



ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Website: www.sheppartoncatholic.org.au

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Joe Taylor

Associate Priests: Fr Berny Agustines and Fr Sebastian Mandapathil

Weekend Mass times: Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 8am and 11am and 5.30pm Syro Malabar Rite

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 (Located directly behind the Church. Closed Mondays & Public Holidays)



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) 24 / 25 December 2016



Readings for night Masses

Isaiah 9:2-7

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14



Readings for day Masses

Isaiah 62:11-12

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:15-20

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18



Liturgical Jottings

The Christmas Octave

From Christmas Day until

1st January, the Solemnity of the

Mother of God, is the Octave (eight days) of Christmas.

Every day within the octave is treated the same as the original feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

A Christmas Prayer

Father of light, a child is born for us and a son is given to us. Your eternal Word leapt down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now we are filled with wonder at the nearness of our God. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision, that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace.
Amen.

Looking at the Feast of Christmas

Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

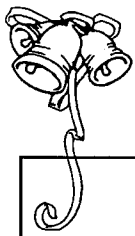
Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder. © Dianne Bergant CSS



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The Christmas Crib (Nativity Scene)

St Francis of Assisi is credited with setting up the first nativity scene and thus establishing a tradition that is carried on today in homes, churches and public spaces in Christian communities everywhere. In 1223, in the town of Greccio he created a life size tableau of the nativity scene to heighten the awareness of the feast of the birth of Christ. It included statues of the holy family and a live ox and donkey. The inclusion of the livestock has no scriptural support and it is to Francis that we owe the array of sheep, oxen and donkeys that have become standard inclusions in our nativity scenes.



Welcome to St Brendan's Parish

Reflection

The greatness of our humanity
Sometimes people expect something
extraordinary, or even miracles to happen
at Christmas.

But when Christ came on earth, He came clothed, not
in the extraordinary, but in the ordinary.
He came dressed in the cloak of our weak, fragile,
mortal humanity.

"They wrapped the baby in swaddling clothes, and
laid him in a manger."

Like an acorn that falls to earth, silently and
unheralded, in a remote corner of the forest, and
which grows into a great oak tree,
So from these lowly origins Jesus grew up
To show us the greatness of our humanity.

Recently Deceased: Kelvin Tremellen
Anniversaries: Elaine Twomey, Jacinta James,
Kevin O'Brien, Barry Arthur, Alice Stein, John Mahony.

Christmas Collections this year will be for:
the parish, Fr Godwin Muhangi, Mons Gerard Kalumba
and St Brendan's Youth Ministry.

Lectors & Commentators 31st December & 1st January

6pm J Boccabella, A Kilmartin
8am T Francis, A Leahy
11am D Segafredo, M Taverner

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 and bookings, contact the
Parish office.

Holy Hour Thursdays 7pm to 8pm in the Church.
(not on the 29th December)

Eucharistic Adoration Fridays 3pm to 6pm in the Church
(not on 30th December or in January)

Altar Society Morning coffee 1st Friday monthly

Catholic Mothers of Young Children 1st & 3rd Thursday
monthly 10am in the Parish Centre (not in January)

Catholic Women's League (CWL) 2nd Thursday monthly 1pm in
the Parish Centre (not in January)

Charismatic Prayer Group Tuesdays 7.30pm in Parish Centre
(not in January)

Christian Meditation Mondays 7.30pm in the Parish Centre
(not in January)

Faith & Light Community 1st Sunday monthly (not in January)

Friendship Group the last Sunday monthly for lunch 12.30

Garabandal 3rd Monday monthly 1.30pm in the Parish Centre
(not in January)

Men's Group Saturday fortnightly 7.30am in the Parish Centre
(not in January)

Playgroup Mondays 10am at Ave Maria Village (not in January)

Serra Club 1st Friday monthly 7.15pm (not in January)

St Vincent de Paul Society 2nd Thursday monthly 7pm



Christmas Message from Fr Joe

Fr Joe, Fr Berny,
Fr Sebastian and all the
Staff at St. Brendan's
Parish extend deep

gratitude to all our parishioners and wish you all
the blessings of this Sacred Season.
May it be a peace filled time for you and may
you be richly blessed in 2017.

There will be **NO MORNING MASS** next Tuesday 27th Dec

New Year's Eve Adoration

St John the Baptist Church, Tocumwal Road, Numurkah
Saturday 31st December commencing with Mass at 6.30pm and
continuing with Adoration and Rosary by the hour.
Devine Mercy Chaplette at 3am. Enquiries to Alf on 5862 1740.

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, Psychologist 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.



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

'The Journey' Catholic Radio Program Airs 25 December

This week *The Journey* Catholic Radio program will continue to
bring you weekly Gospel reflections, great music and wonderful
inputs from amazing people. Wisdom from the Abbey this
week is a very Happy Christmas greeting from the Nuns at the
Jamberoo Abby, Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy touches on
The Promise Written in the Stars (Repeat), and the wonderfully
inspiring Marrilyn Rodrigues reminds us to Pray, Hope and Don't
Worry. To add to this great line up, we have a show that is all a
about faith, hope and life. Go to www.jcr.org.au or
www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and
subscribe to weekly shows by email.