



WELCOME TO ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

121 KNIGHT ST, SHEPPARTON 3630

Ph : 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*



Christ in community...the
heart of our faith

Fourth Sunday of Lent- Year C

Sunday 6 March 2016



Readings for
this week:

Joshua 5:9-12
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Luke 15:1-3.11-32



Readings for
next Sunday

Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:8-14
John 8:1-11



Liturgical Jottings

Laetare Sunday is the popular name for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Laetare (from the Latin which is still the official language of the Catholic Church) means "Rejoice". The Introit (entrance antiphon) in our Mass today is Isaiah 66:10-11, which begins "Laetare, Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem").

A Thought for Lent

Do you have nice things that you would like to do for others but never seem to get around to it? Like writing a letter to a friend, visiting a lonely person, calling a distant friend etc. Write down a number of things you would like to do – small things count – on slips of paper and put them in a jar. Then, every morning in these remaining days of Lent take out a slip and do the task written on the slip. It is a simple way of doing something for others -giving alms!

Looking at the Readings

How many of us have at times identified with the older brother in Jesus' familiar parable that we know as The Prodigal Son? Have we wondered was it fair that the bad boy got a party and the good one didn't? Of course on reflection we come to appreciate that at a deeper level the story is obviously more about the father's extravagant, crazy love than the behaviour of his sons.

As we ponder Jesus' story anew perhaps we could begin by asking ourselves do the two brothers represent the two basic ways people try to make life work. Is the older son in Jesus' story every bit as lost as the younger one? The younger son pursues self-discovery - he's on a quest to find and fulfil himself, even if he hurts people along the way - and he does including himself. The older brother is committed to a more socially respectable way of being in the world - toeing the line; the way of honour and conformity. He's on about self-salvation, earning the approval of his community and the favour of his father; when he feels this position is dishonoured, his good attitude dissolves into bitterness and resentment.

For Jesus' audience of the day, respect for one's father was paramount; the younger son's request for his inheritance from a still-healthy father amounts to an unthinkable wrongdoing. But the older son's conduct - refusing to join the party for his brother and arguing with his father in front of the guests is outstandingly bad. Hospitality was of supreme value in first-century Palestine. The entire village would likely have been invited to the party, and the oldest son would be expected to co-host it. Having a feast in one's honour is a blessing, but being asked to help host the banquet a greater gift. His refusal is again an embarrassing rejection for the father who has demeaning himself actually gone out looking for this son, pleading with him to come in and join the party.

Jesus leaves the story unfinished. Will the eldest son abandon his own plan for making life work and accept the generous gift of his father's love and inclusion? Or will he stick to his own terms and exclude himself from his place in the family?

On the Lighter Side

Moses, leading the Hebrews to the Red Sea with the Egyptians coming fast, turned to his PR agent: "Where are those boats I ordered!" The agent said, "What boats? You never mentioned boats to me." Moses said: "Great! What am I supposed to do, just lift my staff and part the waters?" His agent replied: "If you can do that, I can get you a whole section in the Bible."



Notices

Formation FOR ALL MINISTRIES New and Old

On this Tuesday March 8th, will be holding the second formation session again for all ministries with Maria Weatherill and Fr Joe on 'The Structure of The Word.'

7.30pm and 8.30pm in the Noel Daly Centre (behind Mons Jeffrey centre).

We would like all existing volunteers to attend as well as new volunteers.

If you are interested in joining one of the many important ministries within the parish please come along.

These will be followed up with specific sessions for each ministry, starting with Ministers of Communion on Thursday April 28th between 5pm and 6pm.

These informative sessions are open to everyone.

Mass at Tarcoola this Wednesday 9th March at 10.30am.

Half Day Retreat at St Mary's Parish Church, 2 Toolamba Road, Mooroopna. Sunday 20th March Palm Sunday 11am (following 10am Mass) to 2.30pm. Retreat facilitator is Mary Murphy. Light lunch provided — Gold coin/note donation to assist St Mary's with lunch costs. Phone 54412544 or email: adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
See flyer on the noticeboard in the narthex.

St. Brendan's Parish AFL Footy Tipping Competition 2016

Attention all footy lovers! The St. Brendan's Parish Footy Tipping competition is on again this year, and we would love everyone to sign up and be a part of all the fun. Test your footy brain against all your family and friends. The tips are entered online, so all you need is an email address and access to the internet via computer, tablet, or smartphone and you are set to go. Entry fee is \$25, payable at the parish office before Friday 15 April. This year, we will have prizes for the first four tipsters. The size of our prizes will be announced once everyone has signed up. In addition, as part of the AFL.com competition, all entrants can share in over \$550,000 worth of additional prizes.

Joining can be done prior to payment, so follow this link:
<https://tipping.afl.com.au>

Returning players can use their 2015 login details. New players just sign up and follow the instructions. Once registered, click on the "Comps" tab and join "St Brendan's Parish Tipping Competition" (note punctuation) and use invite code "ES3UUVTE".

Mass of the Holy Oils 'Chrism Mass'

is on Tuesday 15th March at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo at 11.00am. There will be morning tea before Mass in the Cathedral Hall and all are invited.

Parking around the Cathedral can be limited so please allow time to find a suitable park in the nearby streets. If you have a disabled person or one of limited mobility, you are welcome to drive in the cathedral driveway on the McKenzie Street side to leave your passenger near the North Transept door where there is a wheelchair-friendly entrance (no steps). You will then need to find a suitable car park outside the cathedral grounds.

All parishioners of the diocese are warmly invited to this very significant Mass.

Rosary will be prayed after 8am Mass each Sunday in the Marion Chapel in the Church. Everyone is welcome.
Special graces and blessings are given by Our Lady to those that pray the Rosary.

A farewell to Fr Joseph Alluri will be held on Sunday 20th March after 11am Mass in the Mons Jeffrey Centre. *Farewell*
Fr Joseph will leave permanently for India on the afternoon of Easter Sunday.

Catholic Women's League (CWL) meeting next Thursday 10th March at 1pm in the Mons Jeffrey Centre.

Palm Sunday Service at Mt. Major. Sunday 20th March. Starts at 6.30pm, gates open 4.30pm. BYO everything: chair, coat, food, thermos, torch, repellent, etc. *See flyer on the notice board for details.* Contact Margaret 0429232265

New Rosters for Lectors, Ministers of Communion & Offertory are now available for those who have not advised their email address and are in the narthex. If you have advised an email address rosters will be emailed to you.

A special thank you to Marita Taverner who organised the Adelaide Congolese Fraternity Choir that sang at Mass last Sunday.

A generous donor has bequested \$2,500 for a "chattel or ornament in the church." **All suggestions to Fr Joe.**

The **Parish Men's Group** will gather next Saturday morning 12th March at 7.30am in the Mons Jeffrey Centre. We start with breakfast and then one of the group will share a faith topic for reflection. Bishop Les has been invited to the breakfast so this breakfast would be one not to miss.
Any questions to Anthony 0408 269426.

Aussie Camino

Everyone is welcome to join us for these preparation activities:

On Sunday 6th March 5pm to 6.30pm Mons Jeffrey Centre, Fr Joe will hold an information session on pilgrimage in its fullest sense and look at ways we can expand our experience of pilgrimage.

We have two training walks planned:

Saturday 19th of March starting from the Parish car park at 7am driving to Tatura and four hour walk to Shepparton with a stop for coffee at Mooroopna.

We might take Parish bus if needed.

Saturday 2nd of April starting from car park at 7am travelling to Dookie for a four hour walk finishing with lunch at Dookie.

Men's breakfast Saturday 9th of April exploring pilgrimage and the theme of Camino with Fr Joe.

We also talked about the idea of taking peoples intentions along and or peoples crosses, with us on the walk. The group also spoke of the need for prayers for the group as we walk, we will experience times of struggle both physical and spiritual along the Camino, the parishes' prayers will be of great help.

Lent calls us to reflection on the Mystery of Jesus journey towards his death and resurrection.

**All parishioners are welcome to join in
Activities during Lent**

- ◆ **Stations of the Cross**
~ Every Friday evening at 6pm during Lent
- ◆ **Meditation**
~ Thursday mornings in the Mons Jeffrey Centre at 7.15am and continues every Thursday morning until 24th March.
~ Monday evenings in the Mons Jeffrey Centre at 7.30pm.
- ◆ **Gospel Discussion Groups**
~ Monday afternoons during Lent in the small meeting room in the Mons Jeffrey Centre at 1.30pm.
~ Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm at 8 Norton Avenue, Shepparton.
- ◆ **Eucharistic Adoration**
~ Thursday evenings 7pm to 8pm
~ Friday afternoons 3pm to 6pm

Holy Week

Reconciliation Tuesday 22nd March 6pm

Holy Thursday 24th March 7pm
(no morning Mass)

Good Friday 25th March

3pm Celebration of Our Lord's Passion

8pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday 26th March 7pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 27th March 8am and 11am.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PROJECT COMPASSION	Project Compassion Boxes and envelopes are now available.
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Responding to Pope Francis' request for special emphasis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, with warm invitations to all Catholic people to celebrate the Sacrament, there are some articles in the upcoming Sandpiper focused on this Sacrament. We hope these may help encourage people to revisit the Sacrament in their parishes, and support the parish ministries in this area. ~ Lyn Breen, Adult Faith Education

4th Sunday of Lent

"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan." (Joshua 5:12)

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.



**BISHOP TOMLINSON'S VISIT
TO ST BRENDAN'S AND ST MARY'S, DOOKIE,
PARISHES ON 10th – 13th MARCH, 2016**

1. Arrives Thursday— late afternoon
2. Thursday: 7.30pm
 - meets with representative members of the parish to discuss Pastoral Praxis.
 - Also meets with the RCIA Group.
3. Friday: 9.15am Mass
 - Visits MCP Campus, St Lukes' and Emmaus
 - Lunch with School Principals
 - Meets with the FCJ Sisters
 - 7pm Mass and meeting with Serra Club in the Marian Chapel in the Church.
4. Saturday:
 - 7.30am: time with the Men's Group
 - Meet with parishioners at Dookie
 - Saturday evening: 6pm Mass with Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Adi Indra plus presentation of Debutante group.
 - Cuppa afterwards for parishioners and seminary staff.
5. Sunday morning:
 - 8am Mass at St Brendan's
 - 9.30am Mass at St Bernard's, Katandra West
 - 11am Mass at St Brendan's
 - Cuppa afterwards in Mons Jeffrey Centre.All welcome

Bendigo talk by Br Massimo Chang

"The Beauty of Contemplative Prayer according to Fr Divo Barsotti" by Br Massimo Chang CFD.

At Holy Rosary, White Hills. **Tuesday 15th of March at 7pm.** For more info contact Peter Wright on 0418589083.

Fr Divo Barsotti was hailed as one of the greatest mystics of the 20th century. His extraordinary experience of God led him to preach and write about God with great energy and in a powerful way, to the point that he was invited in 1971 by the Vatican to preach the spiritual exercises to Pope Paul VI and the Roman Curia. Despite the extraordinary character of his mystical experience, he believed that all the lay faithful—not just priests and religious—are called to deep union with God; and his teaching on prayer, especially contemplative prayer, is easy, even for the laity, to understand and to practice. In fact, Fr Barsotti taught that it was especially to those humble of heart that such lofty experiences of God are granted. In Fr Barsotti's view, simplicity—or the mere desire for simplicity—is the only condition for a deep prayer life.

Parish Office Hours Phone 03 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 Village 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 March 6pm

Holy Hour

Thursdays 7pm to 8pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays 3pm to 6pm

Holy Rosary

Pray the Rosary after 8am Mass Sundays

Stations of the Cross

6pm Fridays during Lent

Children's Liturgy of the Word 11am Mass from 7th Feb

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 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 month

Friendship Group - Third 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

Men's 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 - 2nd Thursday monthly 7pm

Lectors 12th & 13th March

6pm F Scheibel, D Sullivan

8am L Boschetti, P Guthrie

11am S Pivac, M Frizzell



RECENTLY DECEASED: Win Kelly, John 'Jack' Patrick O'Connor.

ANNIVERSARIES: Nazzareno Ganino, Len Stein, Peter Clurey, Kevin Linehan, William Linehan (Snr) William Linehan & Annie Linehan, Judith Cobbledick, Barbara & Con Zammit.

Reflection

A Special Lenten Fast

Give up harsh words:

use generous ones.

Give up unhappiness:

take up gratitude.

Give up anger:

take up gentleness and patience.

Give up pessimism:

take up hope and optimism.

Give up worrying: take up trust in God.

Give up complaining:

value what you have.

Give up stress: take up prayer.

Give up judging others:

discover Jesus within them.

Give up sorrow and bitterness:

fill your heart with joy.

Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.

Give up being unforgiving:

learn reconciliation.

Give up words:

fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

~ Author unknown

Mass times in neighbouring Parishes

St. Mel's Shepparton South, Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm,

Tuesday to Thursday 8am,

Friday Way of the Cross with Mass to follow at 6pm.

Saturday 9.00am, 1st Saturday 9am followed by Devotions.

Reconciliation, Saturday morning after 9am Mass,

Thursday 17th March at 7pm.

Holy Week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Mass at 7pm

Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday 9am Stations of the Cross and

3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion,

Easter Saturday Vigil 7pm, Easter Sunday 9.30am and 5.30pm.

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. *Reconciliation* Saturday 10.30am - 11am and

Monday 14th March at 7.30pm.

Holy Week: Holy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday 3pm,

Easter Saturday Vigil 7pm, Easter Sunday 10am.

St. Joseph's Undera, 2nd Sunday of the month 8.30am.

Easter Sunday 8.30am.