



ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Parish Priest: Fr. Joseph Taylor

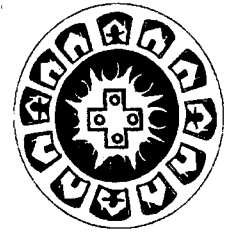
Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Galea

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

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday 4 January 2015



Readings for this week:

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12



Readings for next 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



Liturgical Jottings

After the annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first manifestations, and this takes place in Christmas Time. Christmas Time runs from Evening Prayer I (Eve) of the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany or after January 6. It includes the feast of Christmas, Holy Family, Mary Mother of God (New Year's Day), Epiphany and concludes with the Baptism of the Lord.



Prayer for the week

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate.

Prayer after Communion.

Focus on the Gospel

The gospel according to Matthew does not relate the birth of Christ. It moves immediately from the annunciation to Joseph (unlike Luke's annunciation to Mary) to the visit of the wise men at Bethlehem. This gospel passage is rich with images each with reference from the Hebrew scriptures. Bethlehem (Micah 5:1), adoration of the magi (Micah 5:3), the flight into Egypt (Hosea 11:1), the slaughter of the innocents (Jeremiah 31:15) and the return to Nazareth (possibly Judges 13:5-7). The gifts themselves are symbols of kingship (gold), divinity (frankincense) and humanity/passion (myrrh).

The liturgy proclaims that the Epiphany happens today. The event related in the Gospel makes part of the history of salvation that transcends time and place. God holds the initiative and is the unseen main actor. The liturgy re-presents, that is, makes the hidden realities present and active today. Christ is the Light to the nations, his power - grace - comes to us now (see quotes below).

St Paul is clearly conscious of the mystery of the Epiphany: The mystery of Christ is made known (revealed - "an epiphany") to the nations by the Spirit. All become his heirs and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (second reading).

Quotes of the Week

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion. (*Entrance Antiphon*)

God revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. ... (*Collect of the Mass*)

... These gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. (*Prayer over the Offerings*)

On the Lighter Side

In a small US Southern town square a nativity scene had the three wise men wearing firemen's helmets. A Northern visitor asked in the local store about the helmets. She yelled "You dumb Yankees never read the Bible!" and ruffling through the pages of the bible she jabbed her finger at a passage. "See, it says right here, 'The wise men came from afar'."



Welcome to St Brendan's Parish

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power."

With these words the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent.

Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. — *Pius Parsch*

www.catholicculture.org



Fr Rob

As we celebrate our official farewell for Fr Rob this weekend we give thanks to God for his presence amongst us for these last 4 years. We thank God for his generosity of spirit; for his pastoral work, for his great initiatives, and for the inspiring gift of music that lifts our spirits. We recognize his outreach to so many, not just to us here in Shepparton, but also for the rest of the diocese and the world.

We ask God's blessings upon him as he moves to St Kilian's Parish in Bendigo. We promise that we will continue to pray for him as he moves to a new parish.

Perhaps it is a good time for us to reflect on this passage of scripture from Romans 10:14 – 15:

"They will not ask his help unless they believe in him, and they will not believe in him unless they have heard of him, and they will not hear of him unless they get a preacher, and they will never have a preacher unless one is sent."

May God continue to bless you Fr Rob.

Heavenly Father, At the commencement of this new year

We praise you and thank you for the gift of life
And for the opportunity of growth awaiting us.

We thank you for love—the love and concern of our families and our friends.

We ask you to bless each of us for the year ahead.
Help us to grow in faith, in goodness and in generosity.
Create in us a capacity for giving that will make us worthy to be called Christian.

Keep us strong and steadfast in the face of temptation.

Let your wisdom be our guide.

May each of us be a messenger of peace, of truth and of joy.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*~ From 'Prayers at your Fingertips'
by Barbara Bretherton*



Farewell Fr Rob

Farewell Mass 11am followed by picnic on the Parish lawns. BYO picnic lunch, rugs, chairs.

Tea, coffee, water provided. All welcome.



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

Gluten Free Hosts If you would like to receive Holy Communion but have trouble with coeliac or food intolerances, we have a supply of gluten free hosts. Please see Father before Mass so a pix can be arranged for you.

Recently Deceased: Margo Seymour, Rose Marie Peel.

Anniversaries: Maureen Bell (Pearce), Frank Corboy, Barry Arthur, Ray Cram.

Holy Hour

Thursdays 7pm to 8pm (Resumes 8th January, 2015)

Lectors & Commentators 10th & 11th January

6pm B Carey, G Jelliff

8am A Leahy, J Howley

11am JM Mupenda, K Demase

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.

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.

GPBS provides Catholic communities with online resources and a variety of workshops, retreats and inservices for enhancing Mission and Ministry. You can subscribe to the free weekly Parables eNews—you may find it a valuable resource for Ministry. Each edition provides links to resources that will enhance the prayer, ritual and liturgical life of the Parish community.

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