



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

Third Sunday of Advent ~ Year C

Sunday 13 December 2015



Readings for
this week:

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



Readings for
next Sunday

Micah 5:1-4
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-44



Liturgical Jottings

The liturgies of Advent and Christmas constantly call to mind beautiful moments in our faith journey. For instance the preface read today offers us two deep and realistic insights. The first is that the Virgin Mary longed for the birth of her child with love beyond all telling. The second is that the gift of God to us each Advent is that we already are rejoicing in the mystery of the Nativity of Jesus.

Pope Francis

And here is the first word I wish to say to you: Joy! Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement. Ours is not a joy born of many possessions but of having encountered a person, Jesus, in our midst. *The Church of Mercy.*

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Focus on the Readings

The words of Saint Paul, which we read today from his letter to the Philippians, especially his words: "I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord", suggest that joy is the key word at this stage of our lead up to Christmas. Think of the joy of a mother as she looks with love at her child who has just been born. That is the extent to which we are invited to personalise our celebration of the birth of Jesus. The presence of a recently born child with parents at midnight Mass can bring this home to us.

Yet everything about the liturgy of Christmas urges us to look beyond ourselves to the community of faith of which we are part. This Christmas let us grow in awareness of God being with us in the person of Jesus so that we will be a faith filled, hope filled, joy filled Church. Paul was so filled with respect and love for the church that he liked to tell its members that they were the body of Christ.

To come to terms with the concept of always being happy in the Lord we need to note that one way John prepared the way for the new order of being that would come to the world through Jesus is that the person with two coats must share with the person who has none. Paul, speaking to the church in Philippi, adds to that by saying, "Let your tolerance be known to everyone." What Pope Francis is asking of members of the church today is that we be respectful of each other, tolerant and generous. These qualities will bring us happiness as we set about preparing the way of the Lord. They will also give credibility to the faith we profess.

A Thought for Today

When Mary first held the baby Jesus in her arms something had already changed for our humanity. Jesus, the Son of God, had become one of us in the person of this child. We could now become one with each other as he had become one with us. It now makes sense to say we can all be happy in the Lord for, there in Mary's arms, he is near to us.

On a Lighter Note

Christmas in Victoria 1855. Christmas Day we celebrated with good old roast beef and plum pudding. We drank a merry Christmas to all our friends in Old England. We tried to believe it really was Christmas in spite of the thermometer at 120°F (48°C) degrees, the diggers' tents in the distance and the bush all around us. *William Howitt*



Notices

Morning Meditation for Advent

Meditation on Thursday mornings during Advent at 7.15am to 7.45am in the Mons Jeffrey Centre. All welcome to come along for reflection and some quiet time to start the day.

Parish Men's Group.

If you have only attended occasionally or have never been to a Men's Group breakfast then make sure this is the one you get to.

It's where we prove that women have every right to be suspicious about what goes on at the Men's Group. That's right, there will be pavlova for breakfast! (But if you are asked what you had for breakfast the answer is some eggs, and a little fruit) So come and join with other men of St Brendan's parish, and enjoy some great food and Christmas fellowship. 7.30am Saturday 19th of December, Mons Jeffery Centre.



Contact Anthony: 58212633

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.

Daily Mass Books

are now available in the Piety Stall for \$20.

Catholic Church Insurance

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 more information call 1300 655 003 or visit www.catholicinsurance.org.au We thank them for their support of this Parish.

Gluten Free Hosts are available: Please see Father prior to Mass (via Sacristy door) so a pyx can be arranged.

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.

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.

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!

STRONGER CHRISTMAS PARTY

The first ever Stronger Christmas Party will be held in Bendigo this year! It will be a celebration of what God had done for us in 2015. All youth within the Sandhurst Diocese are welcome! Saturday December 19th. 3:30-7:30pm Where: Bishop De Campo Hall, 120 Hargreaves St. Bendigo **Please come along dressed in a Gatsby themed outfit. Transport will be available from St Brendan's Parish. Please contact Judi Robinson on 0419 575 585 for more details. Visit the stronger website for more details www.strongeryouth.com

This **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 in the Mons Jeffrey Centre.* Please bring a plate to share.

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.

Caritas Australia Global Gifts Every year Australians spend billions of dollars on Christmas gifts yet so much of what we give and receive is wasted. Meanwhile around the world billions of people will struggle just to feed their families and access clean water this Christmas. **Global Gifts** are a fantastic way to make giving meaningful and bring joy to vulnerable communities at the same time. Gifts include Clean Water, Food, Education, Healthcare, Sustainable Agriculture & Emergency Relief. Purchase online at www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts or phone 1800 024 413 or pick up an order form at back of church.

Readers and Commentators

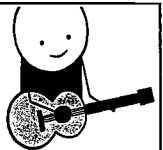
In an effort to cut costs, copies of the weekend readings will no longer be left in the sacristy for lectors. If you would still like a copy of the readings to practice on beforehand, there are three alternatives:

- phone the office and we can email a copy to you
- call in to the office and we can print a copy for you
- get the app *Universalis* on your phone which includes all the readings for Sundays and special days.

If you are **travelling within the Diocese of Sandhurst** at Christmas, Mass times are on the diocesan website. Visit www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au click on "Parish Churches."

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 3

In this, the third week of Advent, we light the first and second purple candles, as well as the third pink candle on our Advent Wreath.

We lit the first candle to pray for hope. We lit the second candle to pray for peace. We light the third candle to pray for joy, for ourselves and for everyone. We give thanks for the beauty of joy and the way it comes to us when we don't expect it. We pray for everyone who feels no joy. May they find some hint of joy that shines like this candle flame. Lord Jesus Christ, joy of the hearts that know you, fill us and all your world with joy. Come close to us this Advent. *Come Lord Jesus, come and be born in our hearts.*

Third Sunday of Advent

*The First Sunday
in the Jubilee
Year of Mercy*



Christmas Mass Times
Christmas Eve 24th December
Mercy Centennial Stadium (Skene Street)
Carols 6.30pm Choirs of St Luke's & St Brendan's
7pm Jason & Band
Mass at 7.30pm
St Brendan's Church Midnight Mass
Carols 11.30pm Mass 12 Midnight
St Brendan's Church Christmas Day 25th December
8am and 11am. 5.30pm Syro Malabar Rite
Reconciliation
Tuesday 22nd December 5pm to 6.30pm

Happy Birthday!!

Betty Sęgafrędo is celebrating her
80th birthday.
Our best wishes to Betty and all those
who are celebrating a birthday.



Waiting

John the Baptist's preaching was a call to action. John called upon women and men to repent and to be baptised. Repentance includes sorrow and remorse, but it is also a change of heart and mind that results in a change of course, a change in lifestyle, a change in what we are doing, in how we are treating others. Repentance calls on us to open our minds and hearts to God's ways, which may not always be our ways!

Each year Advent comes along – it reminds us of this time of waiting for the Coming of Jesus. How will we use it? Like any period of waiting, it too can teach us a lot about ourselves. Advent waiting can be a reminder to pause, to become more sensitive of the work of God within us and within those around us. But only if we let it.

We may be surrounded by fast food or instant this or that, but there is nothing instant about you or I. We are a work in progress. It is a lifetime commitment, a journey of discovery and growth. The waiting of Advent asks the question, what 'star' are you following at the moment, what is leading you, giving you direction or motivation in your life? Advent gives us the chance to look at our longings, which are much deeper than just what we want - the things we really long for out of life, out of our relationships, out of our work, our commitments. It helps us recognise our own limitations and therefore our need of others, not the least of them being our need for God. This waiting gives us the chance to think about where we make room for God or has the pace of life taken over so that isn't a reality anymore?

This time of waiting gave the people of Israel a time to re-assess, to think again about how they saw their faith, how they saw their response to God. Some stayed as they were. Others saw the need for change, to be more merciful, less rigid. How do we see our response to God, our response to Jesus' message? If our faith means anything, it has to mean more than something that gives us re-assurance and comfort; it is more than just following rules. It means working at the way we live our lives, how we treat our neighbours, especially those who are poor or disadvantaged. Surely Jesus taught us that – in fact, He gave his life for it.

~ Excerpt from *Along the Track—Waiting* by Jim Quillinan
Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

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 5.30pm

Reconciliation

Saturday mornings 9.30am-10.30am
Before 9.15am weekday masses
Tuesday 22nd December 5pm to 6.30pm

Holy Hour

Thursdays 7pm to 8pm ***Holy Hour will not be held on 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.
***In recess until 1st February

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.

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

Lectors & Commentators 19th & 20th December

6pm D Sullivan, F Scheibel

8am T Francis, A Leahy **11am** B Carey, S Pivac

RECENTLY DECEASED: Rodney Kilmartin

ANNIVERSARIES: Angela Nicolaci, Patty Williams, Petronella Van Dillon, Molly Hickey, Bonnie Wiltshire (First Wedding Anniversary Remembrance).

Reflection

*“With our whole heart,
our whole soul,
our whole mind,
with our whole strength and
fortitude,
with our whole
understanding,
with all our powers,
with every effort, e
very affection, every feeling,
every desire and wish,
let us love the Lord God.*

*Who has given and gives to
each one of us
our whole body,
our whole soul
and our whole life,
Who has created,
redeemed and will save us by
His mercy alone,
Who did and does everything
good for us.”*

From: Advent and Christmas Wisdom from St. Francis of Assisi

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.

Christmas Eve 6pm, Midnight Mass, Christmas Day 9.30am.

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.