



# Welcome to St. Brendan's Parish



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Joe Taylor

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

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**Parish Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 9am to 4pm (Closed Mondays and Public holidays)

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**29 January 2017**



*Readings for this week:*

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13  
1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
Matthew 5:1-12



*Readings for next Sunday:*

Isaiah 58:7-10  
1 Corinthians 2:1-5  
Matthew 5:13-16



## Liturgical Jottings

### Various Needs and Occasions

The Roman Missal provides a wide variety of Masses for various needs and occasions. Especially during Ordinary Time, they may be celebrated on feria days (days without feasts and memorials). There are over 50 Masses under three broad categories: for the Church, Public circumstances and Particular needs. They include (1) for the Church, Councils, Vocations, Laity, Persecuted Christian (2) for the Nation, Harvest, Peace and Justice, Time of War, Refugees and Exiles and Fine Weather (3) for Promoting Harmony and Charity, Prisoners, Sick, Thanksgiving and for Any Need. In the Australian we have a Mass in time of Drought. "Since the liturgy has its effect that for the faithful, almost every event in life is sanctified by God's grace and flows from the Paschal Mystery." (GIRM n. 365)

## Looking at the Readings

To follow Jesus does not mean merely that one travels with him from place to place. It means that one learns from him, that one follows his manner of life and his way of thinking. To follow Jesus means to follow his example in the way he respects himself and other people, in his use of the things of the natural world. It means that one listens to what he says, and asks for an explanation when what he says is not understood. All of this requires that the disciple be a learner, one who can learn from the life of Jesus as well as from his teaching.

The first lessons that the disciples must learn are found in the beatitudes. The same lessons are placed before us, the modern-day disciples. The setting of Jesus' teaching is so serene; a mountain apart, a teacher with his disciples gathered around him, simple statements that are coupled with glorious rewards. However, the reality of the lessons is in stark contrast with this tranquil scene. These beatitudes, these blessings call for profound inner transformation.

The gospel outlines the kind of person the disciple is to become; the psalm sketches the program to which the learner is called. The disciples of Jesus are not merely his followers; they also continue the work that he began. In whatever circumstance of life we find ourselves, as disciples of Jesus we work to sustain the good that is in the world and to transform whatever needs transformation. © Dianne Bergant CSS

## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Celebrated on Thursday 2 February, the presentation of Christ in the temple occurs 40 days after his birth. Inspired by the words of the Canticle of Simeon, "a light to enlighten the Gentiles" (Luke 2:29), the custom of blessing candles on this day arose by the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Candles were lit and carried in procession through the church while the people sing the Canticle of Simeon. The feast is also called Candlemas Day.

## Quotable Quote

Woe is me, that do not even know, what I know not. Behold, O my God, before Thee I lie not; but as I speak, so is my heart. Thou shalt light my candle; Thou, O Lord my God, wilt enlighten my darkness. *Confessions of Saint Augustine ch 25*

## On the Lighter Side

"Blessed are the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage." That's becoming less and less of a bargain? From a pessimistic "Wizard of Id"



**Stronger Youth** Our first Stronger Rally for 2017 will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Catholic College Wodonga!

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**CatholicCare Workshops for Couples**

CatholicCare are conducting Life Partnership and Relationship education workshops in Shepparton & Bendigo.

1. FOCCUS Life Partnership Program for Couples, a program that aims to support couples strengthening their relationship.
2. Life Partnership Workshop for Couples, for all couples preparing to marry or commit to a long term relationship. Relationship Education Sessions for Couples, one on one sessions, for all couples preparing to marry or commit to a long term relationship.

For more information please see the CatholicCare flyers or contact Anne-Maree Britt at CatholicCare Bendigo on 5438 1300 or CatholicCare Shepparton on 5820 0444.

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**Kimberley Catholic Volunteer Service**

The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church on Aboriginal Missions. We are currently seeking a couple to manage the Warmun Retreat Centre in February. There are several other roles also available including a couple in Balgo to assist the priest in the running of the parish. Placements are preferred for a period of 6 months. For further details, and an application form, please contact:

Volunteer Coordinator Anneliese Rohr: 0415 526 142

Email: [volunteers@broomedioocese.org](mailto:volunteers@broomedioocese.org)

Web: [www.broomedioocese.org](http://www.broomedioocese.org)

Mail: PO Box 76, Broome. WA 6725

## Reflection

### A Prayer for Christian Unity

Across all our barriers of language, race and nationality,

Across all our mutual ignorance, prejudice and hostility,

Across all our differences of thought, outlook and religious allegiance,

*Unite us, Jesus.*

O God, for your greater glory,

O God, for the triumph of goodness and truth,

O God, that there may be one flock and one Shepherd,

O God, to confound the pride of satan and his assaults,

O God, that peace may reign in the world at last,

O God, for the greater joy of the heart of your Son.

*Gather together the separated Christians.*

~ Excerpt from 'Prayers in Common Use'

#### Sacraments

##### Reconciliation

Saturday mornings 9.30am-10.30am

Before 9.15am weekday masses

**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/bookings contact the Parish office

##### Holy Hour

Thursdays 7pm to 8pm

##### Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays 3pm to 6pm (*resumes 3rd Feb*)

##### 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)

##### Parish Schools

St Brendan's Primary School 5821 1926

St Luke's Primary School 5822 1834

Notre Dame College 5822 8400

**Recently Deceased:** Monica Ivers, Peter Power.

**Anniversaries:** Paul Grace, Jim Mullins, Brian Mullins, Ann Gervasoni, Peter O'Connor, Greg Partridge.

##### Lectors 4th & 5th February, 2017

**6pm** A Kilmartin, J Howley

**8am** Sr R Crowe, A Leahy

**11am** P Scanlon, J M Mupenda

**Regular Meetings** (Also check Notices from time to time)

**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 during school term

**Catholic Women's League (CWL)** - 2nd Thursday monthly 1pm, Parish Centre

**Charismatic Prayer Group** - Tuesdays 7.30pm, Parish Centre

**Christian Meditation** - Mondays 7.30pm starting 6th February

**Faith and Light Community** - 1st Sunday monthly

**Friendship Group** - Third Sunday monthly for lunch at 12.30

**Garabandal** - 3rd Monday monthly 1.30pm, Parish centre

**Gospel Discussion Group** - Mondays during Lent & Advent

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

**Playgroup** - Mondays 10am at Ave Maria Village during term

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

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

# NOTICES

The first **Anointing Mass** for the year will be held next Wednesday 1st February at 11am in the church.

**Anointing Mass** will not be held on 1st March as it is Ash Wednesday. Instead the March Anointing Mass will be at 11am Mass on Sunday 26th February.

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## **Catholic Mothers of Young Children**

Come along for kids catechesis (under 6 years old) and chance for mothers to have a cuppa and a chat on Thursday 2nd February from 10am until 11.30am in the Mons Jeffrey Centre.

Mums very welcome to come along without children and share in the sisterhood of being a mum. For more information contact Katie Mills on 0417 504635.

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## **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

Our parish RCIA process re-commences next week on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February at 7.30pm so please keep the candidates in your thoughts and prayers as they begin to discover God's calling of them to his side.

If you have any questions regarding RCIA please call Anthony on 5821 2633.

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## **Celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at Seiter's Grotto, 11 Kaarimba Road, Wunghnu, 200 meters from the highway. Beginning with Angelus at 6pm then Rosaries and hymns until Mass at 7.30pm beginning with the Blessing of Candles. Cuppa afterwards. All most welcome.

Enquiries to Alf Seiter on 5862 1740

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## **Serra Club**

The Shepparton Serra Club will resume this Friday February 3rd with a blessing at 7.25pm followed with mass for vocations and our priests. Afterwards we will have a cuppa & film in the Mons Jeffrey centre. All welcome.

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## **Men's Group 2017**

The Parish Men's group kicks off next Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30am at the lake in Shepparton. We will meet for a cooked breakfast, reflection and a slow stroll around the lake. Dogs are welcome for the walk not for breakfast though!

If you are looking for a group to join, the men's group is a place where you can walk in friendship and faith with other men so please consider coming along to our first meeting for the year.

Any questions, give Anthony a call on 5821 2633.

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## **Faith & Light Community**

Will gather together for the first time for this year at 11am Mass next Sunday 5th February. After Mass we will enjoy lunch together then role play in the Mons Jeffrey Centre.

Mass will be offered for Sr Peter Wilson, who passed away recently, in thanksgiving for her enthusiasm around the parish and especially for her dedication to our Faith & Light Community.

## **Ash Wednesday 1st March, 2017**

Mass times: St Brendan's Church 9.15am & 6pm  
Mercy Stadium, Skene Street, 11am  
St Mary's, Dookie 7pm.

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## **Rosters - Lectors, Ministers of Communion, Offertory**

These rosters will soon be prepared for the period 26th March to 23rd July inclusive.

If you are unavailable for any dates within this time or you would like to be involved in these important ministries, please contact the office by phone or email by 10th February clearly stating preferred mass times and ministry you are interested in or are unavailable for.

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## **Stations of the Cross**

A formation meeting will be held soon for those interested in participating in Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

Please contact Dale on 0408 216522.

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## **Volunteers Required**

The **St. Vincent de Paul Society** urgently requires new volunteers to assist with staffing the Phone Room at our Welfare Centre. This would involve



2 hours per fortnight 10.00am to 12.00pm answering calls from clients seeking appointments for welfare assistance, recording their details and allocating them a time for that afternoon. No previous experience required, as training will be provided.

For any enquiries, please contact Denise on 0432 054003.

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## **St. Vincent de Paul News**

St. Brendan's Conference has had a busy end to the year with 396 welfare appointments in the last quarter. In almost all cases material aid was given. Over one quarter of clients (99) were new clients showing a continued need for help within our community. Our largest expense continues to be for food assistance, followed by accommodation costs, transport issues, and utilities, whitegoods repairs, education matters, and prescriptions/medicine. Prior to Christmas, we handed out hampers to a number of clients and also a number to Mental Health Fellowship for their clients and to our parish schools to be allocated as appropriate.

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Our **Faith & Light Community's Christmas Crib set** is still missing. Some of it has been returned but our beautiful figurines are still missing. Could the person who took these please return them. Thank you. ~ Denise.

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## **Aussie Camino . . . Save the Date**

3rd to 11th April, 2017.

St Brendan's Parish are gathering a group to walk the Aussie Camino from Portland to Penola.

There will be an information session on the 12th February after 11am Mass with a light lunch to follow.

More information next week. If you are interested in knowing a bit more contact Anthony 5821 2633.

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On Wednesday Pope Francis said having total faith and trust in God means recognizing that he always knows and wants what is best for us, even if it's hard to accept because it doesn't align with our own plans.

Wednesday, Pope Francis talked about what it means to have total faith and trust in God, acknowledging that he knows what is best, and always wants what is best for us, even if it is often difficult to accept.

"Trusting in God means to enter into his designs without demanding anything, even accepting that his salvation and his help should come to us in a different way from our expectations," he said Jan. 25.

The Pope's catechesis for the general audience in the Pope Paul VI hall centred on the story of Judith in the Old Testament, a woman who was "a great heroine," he said, and an excellent example of the virtues of faith, hope and trust.

In the story, Nebuchadnezzar's army, under the leadership of General Holofernes, is laying siege to a city in Judea, cutting off the water supply and thus "sapping the resistance of the population," the Pope said.

"The situation is dramatic," to the point that the people in the town are giving up, wanting to surrender to the enemy, he said. Faced with such despair, a leader of the people suggests that they wait only five more days. If God has not saved them by then, they will surrender.

But then Judith comes onto the scene, "a woman of great beauty and wisdom, she speaks to the people with the language of faith," Francis said.

"You want to test the Lord Almighty," the Pope said, quoting the words of Judith, who cautioned the people not to "provoke the wrath of the Lord, our God." The Lord, she said, "has full power to defend us in the days he wants or even to destroy us by our enemies."

Referencing the passage, Pope Francis told pilgrims that "we never put conditions on God and give up...instead hope conquers our fears."

~ Vatican City, Jan 25, 2017 / 06:28 am (CNA/EWTN News) Excerpt

'Those who accept Jesus' offer  
of salvation  
are set free from sin, sorrow, inner  
emptiness and loneliness.  
With Christ joy is constantly  
born anew.'

~ *Evangelii Gaudium*



The gentle shall have the  
earth for their heritage.

Mt 5:5

## Mass Times

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

#### **Weekend Mass times**

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am and 11am and 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 first Friday  
monthly at 11am

Mass at Tarcoola, second Wednesday monthly at 10.30am

**Reconciliation** Saturday mornings 9.30am to 10.30am

### **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 Vigil 6.30pm,

Sunday 10.00am Mass, Monday No Mass,

Tuesday to Thursday 6pm Mass, Friday 10am Mass.

*Reconciliation* Saturday 10.30am - 11am.

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