



WELCOME TO ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am to 4pm

(Closed Mondays and Public holidays)

Parish Priest: *Fr. Joe Taylor*

Associate Priests: *Fr Berny Agustines & Fr Sebastian Mandapathil*



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

First Sunday of Advent

27 November 2016



Readings for this week:

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14a

Matthew 24:37-44



Readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12



Liturgical Jottings

In Advent we prepare for Christ's first coming and also direct our minds and hearts to await Christ's second coming. Advent is a period for devout and joyful expectation.
GNLYC 39



Burglars in the night

Jesus' sayings reveal him to be a clever storyteller. His use of images captivated his audience. However, we have tended to endow his every word with awesome significance. In today's reading Jesus used a confronting image simply to gain his audience's attention. He does not intend to suggest that God sneaks up on us like a burglar to catch us out. The image conveys the need to prepare for what might happen unexpectedly.

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Looking at the Readings

We may be accustomed to think of Advent as the time when we prepare for the coming of God, but the readings also train our attention on our own journey to God. We see this most clearly in this first Sunday with readings that tell us the identity of the pilgrims, the destination toward which they travel, and the way of life that is required of them on their journey. As the Vatican Council has proclaimed: We are a pilgrim people.

Both the reading from Isaiah and the psalm response speak of the pilgrimage to the mountain of the Lord, the place where God can be found. Although the psalm speaks about Jerusalem and refers to the temple there, the broader theological significance of the mountain, the city and the temple is one and the same. They represent the presence of God in our midst, and this presence is the goal of our striving. There are clear directions about how we are to live while we are on this pilgrimage to God. In Isaiah we learn that we must put away our instruments of violence and hatred, our swords and our spears. Lest we pick them up again, we are told to convert them into life-producing implements, into ploughs and pruning hooks. Paul exhorts us to put away our deeds of darkness and self-indulgence and to clothe ourselves instead in the deeds of Jesus Christ. Matthew points out the need for alertness, attentiveness, a disposition that is open to a change of heart. © *Dianne Bergant CSS*

Feast of the Week of St Andrew, the Apostle, 30 November

Born in Galilee, brother of St Peter, he was one of the first to follow Jesus. He introduced his brother (Jn 1:41), the boy with the loaves and fish (Jn 6:8-9) and the Greeks (Jn 12:20-22) to Jesus. He is the patron saint of Scotland, Russia and fishermen.

Quote from Pope Francis

The world today has great need of reconciliation, particularly in light of so much blood, which has been shed in recent terrorist attacks. May we accompany the victims with our prayers, and renew our commitment to lasting peace by promoting dialogue between religious traditions, *Message to His Holiness Bartholomaios, Archbishop of Constantinople, Ecumenical Patriarch 30 Nov 2015*

On the Lighter Side

While a man drove to Melbourne for Christmas shopping, his wife heard on the radio "be very careful and watch driving on Hume Freeway today, there is a motorist driving the wrong way" She phoned her husband's mobile to warn him and he replied: "You tell me! There are hundreds of them here."



Notices

Meditation during Advent

Meditation will be held at 7.15am on 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd December in the Mons Jeffrey Centre.
All welcome to come along and start the day with a quiet time with our Lord.

Weekly Reflection Group for Advent

1.30pm each Monday of Advent
at Ave Maria Village, 25 Graham Street, Shepparton in the Gardenia Lounge. (Please note permanent change of venue for Advent). *Everyone is welcome.*
Just turn up or if you would like information contact the Parish office or e-mail Anthony at:
anthonypastoral@bigpond.com

9.15am Morning Mass this Friday 2nd December

We will be joined by Year 11 students from Notre Dame College for their final Mass for the year. The students will be involved in the preparation of the Mass.

Our parish **Men's Group** will gather for the second last meeting of 2016 next Saturday 3rd of December.

We meet in the Mons Jeffrey Centre at 7.30 am for breakfast and a faith topic shared by one of the group. The meetings are a great place to meet and gain support for our journey of faith.

Any questions to Anthony 5821 2633.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Day

Saturday 3rd December 11am to 4pm including Mass at 11:30am in Mons. Peter Jeffrey Centre.

Shared lunch & afternoon tea with coffee & tea provided.
R.S.V.P: Brigita Hore 0412 042 196.

For more details see the flyer on the noticeboard or call Brigita. Bring a friend if you can and we hope to see you there. *All welcome.*

The Shepparton D-Group is holding a

Christmas Concert

fundraiser on Saturday 3rd December.

All parishioners and their families are invited to attend! We would love to have as many people from our parish there as possible to celebrate our fantastic community. The event will include performances from Fr Rob Galea and local talent from around Shepparton.

Saturday 3rd December in Monsignor Bones Hall
from 3pm onwards.

Tickets will be sold by the Stronger Team after all weekend masses for \$10 each. For queries or would like to buy tickets please contact Zoë Boldiston via email at zoe.boldiston@notredame.vic.edu.au

Stronger Christmas Party

Join us on December 10th to celebrate Christmas! There will be food, games, a fashion show and lots of fun to be had! This event is open to all young people in the diocese. At Mons Bones Hall on Saturday December 10 starting with 6pm Mass until 9.30.

Theme: Op Shop Party **Cost:** Gold coin donation
RSVP: To Danni by 3rd December at danielle.sullivan@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Seniors' Christmas Luncheon this Wednesday 30th November

The last anointing Mass for the year will be held on this day 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.

Mercy Access - 'Reading Opens Doors' Volunteers needed

Do you like helping children with their school work or projects?

We are looking for volunteers who have a background in education (any level) to mentor children of all ages. Please phone Sr Agnes Murphy on 0428 996975 or email: mercyaccess@gmail.com

Information Session For those who are interested in volunteering and working beside Aboriginal students of all ages. Information session will be held on **Thursday 1st December** at 4.30pm to 5.30pm in the Mons Jeffrey Centre.

Christmas Giving

Ideas for Christmas Giving are available through:
~ **Catholic Mission "Life-Giving Gifts"** purchase online at catholicmission.org.au/gifts

~ **Caritas "Global Gifts"** can also be purchased online at www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts or by phoning 1800 024 413.

'Baskets of Joy'

To assist with the annual FamilyCare Christmas Appeal, The Community Fund Goulburn Valley and Greater Shepparton City Council are encouraging local organisations to participate in the Baskets of Joy Christmas initiative which aims to collect donations of food items for families in need this Christmas.

Purchase a few extra non-perishable food items next time you shop and drop them off at the FamilyCare Office at 19 Welsford Street, Shepparton.

For more information phone Katie on 5823 7000 or www.familycare.net.au

We have some great ideas here for you!

** CD 'The Journey' a 2 CD set featuring singers from 11am Mass. This CD has been very popular and is again available for purchase from the Parish office at \$20 each.

** The **Piety Stall** has some beautiful gifts including Christmas cards and we now stock

2017 Columban Calendars at \$9 each (Place money for items purchased at the piety stall in the envelope provided and place in the mail slot at the Parish office)

** **Fr Rob's CD's** We have a selection of CD's of Fr Rob's for sale which are available at the parish office.

Counters Roster: A new roster is due to be completed soon, so if you are unable to help next year or wish to be included on this roster please contact the Parish Office.

If you are unsure of what is involved in this ministry contact the Parish Office.

Law Reform Child Safe Legislation

Important Meeting for all

Volunteers, Ministers of Communion, readers, sacristans and anyone involved in the Parish

14th December at 7.30pm to 9.00pm in the Parish Centre.

Dr Kevin Lawlor will inform us as to the new regulations concerning making our Parish totally welcoming and safe for children.

The meeting will inform us of the new regulations which will come into effect on the 1st January 2017.

***** Please spread the word *****

**Let
us
walk
in
the
light
of
the
Lord**

New Parish Office

(Located directly behind the church
next to the Mons Jeffrey Centre).

This weekend, after each Mass, parishioners are invited to come and take a look at the new parish office.

Please bear with us as we settle into the new premises.

Please now only use the new Parish office for all parish business and do not go to the parish house. Thank you

Roll Back the Stone

Valuing life more means deciding what to do with the time that is given to each of us, no matter what age we may be. It means deciding to be ourselves, to be the person we are meant to be, which means using our God-given gifts and talents, not hiding behind a façade, conforming to what others think we should or should not be. Jesus called on Lazarus to come forth, to live again. He didn't ask for someone else, just Lazarus. Quite often, we are asked to come forth too – not to be someone else but to bring to life the person we are called to be.

Anything really worthwhile takes effort and commitment. Being sensitive to those invitations begins by having some sense of God in our everyday consciousness. That isn't easy today – we don't have the cultural software to assist us, as perhaps was the case in the past.

We don't always have the humility to admit that there is Something or Someone greater than me in all this, that there are some things that just defy explanation.

In his eulogy to his brother Robert, Ted Kennedy said: What we can do is to live out our lives as best we can with purpose, and love, and joy. We can use each day to show those who are closest to us how much we care about them, and treat others with the kindness and respect that we wish for ourselves. We can learn from our mistakes and grow from our failures. And we can strive at all costs to make a better world, so that someday, if we are blessed with the chance to look back on our time here, we can know that we spent it well; that we made a difference; that our fleeting presence had a lasting impact on the lives of other human beings.

*Excerpt from
"Along the Track"*

**2017 Daily Mass Book \$20 and
The Little Blue Book for the 2016-2017
Advent and Christmas Seasons \$5**
(Six minutes reflections on the
Infancy Narrative of Luke)
*These books are now available in the
Church.*



First Sunday of Advent

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am and 11am

Sunday 5.30pm *Syro Malabar Rite*

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

Reconciliation

Saturday mornings 9.30am-10.30am

Before 9.15am weekday masses

Holy Hour

Thursdays 7pm to 8pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays 3pm to 6pm

Holy Rosary

Pray the Rosary after 8am Mass Sundays and after 9.15am weekday Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word 11am Mass (not during school holidays)

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 10am at The Last Straw Café

Catholic Mothers of Young Children - 1st & 3rd Thursday monthly 10am in the Parish Centre

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 at 12.30

Garabandal - 3rd Monday monthly 1.30pm, Parish centre

Gospel Discussion Group - Mondays during Advent commencing Monday 21st November at 1.30pm Parish Centre

Men's Group - Saturday fortnightly 7.30am in the Parish centre. Contact the Parish office.

Playgroup - Mondays 10am at Ave Maria Village

Serra Club - 1st Friday monthly 7.15pm, Church & Parish Centre

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - 2nd Thursday monthly 7pm

Lectors 3rd & 4th December 2016

6pm A Kilmartin, J Howley

8am J Zampaglione D Tietzel

11am A Ferguson, A Madeira



RECENTLY DECEASED: John Coghlan, Mary Cullen.

ANNIVERSARIES: Tess Love, Doreen Townsend, Luigi & Vincenza Scarpari, Nunzio Portia, Eileen Tyndall.

Reflection

A Blessing For Hope

*May your hope be as swift as a
horse racing by*

As deep as the bowels of earth

As high as the star-dense sky

As fresh as a baby's birth

*May it be as strong as
gravity's force*

As resilient as a mother's love

As tenacious as a river's course

As timeless as the gentle Lord above

And may God bless you

and renew your hope

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Irish American Blessings and Prayers



*May the Lord be generous
in increasing your love.*

Mass times in neighbouring Parishes

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

(1st Sunday of the month, Rosary before each Mass)

Tuesday to Thursday 8am, Friday 9.15am.

Saturday 9.00am followed by Rosary.

Reconciliation, Saturday morning 9.30am to 10am.

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.

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