



# WELCOME TO ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

121 Knight Street, Shepparton. 3630

Phone: 5821 2633, Fax: 5831 2908

Email address: shepparton@cdos.org.au

Website: www.sheppartoncatholic.org.au

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

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

Second Sunday of Advent

4 December 2016



Readings for  
this week:

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Romans 15:4-9  
Matthew 3:1-12



Readings for  
next Sunday:

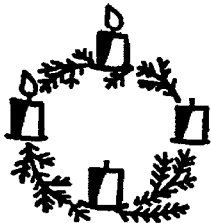
Isaiah 35:1-6,10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11



## Liturgical Jottings

John the Baptist's call to 'Prepare the way of the Lord' is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus. "May no earthly obstacle hinder us who set out in haste to meet the Lord"

*Cf. Collect for second Sunday of Advent*



## Quote from Pope Francis

Hope can seem distant "out there" somewhere. But the call to feel it is a call to bring it in close, and to warm yourself by that fire. Join us this Advent in saying, "Yes! That is what I want to do this Advent - warm myself by the fire of hope!"

*Angelus December 2013*

## Looking at the Readings

Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ.

The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives.

Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today.

John lived a life of radical self-denial, but did not require this of others. He preached a change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others. © *Dianne Bergant CSS*

## Featured Feast of the Week Friday 9 December

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (1474 - 1548) was born in Cuauhtitlan in present-day Mexico. As an adult he and his wife were baptised. In 1531 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him on the hill called Tepeyac near Mexico City and told him to ask the bishop to have a church built on the spot. Through the purity of his faith, his humility and his fervour, a church was built, in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe (feast day on 12 December). He left everything and devoted himself to the care of the sanctuary and the reception of pilgrims until his death.

## On The Lighter Side

A little boy named Nicholas told the store's Santa Claus: "You and I have the same name." Santa says: "Well, hello Harold!"



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# Notices

## **Meditation during Advent**

Meditation will be held at 7.15am on 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.

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## **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: anthony pastoral@bigpond.com

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## **Stronger Christmas Party**

Join us on December 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Danii by 3rd December at

[danielle.sullivan@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:danielle.sullivan@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

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## **Christmas Mass Times**

### **St Brendan's Parish**

**Christmas Eve** - Saturday 24th December  
Carols: 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm in the Mercy Stadium in Skene Street.

**Midnight Mass** in St Brendan's Church  
Carols 11.30pm followed by Mass at 12 midnight

**Christmas Day** - Sunday 25th December  
Masses in St Brendan's Church: 8am, 11am and 5.30pm in the Syro Malabar Rite

### **Reconciliation:**

Wednesday 21st December 5pm to 6.30pm  
Saturday 24th December 9.30am to 10.30am

### **St Mary's Parish in Dookie**

**Christmas Eve** - Saturday 24th December at 6pm

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 ...but  
*as for me* &  
**MY HOUSE,**  
*We will serve*  
**THE LORD.**  


Joshua 24:15

Google  
Images

## **Christmas Giving**

*Clean water, sanitation, agriculture, emergency relief programs, education, faith formation, construction and running of schools, school fees, children's catechism are just some of the many life giving gifts that can be purchased through:*

~ **Catholic Mission "Life-Giving Gifts"** purchase online at [catholicmission.org.au/gifts](http://catholicmission.org.au/gifts)

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

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### **'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](http://www.familycare.net.au)

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### **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.

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**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.

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**Free Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day 11am to 2pm,** in The McIntosh Centre, Shepparton Show Grounds.

Provided for those who are alone.

For more information call 0437387584.

Provided by the Christmas For Those Alone Association Inc.

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**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.*

## 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 Mons Jeffrey Centre.**

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

This will include all volunteers, ministers of Communion, readers, sacristans and anyone involved in the parish and all interested parishioners

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

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

### ***New Parish Office***

Thank you for your feedback after our 'open day' weekend after Masses last weekend.

There are at least ten people working from this office at different times and we are settling into the new space and establishing new routines. Please bear with us as we continue to settle in.

Please feel free to call in and chat to us if you have any comments or concerns or just want to chat.



### **Don't Just Trim the Tree**

Maybe this Advent we should trim and burn some tree limbs, not just our Christmas trees.

John the Baptist seems to sternly warn religious leaders that people who ignore his call to change will face a fiery judgment. They'll be like rotten trees cut down and burned.

I think John liked to shock people. But for good reason. He lived in a world full of poverty and injustice. He wanted people to face how their sins were hurting the world.

Don't let John's harsh words scare you. True, our sinful habits and attitudes are like rotten trees and bare branches. Things like selfishness and prejudice take away our happiness, hurt others, and keep us from working for a just world. But Jesus can help us trim these "tree limbs" from our lives. I know a young man who decided as a young adult to change his life in the bus ride home from a university campus retreat. He hadn't been treating girls he'd dated with respect. He'd been hanging out with the wrong-crowd. Jesus, he said, showed him what to change and gave him the confidence to do it. He's a lot happier now.

We light candles in Advent to remember that Christ can bring light (guidance and warmth) to the darkness in our lives and in the world. We also remember that Christ's light can burn away what holds us back from our full potential. Take time in Advent to feel God's compassion in the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Or talk with a teacher, friend, workmate, or parent about things you'd like to change.

You'll realise, as you trim your Christmas tree, that Jesus is gently trimming your soul.

What can you change about yourself this Advent to make the world a brighter place?

### **The Action**

Advent offers us a great opportunity to be reconciled with God and one another. These weeks of preparation leading up to Christmas are the perfect time to listen to John the Baptist and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Check and see if your local parish has a communal Reconciliation liturgy scheduled during Advent. Make this a part of your Advent preparations. Attend a liturgy and be reconciled with our forgiving God and each other.

*GPBS eNews*

### *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 (None for 15th & 29th Dec) will resume January 5th 2017)

### *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 10th & 11th December 2016*

**6pm** F Scheibel, D Sullivan  
**8am** M Hicks, S Hicks  
**11am** P Cooper, J Pilkington



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Carmel Hodson, Philip Helmn, Neville Cross, Donald Chaston.  
**ANNIVERSARIES:** Thomas Francis, John Keenan, Winifred Kennedy, Michael Kennedy.

## *Reflection*

*Let us pray nothing may hinder us from receiving Christ with joy.  
God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome.  
Remove all things that hinder us from receiving Christ.  
May lure of greed not impede us from the joy which moves the hearts of those who seek him.  
Amen*



*Bring us all together  
in Jesus Christ.*

### *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.