



WELCOME TO ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Parish Priest: *Fr. Joseph Taylor*

Assistant Priest: *Fr. Robert Galea*



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

Sunday 21 December 2014



Readings for this week:

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
Romans 16:25-17
Luke 1:26-38



Readings for next Sunday:

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8, 11-2,17-19
Luke 2:22-40



Liturgical Jottings

When the choir of angels appeared to the shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus they sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to all who enjoy his favour." We sing this acclamation, in a modified form, to commence the Gloria on all the Sundays of the year except for those in Advent and Lent. On Christmas Day and the following Sundays we will welcome the return of these words which express our faith so deeply.

Advent Prayer

Loving Father, as the feast day of the Birth of Jesus is now only a few days away, we pray that we may press forward all the more thoughtfully to the joyous celebration of the nativity of your Son. His coming to your creation and your people is something we wish to respond to with heartfelt faith and love. Amen.

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Looking at the Readings

The reading today from the Gospel according to Luke tells the story of the Annunciation. It begins with the words, "The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth." From that moment this small, insignificant town on the edge of the Roman Empire became a significant site in the unfolding of the story of salvation.

On arrival the angel greeted Mary with the words, "Rejoice so highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Not surprisingly Mary wondered what this could possibly mean. She had probably never thought of herself as being in any way different from the other young people in her home town.

The angel then briefly explains to her that she will conceive and bear a son whom she is to name Jesus. He will also be called the Son of the Most High. Mary is even more deeply puzzled by how this can possibly happen because she is a virgin.

Again the angel has an answer; but it is one that draws Mary even more deeply into the unfolding of the mystery of salvation. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the most high will cover you with its shadow and so your son will be holy and will become the Son of God."

To this Mary answered, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me." These inspiring words of consent to the will of God for her brings the time of preparation for the long awaited Messiah to an end. God's own Son, the Messiah, has been with us from the time Mary conceived.

Those words of Mary, spoken so long ago in a culture very different from our own, still touch each and every one of us personally. Her acceptance of God's will for her in so far as she understood it is an example to every person of faith. More than that. It is our point of entry into the all embracing grace of salvation.

Quotable Quote

God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is his love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice.
Pope Francis

On the Lighter Side

A surprising thing about Christmas is that it comes every year just when the shops are so crowded and everyone seems to be in a hurry.



Notices



Christmas in the Parish and Community

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.

"Daily Mass Books" are now available and can be purchased from the Piety Stall at a cost of \$20. Please place money in envelope and place in the mail slot at the parish office (left side of the office door).

For **Christmas Mass times** in other parishes, check the Diocesan website www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au and click on "Parishes"

Communion Procession Safety

Due to a parishioner experiencing a heavy fall last week I am asking you not to change lines when receiving Holy Communion. It is not appropriate, is not treating Ministers of Communion with respect and has a dangerous aspect to it.

Also, when receiving Communion, the correct reverence is to bow to the Blessed Sacrament, not to genuflect. Please do not genuflect as it endangers the safety of other parishioners.

~ Fr Joe



New Years Eve—All Night Adoration

St. John the Baptist Church, Tocumwal Rd, Numurkah
Wednesday 31st December. All night Adoration commencing with Mass at 7.30pm, Rosary by the Hour
Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3am

Concluding with Benediction & Mass 9.15am on New Year's Day. For information contact Alfred Seiter 58621740.

Kimberley Catholic Volunteer Service

WANTED: VOLUNTEER WORKERS

The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church on Aboriginal Missions. There are various important voluntary tasks: administration, building maintenance, gardening, shop staffing, cooking, cleaning etc. Placements are preferred for a period of 6 months plus.

For further details, and an application form, please contact:

Volunteer Coordinator Anneliese Rohr: 08 9192 1060

Email: volunteers@broome-diocese.org

Web: www.broome-diocese.org

Mail: **PO Box 76, BROOME WA 6725**

Christmas Cards and cards for all occasions are available at the piety stall as well as some beautiful gifts just in time for Christmas (west side entrance).

We have **Columban Calendars** for 2015 available in the piety stall in the side porch for \$9. They have beautiful art work and make a great gift! Grab your calendar now. (Please place money in an envelope provided and place in the mail slot in the parish office)

Pathways of St Paul Join parishioners from Holy Innocents on a 20 day Pilgrimage to Greece & Turkey departing Monday 20th April 2015. walk in the footsteps of St Paul. Also visit island of Patmos where St Paul wrote the book of Revelation, Basilica of St John. For information, itinerary & booking form contact Fr Peter Krigovsky 02 9747 4291 or email admin@holyc.org.au or download from www.holyinnocentscroydon.org.au/news-and-events/parish-pilgrimage

2014 Christmas Collections

All the Christmas Mass collections are distributed to the following:

- ◇ Monsignor Gerard Kalumba—for the needs of his parishioners at Kampala, Uganda.
- ◇ Fr Godwin Muhangi—for his boarding school in Uganda.
- ◇ Fr Joseph Bigiwa—for the Minor Seminary, Hoima, Uganda.
- ◇ St Brendan's Parish Youth Ministry

Reconciliation

The 1st Rite of Reconciliation will be available 5pm to 6pm Tuesday December 23rd in the Church.

Bishop Les' Christmas Message

Bishop Les' Christmas message for 2014 was recently recorded at St. Mary's church in Axedale. It can be accessed from the front page of the Diocesan website: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION CHRISTMAS MASSES

If you are attending any of the Christmas Masses at St Brendan's, please volunteer to assist with Communion. **Re: Christmas Eve Stadium Mass.** Would volunteer Ministers of Communion please see co-ordinator, Judy Robinson, on arrival and you will be allocated a position. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

~ Loretta

Accommodation Required Looking for share accommodation for a young lady starting work early in January. If you can help, please call Jana on 0425 826860 or 9803 7607.

The Journey Catholic/Christian Radio Program

Right through the Summer Holiday Period, "The Journey Summer Series" will run weekly. It is a "Best of the Journey" program with all of the best inputs and interviews with Sr Hilda Scott, Dr Francine and Byron Pirola, Bruce Downes - The Catholic Guy, Trish McCarthy, Peter Gilmore, Sam Clear and Fr Dave Callaghan. Tune into LIFE 105.1 FM Saturday 4pm or listen in via podcast anytime at www.radio.dow.org.au

Christmas Lunch for Those Alone

Free Christmas Day Lunch is for anyone in the Community who is alone or unable to have Christmas meal with family or friends. December 25th, 11am to 2pm
NEW VENUE The McIntosh Centre, Shepparton Show Grounds, corner of High and Thompson Streets.
If transport is required, please call 0437 387 584.
For volunteering or transport please call 0437 387 584
For general information please call 5831 1485.

Colouring Sheets for young children

We teach our children that Advent is about preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Therefore our colouring sheets during Advent are about the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. 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.

This week's is about the Angels visit to the Shepherds.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve in Mercy Stadium,
Skene Street, Shepparton
Carols 6.30 Mass 7.30pm
Midnight Mass Carols 11pm
followed by Mass at 12am Midnight
Christmas Day 8am and 11am
(Please note: there will be no 9.15am
morning Mass Thursday, Christmas Day or
Friday, Boxing Day, 26th December)



**May the Spirit which
sanctified Mary make
our gifts holy.**

More Advent Resources 2014 - online access

Simply Advent—Simple Prayers, prayer
Bowl <http://>

deepeningfriendship.loyolapress.com/2014/12/01/simple-prayers-prayer-bowl/

Arts and Faith—Imaginative Prayer
Exercises for Sundays of Advent

(Ignatian Spirituality <http://>

www.ignatianspirituality.com/2009/arts-faith-advent-first-Sunday-imaginative-prayer-exercise-2/

Advent

Along the Track

Family get-togethers can be wonderful—Christmas brings people together. It can be one of the great blessings of this season. Then there are the many who live alone and feel that everyone is having a wonderful time and they are left out. Loneliness is a terrible curse. Christmas as it finds expression in our homes and families can be a season of celebration, of joy and community. How will our faith find expression in how we approach Christmas this year, in our celebrations, in our gathering, in how we recall the events which are the origin of this day? How do we celebrate its real meaning, that Christmas is essentially a religious celebration. We are celebrating the time when Jesus became one of us, that God loved the world so much that God became one of us in Jesus.

How will we put Christ into our Christmas this year?

~ Along the Track 'Xmas or Christmas?'

by Jim Quillinan 2 December, 2014



Mary

Fr Rob's Farewell Sunday 4th January

Farewell Mass 11am followed by picnic
on the Parish lawns to farewell Fr. Rob.

BYO picnic lunch, rugs and chairs.

Tea, coffee, water provided. A collection for Fr Rob will be held at all Masses this weekend or you can drop off a donation at the presbytery.

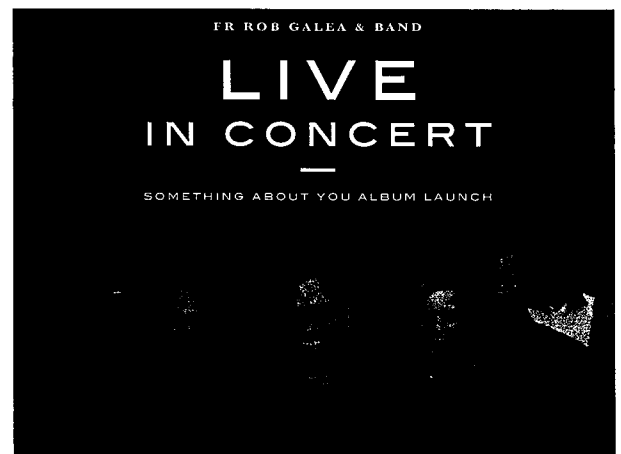


Fr Rob's FAREWELL CONCERT & CD LAUNCH Thursday 22nd January 2015 at Eastbank

Tickets available at the Parish office.

Also available from Riverlinks, Radiant Star Book Shop and Notre Dame College. \$22 or \$18 concession. Also featuring Gary Pinto, from X Factor, Natasha Pinto, recording artist and Genevieve Bryant, Christian artist.

CD's available at the Parish office for
\$20. Makes a great Christmas gift!



22.01.2015

EASTBANK CENTRE, SHEPPARTON, VICTORIA. 8PM.

FEATURING



NATASHA PINTO
RECORDING ARTIST

GARY PINTO
SINGING ARTIST

GENEVIEVE BRYANT
CHRISTIAN ARTIST

ILLUSTRATION BY: RIVERLINKS
SHEPPARTON BOOKSHOP & RIVERLINKS VICTORIA
BY: SHEPPARTON PARISH OFFICE - 400/401 ST. MARY'S ST.
NOTRE DAME COLLEGE FRONT OFFICE - 40/41 ST. MARY'S ST.
RADIANT STAR BOOKSHOP - FRANKS ST. SHEPPARTON

#FRROBGALEA
FRROBGALEA.COM

Parish Office Hours Phone 5821 2633
Tuesday to Friday 9am -4pm (Closed Mondays & Public Hols)

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 8am and 11am

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am
Thursday at Ave Maria 4.30pm

Other Mass Times

Mass of Anointing, Wednesday preceding the first Friday of each month 11am **not in January, next Mass 4th February.

Mass at Tarcoola, second Wednesday of each month 10.30am
**not in January, next Mass at Tarcoola 11th February.

Syro Malabar Mass, third Sunday of each month 5pm

Reconciliation

1st Rite 5-6pm Tuesday December 23
Saturday mornings 9.30am-10.30am
Before 9.15am weekday masses

Holy Hour Thursdays 7pm to 8pm until 18th December
then resumes on 8th January, 2015

Eucharistic Adoration Fridays 3pm to 6pm until 19th
December then resumes on 6th February, 2015

Children's Liturgy of the Word 11am Mass during term
Sacraments

Baptism, 4th Sunday of each month except December which is
the 3rd Sunday.

For information and bookings Contact the Parish Office.

First Eucharist and Confirmation, contact the Parish office.

Weddings, for information/bookings contact the Parish office.

Parish Schools

St Brendan's Primary School 5821 1926
St Luke's Primary School 5822 1834
Notre Dame College 5822 8400

Regular Meetings

Altar Society - Morning coffee & get together 1st Friday monthly

Catholic Women's League (CWL) - 2nd Thursday monthly
1pm, Parish Centre **not in January

Charismatic Prayer Group - Tuesdays 7.30pm, Parish Centre
**in recess until 27th January, 2015.

Faith and Light Community - 1st Sunday monthly
**not in January

Friendship Group - Last Sunday monthly for lunch, 12.30pm
**next lunch to be on 25th January, 2015.

Garabandal - 3rd Monday monthly 1.30pm, Parish centre
**in recess until 16th February, 2015.

Gospel Discussion Group - 2nd & 4th Monday monthly at
1.30pm in the Parish centre (small meeting room)
**in recess until 9th February, 2015.

Mens Group - Saturday fortnightly 7.30am in the Parish
centre. Contact the Parish office.

Serra Club - 1st Friday monthly 7pm, Church & Parish Centre
Society of St. Vincent de Paul (St. Brendan's Conference) -
2nd Thursday monthly **not in January.

Lectors & Commentators 27th & 28th December

6pm JM Mupenda, K Demase

8am B Carey, G Jelliff

11am A Leahy, J Howley



RECENTLY DECEASED: Angus Sinclair,
Pat Williams, Simon Furphy, Leonardo Longo,
Elizabeth (Margot) Langenbacher, June Power.
ANNIVERSARIES: Pellegrino & Vittoria Meola,
Lucia Villani, Jacinta James, Rosa Messina, Alice Stein,
Alan Appleton.

REFLECTION

Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you.

Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

*~ Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated life and
Vocations
www.usccb.org/cclv www.usccb.org*



**You are my God,
the rock who
saves me.**

Mass times in neighbouring Parishes

St. Mel's Shepparton South, Sunday 9.00am & 5.30pm,
Monday 7am, Tuesday 6pm, Wednesday No Mass, Thursday 9am,
Friday 9.15am, 1st Friday Devotions Holy Hour 5pm Mass 6pm,
Saturday 9.00am, 1st Saturday 9am followed by Devotions.
Reconciliation, Saturday morning after 9am Mass.
St. Mary's Dookie, 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays 9.30am
St. Bernard's Katandra West, 2nd Sunday 9.30am
St. Mary's Mooroopna, Saturday 6.30pm Vigil Mass,
Sunday 10.00am Mass, Monday No Mass,
Tuesday 5pm Adoration, 5.40pm Rosary, 6pm Mass,
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8.40am Rosary, 9.15am Mass.
Saturday 9.30 - 10.30am Reconciliation.
St. Joseph's Undera, Sunday 8.45am