



ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

121 Knight Street, Shepparton. 3630 Phone: 5821 2633 Fax: 5831 2908

Email address: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Website: www.sheppartoncatholic.org.au

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Joe Taylor

Associate Priests: Fr. Joseph Alluri and Fr Berny Agustines

Weekend Mass times: Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 8am and 11am

Weekday Mass times: Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation: Saturday mornings 9.30am to 10.30am and before 9.15am weekday Masses

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am to 4pm (Closed Mondays & Public Holidays)



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

The Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday 3 January 2016



Readings for this week:

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:3-3,5-6
Matthew 2:1-12



Readings for next Sunday

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



Liturgical Jottings

On the Epiphany of the Lord, we reflect that our prayers stem from our beliefs. We reflect, too, that both our prayers and beliefs should influence the way we live. Today's Prayer after Communion asks that the Lord go before us with heavenly light that we may see and revere the mystery of the Eucharist. In the Creed, we call Christ "Light from Light." The star showed the way to the magi. Christ is the light that shows us the way through our days and guides us on a heavenly course. We just need to look to God for the light in our lives.

Christmas quotes

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." *Charles Dickens*

"He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree." *Roy L. Smith.*

Focus on the Feast

Christmas season reaches its apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.

It is a wonderful call to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God changes the way we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ. © *Dianne Bergant CSS*

Epiphany Customs

- Blessing of homes is still an European tradition on or after the feast of the Epiphany
- A German custom is the Star Singers, reminiscent of the travel of the Three Kings. Children dressed as the kings, and holding stars, go from door to door, singing a Three Kings song and receive donations that today are given to Third World charities.
- Another ancient custom on this feast day was the priest announced the date of Easter. When calendars were not readily available, the church needed to publicise the date of Easter, and other dates: Ash Wednesday, Ascension, Pentecost, the Body and Blood of Christ.

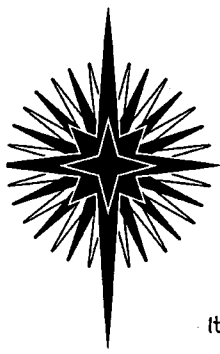
On the Lighter Side

First soldier: Please pass me some Christmas pudding?

Second soldier: Certainly not. First soldier: Why not?

Second soldier: Because it's against army regulations to help another soldier to dessert.





Beginning a New Year

A new year begins with all its hopes and dreams
its fears and trepidations — Life's never what it seems!

I approach a little unsure, but confident in the plans and preparations already
done; ready for the challenge of the days ahead
For the mundane, the surprises, the inevitable unknown!

Something in me looks forward with joy with excitement for new things to come.
Something in me is tentative, anxious knowing it won't all be fun.

But I do know there's growth and opportunity awaiting me each day.
I know that the God of my hoping and believing walks with me all of the way.

So I welcome this New Year with confidence with faith in God and my friend.
And I pray these months will be special from this day unto year's end.

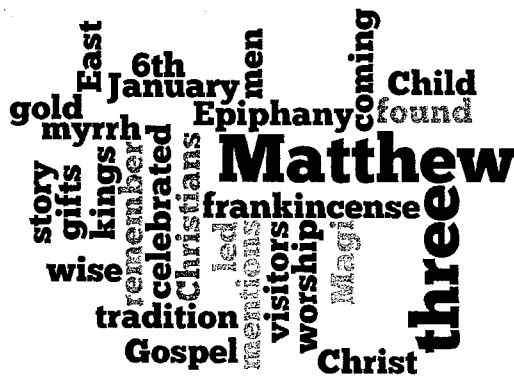
~ From 'Prayers at Your Fingertips' By Barbara Bretherton

Welcome to St Brendan's Parish



We would like to sincerely thank the many volunteers who have helped out in so many ways during Frank's absence. From gardening and mowing to emptying bins and changing light globes and other maintenance, there has been much done by many to keep the grounds looking so lovely and the jobs done! Frank is recovering well and hopes to be back at work in the parish very soon.

GV Gospel Concert Saturday 23rd January at Eastbank.
For bookings phone 0432285567 or 0432405572.



Adi Indra will be on pastoral placement in St Brendan's Parish for the first semester of 2016 before leaving in July for further study in Rome.

Youth Ministry Update We would like to say a huge thank you for your support of youth ministry in 2015 and would like to wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year! Follow Stronger Youth on social media to keep up to date with the latest in youth events and opportunities in 2016! We look forward to connecting with you soon!
~ Darcy & Mary-Ann, Diocesan Youth Ministry Team



Colouring Sheets for the children are located on the clipboards in the side entrance (west side) and in the narthex. These follow the story of Christ's birth, the Holy Family and the Baptism of Jesus. The children are welcome to take these home.

51st Eucharistic Congress is being held in Cebu in the Philippines from 24th to 31st January. For details go to: <http://iec2016.ph>
Please pray for the success of the Congress.

Gluten Free Hosts If you would like to receive Holy Communion but have trouble with coeliac or food intolerances we have a supply of gluten free hosts. Please see Father before Mass so a pyx can be arranged for you (via the sacristy door in the west/side entrance).

Estela Hutchings, Counsellor who consults in the Parish is available for private and confidential consultation on a wide variety of issues. Estela is normally available for consultations on **Fridays**. There is a small charge for a 60 minute consultation. For information and bookings contact the Parish office on 5821 2633 during office hours.

All parishioners are encouraged to subscribe to the **free emagazine** at www.cathfamily.org
This is an excellent resource for the whole family eg. Faith and Family Life, Sacraments etc.

This week and for the month of January, the weekend bulletin will be produced in this smaller, one page, A4 version.

Recently Deceased: Cassie Wrigley (Coppinger), Elaine Twomey.

Anniversaries: Bishop Joseph Grech, Marie Coppinger, Kevin Coppinger, William Linehan, Annie Linehan, William Linehan (Jnr) Caterina Cucinotta, Renzo Piroli.

Holy Hour Thursdays 7pm to 8pm.

Altar Society Morning coffee & get together

8th January 10am Fryers Street Food Store in Fryers St.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul (St. Brendan's Conference)

Next Meeting 14th January 7pm.

Lectors & Commentators 9th & 10th January, 2016

6pm Sr F Kennedy, A Kilmartin

8am D Teitzel, J Zampaglione

11am P Cooper, J Pilkington