Bon Kilmartin, Fr John Leahy, Rosario Lagudi, Leo O'Brien, Christine Fenn, Rose Clurey, Eliza Dunne.

**The Pastoral View**

The present moment I find myself more and more feeling grateful for the gift of each and every moment of each and every day. As we digest more of the impacts of the past week on our lives, I find the only way for me to not fall into despair is to try and leave the past where it is, gone, done and dusted. The future is a blur of maybes. I look to the now, and the day is manageable. This is very difficult as our news feeds are full of what has happened during the day, and what tomorrow may look like.

Our faith asks to be present to our God and the prompting of the Holy Spirit, this is best done by being in the present moment. The Holy Spirit is truly present in the present moment, it can't be in the future because that has not come about. It might have been in the past but that has now gone. God invites us to the now.

God continually renews and regenerates us if we can be open to this great gift. "The world is full of the Grandeur of God" is a great poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, it speaks of the mess our world can seem like at times, but that God's spirit hovers over us, longing to give us hope and to shine a light in to the dark places of our life, my prayer is for the gift to see and feel God's presence in the now.

~ Anthony Kilmartin, Pastoral Associate

**God's Grandeur**

*Gerard Manley Hopkins 1844-1889*

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs--

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

*This poem is in the public domain.*



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Examinations

**Women's Group** gathering will be held on  
**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 7.00pm** via ZOOM.

Our Guest Speaker, Janelle Atkinson, is going to talk about  
"The Situation for Aboriginal People Today."

For details contact: [bozena59@yahoo.com](mailto:bozena59@yahoo.com) or  
phone 0426 867647.



**A Joke to Celebrate Left-Handers Day**

How did you celebrate LEFT-HANDERS' DAY on the 13th? Is it a disability? It definitely feels like it when we look so awkward and clumsy because we are forced to use right-handed tools and equipment, e.g. can-openers and ring-binders which are completely back-to-front for us. After finding this anonymous quote, I am not sure that we should consider it a disability: "God made everyone right-handed; the truly gifted overcome it!".

~ The Sandhurst Disability Contact Coordinator.