



# WELCOME TO ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

121 KNIGHT ST, SHEPPARTON 3630

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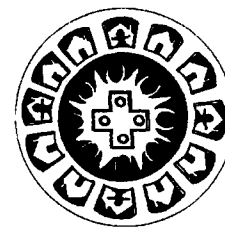
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Parish Priest: *Fr. Joseph Taylor*

Assistant Priest: *Fr. Robert Galea*



Christ in community...the  
heart of our faith

**Second Sunday of Advent - Year B**

**Sunday 7 December 2014**



*Readings for  
this week:*

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8



*Readings for  
next Sunday:*

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28



## Liturgical Jottings

Today's liturgy brings together words that are one dimension of our salvation. First we are told that God is a voice that speaks of peace. To this the words mercy, justice and faithfulness are added. God is love and his love is expressed by the gift of his Son to the world. Our response must be to love one another as God has loved us. For that reason words like peace, mercy, justice and faithfulness express what is involved in preparing the way of the Lord.

## Joy of the Gospel

### An Advent Invitation

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or, at least, openness to letting him encounter them. I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think this invitation is not for him or her, since no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.

*Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium n3*

## Looking at the Readings

The theme of the readings today is summed up in the words, "Prepare a way for the Lord." Those words, spoken for the first time so long ago, are spoken directly and personally to us. They are telling us that Advent is a very important part of our faith lives.

All around us people are preparing for Christmas by buying gifts, organising gatherings of family and friends and even deciding the food and drink for Christmas dinner. This can bring family and friends closer together and create for children in particular memories that last a lifetime.

This in itself is rather special; but preparing a way for the Lord asks much more of people of faith. We are preparing for what Mark's gospel today calls the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Our aim throughout Advent is to worthily celebrate the anniversary of Mary's child coming into our world as the incarnate Son of God.

The elements of this Good News are there in some key phrases from today's readings. The reading from Isaiah has God saying to his prophet, "Console my people, console them." Our world today is urgently in need of the consolation that Jesus alone can give. That same reading, speaking of the one who is to come, says graciously, "Here is your God." We are encouraged to rejoice in the birth of Jesus because this baby child is God with us.

The one chosen to bring to a close the centuries of preparation for the coming of Jesus was John the Baptist. We are told in Mark's Gospel today that all Judea and all the people of Israel went out into the wilderness to discern who he was. He offered them a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin. That ceremony was the final rite of preparation for the coming of Jesus. John made this perfectly clear by telling them, "Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am ... He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." We pray today to be open to the presence of the Holy Spirit in us personally and in our community of faith as we prepare for Christmas.

## Feast of the Week: Immaculate Conception 8 December

In 1854 Pope Pius IX proclaimed, "The Most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin." Mary, from the time of her conception, experienced the outpouring of God's love that would be given to the world in the person of Jesus. In that sense she was the first person embraced by the divine mystery of our salvation.

# Notices

Fr Joseph Bigirwa from Uganda will be with us in the Parish for the next 8 weeks. Please make him feel very welcome.

**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 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.

**Ensure all notices are communicated to Office Staff during office hours either by phone, in person or via email.**

*Thank you*



## WELCOME!!

**GODSTART:** Welcome to the 2015 Preps and their families. The children will receive a Godstart Prayer Book during the Masses this weekend. Let's all pray that they have a wonderful journey through their education.

## Colouring sheets for Pre-schoolers

We teach our young children that Advent is about preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The colouring sheets during Advent, which are available in the back of the narthex, will be about the events leading up to Jesus' birth. Parents are encouraged to take time to discuss the sheet with their young children and perhaps display them at home.

**This week's sheet will be "Mary visits Elizabeth"**

**Faith and Light Community** will be selling tickets after Masses in the next two weeks. These funds will be put towards our next Retreat in March.

**Caritas Australia Typhoon Haiyan** One year on, and now in the phase of recovery and rehabilitation, Caritas Australia, with the generous support of the Australian community, is assisting children, women, and men to rebuild their lives, homes and livelihoods. You can find more details on their website [www.caritas.com.au](http://www.caritas.com.au)

## COUNTERS ROSTER

Thank you to all who help with this ministry. A new roster is being prepared mid December. If you would like to help with this ministry or alternatively if you can't continue on the roster please contact the Parish Office.

## 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.**

**"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).



## Christmas in the Parish and Community

Thursday Morning **Meditation** during Advent  
Continuing next Thursday 11th 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.

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

## 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 2014

11am to 2pm

### NEW VENUE

The McIntosh Centre, Shepparton Show Grounds  
Cnr. Of High and Thompson Strs.

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.

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Will be held on Sunday 21st December 2014 at  
Shepparton Queens Gardens

Will commence at 6.30pm til 9.30pm culminating with  
fireworks.

In the event of rain it will move to the Multi purpose  
Pavilion at the Show Grounds.

FR ROB GALEA & BAND

# LIVE IN CONCERT

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU ALBUM LAUNCH

22.01.2015

EASTBANK CENTRE, SHEPPARTON, VICTORIA. 8PM.

**DAY OF SOLIDARITY  
WITH CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST**

**SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2014**

Sunday 7th December 2014 has been designated a Day of Solidarity with the Christians of the Middle East by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

The Conference unanimously supported the request that 7th December 2014 be a day involving prayer and a financial offering to help alleviate the suffering of Christians, especially the many Iraqi refugees. The request comes as we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. We are aware that the situation for Christians and other minorities in the Middle East is deteriorating by the day, especially as the northern winter will set in soon.

Considering the widespread significance of the crisis, we are inviting all Catholic communities to join with us on 7th December 2014 as we ask for the mercy of God for our persecuted brothers and sisters in the Middle East.

On 14 December 2014, a delegation of Australian Catholic Bishops will visit refugees in Kurdistan, Iraq and Lebanon to offer spiritual support and humanitarian aid.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference urges Australian Catholics to join their Christian brothers and sisters of the Middle East in showing the world that while "some trust in chariots and horses, we trust in the Lord, our God" (Psalm 20:7)

**Middle East Crisis Appeal**

On Sunday 7th December the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has asked the Catholic community of Australia to stand in solidarity with the refugees of Iraq and the Middle East region in prayer and through financial support.

we ask you to consider sharing some of your intended Christmas gifting with our brothers and sisters in most need by donating to the Caritas Australia Middle East Appeal.

[www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

**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.**

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)

**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.**

The Year of Consecrated Life officially began on 30th November 2014, the first Sunday of Advent, having been preceded by a prayer vigil on Saturday 29th November. The year will finish on February 2nd 2016, the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. During these 14 months celebrations and diverse meetings will take place with the objective of highlighting the various dimensions of consecrated life.

The year also marks the 50th anniversary of "Perfectae Caritatis," a decree on religious life, and "Lumen Gentium," the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. The purpose of the yearlong celebration, according to a Vatican statement is to "make a grateful remembrance of the recent past" while embracing "the future with hope".

**The Pope is asking the Church's religious sisters, brothers and priest to "wake up the world" with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope.**

**International Day of People with Disability**

3rd December - To celebrate this important day our Faith and Light Community members will be actively participating in 11am Mass with singing and reading the Prayers of the Faithful.

Check out information at [www.idpwd.com.au](http://www.idpwd.com.au)

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

**THANK YOU:**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January this year you may recall I had a horrific car accident which left me with a broken neck, jaw and shoulder and caused the death of my friend and injuries to other friends. The slow recovery process found me in rehabilitation for around two months and I had to wear a halo device for three months which severely restricted my movement.

To everyone that took their time off to pray and think about me I really appreciate it and thank you all very much. I thought I was never going to walk again but after I read all your messages and calls I realised that I didn't just recover for no reason, it was your prayers, support and voices that has kept me here today standing on two feet and moving my neck. You don't know how much your prayers mean to me.

Don't ever under estimate the power of prayer and God. It is much more powerful than any doctor or medicine in the world. God heard all your prayers, he answers them in his own way and time. Matthew chapter 7 states: "Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you."

You asked God to be with me through it all and he was, through the weeks in hospital, rehabilitation and down the road to depression that's why I am here today. You sought God to let me be here again, to let me walk again, and God answered all of you. Because you knocked on his gate and he opened it to me.

~ Shukura Bisimwa

### **Parish Office Hours**

Tuesday to Friday 9am -4pm Phone 5821 2633  
(Closed Mondays & Public Holidays)

### **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  
Mass at Tarcoola, second Wednesday of each month 10.30am  
Syro Malabar Mass, third Sunday of each month 5pm

### **Reconciliation**

Saturday mornings 9.30am-10.30am  
Before 9.15am weekday masses

**Holy Hour** Thursdays 7pm to 8pm

**Eucharistic Adoration** Fridays 3pm to 6pm

**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 and 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

**Charismatic Prayer Group** - Tuesdays 7.30pm, Parish Centre

**Faith and Light Community** - 1st Sunday monthly

**Friendship Group** - Last Sunday monthly for lunch, 12.30pm

**Garabandal** - 3rd Monday monthly 1.30pm, Parish centre

**Gospel Discussion Group** - 2nd & 4th Monday monthly at 1.30pm in the Parish centre (small meeting room) next meeting 8th December then 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

### **Lectors & Commentators 13th & 14th December**

**6pm** P Crane, P Chalkley  
**8am** A Kilmartin, T Francis  
**11am** Sr R Crowe, P White



### **RECENTLY DECEASED:**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Matthew William O'Connor, Henry Restall, Margharita Restall, Joe Bugeja, Melita Bugeja, Leon Parker, Maria Consiglio, Charlie Testall White, Patrick Foster, Petronella Van Dillen, Maria & Domenico Sofra.

## **REFLECTION**

### **Prayer for Peace**

*"Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. I beseech You to guide all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honour and praise.*

*(St. Ephraim the Syrian)*

**"Comfort, Comfort my people, says the Lord" (Isaiah 40:1)**

### **Prayers for Christians in the Middle East**

The prayer will be held under the auspices of "The Conference of Bishops and Representatives of the Middle Eastern Churches in Australia."

All Donations will be sent to Middle Eastern refugees

Prayers will be raised in each Church during the Divine Liturgy (The Holy Mass) on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

### **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