



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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 22 March 2015



Readings for this week:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:7-9

John 12:20-33



Readings for next week

Entrance: Mark 11:1-10

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Passion of Mark 14:1-5:47



Liturgical Jottings

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week embraces the last days of Lent (until Thursday) and the Easter Triduum. The Sacrament of Penance is an excellent way to conclude the penitential season of Lent. It is best celebrated before Holy Thursday evening, so that, with heart and mind renewed, all may focus on the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. "Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, as a way of coming to the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection with uplifted and welcoming hearts (SC10)

Quote of the Week

If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.

JRR Tolkien

Focus on the Readings

The moment of eschatological fulfilment gathers together the sense of the past ('the days when Christ was in the flesh'), the future ('the days are coming'), and the present ('the hour has come'). We live in the time when the past and the future are made present; we live in the 'already-but-not-yet' time of anticipation/fulfilment. This is a moment of great ambiguity, of fear and trepidation but of electric excitement. It is a moment of decision. We hover at the edge of dawn, weighing whether or not to step forward into the new day or to return to the darkness of night.

This 'hour' brings a new covenant, a deep interior relationship with God that is not based on law but which overflows from a commitment of the heart. It brings an abundant harvest that springs from a simple grain of wheat. It brings a promise from God's own Son that those who serve him will be honoured by God, and those who obey him will enjoy eternal life.

Although the 'hour' brings all of these blessings, it only does so with a price. The new covenant could only be written on new hearts; the abundant harvest sprang from the dying grain of wheat; eternal salvation was won at the price of Christ's blood. As challenging as the message of these readings may be, the last note is one of hope. It can overcome the demons that control us, because it is the power of the almighty God.

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Chrism Mass

In dioceses around the world before or during Holy Week, bishops with their priests gather at their Cathedrals for the Chrism Mass. There the bishop blesses three oils, catechumens, the oil of sick and holy chrisms which will be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the diocese for the year. This practice emerged in the fifth century. The Sandhurst Diocese will celebrate this Mass in the cathedral on 24 March at 11am - all are welcome.

Feast of the Week - The Annunciation of the Lord (25 March)

This feast (now a solemnity) was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. The gospel recalls the announcement by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive and become the mother of Jesus, the Son of God, marking his Incarnation. It is one of the twelve Great Feasts of the church year.

On the Lighter Side

At the conclusion of the audience, Pope Francis offered to walk his guests to the door, to which Cardinal Dolan responded that it wasn't necessary for him to do so. Francis replied, "No, I want to make sure you leave."



Notices

Stronger Youth – Trivia Night Fundraiser

The Shepparton Stronger Youth Team will be hosting a Trivia Night to raise money for Youth Ministry events. Friday April 17th at Mons Bones Hall @ 7pm \$20 per person. Available from the Parish office or please contact Judi Robinson on 0419 575 585. BYO food/drinks. Raffles and silent auctions throughout the evening. *All welcome to join in for a fun night.*

Altar Society Helpers If you are available to help over Holy week and/or Easter could you please add your name to the white board in the Sacristy, or phone me for further details. Thank you for all your support.
Andrea 0407 096440

St. Brendan's Friendship Group will meet on Sunday 29th March at the Sherborne Hotel at 12.30pm. Call Pat Simpson on 0423 343 711 if you have any queries.

THE SPIRIT OF THE CARER

Opening our Eyes to a God of Surprises
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.

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 at 7.30pm in Mons. Jeffery Centre. Everyone is welcome. Contact Marie Kleinitz 5823 2597.

Our **Parish Men's Group** will meet next Saturday 28th March at 7.30am Mons Jeffery centre for a cooked breakfast or a small feast: bacon, eggs, snags, mushrooms. Fr Joe a regular men's group participant will give a faith topic presentation at the breakfast as well. So if you were thinking about coming along to a men's group gathering this might be the one to attend. A good breakfast, great presenter, one not to miss!
Any questions call Anthony 0408 269426.

ALTER SERVERS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE Easter Celebrations. Only trained servers will be accepted for these celebrations.
Palm Sunday: 4 servers required,
Holy Thursday: 6 servers required,
Good Friday— Celebration of the lords Passion at 3pm: 4 servers.
Easter Vigil Saturday Night: 6 servers.
All servers to be at the church one hour before commencement of the celebration. If servers fail to turn up at required time, they will not serve. Other servers who turn up will not be permitted to serve.
Sunday Liturgies will be as normal. Any servers who turn up may feel free to serve at that Mass

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

Fr. Joe Taylor will be taking 3 months Sabbatical Leave this year and will be away for May, June and July.

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 (1st and 2nd prize) with proceeds going to Stronger Youth Ministry and the Faith and 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 it's community. Home & Content, Car, Landlord, Personal Accident, Travel, Caravan. For information call 1300 655 003 or visit: 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 Mass of the Holy Oils

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.

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.

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: <https://tipping.afl.com.au> and the competition name is "St. Brendan's Parish Shepparton" - passCode "brendans15". For more information, call Ashley on 0412 475 290.

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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Lenten Activities in the Parish continuing throughout Lent

PROJECT COMPASSION

Cristian is a 33 year old farmer who lives in a remote Andean village in Peru. The community live a traditional life, and without irrigation, farmers have always relied on the rains to water crops.

"When there were no rains we suffered a lot, because sometimes the fields would not produce", says Cristian.

In 2012, Cristian and 14 other young farmers in his community participated in the Rural Development Program run by Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Huacho. The program offers materials, capital and training that supports farmers in rural areas to establish sustainable farms that will produce reliable, profitable and long term crops.

The program helped the young men secure land to farm, and provided them with seedlings and agricultural training so that they could grow and harvest sustainable, high value orchard crops, including peaches, custard apples and avocados. They also received the materials and training they needed to build an irrigation system to water their fields.

The farmers have helped one another to learn and achieve, and are now beginning to reap the rewards of their hard work—a healthy, nutritious new range of fruits in their diets and a steadily increasing

income for all their families.

The fact that I and the other partners can grow and develop together makes me proud," says Cristian. *"We are less worried now, because we are focussed on development, and with that in mind we are improving ourselves, with the help of Caritas, on the best way to produce."*



ST. BRENDAN'S DAY CELEBRATION 2015.

This year St. Brendan's Day will be celebrated on the 17th May beginning with 11am Mass. The Theme this year is *"Families of the Parish."*

This will include our school children, Mums and Dads, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles as well as our Parish family. The Committee has met just recently and plans are on the way. We are short of committee helpers and would welcome anyone who would like to join us in preparing for this special day. If you can help in any way, please contact Irene Garla 5823 1311 or 0407 532 163. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16th April at 7pm in the Mons Jeffrey Centre. *Hoping to hear from many interested people.*

Divine Mercy Sunday 12th April St Brendan's Church

Refer to insert in today's bulletin.



Have you got your tickets yet?

Don't miss out on the dinner to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life!

We owe so much to the many priests and religious who have given so much to our community through schools, hospitals, parish life and the many other organisations they have established.



Come and celebrate their great contributions!

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.

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 and Ron Collinson.

March 2015 Debutantes and Partners

This Saturday evening we welcome the first group for 2015— Debutantes and their Partners and their families, who will participate in our Parish Mass. We wish them well for the Ball to be held on 27th March.

Gabby Barber
Katelyn Dechene
Annalise Foott
Sarah Davey
Brianna Clark-Lines
Ashleigh Svoboda
Rebecca Sinclair
Abby Cavicchiolo
Mikalya Roberts
Cayla Griffiths
Chelsea Salmon
Mary-Beth MacGibbon
Stephanie Wilton
Taylah Treves
Lily Hawkins
Chloe Telford
Ella Crumpen-Winmar

Robert Baxter
Ned Gale
Jayden Yosh
Zolani Tshaka
Christopher Bucktin
Miah Shannon
Dalton West
Christopher Anderson
Lachlan Black
Xavier Behrends
Anthony Rando
Bailey Andersen
James Bicknell
Tristan Sales
Nick Murdoch
Peter O'Keeffe
Julian Mallis



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 28th & 29th March

6pm D Sullivan, Michael Collins

8am J Barkla, L Boschetti

11am P Howard, S Quilty



RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES: Frances O'Connor, William Linehan, Annie Linehan, Jack McLinden, Carmela Leo, Domenica & Lucia Rossi, Dino Argilla, Edward Phelan, Catherine Stein.

REFLECTION

Pope Francis' Five Finger Prayer

Using the fingers on your hand, start with the thumb and pray these intentions in this order.

- 1. The thumb is closest finger to you. So start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember.*
- 2. The next finger is the index. Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need the support and wisdom to show direction to others. Always keep them in your prayers.*
- 3. The following finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority. They need God's guidance.*
- 4. The fourth finger is the ring finger. Even though it may surprise you, it is our weakest finger. It reminds us to pray for the weakest, the sick or those plagued by problems. They need our prayers.*
- 5. And finally we have our smallest finger, the smallest of them all. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. When you are done praying for the other four groups, you will be able to see your own needs but in the proper perspective, and also you will be able to pray for your needs in a better way.*

So let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others; and let us all remember that it is only by God's divine grace that we sit here today sharing food as a community united in prayer.

Mass times in neighbouring Parishes

St. Mel's Shepparton South, Sunday 9.00am & 5.30pm, Monday 7am, Tuesday 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, Wednesday & Thursday 6pm Mass,

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

St. Joseph's Undera, No Mass.