



WELCOME TO ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

121 Knight Street, Shepparton. 3630

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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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

18 December 2016



Readings for
this week:

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24



Readings for
next Sunday:

Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14
Is 62:11-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:15-20
Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
John 1:1-18



Emmanuel

It appears from the passage that Mary's child is to be called both Jesus and Emmanuel. Emmanuel is not intended as a different name for Jesus but rather one of the many titles that will be applied to him. The title means God-is-with-us. That one word, Emmanuel, sums up the essence of Jewish and Christian belief. The Jewish people's faith in God was built on the basis that God travelled with them and through their lives. Christians believe that God took on an even closer sense of being with us through God's incarnation in the life of Jesus.



Looking at the Readings

Despite all of the excitement associated with eschatological fulfilment, despite all of the assurance we have that it will be an experience of peace and abundant life, the mystery for which we long requires the risk of faith. Despite all of the times that we have celebrated the Nativity, we still do not have full comprehension and understanding. Still we are invited to enter deeply into the event that is before us. Will we step into a life of deeper faith and commitment, or will we merely participate in the external celebration of the feast? Only we can decide, and only we will really know the decision that we make.

The circumstances of our lives influence the way we live out our faith. As Christians, we are called to devote ourselves to the service of Christ. Our primary commitment must be to Christ and to the way of being human that he has shown us. We must be committed to what enriches life and not to what diminishes it. We must be committed to the good of people and not to the hoarding of things. We may not be official heralds of the gospel, but we proclaim our faith in the way we live our lives, in the kindness with which we treat others, in honesty of our business transactions. We proclaim the gospel when we stand for justice, when we forgive those who have offended us, when we show compassion to those who suffer. As we step into the eschatological age, we are called to recommit ourselves to genuine Christian living. © Dianne Bergant CSS

The Great Advent: 17-24 December

The season of Advent intensifies in the last seven days. These days have dedicated texts in the Lectionary, Missal and Liturgy of the Hours, there are no feasts days or other occasional celebrations except funeral Masses. The focus is clearly the first coming of Christ by his birth at Bethlehem. The seven Great O Antiphons in the Liturgy of the Hours, the Gospel Acclamation and the hymn O Come O Come Emmanuel provide a way of highlighting this week within a season.

Prayer for the Week

Come quickly, we pray, Lord Jesus, and do not delay, that those who trust in your compassion may find solace, relief and joy in your coming. *Collect, 24 December, morning Mass, 2011 Roman Missal*

On The Lighter Side

Q: Why is Christmas Day just like another day at the office? A: You end up doing all the work and the fat guy in the suit gets all the credit.



Notices

Thanksgiving Envelopes

Weekly envelopes for the next period of giving for all parishioners in the program are available in the Narthex. To save parish postage can you please take your envelope as you leave mass today.

Morning Meditation during Advent

Meditation will be held on Thursday morning,
22nd December at 7.15am.

It will be **outside in the Garden of Eden.**

Bring your jackets and say a prayer for good weather!

Weekly Reflection Group for Advent

1.30pm each Monday of Advent

at Ave Maria Village, 25 Graham Street, Shepparton in the Gardenia Lounge. *Everyone is welcome.*

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.

Ministers of Communion Visitation

There will be *no* home or nursing home visitation on Christmas Day Sunday 25th December or New Year's Day Sunday 1st January.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

This Sunday is our last Children's Liturgy of the Word for this year. We will recommence again in February 2017. A very sincere thank you to the facilitators throughout the year, this ministry is only successful because of your ongoing commitment. Of course we are always looking for more helpers, so if you are interested to learn more please contact Laura at the Parish House on Wednesday mornings.

During the season of Advent the children have listened and discussed the Sunday Gospel at level suitable for them. They also completed activity sheets, colouring pages and role playing. Today the children made angels, in keeping with the Gospel reading, "The angel's visit". The Angels will be placed at the crib during mass and after mass the children will take the angels home to share with their families.

Mass for Those Ill or Frail at Home

Find Mass 'Streamed Live' or 'On Demand' via the internet or mobile devices:

'Mass on Demand' St Mary's Church, North Sydney (Our Lady of the Way, a Jesuit Church):
CathNews YouTube channel OR

www.northsydneycatholics.com/spirituality/liturgy/mass-on-demand

Mass Streamed Live 9.30 am each day from Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara, NSW. Plus Adoration and Benediction on Saturdays: www.dbb.org.au/ Click 'Watch Mass Live' button.

'Mass for You at Home' -6 am Sunday Mass and saved program. Channel 10 TV. tenplay.com.au/channel-ten/mass-for-you-at-home

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

~ **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 gift 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.

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.

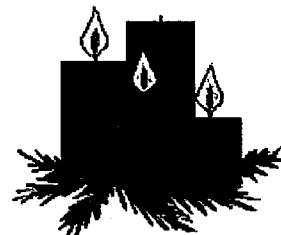
Provided by the Christmas For Those Alone Association Inc.

2017 Daily Mass Book \$20

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.





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:

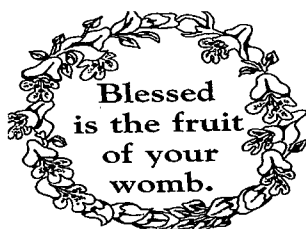
Wednesday 21st December 5pm to 6.30pm
Saturday 24th December 9.30am to 10.30am

St Mary's Parish in Dookie
Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th
December at 6pm



Diocesan Website for Christmas Mass times

People travelling throughout the diocese can look up the website for Mass times
www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au



'Beginning Theology' starting **March 2017**. Explore your faith with a course for adults who would like to understand Catholic faith traditions and explore questions of faith at a deeper level: *Complete readings and activities in your own time and meet with a local small group once a month for discussion and to share learning. *Focus is Catholic faith and belief. *Topics broken into bite-size units. *Reflection questions help you apply learning to life. * 15-18 months. *An Institute of Faith Education (Brisbane Archdiocese) course offered in the Sandhurst Diocese in collaboration with Adult Faith Education, Sandhurst. Cost \$200.
Expressions of interest email: Lyn Breen, Adult Faith Education Sandhurst,
Lyn.Breen@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Here's a Real Man

A few years ago, I led a liturgy for a young guy shot in the back by two other young people. Apparently, the two young men who killed Harry thought real men settled arguments by grabbing guns.

How sad, and it seems all too common in our nation. Young men kill each other to prove their "manliness". Other men – young and old – abuse women or use them sexually and brag about it later.

Man, does our culture need Saint Joseph as a role model! Here was a real man. His fiancée turned up pregnant, which would have caused him public shame in ancient Israel. Under the law he had the right to avenge that shame by leaving her or even requesting that she be put to death. But the Gospel tells us he instead chose to divorce her quietly.

And the story goes on. He believed God was telling him to accept Mary because she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. He could have heard and accepted that only if he was a man who prayed regularly and practiced his Jewish faith.

Joseph: a man of peace who respected women in a culture that treated them as property; a man of prayer able to hear and courageously follow God's call – even though he risked public humiliation.

Don't we need more men like that today? How different would our schools be if more young men reached out to kids who are put down? What would our community look like if more young men saw dating as a way to make a friend, not to notch a sexual victory? How different would our neighbourhoods be if more young men stood up for themselves without restoring to violence?

If you're a guy, ask Saint Joseph for guidance this Advent. If you're a girl, challenge your male friends to be "real men" – like Mary's husband. Which men in your life show the qualities Saint Joseph had?

The Action

Next year, St. Joseph's feast day is celebrated on Monday, March 20. Even though this is a few months from now, honor St. Joseph by making a "loaf of St. Joseph's Bread" (Pane di San Giuseppe) and share it with family and friends or donate to a homeless shelter in anticipation of Christ's birth into our hearts and homes at Christmas Time. You can find several recipes online. As protector of Jesus and Mary, Joseph is known as the protector of families. Spend some good quality time this week literally breaking bread with your own family and those who are closest to you in your life.

~GPBS

EMPLOYMENT: Co-ordinator of Pastoral Initiatives and Youth Ministry – Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst.

Applications are invited for this full time position with the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst – Bendigo. The successful applicant will participate in the development and implementation of a Pastoral Plan and will act as a reference point and co-ordination for a number of pastoral initiatives and movements in the Diocese. The successful applicant is responsible primarily to effectively co-ordinate and manage all resources and personnel involved in the delivery of diocesan services and events related to Youth Ministry whilst fostering the personal and spiritual growth of each person in the Diocese of Sandhurst. They will work in close collaboration with Pastoral Associates, RCIA, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Adult Faith Education, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, and Teams of Our Lady. It is desired that the successful applicant will have an understanding of and willingness to work within the Catholic ethos.

For any other queries please contact Sally Holmes on 5445 3617 or sally.holmes@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
A copy of the position description can be obtained from www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

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 (*None 30th December—will resume 3rd February 2017*)

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 - in recess until 6th February 2017

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 24th & 25th December 2016

6pm	D Tarquini,	Sr F Kennedy
8am	G Jelliffe,	Sr R Crowe
11am	P Howard,	M sarkady



RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Peter Wilson fcJ, Norman Hines (father of Vanessa Madeira), Gerada de Wys, Michele Zito, Graeme Langborne, Gertrude Bush.

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia O'Sullivan, Alan Appleton, Mary Vescio, Lucia Villani, Kevin Lancaster, Pellegrino & Vittiria Meola, Dominico & Carmela Leo, Lucia Rossi (jnr), Pietro & Lucia Rossi (snr), Marino & Maria Rossi.

Reflection

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the broken
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among others
To make music in the heart*

Howard Thurman 1899-1981



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.