



ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

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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

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am to 4pm (Closed Mondays & Public Holidays)



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

8 January 2017



Readings for this week:
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6
Matthew 2:1-12



Readings for next Sunday:
Isaiah 49:3,5-6
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34



Liturgical Jottings

Epiphany has been the customary time for the blessing of homes. Our homes are places of rest, nurture and refuge from the cares of the world. In our homes we learn to communicate, love, forgive and extend the Christian virtue of hospitality to our neighbours. A priest or the head of the house blesses the home with the words "May peace be with this home and with all who live here." They write above the front doorframe with white chalk an inscription: "20+C+M+B+17" which is the year (eg 2017) four crosses and the initials of the Latin *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (Christ bless this house). They are also the initials of the names later given to the wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.



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Looking at the Readings

The two gospel accounts of the infancy of Jesus (Matthew and Luke) tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been woven together that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth in a stable because there is no room at the inn. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in a house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king.

The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely to offer us a two enriching Christmas themes and imagery.

Pope Francis Quote

Let us follow the light which God offers us. The tiny light which streams from the face of the infant Christ, full of mercy and fidelity. And when we find him, let us worship him and present him with our freedom, our understanding and our love, our gifts he has given us. ... For here is the wellspring of that light which draws to itself every individual in the world and guides the journey of the peoples along the path of peace. *Pope Francis' Homily, Epiphany 6/1/16*

Feast during of the Week: The Baptism of the Lord

In 2017 the feast is on Monday 9 January. It usually celebrated on the Sunday after the Epiphany, but this year it is transferred to the Monday. It completes the Christmas Mystery of the revelation of Christ to the world: at Bethlehem to the shepherds; to the visitors from the East; and now to John and his disciples at the River Jordan where a voice from heaven is heard "You are my Son, the beloved, with you I am well pleased. (Mark 1:11)

On the Lighter Side

For Christmas a man gave his wife a beautiful diamond ring. A friend said, "I thought she wanted a sporty 4WD." He replied, "She did, but where could I buy a fake Jeep?"



Welcome to St Brendan's Parish



*Joy to the
World
The Lord
has come*

Recently Deceased: Terry Gannon (brother of Bryan), Leo Hanrahan (Corowa), Leslie Nash (Wonthaggi).
Anniversaries: Pachie Macaskill, William Macaskill, William Linehan, William Linehan (Snr), Annie Linehan, Cassie Wrigley, Marie Coppinger, Kevin Coppinger, Caterina Cucinotta, Carmela Romeo, Renzo Piroli, Mary Masoka Vincent, Michele Zito (one months mind).

Lectors & Commentators 14th & 15th January

6pm D Sullivan, P Stein
8am P Guthrie, J Zampaglione
11am P White, S White

Sacraments

Baptism 4th Sunday of each month except August and 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.

Eucharistic Adoration Fridays 3pm to 6pm in the Church (not 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 third Sunday monthly for lunch at 12.30pm (not in January)

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

'Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth;
break into song; sing praise.
Sing praise to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and melodious song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy to the King, the Lord.'

- Psalm 98:4-6

From *'The Little Blue Book'*

Domus Australia in Rome, Italy

Is an authentic Italian guest house in central Rome. It is a base for pilgrims, groups, families while visiting Rome. For information visit: www.domusaustralia.org

There will be NO Mass at Tarcoola next Wednesday 11th January

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 but will also consult out of hours. There is a small charge for a 60 minute consultation. For information and bookings contact the Parish office on 5821 2633 during office hours.

Planned Giving Envelopes

Please help us to save on postage costs by taking your envelope, which is in the narthex, as you leave Mass today.
Thank you.

Counters Roster

The new Counters Roster commencing this Sunday, 8th January, is now available in the narthex.

Colouring Sheets for Children

Are located on the clipboards in the west side entrance and narthex. These follow the story of Christ's birth, the Holy Family and the Baptism of Jesus.
The children are welcome to take these home.

For the month of January, the weekend bulletin will be produced in this smaller, one page, A4 version.