



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

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B

Sunday 14 December 2014



Readings for
this week:

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28



Readings for
next Sunday:

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



Liturgical Jottings

John proclaimed "make a straight way for the Lord" What an unusual phrase! But it really helps our weekly celebration of the Eucharist. We commit ourselves to make a straight way for the Lord. Although he is our salvation we have an indispensable role in awakening our world bent by violence and greed to the straight way of peace and sharing. Christmas is a time of renewal building our confidence in each other and especially in God's love.

Joy of the Gospel

Acts of the Apostles say Christians "ate their food with glad and generous hearts" Constantly the Gospels invite us to rejoice. "Rejoice!" is the angel's greeting to Mary. Mary's visit to Elizabeth makes John leap for joy in his mother's womb. In her song of praise Mary proclaims, 'My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour'. We should also enter into this great stream of joy.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium n5.

Looking at the Readings

The focus of the readings today continues to be on John the Baptist. The reason is that he is the last and the greatest of the prophets. The people who flocked to see him in the wilderness thought he might indeed be the Messiah or, if not the Messiah, then surely the reincarnation of one of the great prophets.

John dealt with these people in a way that is relevant to us in these final weeks of Advent. He pointed out that he was not the Messiah and that he was there to tell them to reform their lives because the coming of the Saviour promised so long ago was about to be fulfilled. "There stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me."

The relevance of this for the world today is that there is now with us the one who is the Christ, the Son of the living God. As we prepare for the celebration of his birth we need to be guided by the approach of John and the other prophets. The reading from Saint Paul sums this approach up perfectly, "May the God of peace make you perfect and holy, and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ".

Each Advent we look to the Holy Spirit to inform, inspire and help us to live in a way that looks beyond the whirlwind of Christmas preparations to the real significance of the birth of Jesus into our world. After all John the Baptist and the prophets insisted that the Spirit of the Lord would be given to us to help us know, love and respond to Jesus as the light of the world. "His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone would believe through him."

Quotable Quote - An Advent Prayer

O Lord, look with favour on us your people, and impart your love to us – not as an idea or concept, but as a lived experience. We can only love one another because you have loved us first. Let us know that first love so that we can see all human love as a reflection of a greater love. Henri Nouwen

On the Lighter Side

A Ugandan priest who came to our diocese some years ago was puzzled by one aspect of Australian life. Just after he arrived we were all looking forward to the AFL Grand Final! Shortly after we sold tickets at the Church for a sweep on the Melbourne Cup! Next we started buying presents and organising parties for Christmas before the First Sunday of Advent! Such is life!



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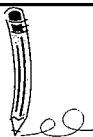
Notices

This Christmas: Do Yourself a Favour watch/listen to "Emmanuel" by Fr Rob
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAlreT4J1uo

Working With Children Checks Don't forget to note 'St Brendan's Parish, 121 Knight Street, Shepparton' on your Working With Children Check application. If you would like assistance with your application please phone the Parish office.

LITTLE BLUE BOOKS for Advent are available today in the narthex or the side porch. \$5 per book. Please place money in the envelope provided and leave at the office or 'post' in the mail slot at the office. Thank you.

BULLETIN NOTICES Please ensure all notices for publication in the Parish Bulletin are at the Parish Office by noon on Thursdays, including anniversaries. **Please ensure all notices are communicated to office staff during office hours by phone, in person or via email. Thank you.**



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

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.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT Sunday 21st December at Shepparton Queens Gardens. Commencing at 6.30pm culminating with fireworks. (In the event of rain it will move to the Multi purpose Pavilion at the Show Grounds).

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)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
As Easter is early April 2015 a formation meeting will be held soon for those interested in participating in Stations of the Cross. Please contact Dale on 0408 216 522.

"**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).

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES
The next set of envelopes for all those giving by the envelope system are available in the narthex. Please collect your envelope as you leave Mass today. Thank you.

LOST Dropped in the vicinity of the front steps of the Parish House - a pair of BVLGARI sunglasses. If found contact Margaret 5831 3865 or 0409 412 709.



Christmas in the Parish and Community

Thursday Morning **Meditation** during Advent
Concluding next Thursday 18th December in the Mons Jeffrey centre 7.15am to 7.45am. Everyone welcome.

The **2014 Christmas Eve Stadium Mass** - will again be held in the Mercy Centennial Stadium, Skene Street. Volunteers are needed for the position of Usher/Collector (12), placing of chairs (and removal afterwards), and other positions as required. If you can help, please leave your name and phone number at the Parish house. Thankyou.

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

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

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC/CHRISTIAN RADIO PROGRAM This week on "The Journey" which airs on 21 December, Bishop Peter Ingham graces us with his Christmas Message; Peter Gilmore challenges us on "Living the Gospel" and Fr Dave Callaghan reflects on "How Christians should treat their enemies". Tune into LIFE 105.1 FM Sat 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.

Parish Men's Group Our Parish Men's Group will have their last breakfast meeting on Saturday December 20 at 7.30am in the Mons Jeffrey Centre. We will gather to share some Christmas cheer and to reflect on the blessings or sorrows God has brought to our lives over the last year. You are invited to bring some Christmas goodies from the cupboard to share with the group. Santa suits are optional. If you have any questions, contact Anthony on 0408269426.

For rent 2/3 bedroom unit Parkville, walking distance to Melbourne Uni. Available first week January. No water bills. \$450 per week. Contact Catherine Dooley 5824 3382.

Christmas Mass Times
Christmas Eve in Mercy Stadium,
Skene Street, Shepparton
Carols 6.30 Mass 7.30pm
Midnight Mass 12am
Christmas Day 8am and 11am

*My spirit
rejoices
in God
my
Saviour.*



Bees! Does anyone know of someone who keeps bees? Our visiting Priest, Fr Joseph Bigirwa, would like to visit bee hives to gain information on keeping them for a project he is to undertake in Uganda. Please phone the Parish house with information.

**Save the Date for
Fr Rob's Farewell
Sunday 4th January**

Farewell

Farewell Mass 11am followed by picnic on the Parish lawns to farewell Fr. Rob.
More details to come. A collection for Fr Rob will be held at all Masses next weekend or you can drop off a donation at the presbytery.

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

Limited 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.



THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Pope Francis announced that 2015 will be a year dedicated to the promotion of consecrated life.

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

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish office will be closed next Wednesday 17th December between 12pm and 3pm.

Some Advent Resources 2014 - online access

Advent explained... Advent in 2 Minutes (Busted Halo)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SO2KOlw7dIA>

Lectio Divina for Advent 2014 (Broken Bay Diocese)

<http://www.dbb.org.au/news/dsp-default-lectio.cfm?loadref=588>

Daily Prayer for Advent 3 minute retreat (each day from Loyola Press)

<http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm>

FR ROB GALEA & BAND

**LIVE
IN CONCERT**

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU ALBUM LAUNCH

22.01.2015

EASTBANK CENTRE, SHEPPARTON, VICTORIA. 8PM.

FEATURING



NATASHA PINTO
RECORDING ARTIST



GARY PINTO
X-FACTOR AUSTRALIA



GENEVIEVE BRYANT
CHRISTIAN ARTIST

FR ROB GALEA & BAND
EASTBANK BOX OFFICE • WWW.RIVERLINKS.VIC.GOV.AU
ST WRENDAN'S PARISH OFFICE • KNIGHT ST, SHEPPARTON
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