



WELCOME TO ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Parish Priest: Fr. Joe Taylor

Associate Priest: Fr. Joseph Alluri



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday 22 February 2015



Readings for this week:

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



Readings for next week

Genesis 22:1-2,9-18
Romans 8:31-34
Mark 9:2-10



The Wilderness

The 'wilderness' in scripture is where people encountered God – the Jews in their wanderings with Moses. It is not desert devoid of plant and animal but unarable land where wild beasts roam. In the harshness and silence of this place one can fully experience their own humanity, frailty and identity. Jesus is tempted just as every human is tempted and it is in our choices that we realise where our heart lies. This period of lent offers each of us an opportunity to reflect on the choices we make and the consequences of those choices.

Quote of the Week

Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self."

Francis of Assisi

Focus on the Gospel

Today's gospel announces the start of Jesus' public ministry and follows immediately on from Mark's account of his baptism by John. Prior to this event he had lived quietly working in Nazareth without any particular celebrity.

But then Jesus is 'driven' by the Spirit into the wilderness. We can understand today's application of the term 'being driven' to a person who is totally focussed on obtaining something, or achieving something. This dominates the person's actions and channels them towards the end that they are pursuing. In this case it was the Spirit that consumed Jesus' focus and desire; that love that God offers each of us in unquenchable supply. The relationship with God is what takes Jesus into a place of solitude but not loneliness.

The period of 'forty days' may seem extreme for anyone to survive in a harsh desert environment but in scripture 'forty' usually refers simply to a significant period of time. Perhaps we are tempted to pass this hardship off because 'the angels waited on him'. Perhaps these were passers-by or friends who visited him occasionally – in our everyday lives there are people who in the 'darkest' of times and deepest of needs come to our assistance. It is clear though that Jesus resisted the temptations of Satan and did not take the easy option of choosing his own needs over the invitation of God.

Jesus appears after this time to be more confident of his identity, his vocation and his mission. He was prepared to take on the 'status quo' of the world and preach the Good News even though such actions had brought about John's imprisonment. He was now proclaiming the Kingdom of God was near and available to all who would repent and believe in the good news. This is not a downcast and doomsday call but to a Kingdom which was a gift of love from God which gave life and was equally offered to everyone.

Feast of the Week: St Polycarp 23 February

Bishop of Smyrna in Asia Minor, a student of St John the Evangelist. Like John opposed the Gnostic heresy. He wrote a letter to the Philippians. He became the first martyr not mentioned in the New Testament, died about 156 AD.

On the Lighter Side

The children of Israel wandered around the desert for 40 years. Even in biblical times, men wouldn't ask for directions



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.

STRONGER YOUTH RALLY:

Wangaratta, Friday March 6th 2015.

6-9pm at St Pat's Church Hall, Ford St, Wangaratta. It is a time where young people meet together for dinner, music, testimonies etc. An opportunity to be nourished, encouraged and equipped on your walk with Jesus.

For more info email Darcy at Sandhurst @strongeryouth.com

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.

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 : 17-19th April, 19-21 June, 21-23 August and 23-25 October.

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

Information/Bookings: Phone: Marianne & Marcel on 97330997 email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: www.wwme.org.au

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

"Autumn Melodies"

2015 Operetta Toni Marchi and Jane O'Toole.

Ave Maria Fundraiser—Saturday March 21st at 6.30pm Italian Social club, Marungi Street. Tickets \$70.00 per person includes 3 course meal and drinks at bar price. Enquiries and for tickets contact Tracey or Sharon at Ave Maria Village 58 313 000 or Shepparton@sccr.org.au

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

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. Ph: Kerry 0408 579904.



St. Brendan's Parish Sacramental Program 2015

~Reconciliation Confirmation Eucharist~

If you are considering enrolling your child in the program this year please call into the parish office to collect an enrolment form. **Enrolments will take place over the next two weekends, after the 6.00pm and 11.00am Masses.** For further information I can be contacted at the Parish House on Wednesday mornings 5821 2633 or via email at sacramental.coord@bigpond.com.au. *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



Best wishes to David and Mary Lyons who are celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary this weekend.

Our **Faith and Light Community** will gather at 11am Mass on Sunday 1st March then we will go to Kathy and Andrew Hunt's home for lunch. Then we will have the Penitential Rite, the expression of sorrow for our sins, where members will be invited to place their papers, etc representing sins in an envelope for burning. For more information contact Denise on 0432 054 003

Men's Group

Our Parish men's group will meet at 7.30 am in the Mons Jeffrey Centre on Saturday 28th of February.

We gather to share some reflections on how we seek to live out God's plan for us. We share a meal and friendship, we then enter our day with renewed hope feeling supported and encouraged as Catholic men, living in a world where it can be difficult to bear witness to our faith.

Any questions to Anthony on 0408 269426.

Bequests/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 intention. 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. ~Fr Joe

PROJECT COMPASSION: You are invited to join Caritas Australia's Lenten Speaker, Luis Castillo Polo, from Peru for a simple Dinner on Tuesday 24th February at 7pm in Mons Jeffrey Centre. 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.

MARY, THE ANNUNCIATION AND SAYING 'YES'

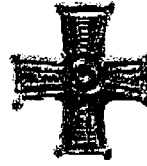
Tuesday 10th March 7.30 – 9.15 pm Mons Jeffrey Centre. Judith Dupré, (from the US and first of our 2015 Helder Camara Series visitors) explores Mary's journey of faith, with its unthinkable joys and sorrows and invites us to examine where we say 'yes' to God in our own lives. **Donation as you can afford.** RSVP: Adult Faith Education Sandhurst adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au, 03 5441 2544. Judith Dupre (US) is the author of "Full of Grace", a vivid portrait of

First Sunday of Lent



Lenten Activities in the Parish

- ◆ *Gospel Discussion Groups*
 - ~ Mondays during Lent in the small meeting room in the Mons Jeffrey centre at 1.30pm.
 - ~ Tuesday nights 7.30pm at 21 Glenlyon Avenue, Shepparton.
- ◆ *Meditation*
 - ~ Thursday mornings 7.15am to 7.45am in the Mons Jeffrey Centre.



Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays during Lent at 7.30pm in the Church.

The Horizons of the Year of Consecrated Life

In this letter, I wish to speak not only to consecrated persons, but also to the laity, who share with them the same ideals, spirit and mission. Some Religious Institutes have a long tradition in this regard, while the experience of others is more recent. Indeed, around each religious family, every Society of Apostolic Life and every Secular Institute, there is a larger family, a "charismatic family", which includes a number of Institutes which identify with the same charism, and especially lay faithful who feel called, precisely as lay persons, to share in the same charismatic reality.

By Pope Francis.

..... *To be continued*

Did you know that you can download a Lent Calendar for your iPhone or Android? You can also view it on the Caritas Australia website!

Use the calendar to deepen your spirituality this Lent by learning about Caritas Australia's work in six countries across the globe. Explore Project Compassion, meet inspiring people and reflect on the Lenten period through daily readings, prayers and social justice actions.

View or download at www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar



This water is a pledge to God in Baptism.

Stewardship—1st Sunday of Lent

"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God..."

Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfil His plan for us.

Easter Services at St. Brendan's

Holy Thursday	2nd April	7.30pm	<i>Celebration of the Lord's Passion Stations of the Cross</i>
Good Friday	3rd April	3.00pm	
		8.00pm	
Easter Vigil	4th April	7.00pm	
Easter Sunday	5th April	8.00am and 11.00am	

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

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
Stations of the Cross during Lent Fridays 7.30pm
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
Gospel Discussion Group - each Monday during Lent at 1.30pm in the small meeting room in the Parish Centre
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 28th February/1st March

6pm M Phillips, B Phillips
8am Maureen Collins, F Scheibel
11am E Murphy, M Hicks



RECENTLY DECEASED: Mary Kerlin
ANNIVERSARIES: Celestina Furlanetto, Sam Formica, Martin O'Dwyer, Bernard O'Shea, Luke O'Brien, Loretta Wakenshaw (Tyndall), Lorna Quinlan.

REFLECTION

Choose Life (Deuteronomy 30: 15-30)

*Almighty and Merciful God
Lent is a time for making choices,
renewing commitments and
returning fully to a life of faith and love.*

*Help us to choose those actions and
attitudes that bring us fullness of life.*

*Renew in us a commitment to following
your ways— Ways of love for your law;
A law that does not bind but truly sets us
free.*

*With your help, today we choose
goodness over evil,
love over hate,
forgiveness over revenge,
freedom over oppression.*

*Strengthen us in our resolve so that we will
come to*

*know you better,
love you more and
serve you more fully in our world.*

*We make this prayer through Jesus your
Son.*

Amen.

*~ From 'Prayers at Your Fingertips'
By Barbara Bretherton*



Father, teach me your paths

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,