



# 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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 15 March 2015



Readings for this week:

*2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23*  
*Ephesians 2:4-10*  
*John 3:14-21*



Readings for next week

*Jeremiah 31:31-34*  
*Hebrews 5:7-9*  
*John 12:20-33*



## Focus on the Gospel

Each reading provides us with an example of divine mercy. God's use of Cyrus to deliver the Israelites, even though he was not a believer, shows that every circumstance and any person can demonstrate the scope of God's love. In fact, it is often the situation or the individual that we least expect that has been chosen to manifest God's mercy to us. This same mercy is seen as God brings us to life with Christ even when we were dead in sin.

Mercy means that strict justice is set aside in favour of compassion. Dispossessed people are raised out of defeat and given another chance. Sinners condemned to severe punishment are raised out of despair and offered a reprieve. The whole world is raised up out of darkness when God's own Son is sent into that world as saviour rather than as judge. God's mercy raises us out of loss and hopelessness, out of darkness and sin, so that we might enjoy the blessings of life.

We too have been raised up so that we might live in truth and might become the visible sign of God's mercy in the world. We have been made a new people, free from the restraints of the past. Joined with Christ we become God's handiwork, creations that bear the seal of the great creator. We are the very sacrament of God's mercy. The forgiveness that we have experienced and the new life within us shine forth as witness to the mercy of God.

## Did You Know?

The bronze serpent on the standard mentioned in today's Gospel (3:14) refers to when Moses raised it in the desert during the Exodus (Numbers 21:4-9) to heal those bitten by the deadly serpents. The same bronze serpent pops up again in 2 Kings 18 but in a different context. A modern replica exists near Mt Nebo, Jordan where on a clear day one can just make out Jerusalem. It remains a symbol of the medical and allied professions.

## Feasts of the Week

Very few feasts are celebrated during Lent. This week we have two: St Patrick (17 March) Apostle of Ireland where he preached to the pagans and firmly established the Catholic faith and St Joseph (19 March) husband to Mary and foster father to Jesus.

## On the Lighter Side

Q: What do you get when you cross poison ivy with a four-leaf clover? A: A rash of good luck.



Q: How is a best friend like a 4-leaf clover? A: Because they are hard to find and lucky to have.

## Year of Consecrated Life

*During this year, a founder of a religious order or congregation will be featured on this page.*

Nano Nagle (1718-1784) was born in Ballygriffin, Ireland, during the persecution of Irish Catholics. Nano's life of prayer, her concern for her people, her courage and perseverance inspired and enabled her to establish schools and support other works of charity for those who were poor and oppressed by unjust social structures. To give stability to her works, she arranged for the Ursuline Sisters to come to Ireland. When Nano realised that their rule did not allow the sisters to leave the cloister and thus to serve the poor in their own environment, she established, in 1775 at the age of 57, a religious community, later to become the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In Sandhurst convents were established in Rutherglen, Chiltern, Myrtleford and Heathcote.

# 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 17th**. We have had a generous response to the call for donations and don't need any more. Sincere thanks to those who donated goods & services. Tickets will be available soon. If you are able to assist could you please contact Jess Alampi in the parish office. Thank you.

## Stronger Youth – D Group Event 'Amazing G-Race'

The Shepparton Stronger Team would like to invite all youth to take part in our Amazing G-Race event. The event will begin with teams gathering at 4.30pm (**note change of time**) and then finish with a reflection and BBQ dinner at 7pm. **Friday March 20th**. Mons Jeffery Centre. Please contact Hannah on 0458 733640 or Mikaila on 0477 668101 before Tuesday March 17th to register your team of 3-4 people.

**FAITH & LIGHT COMMUNITY:** Photos from the Penitential Rite are in the narthex if you would like to view them. Many thanks to Kathy and Andrew Hunt for hosting the lunch.

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Please continue to pray for the candidates as they journey towards full initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday 4th April.

### Candidates:

Dani Talarico,	Courtney Wilkie
Meaghan Ritchie	Roxanne Lucas
Carmela Fasano	Irene O'Bree
Liz Grogan	Ron Collinson

**Thanksgiving Program**— Parishioners who give with the envelope system please collect your next envelopes in the narthex. Thankyou for your continued support of the parish.

**Christian Meditation:** Will be held every Monday night commencing March 16th at 7.30pm in Mons. Jeffery Centre. Everyone is welcome. Contact Marie Kleinitz 5823 2597.

## Catholic Women's League

**Coffee Morning** this Monday 16th March in the Mons Jeffrey Centre at 10am. \$5 entry. All welcome.



## "Autumn Melodies Operetta Toni Marchi and Jane O'Toole.

Ave Maria Fundraiser—Saturday March 21st at 6.30pm Italian Social club, Marungi Street. Tickets \$70 per person includes 3 course meal and drinks at bar prices. Enquiries and for tickets contact Tracey or Sharon at Ave Maria Village 58 313 000 or Shepparton@sccr.org.au

**Spirituality in the Pub** Terminus Hotel, Shepparton **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 7.30–9 pm** meals from 6pm. Join the conversation with **Sr Joanne Schatzlein osf from USA** in Australia for Franciscan Schools Conference Enquiries to Kerry on 0408 579904 or Frank 5821 4362.

## Easter Services at St. Brendan's

Reconciliation	31st March	6pm	
Holy Thursday	2nd April	7.30pm	
Good Friday	3rd April	3.00pm	<i>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</i>
		8.00pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Easter Vigil	4th April	7.00pm	
Easter Sunday	5th April	8.00am and 11.00am	

**St. Brendan's Parish Sacramental Program**  
Enrolments are now being finalised if you would like to enrol your child, please contact Laura before the 19y<sup>th</sup> March on 58212633 or email sacramental.coord@bigpond.com

## Secondary School Students SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

St Brendan's Parish would like to provide secondary students with the opportunity to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist in 2015. If you would like to be involved in the program, could you please contact Jess Alampi on 0413 242 398 before the end of Term 1 (March 27). *The program will begin with a Commitment Mass on Saturday April 18th at St Brendan's Church at 6pm.* We would really appreciate it if you could please indicate your interest as soon as possible.

**RAFFLE— Catholic Church Insurance Community Assist Program:** St Brendan's is conducting an Easter Hamper Raffle with proceeds going to Youth Ministry and the Faith & Light Community. Tickets are \$2 each and will be drawn after 11am Mass on Easter Sunday. *CCI has kindly donated both hampers to the value of \$150 each. As the Church's own insurance company, CCI provides support to the Catholic Church and its community. Home & Content, Car, Landlord, Personal Accident, Travel, Caravan.* For information call 1300 655 003 or visit: [www.catholicinsurance.org.au](http://www.catholicinsurance.org.au)

**Stations of the Cross Ecumenical Good Friday Service** 8pm on April 3rd at St Brendan's Church. *A reflection by the Parish youth on "Mary's Way of the Cross" with St Brendan's Mass musicians & singers directed and co-ordinated by Les Billings & Dale Wright.*

## Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be held on the 24th March at 11am at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo. Parish Representatives will present oils to be blessed by the Bishop for use during the coming year. All parishioners are most welcome to attend this significant Mass for our Diocese.

**Carers are invited to join a day of recognition & support.**  
**"Opening our eyes to a God of surprises"**

With Margaret Claver FCJ, Estela Hutchings (psychologist) and Anthony Kilmartin (Pastoral Associate).

**Wednesday 25th March. 10am—3pm**  
Mons Jeffrey Centre. Morning tea & lunch will be provided. Contact Anthony Kilmartin on 5821 2633 or Liz Grogan 0427 557 042

**Calling all Footy Tipsters!** The inaugural official St. Brendan's Parish Footy Tipping Competition is here for the 2015 AFL Season. All you need is an email address and access to the internet to enter via the AFL website. Only \$25 to enter (payable to the Parish Office by 17 April) there will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last. The competition is open to all parishioners and friends of St Brendan's, so test your footy knowledge against your family and friends. All entrants will go into the running for over \$30,000 of prizes supplied by the AFL. The website for registration is: [www.tipping.afl.com.au](http://www.tipping.afl.com.au), and the competition name is St. Brendan's Parish Shepparton. For more information, call Ashley 0412 475290.

## Jesus Christ: The Way, The Truth and the Life "Living our Life in Jesus"

21st March. **Guest speaker:** Mr John Duiker at Mons Jeffrey Centre 10am - 4 pm All welcome to attend this day. For information please take a brochure in the narthex.

# Fourth 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 during Lent 7.30pm at 42 Bouchier Street, Shepparton.  
\*\*Note change of address\*\*  
New members most welcome, phone 5821 5343.
- ◆ **Meditation**
  - ~ Thursday mornings 7.15am to 7.45am in the Mons Jeffrey Centre.

## Sharing food for Life

### PROJECT COMPASSION

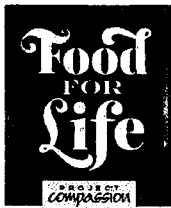
Mother of three Sarita (34) attended school until eighth grade, making her one of the most well-educated women in her village. Yet like the majority of people in rural Nepal, her family was very poor. "With the produce from (our) land we did not meet our food security and basic needs," Sarita explains.

In 2007, Sarita's life changed. Caritas Nepal, supported by Caritas Australia, initiated the Kolkatla fiFish Raising Group; an innovative, collaborative program that works for the common good of the wider community. Sarita joined the group of twelve, who were provided with the funding and training they needed to establish and run a business raising and selling fish..

"This program embraced the poorest of the poor like us, gave us skills and supported us with funds to invest and make something of ourselves," says Sarita.

Through hard work and dedication the group flourished, and now produce around 8,000kg of fish each year, which they sell for a good price through local markets.

With steady income from the Fish Raising Group, Sarita's family has been able to feel secure, sustainable source of healthy food for life. "The program has provided our family with good health and hope," says Sarita. "And it has become a platform for the unity and growth of the community." ~ Caritas



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



**Ecumenical Palm Sunday Service**  
**Sunday 29th March.** Services starts at 6.15pm at Mount Major, Dookie. Gates open at 4pm. BYO everything—chair, rug, coat, food thermos water, torch insect repellent. All welcome. Directions from Shepparton via Midland Highway to Dookie College turnoff. In case of wet weather meet at Dookie Memorial Hall. For information phone Heather on 0427 286207 or Margaret on 5823 2265 /0429 232265.

## The Horizons of the Year of Consecrated Life

So I invite every Christian community to experience this year above all as a moment of thanksgiving to the Lord and grateful remembrance for all the gifts we continue to receive, thanks to the sanctity of founders and foundresses, and from the fidelity to their charism shown by so many consecrated men and women. I ask all of you to draw close to these men and women, to rejoice with them, to share their difficulties and to assist them, to whatever degree possible, in their ministries and works, for the latter are, in the end, those of the entire Church. Let them know the affection and the warmth which the entire Christian people feels for them.

By Pope Francis.



## Divine Mercy Sunday: 12th April St Brendan's Church

- 1.00pm DVD Screening "Tears From Heaven"
- 2.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation
- 3.00pm The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction
- 3.30pm Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Joe Taylor  
Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image after Mass



Google Images

To fittingly observe Divine Mercy Sunday, we should precede the Feast by a nine day Novena of reciting The Divine Mercy Chaplet, beginning on Good Friday (Privately said). DVD's, books, leaflets and pictures are for sale after Divine Mercy Sunday Masses.

## Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life

**Friday 10th April** 2 course Dinner at the GV Hotel at 6.30pm  
\$40 per head. Tables of 10 or book individually.  
Pick up an invitation (yellow A4 flyer) in the narthex & side porch. This has all the details. Fill it out & leave at the parish office or phone Kathy on 0416 058431.

## Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life

### Can you help?

As you are aware we are planning a celebratory dinner on April 10th, honouring the contribution of the Fcj and Mercy Sisters, Marist Brothers, the Communita' dei Figli di Dio (Dookie). We would like to include in this celebration and men and women from our local Parishes who have joined Religious Orders. If you have any family members or friends who grew up in our Parishes and have since joined Religious Orders, please let us know so we can extend an invitation to them to join us for dinner on April 10th at 6.30pm. Names and contact details can either be left at the Parish office, or contact Kathy Hunt on 0416 058 431.

**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 7.15pm, Church & Parish Centre

*Society of St. Vincent de Paul (St. Brendan's Conference)* - 2nd Thursday monthly.

### **Lectors & Commentators 21st & 22nd March**

**6pm** L. Boschetti, J Barkla

**8am** S Quilty, P Howard

**11am** Michael Collins, D Sullivan



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Daisy Heffermen (Ireland), Sime Bertina, Salvatore Adornato, Bernardino De Stefanis.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Kevin Linehan, Ray Forde, William Linehan Snr., Barbara & Con Zammit, Peter Murray, Felix Negro, Gerald & Maureen McNamara.

## **REFLECTION**

*Only for today, I will seek to live the livelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.*

*Only for today, I will be courteous in my behaviour; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.*

*Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.*

*Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.*

*Only for today, I will devote ten minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.*

**Prayer from writings of the young Guiseppe Roncalli—later Pope John XXIII**

### **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 Mooroopna*, Saturday 6.30pm Vigil Mass,

Sunday 10.00am Mass, Monday No Mass,

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 6pm Mass,

Friday 10am Mass. Saturday 10.30am - 11am Reconciliation.

*St. Joseph's Undera*, No Mass.