



ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Parish Priest: Fr. Joseph Taylor

Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Galea

Weekend Mass times: Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 8am and 11am

Weekday Mass times: Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation: Saturday mornings 9.30am to 10.30am and before 9.15am weekday Masses

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am to 4pm (Closed Mondays & Public Holidays)



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Sunday 11 January 2015



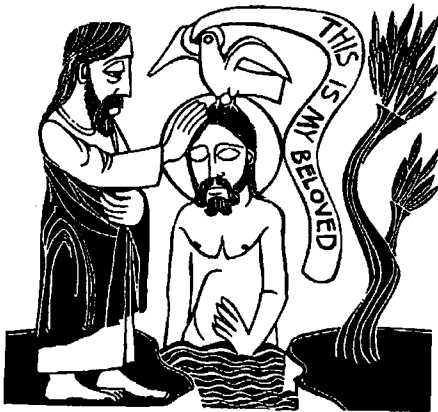
Readings for this week:

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

The Day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord starts the Season of Ordinary Time, week one. There is no Sunday week one. Through the Yearly Cycle, the Church unfolds the entire mystery of Christ and keeps the anniversaries of the saints. Ordinary Time is devoted to celebrating the mystery of Christ in all its aspects.



Prayer for the week

From Tropaires Cistercienne

We become children of God now, the heavens are opened.
Jesus, the beloved Son, the love of the father dwells in you.
For you, I consecrate myself, you will be consecrated in truth.
Jesus, the beloved Son, the love of the father dwells in you.
The father has given me a glorious name and I call you my friends.
Jesus, the beloved Son, the love of the father dwells in you.
I will be with you to the end of time be my witnesses over all the earth.
Jesus, the beloved Son, the love of the father dwells in you.

Focus on the Gospel

The baptism of Jesus in the gospel of Mark serves as a revelation of the identity of Jesus. Throughout this gospel there is secrecy about who Jesus really is. Whenever a person's faith reveals that Jesus is the Messiah or the Son of God, Jesus commands them to remain silent and not tell anyone else about him. However, through the baptism event, the reader is let in to the secret from the outset. In the gospel of Mark, the voice is addressed to Jesus himself and there is no indication that anyone else hears it. The words used are, 'You are my Son' not, 'This is my Son.' But the reader is placed in the privileged position of knowing the truth about Jesus from the very beginning of the gospel. As they read further, they observe the disciples' growing yet imperfect understanding of this truth.

John the Baptist serves another particular function in the gospel story. In many ways, John represents the Jewish religious belief of the time. For John, baptism is a ritual of purifying and forgiveness of sin that can be administered as often as required. The way to God is through strict observance of the Law and through ritual acts of prayer and purification. For Jesus though, the way to God is through love and through Jesus himself. The baptism that Jesus will give is a baptism of the Spirit – pouring out the Spirit on those who realise and accept the love of God in their lives.

Text of the Week

Thus says the Lord: "Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do." *Isaiah 55:10-11 Alt first reading.*

Fact of Faith

In the first 500 years of the church, baptismal fonts were often pools in the baptistery floor were the catechumens descended three steps down, "plunged" into water and then ascended three steps on the other side out of the water, symbolising entering the tomb and of death and rising to new life with Christ.

On the Lighter Side

After Mass a woman greeted the priest, "Father, that was a very good homily." He replied: "Oh, I have to give the credit to the Holy Spirit." She said: "It wasn't that good!"



Welcome to St Brendan's Parish



"Young people want to live life to the fullest. Encountering Christ, letting themselves be caught up in and guided by his love, enlarges the horizons of existence, gives it a firm hope which will not disappoint. Faith is no refuge for the fainthearted, but something which enhances our lives. It makes us aware of a magnificent calling, the vocation to love. It assures us that this love is trustworthy and worth embracing, for it is based on God's faithfulness which is stronger than our every weakness."

~ Pope Francis, *Lumen Fidei*, paragraph 53

As many of you may be aware of by now there was the unfortunate incident of a person seeking to do damage to St Brendan's Church.

Parishioners who saw the result of this on Wednesday morning were justifiably upset. The mess has been cleaned up, the police have been informed and the police have the matter in hand. Please pray for the perpetrator/s, that they too may find peace in their hearts and lives.

Church Money Counters

The new roster will be completed Monday 19th January. If you are unable to continue on the roster or alternatively you wish to help with this ministry, please contact the Parish office. If your counting group does not have sufficient numbers, please let the Parish office know on 5821 2633.



Lost & Found We have a number of items that have been found in the Church recently, particularly glasses. If you've lost yours, you can collect them from the office.

Rosters for Lectors, Offertory & Ministers of Communion

The next roster period, 1st March to 28th June, 2015 is to be prepared very soon. If you know you will be unavailable during these dates, please advise the Parish office by Friday 16th January.

Recently Deceased: Renzo Piroli, Ron Hovey (Geelong)
Anniversaries: Fr Patrick Farrell, Caterina Cucinotta, Carmel Lewis, Carmela Romeo, Lucia Rossi, Piero Rossi, Lucia Rossi.

Holy Hour

Thursdays 7pm to 8pm
Lectors & Commentators 17th & 18th January
6pm S Pivac, M Frizzell
8am I Garla, A Ferguson
11am A Madeira, V Fox

Colouring Sheets for young children

These are located on the clipboards at both entrances. Parents are encouraged to take time to discuss the colouring sheet with their young children and perhaps display them or make a booklet to share with your child. They follow the story of Christ's birth, the Holy Family and the Baptism of Jesus.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will not be held over the school holidays and will resume when school begins.

For the month of January, the weekend bulletin will be produced in this smaller one page A4 version.