



# WELCOME TO ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Parish Priest: *Fr. Joe Taylor*

Associate Priests: *Fr. Joseph Alluri and Fr Berny Agustines*



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

First Sunday of Advent Year C

Sunday 29 November 2015



Readings for this week:

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36



Readings for next Sunday

Baruch 5:1-9  
Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11  
Luke 3:1-6



## Liturgical Jottings

Advent is the waiting period before Christmas-Epiphany. The Liturgy is simpler with the omission of the "Glory to God" which will be heard at Christmas when we echo the song the angels sang at the birth of our Saviour. The colour of the Advent season is violet or purple, but not the red-purple of Lent, more the Jacaranda blue colour. It is a season of hope and joy, a season of preparation reaching fulfilment in the mystery of the Incarnation (God with us).

## Pope Francis

"Worshipping the Lord means giving him the place that he must have; worshipping the Lord means stating, believing - not only by our words - that he alone truly guides our lives; worshipping the Lord means that we are convinced before him that he is the only God, the God of our lives, the God of our history."

## Focus on the Season of Advent

The word advent, from Latin, means "the coming." The abundance of decorations already in shops and public places heralds the coming of Christmas. For centuries, Advent has been a time of spiritual reflection for Christians, as well as cheer and anticipation. Even as the Christmas season has become more secular-with advertisers urging holiday gift-givers to buy and buy some more-Advent still brings joy and the observance of ancient customs. Christian communities find quiet moments lighting candles in the Advent wreath. The coming for us is focussed on the Nativity and the birth of Jesus.

In the Middle Age, Advent became associated with preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. So today's Gospel and supporting readings remind us not to get so caught up in worldly distractions that we forget the future entirely. The preparation we undertake should enhance our relationship with God whether it be as 'the Son of Man, coming on a cloud' in the Second Coming; or in the gift of the Incarnation, as a helpless and vulnerable baby in the manger at Bethlehem.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

Perhaps we might set aside some prominent place in our home to put an Advent wreath or other reminder of the real reason for preparation and celebration in the weeks ahead. As we note the many commercial and social preparations for Christmas may we remind ourselves always of the truth of this special time.

## On the lighter Side

If bad lawyers are debarred, and bad clergymen are defrocked - doesn't it follow that electricians are delighted, drycleaners depressed, models deposed, musicians denoted, primary teachers degraded and secondary teachers deformed?



# Notices

## Keyboard player or Guitarist needed

We now have some singers for the new 6pm Saturday Mass music group however we are in need of a **keyboard player or guitarist**. If you would like to participate in this music Ministry please phone the Parish office on 5821 2633.



## Morning Meditation for Advent

Meditation on Thursday mornings during Advent will commence on December 3rd 7.15am to 7.45am in the Mons. Jeffrey Centre.

**Thank you** to St Vincent de Paul Society (St Brendan's Conference) for their generous donation of funds to pay for the food for the recent cooking lessons for refugees. The cooking lessons were a great success and were very much appreciated by the people involved. Thanks also to Bozena Szczurek and team for organising the lessons.

## HOLY HOUR *Quiet time of prayer and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament*

Held in the Marion Chapel in the Church each Thursday evening 7pm to 8pm. *Please note:* Holy Hour will not be held on 10th December, 24th December and 31st December.

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Presented by Le Belle Arti, will be held on **Friday 4th December 2015**, at United Football Club, Skene St. (Deakin Reserve).

Doors open **6pm for 7pm start**.

An Italian meal will be served. Bookings essential by 2nd December. Cost Adults \$25, Children \$21. Phone Andrea on 58215347 / 0437923215



Our last **cooking session with the asylum seekers** concluded on Saturday 21/11 with great success and record attendance. We have introduced those who attended to Australian food that was very easy to prepare and in turn the volunteers and parishioners were able to watch the preparation and enjoy the taste of a traditional Pakistani dish, Chicken Biryani (a dish with as much as 10 different spices). All meals were prepared and cooked by the guests. It was one of many shared moments that we all will keep in our memories for a long time. Thank you so much to everyone who came to cook, to eat, and to clean up, and to St. Vincent de Paul Shepparton for funding the evenings. We all had great experience and fun along the way.  
*~ Bozena Szczurek - Organiser*

## Christ the King Flag Procession

Thank you to the many volunteers (more than 40) who carried flags in our procession last weekend. It was a spectacular display of many of the nationalities represented in our parish. There is a group photo available for each of our flag bearers in a basket at the back of the church. Please take the one with the name of the flag you carried and the time of the Mass. We are hoping to add to our flag collection every year, until we have all nationalities represented. If you would like to carry a flag next year, please keep an eye out for the volunteer roster in November 2016. If you did not see your country's flag this year, but would like it represented in the future, flags can be ordered at Aussie Disposals for approximately \$30. Parishioners are welcome to purchase a flag and donate it to the Parish if they wish, as we have a limited budget to purchase flags. Thank you to all those people who have already donated flags, or paid for them to be purchased. Thank you also to Marg Sarkady for her organising, and all the readers of the Prayers of the Faithful. It was very special to hear so many languages spoken in our church over the weekend.  
*~ Kathy Hunt*

## Mary, Companion and Guide

Saturday 12th December 10 to 3pm  
in the Mons Jeffrey Centre

Speaker: Fr Berny Agustines

**All Generations will call Me Blessed. Luke 1**

Please bring a plate to share

*See the flyer on the noticeboard*

**Stronger Christmas Party:** Join us as we celebrate an amazing year & encounter the Joy and wonder of Christmas! Saturday December 19, 3-7:30pm

De Campo room, 120 Hargreaves St, Bendigo Cost: \$15

Tickets: Contact Darcy 5445 3616 / Mary-Anne 0488 665383.

**World Youth Day (WYD)** If you are between the ages of 16-35 and would like to experience a phenomenal pilgrimage to Poland to join with Pope Francis & millions of faith filled young people visit <http://www.cam.org.au/wydvictoria> or contact Darcy De Losa on 03 5445 3616 or email [darcy.delosa@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:darcy.delosa@sandhurst.catholic.org.au). You don't want to miss this incredible opportunity!



## 2016 Prep Students

As part of the GodStart program, the Parish would like to invite families of the 2016 preps to attend one of the weekend Masses next weekend 5th/6th December. During Mass the 2016 Prep children from all schools in our Parish will be presented with their GodStart Prayer Book.

**The Little Blue Book** Six-minute Reflections for Advent and Christmas. These little blue books costing only \$5 each are available in the narthex.

**New Counting Roster:** Please notify the Parish Office if you do not wish to remain on the counting roster, or if you wish to join this ministry. A new roster will be issued early in the New Year.

**St Brendan's Friendship Group** will be meeting for Christmas lunch at the Sherbourne this **Sunday 29th November at 12.30pm**. Please leave your name if you are coming with Pat Simpson on 58211269.



## Advent – Week 1

### Jesus will return

In this, the first week of Advent, we light the first purple candle on our Advent Wreath.

We light this first candle to pray for hope. We pray for ourselves and for everyone. We ask that our hope will be fixed on God and that God will inspire us to hope for good things

We pray for everyone who feels that their hope has gone. May they find a new hope that shines like this candle flame

Lord Jesus Christ, hope of our hearts and hope for the world, come close to us this Advent.

*Come Lord Jesus, come and be born in our hearts.*

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be focusing on Advent and the Advent Wreath over the next four Sunday's.

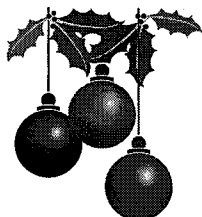
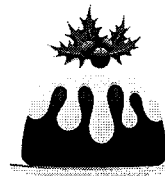
The children will participate in a special prayer and lighting of the candle ceremony, followed by a discussion on the theme of the day and completing a fun activity.

Today we will light the first candle, the candle of HOPE and discuss with the children about being ready to welcome Jesus into our heart and lives today and every day.

The children will be given an Advent Calendar which has lots of suggestions on how the children could get ready to welcome Jesus. The children will be encouraged to choose at least one activity to try very hard to fulfil.

# First Sunday of Advent

## Seniors' Christmas Luncheon this Wednesday 2nd December



The last anointing Mass for the year will be held  
this Wednesday in the church at 11am.  
After Mass all Senior parishioners are invited to lunch in  
the Mons Jeffrey Centre to enjoy some  
Christmas cheer together.

### STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM PRAYER

*Lord, we thank you for calling us to be your Church.  
Through our Baptism we are called to service and to witness.  
In the Eucharist we sustain and strengthen that call.  
By serving others we follow your example and proclaim our  
beliefs.  
By our Christian generosity we demonstrate our love and care.  
Lord, help us always to worship you as you deserve,  
to grow in faith and service  
and to give without counting the cost.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

### Parish Men's Group

are hosting former director of Catholic education in  
Sandhurst Diocese, Denis Higgins.

Dennis will share with us his vast experience, and  
also some of his own story within this role.

The breakfast will start at 7.30 am on  
Saturday 5th December in the Mons Jeffery Centre.

All are welcome on what should be a great way to  
start your weekend.

Questions to Anthony on 5821 2633

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2015

Thank you once again to all the Parishioners who completed a pledge card and a Time and Talent Sheet over the past couple of weeks and a big thank you to our hard working Follow-up Group. If you have not already done so, please remember to return all your cards to the Parish Office at the latest by Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

Pledge cards are available at the back of the church if you were away or missed out. Completed pledge cards may be returned to the Parish Office. Time & Talent sheets are also available at the back of the church if you wish to volunteer for any of the ministries within our Parish.

#### PROGRAM SOCIAL NIGHT

The Program Leadership Team extends a warm invitation to our **Program Social Night**, to all parishioners who have been involved in the Stewardship Program over the past few weeks. The Program would not have been so successful without your support! **The Social Night will be held at 6.00pm next Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the Parish Centre.** Come along to hear the results of the Program and to enjoy some light refreshments with your fellow parishioners.

**On Monday 14th December at 5pm**

Bishop Leslie Tomlinson will be the  
main celebrant at Mass to

**welcome the three newly ordained priests**

in the Diocese: Fathers Stephen Bolling,

Junray Rayna and Novelito Lim.

All parishioners are warmly welcome to attend.

### Online Advent Retreat

You're invited to spend the days before Christmas praying and reflecting with *Advent Moments of Mercy* at [www.loyolapress.com/advent-moments-of-mercy](http://www.loyolapress.com/advent-moments-of-mercy)  
This free e-mail series, written by Jim Campbell—religious educator and author of *The Stories of the Old Testament* and *52 Simple Ways to Talk with Your Kids about Faith*—delivers daily throughout the Advent season.

**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 at 11am  
*Mass at Tarcoola*, second Wednesday of each month 10.30am  
*Syro Malabar Mass*, third Sunday of each month 5pm  
*Christmas Carols & Mass*, Dec 24th, 6.30pm in Mercy Stadium

### **Reconciliation**

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

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

\*\*\**Holy Hour will not be held on 10th December, 24th December and 31st December*\*\*\*

**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

**Christian Meditation** - Mondays 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 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 7pm.

### **Lectors & Commentators 5th & 6th December**

**6pm** A Kilmartin, J Howley  
**8am** J Zampaglione, D Teitzel  
**11am** W Hunt, J M Mupenda



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Francisca Bognar, Verna Perkins (Orpwood)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Kath Ryan, Winifred Kennedy, Michael Kennedy, Doreen Townsend, Tess Love, Kaye Kennedy, Kath McNamara, Ray O'Dwyer, Thomas Manning.

## REFLECTION

We are so easily distracted from our God. This world makes such demands on us, and those demands are seemingly constant.

Committing ourselves to the direction of God is hard work, but it's not impossible.

The commitment to the way of the Lord may be made each night before sleep and each morning as the day begins. All we need to do is focus our attention on God's work in our lives.

Think it, speak it, act it. What are the demands that distract me from God? What is their worthiness?

*Luke 21: 34-35*

*"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from.... The anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap."*

3 minute retreats daily online prayer.  
[www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)

### **Mass times in neighbouring Parishes**

**St. Mel's Shepparton South**, Sunday 9.30am & 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.