



WELCOME TO ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/sheppartoncatholic>

Parish Priest: *Fr. Joe Taylor*

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



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

Second Sunday of Advent ~ Year C

Sunday 6 December 2015



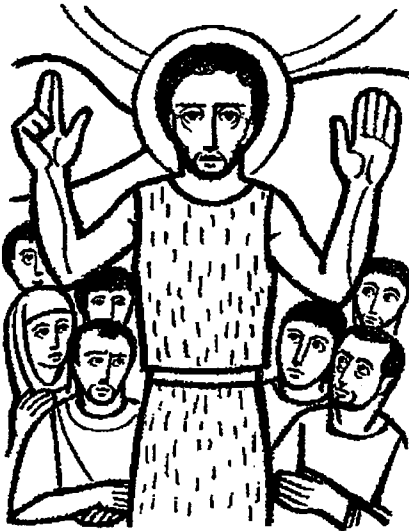
Readings for
this week:

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



Readings for
next Sunday

Zephaniah 3:14-18
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18



Liturgical Jottings

One of the solemn blessings to be given by the celebrant at the end of the Eucharistic celebration each Sunday of Advent has an almost colloquial ring. "As you run the race of this present life may the almighty and merciful God make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity." It would be good to pray daily between now and Christmas Day that this blessing will be fulfilled in each of our lives.



Prayer for the week

Jesus our light, guide us in our decisions.

Jesus, in whom we trust, bring peace to all who have lost hope.

Jesus, in whose coming we rejoice, be a source of love and compassion for us.

Focus on the Readings

The theme of today's readings is that everyone shall share in salvation through the coming of God's son to be one with us. An appropriate response for us in the weeks leading up to our celebration of the birth of God's son is suggested by the words, "Prepare the way of the Lord".

The focus of the gospel for today is on the role of John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus, in the story of salvation. Luke's gospel tells us simply that the word of God came to John. He then went through the whole Jordan district preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin. His ministry had such an impact that it is reported in secular writing of the time. The final stage in the long journey towards salvation was the birth of Jesus. John's role was to awaken people to his coming.

For us these events are an invitation to awaken our minds and hearts to the significance of having the Son of God share our humanity. His presence raises our lives to a new level, which we must express by the way we live. Our celebration of Christmas personalises the birth of Jesus for us. It is a time when we look forward to holidays, to family gatherings, to friendship and the exchange of gifts. The context for these happy events is the spiritual refreshment that comes to us with our annual celebration of the birth of Jesus. We prepare once again for a joyful and sacred time.

Quotable Quote

The way Luke tells his story suggests that the birth and childhood of Jesus comes as the climax of a long series of saving interventions of God. To the scripturally formed reader this signals a clear message, "Here, again, is a sacred time, a moment of God's saving intervention, the fulfilment of a promise."

Brendan Byrne. The Hospitality of God

On the Lighter Side

At Christmas play and make good cheer
For Christmas comes but once a year.



Notices

Office Closure

The Parish office will be closed next
Wednesday 9th December between 12pm and 3pm.

Morning Meditation for Advent

Meditation on Thursday mornings during Advent at
7.15am to 7.45am in the Mons Jeffrey Centre.
All welcome.

Mass at Tarcoola

this Wednesday 9th December at 10.30am

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.

Bishop Les has recorded a **Christmas Message** to the Diocese in the parish church of Mary Help of Christians at Heathcote. View it on the Diocesan website www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au It is on the lower half of the front page.

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

2016 Prep Students

Welcome to the 2016 Prep students and their families. The children will receive a GodStart Prayer Book during the Masses this weekend. We pray they have a wonderful journey through their education.



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 in the New Year.

Concert on High with Fr Rob Galea and band in the open space of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.
Saturday 12th December 6pm to 9pm. BYO chair or rug.
Tickets from Capitol Box Office 5434 6100 www.gotix.com.au
A\$15 C\$10 F\$40. *See 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. You don't want to miss this incredible opportunity!

Christmas for Those Alone

Free Christmas Day lunch is for anyone in the community who is alone or unable to have a Christmas meal with family or friends. December 25th, 2015 11am to 2pm
The McIntosh Centre, Shepparton Show Grounds
Transport is available if required, please call 0437 387584
Call 0437 387584, 5833 3681 or 5831 1485 for information.
See the flyer on the noticeboard.

PILGRIMAGE: 23 Days Holy Pilgrimage to Lisbon, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Oviedo, Lourdes, Nevers, Loyola, Paris, Lyon, Turin, Pisa, Rome and/or **7 Days Holy Land Extension** starting on August 11, 2016 with Fr. Emmanuel-tv (Spiritual Director). Contact us ASAP: 0893413079, 089341131, 0417999553, fremmanueltv@hotmail.com

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
All parishioners welcome to attend.

Blessings to Isaac Demase

who will be joining the Jesuits
in January.

May we all keep him in our prayers.

Special Ministers of Communion to sick and housebound

Over the Christmas/New Year period there will be no visitations on Sunday 27th December or Sunday 3rd January. Special Ministers rostered in the next few weeks please inform parishioners of this arrangement.

St Brendan's MacKillop Faith & Light Community
Will gather together in the Mons Jeffrey Centre after 11am Mass this Sunday 6th December. This will be our Christmas break up where we will enjoy lunch together followed by our annual Christmas Gospel role play. For information please phone Denise 0432 054003. **Many thanks to Sara White and the Notre Dame College students for the beautiful star they made for the Christmas Play.**

Thursday 3rd December was
International Day of People with Disability.
In 2015 the theme is **Inclusion matters: Access and empowerment for people of all abilities.**

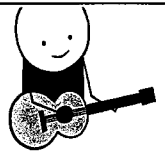
The sub-themes are:

- * making cities inclusive and accessible for all
- * improving disability data and statistics
- * including people with invisible disability (such as psychosocial, intellectual and/or hearing impairments) in society and development.

More information at www.idpwd.com.au

Keyboard player and/or Guitar Player needed

We are in need of a guitarist or keyboard player at 6pm Mass on some Saturdays. If you would like to participate in this important Ministry please phone the Parish office on 5821



Advent – Week 2

In this, the second week of Advent, we light the first and second purple candles on our Advent Wreath.

We lit the first candle to pray for hope. We light this second candle to pray for peace; peace for ourselves and for the whole world.

We ask for peace of mind that comes from seeing things clearly. We pray for everyone who lives in the midst of conflict or war. May they find some sign of peace that shines like this candle flame.

Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of peace, reign in our hearts and in all the world. Come close to us this Advent.

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

Second Sunday of Advent

Year of Mercy commences 8th December, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica

"the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instils hope."

The parish is not an outdated institution... Because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community... "the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters "... in contact with the homes and the lives of its people..."

The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration... a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.

~ Evangelii Gaudium 28

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.

Following the Mass there will be a cuppa for everyone however the priests will be heading to a celebratory dinner.



PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2015

Our Stewardship Program has been finalized and once again we wish to warmly thank everyone for their involvement and generous response. A special thank you goes to our Program Leadership Team and to all the volunteers who assisted with the follow-up process.

Letters of confirmation, and where applicable, new sets of Stewardship envelopes, are available for collection today - in name alphabetical order.

Members of the Program Leadership Team will be on hand to assist at all Masses. The new pledges take effect from next week and most envelope numbers will have changed. To avoid any confusion please destroy any old envelopes that you may still have.

Pledge cards are available at the church entrance if you have not yet had a chance to complete one. Completed cards can be left in the collection plate or delivered to the Parish Office.

A reminder that Time & Talent sheets are currently being processed and those who responded will be contacted in the near future.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH.

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

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

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 Hols)

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

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, January by arrangement.

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 (except January)

Charismatic Prayer Group - Tuesdays 7.30pm, Parish Centre
***In recess until 19th January.

Christian Meditation - Mondays 7.30pm, Parish Centre.

Faith and Light Community - 1st Sunday monthly

Friendship Group - Last Sunday monthly for lunch, 12.30pm (except December)

Garabandal - 3rd Monday monthly 1.30pm, Parish centre
***In recess until 15th February.

Gospel Discussion Group - 2nd & 4th Monday monthly at 1.30pm in the small meeting room in the Parish Centre
***In recess until 8th February.

Mens Group - Saturday fortnightly 7.30am in the Parish centre. Contact the Parish office. *** In recess until 30th Jan.

Serra Club - 1st Friday monthly 7.15pm, Church & Parish Centre (except January)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul (St. Brendan's Conference) - 2nd Thursday monthly 7pm (except January)

Lectors & Commentators 12th & 13th December

6pm B Phillips, M Phillips
8am Sr R Crowe, G Jelliff
11am P Crane, P Chalkley

Christmas Mass Times
Christmas Eve 24th December
Mercy Centennial Stadium
Carols 6.30pm Mass at 7.30pm
Midnight Mass
Carols 11.30pm Mass 12 Midnight
Christmas Day 25th December
8am and 11am

RECENTLY DECEASED: Eric Vessey.

ANNIVERSARIES: Matthew William O'Connor,
Jim Cummins, Winifred Grace, Maria & Domenico Sofra

Reflection

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.

~ Pope Francis

*Excerpt from Misericordiae Vultus
Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee of Mercy*

www.im.va

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
Christmas Eve 6pm, Christmas Day 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.