



WELCOME TO ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

121 KNIGHT ST, SHEPPARTON 3630

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Parish Priest: *Fr. Joe Taylor*

Associate Priest: *Fr. Joseph Alluri*



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 15 February 2015



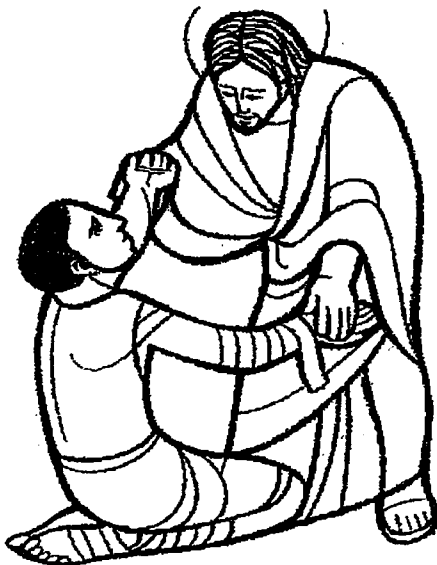
Readings for this week:

Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46
1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Mark 1:40-45



Readings for next week

Genesis 9:8-15
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15



Liturgical Jottings

In the Lord's Prayer a petition is made for daily bread, which for Christians means principally the Eucharistic Bread, and entreating also purification from sin, so that what is holy may in truth be given to the holy. The Priest pronounces the invitation to the prayer, and all the faithful say the prayer with him; then the Priest alone adds the embolism, which the people conclude by means of the doxology. GIRM 81.

Pope Francis

It is necessary that political leaders be outstanding for honesty, integrity and commitment to the common good. In this way they will help preserve the rich human and natural resources with which God has blessed this country.
(*Philippines 2015*)

Focus on the Gospel

In the gospels of the previous weeks we have seen Jesus in the role of teacher and healer. Today's gospel appears on the surface to have continued the portrayal of Jesus as healer but it has a much deeper significance. Mark introduces the element of Jewish Law into the healing of the leper.

Leprosy was a special category of illness in Jewish society and not simply a medical condition, which is identified in our times. This illness had both religious and social dimensions and rendered the sufferer 'impure' and isolated from the community. The Book of Leviticus (13:2 - 6) provided the guidelines on how leprosy is to be dealt with. It is only the priest who can 'pronounce him clean'. So in keeping with the Jewish Law, Jesus directed the man to go and show himself to the priest. This was after he had cautioned the man not to say anything to anyone. Had the man shown himself to the priest and nothing more, it would have meant that he could be received back into family and the community. However, for Jesus to declare the leper clean would have been an affront to the priestly caste and their established institution.

Perhaps it was a confrontation that Jesus wanted to avoid at this early time in his public ministry. But it is also worth recalling that Jesus says that he came 'not to abolish the law, but to fulfil it'. The curing of the leper was done by touch for Jesus actually 'stretched out his hand and touched him'. This gesture was not necessary but demonstrates Jesus' compassion and as a consequence Jesus incurred a time of ritual impurity. So it was that he could not enter any town and stayed out in the countryside. This did not prevent people still flocking to him wherever he travelled. So much of this short account tells us of Jesus' love for people especially those on the margins of society. This love drives his actions regardless of the dangers to himself both physically and from the hierarchy of the religious institutions.

Quote of the Week

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.

Albert Einstein

On the Lighter Side

A little child was listening to an excessively long homily in church. Suddenly the red sanctuary lamp caught his eye. Tugging his father's sleeve, he said, "Daddy, when the light turns green can we go?"



Notices

STRONGER YOUTH – TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

The Stronger Youth are in the process of planning the Stronger Youth Trivia Night Fundraiser which will be held on Friday April 17.

We would really appreciate any donations that could be used as raffle prizes or silent auctions during the evening.

If you are able to assist could you please contact Jess Alampi in the parish office.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Invest in your most precious asset.....

Your Marriage!

Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit.

There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

2015 Melbourne weekend dates : 17-19 Apr, 19-21 June, 21-23 August and 23-25 Oct

Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.

Information/Bookings: PH: Marianne & Marcel (03) 9733 0997 Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au
www.wwme.org.au

Spirituality In The Pub

ANNUAL DINNER 2014 (RESCHEDULED)

If you had purchased tickets for this event with Bishop Vincent Long at 'The Vault Restaurant' Shepparton in November, you would know that it had to be postponed due to the sudden death of Bishop Long's father. The new date is **Thursday 26th March**. Those who already have tickets will be issued with new tickets. Please let us know if that date is not possible and we will refund your money. **Additional new Dinner tickets are available for others if you missed out previously.** For bookings phone Kerry Stone 0408 579904, Jen Frisardi 5822 4064 or Marg Purcell 5821 4362. See flyer on the noticeboard.



New **Rosters** for Lectors, Ministers of Communion & Offertory are now available in the narthex. Please collect your envelope as you leave Mass today.

St Brendan's Friendship Group meet for lunch on Sunday 22nd February at the GV Hotel at 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Enquiries Pat (58211269) or Graeme (58252816)

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED....

The new Icon of St Brendan in the narthex. It is a gift from Jack and Bozena Szczurek. Stop by, have a look and say a prayer. Heartfelt thanks to Jack and Bozena

Little Black Books are now available in the narthex and the side entrance and contain spiritual reflections for everyday throughout Lent. A great price at \$5 each.

St. Brendan's Parish Sacramental Program 2015

~ Reconciliation Confirmation Eucharist ~

An Information Booklet about the 2015 Parish Sacramental Program with an enrolment form included is available from the parish office. If you are considering enrolling your child in the program this year please call into the parish office to collect a booklet or contact Laura via email

sacramental.coord@bigpond.com.au

Enrolments close Sunday 8th March.

For further information I can be contacted at the Parish House on Wednesday mornings 5821 2633 or via the above email.

*Please note: children must be Baptised before receiving the Sacraments. If your child isn't yet Baptised please let me know *as soon as possible*.

~ Laura

SmartLoving because every Marriage Matters

Consisting of seminars, workshops, blogs and multimedia resources, the SmartLoving series provides flexible options for you to choose according to your needs. Honouring the unique strengths of both men and women, the SmartLoving experience allows you to freely and confidently engage with the material to transform your intimate relationships. With tailored resources for dating, engaged, newlywed, established and empty-nester couples, SmartLoving sets couples up for success with practical strategies for emotional, sexual and spiritual happiness. Visit us at www.smartloving.org or phone 02 9319 6280.

COUPLES FOR CHRIST AUSTRALIA Presents

Fr. ROB GALEA

Live & Share Jesus, through worship, prayer, scripture & The Sacraments

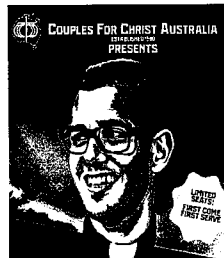
This Saturday 21st February at 1pm at Moonee Valley Racing Club

Ticket price \$30 per person (with food)

\$40 per person (with food & reserved seating)

Call: Gordon Walsh on 0421 021 061 or

Mario Nazareno on 0433 987 215.



Spirituality in the Pub Monday 2nd March with Dr Aoife McGrath who was brought to Australia for the Helder Camera Lecture Series last year to speak on **Being Faithful – Opportunities for Co-responsibility in Today's Church**. Terminus Hotel 7.30pm meals optional from 6pm. Contact Kerry on 0408 579904.



Heart of Life Spirituality Centre

New brochure of events has been produced. Visit the website for more information. heartoflife.abundance.org.au

PROJECT COMPASSION: You are invited to join Caritas Australia's Lenten Speaker,

Luis Castillo Polo from Peru for a simple Dinner of Tuesday 24th Feb. at 7pm at St Brendan's Parish Centre, Knight St. Shepparton (behind Church). Luis is the Director of Caritas Huacho in Peru. He will speak about Caritas partnerships in Peru including Project Compassion's week 5 story about Cristian. Cost \$6. RSVP essential to Kerry on 0408 579904 or the Parish office on 5821 2633.

Beginning Lent

Requests/Donations

From time to time we have requests from parishioners to make a once off financial bequest or donation to the parish (separate from our Thanksgiving Program) to assist with our operating commitments or a special project or attention. If you or anyone you know may be contemplating this, here is the parish's bank account details for you to deposit into: BSB 083543 Account number 483593006 reference "Donation" and your name. *Thank you.*

Our Thanksgiving Program Renewal will take place late October early November this year.

Fr Joe

Ash Wednesday

This Wednesday 18th February, 2015

Mass times St Brendan's Church

7am, 9.15am and 6pm.

St Mary's Church, Saddleback Road,
Dookie

Tuesday 17th February 7.30pm.

LENT AND ALMS GIVING

Almsgiving is important. Lent reminds us of that. Lent reminds us that we need each other. We can easily get wound up in our own lives, our own 'rat race', we can become very self-absorbed, very focussed on our own needs and goals, ambitions and dreams. Learning that 'giving is part of living' is important. It is good to see in our schools, Project Compassion and other activities that encourage personal generosity, that raise awareness right from the start that we are a human family, each dependent on one another. It is even better, however, if that is modelled in the home.

It is not by chance that Lent highlights almsgiving, not just as another way of doing penance but rather the Lenten discipline of almsgiving reminds us that all we have is a gift - life itself and just about everything thereafter. In contrast, advertising would have us believe that we create ourselves, we make our own future and happiness is dependent on the things we purchase, what we own, what we amass. Almsgiving can be a reality check - it gives us the opportunity to reflect on the saying, 'if you want to see what people really believe in, take a look at how they spend their money'

Almsgiving also gives us the opportunity to place the needs of others before ourselves and give generously from our own resources. In the words of Pope Francis, gratitude should be one of the characteristics of being a Christian because 'aware of having received everything from God freely, that is without any merit, (a Christian) learns to give to others freely'. Almsgiving is a sign of genuine gratitude because 'alms are given to someone from whom you would not expect to receive anything in return'.

Lent reminds us that there is more than one way to give and the earlier we start to take that on board, the better. It is a habit to foster early on in life. Almsgiving doesn't always involve money - there are many ways to contribute to the lives of others. Almsgiving can also mean that we give of our time, our expertise, our talents and skills. I once visited a church community where everyone was asked to make a commitment for Christ every week, to spend at least one hour in the service of somebody in the community - to mow someone's lawn, to visit someone who was sick, to help repair something, to use our skills in service of someone else. Or just to volunteer to do something - to see a need and do something about it. It was one of the most vibrant faith communities I had ever seen.

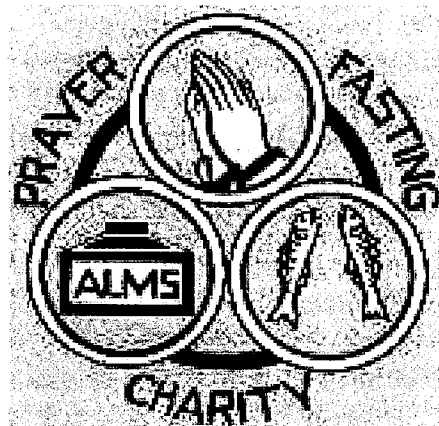
What can one person do? More than we can imagine!!

~ Excerpt from "Along the Track, Lent and Almsgiving"

by Jim Quillinan 10th February, 2015.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year, the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year.

(CCL 97, 1251-52)



Lenten Activities in the Parish

- ◆ *Gospel Discussion Groups*
 - ~ 2nd and 4th Monday monthly in the small meeting room in the Mons Jeffrey centre at 1.30pm.
 - ~ Tuesday nights 7.30pm at 21 Glenlyon Avenue, Shepparton commencing 24th February.
- ◆ *Meditation*
 - ~ Thursday mornings 7.15am to 7.45am in the Mons Jeffrey Centre commencing this Thursday 19th February.

This weekend, **Sister Marie Bourke** (ex Nathalia) who has worked in Zambia and Nigeria for 26 years, will be speaking at all Masses.

We will hold a leaving collection for her great work. **Have a look at the poster on the noticeboard. It reflects some of her great work.**

Parish Office Hours Phone 5821 2633
Tuesday to Friday 9am -4pm
(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
Ash Wednesday 18th February 7am, 9.15am, 6pm.

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/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

**re-commences 16th February, 2015.

Gospel Discussion Group - 2nd & 4th Monday monthly at 1.30pm in the small meeting room in the Parish Centre
Lenten Programme from 23rd February.

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 21st & 22nd February

6pm M-A Demase, Z Tong

8am R Kennedy, G Quinlan

11am P Cooper, J Pilkington



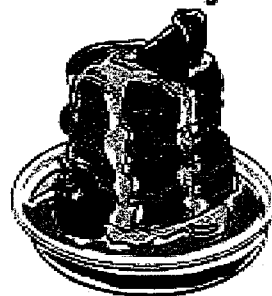
RECENTLY DECEASED: Ester Romeo.

ANNIVERSARIES: June Wall, Angela Rizzeri, Corradina Giliberto, Guiseppa Giliberto, Josephine Orminston, Dora Caprioglio, Valerie Kinna, Shirley Moylan.

REFLECTION

*May we follow
the guidance of
Pope Francis
and grow in our
openness to others,
especially those
of different
circumstances and
cultures.
We pray to the Lord.*

Shrove
Tuesday



Mass times in neighbouring Parishes

St. Mel's Shepparton South, Sunday 9.00am & 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday 8am, 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 Mooropna, 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,