



Welcome to St. Brendan's Parish

Parish Priest: Fr. Joe Taylor

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



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 February 2017



Readings for this week:

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Matthew 5:38-48



Readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 49:14-15
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:24-34



Liturgical Jottings Proper of Seasons

Most Mass-goers will experience the Seasons of the Liturgical Years more than, perhaps the other types of celebrations that featured in this column in previous weeks: Ritual Masses, Special Occasions and Needs and the Commons of saints. Sundays have five seasons: Advent, Christmastide, Ordinary Time, Lent and Easter. In Advent there is Great Advent (17-24 December) and in Lent, Holy Week (Palm Sunday to Holy Thursday) and the Paschal Triduum (from Holy Thursday night to Saturday night of the Easter Vigil). These various seasons have particular characteristics and themes. In Advent the two comings of Christ. In Lent Baptism (A), Covenant (B) and Reconciliation (C). Easter Season readings give account of the witness of the risen Lord and the growth and faith of the infant Church.

Looking at the Readings

The first part of today's gospel passage is perhaps one of the most misunderstood of Jesus' teachings. The notion of turning the other cheek usually brings up notions of non-violence, submission, or even sometimes a victim mentality. It seems an odd teaching to tell someone who is being hit to simply stand there and present the other cheek to also be hit. It's odd because we generally fail to understand the cultural context that is the setting for this teaching.

In the first century, a master would discipline a slave or servant by striking them with the back of his hand. Assuming the master is right handed, a back-handed strike would be delivered to the right cheek of the person he faced. If the servant were to then present his left cheek to the master, it becomes impossible for the master to strike with the back of his hand and forces him into using an open-hand slap or a closed-fist punch to the left cheek. Not much of an improvement, you might think. However, servants were disciplined with the back of the hand and only equals fought in such a way that would deliver blows to the left side.

What Jesus is saying to those who are oppressed is to offer no resistance but at the same time stand up for yourself and make your oppressor recognise you and treat you as an equal, not an inferior. It is extremely dangerous advice! Its aim is to shame the oppressor.

The other two examples, surrendering your cloak when sued for your tunic and walking two miles when required to walk one are also examples of seeking to shame the one who would use their power and strength against you. That's not being a submissive wimp; that's staring the bully in the eye! © Greg Sunter

Quote from Pope Francis

Jesus himself lived in violent times. Yet he taught that the true battlefield, where violence and peace meet, is the human heart. Jesus marked out the path of nonviolence. He walked that path to the very end, to the cross, whereby he became our peace and put an end to hostility. Become an instrument of reconciliation. In the words of Saint Francis of Assisi: "As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that you have greater peace in your hearts". Message of Pope Francis, 50th World Day of Peace 1/1/2017

On the Lighter Side

Jokes are better than wars. Even the most aggressive jokes are better than the least aggressive wars. Even the longest jokes are better than the shortest wars. George Mikes comedian (b Hungary 1912, d England 1987)



Reflection

Come, Lord,
May your breath blow as the spring breeze
that makes life bloom
and opens up love;
or let it be as the hurricane that unleashes
unknown strength
and raises latent energies.

May your breath pass in our eyes
to open them up to farther and wider horizons,
drawn by our Father's hand.

May your breath pass on our saddened faces
to restore a smile again;
may it graze our tired hands to give them new life
and make them able to work joyfully
for the Gospel's sake.

May your breath pass since dawn
holding fast all our days in a generous impulse.

May your breath pass as night approaches
to keep us safe in your light
and in your enthusiasm.
May it pass and remain throughout all our life
to renew it and give it the true and profound
dimensions.

Carmelite Constitutions

Thank you to all those who attended our meeting

in the Mons. Peter Jeffrey Centre about supporting the survivors of sexual abuse, and our wider faith community in the wake of the Royal Commission and beyond. As well as Estela Hutchings we had a representative from GV CASA (Andrea) and the Victoria Police SOCAIT team (David Bagley) outlining the support available. We shared stories and emotions and offered suggestions for the future.

One of these was that information about where to find support be on our website and in the Bulletin regularly. We will ensure that it is uploaded to the website, available in the side porch and the narthex and that phone numbers/web addresses are regularly printed in our bulletin.

Again thank you to those who attended our meeting, ours is a strong community and we will continue to support each other. Just two of the options available are listed below, others will be on our website.

GV Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) 1800 806 292 or 5831 2343. Provides free ongoing specialist counselling and support for survivors and family members of those who have experienced sexual assault, including those affected by institutionalised abuse.

Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN) 1800 008 774 support@clan.org Support and advocacy for people who grew up in Australian orphanages, children's homes and in foster care, and their families. support provided to engage with the Royal Commission

~ Fr Joe & Kathy Hunt (Chair of the PPC)

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Saturday mornings 9.30am-10.30am

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

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: Lorraine Collyer (sister of Graeme Quinlan)

Anniversaries: Elizabeth Martin, Martin O'Dwyer.

Lectors 25th & 26th February

6pm T Tarquini Sr F Kennedy

8am J Zampaglione D Teitzel

11am I Garla M Frizzell

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, Parish Centre

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 9.30am at Ave Maria Village

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

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

NOTICES

Pilgrim Cross coming to Shepparton "A call to hope through Prayer"

Catholic Charismatic Renewal is celebrating 50 years Jubilee in the Church and is inviting all Catholics to celebrate with us. Everyone within the Church will be invited to spend one hour before the Cross with the Blessed Sacrament at St Brendan's Church on Saturday 4th March.

All groups of the Parish will be invited to lead an hour of worship through; Rosary, meditation, silence, singing, reading of Psalms or other starting from the opening liturgy at 10.30am through to 5.30pm.

Sunday the 5th March the Cross will travel out onto the streets and Parks of Shepparton for the unchurched to see and experience the Cross of Jesus.

If you would like to be involved or for more information contact Pastoral Associate Anthony Kilmartin on 5821 2633.

St Brendan's Friendship Group meet for lunch this Sunday Maguires Bistro, Sherbourne Terrace Hotel, Wyndham St. at 12.30pm. Enquiries to Pat 5821 1269.

Garabandal Meeting

Re-commences for 2017 next Monday 20th February at 1.30pm in the Parish Centre. We consecrate ourselves to Our Lady by saying the Rosary and pray for priests. We have a discussion on a relevant topic or watch a DVD and conclude with the Divine Mercy Prayer and a cuppa.

Anyone is welcome.

Stronger Rally

The first Stronger Rally for the year will be held at Catholic College Wodonga on Friday February 24th at 6pm. All young people from 12-25 years are invited to come along. The night will begin with a bbq dinner, games, praise & worship by Sam Clear and PIPER.

There will be a bus leaving from St Brendan's Parish on Friday afternoon.

Please contact Judi Robinson on 0419 575585 to book a seat.

Polish Mass

There will be a Polish Mass on Saturday 25th February at 4pm. All parishioners are very welcome.

Lenten Reflection Group

This year the theme is 'HOPE' in our troubled world.

The group will first meet on Monday 27th February at Ave Maria Village at 1.30pm and thereafter each Monday of Lent. All parishioners welcome. Just turn up!

For information phone 5821 2633 or email Anthony at:

anthonypastoral@bigpond.com

Reunion of St Colman's Students

A reunion of students who attended St Colman's College Shepparton in era 1951 to 1954 will be held at Goulburn Valley Hotel in Shepparton on Thursday 9th March at 12.30pm.

Please call Pat English on 0409 028248 or Peter Parker on 0427 911828 for more details or just turn up on the day.

Classical Concert in the Church The concert that was to be held on Friday 10th March has been cancelled.

Ash Wednesday 1st March, 2017

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

Columban Calendars now only \$4 each

Have a look at the beautiful artwork on these calendars and grab a calendar for the year.

Stations of the Cross

Calling for actors and volunteers for the Good Friday Stations of the Cross.

A formation meeting will be held soon for those interested in participating. Please contact Dale on 0408 216522 or see him at 11am Mass.



Altar Servers If you are an existing Altar Server or would like to join this very special ministry, please complete your details on the yellow A3 form in the narthex and west side foyer.

We appreciate your commitment and dedication to this great service. Thank you. ~ Patricia Chalkley, (Catholic Identity Co-ordinator, St Brendan's Primary School)

Parish Sacramental Program

All families with children in Year 3 or older including secondary school aged, who are interested in participating in the Sacramental program this year are asked to contact Laura O'Sullivan at the parish office. Please note this is only for families whose children attend non catholic schools in North Shepparton. Laura is available on Wednesday mornings from 9am to 1pm on 5821 2633 or via email at Sacramental.coord@bigpond.com.au.

Families with children at St. Luke's and St. Brendan's primary schools will receive an information pack via school in the next couple of weeks. Notre Dame Students are asked to contact Miss Jess Alampi.

The program will commence on Wednesday 29th March.

Children's Liturgy of the Word Sundays 11am Mass.

All primary school children are invited to come and hear God's word.

Aussie Camino 3rd to 11th April, 2017

We're gathering a group to walk the Aussie Camino from Portland to Penola. There is full support along the way if you feel you can only walk part of the way. Accommodation is arranged for you so all that's left is for you to enjoy this amazing experience! If you are interested in knowing a bit more contact Anthony on 5821 2633.

Little Black Books are now available.

Six minutes a day! That's all this Little Book takes. Only \$5 each available in the narthex and side entrance.

Wanted: Helpers for Playgroup at Ave Maria. We meet on Mondays during school terms from 9:30-11am. We would love to have an enthusiastic and fun person to help us ensure that Playgroup continues to be a welcoming and gentle play space for young children and supportive of those who care for them. We would ask that our volunteers undergo police and working with children checks as requirements for this role. Please contact Liz on 0498 019972 if you would like more information.

Break the Cycle

Here are two young men who broke the cycle of greed and violence that hurts our nation.

Tyson's friend died in gang violence. Tyson's friends kept urging him to get revenge. But he looked to God for help. He spent a lot of time at church and with people who could support him as he struggled with anger and grief. That helped him break the cycle of violence by choosing against revenge.

Jack lives in a wealthy community where many young people drive expensive cars and live in expensive homes. Talk at his school often focuses on the newest games, computers, and clothes. But Jack found his meaning by helping out at a local soup kitchen, not by buying more and more for himself. He eventually helped lead service trips for other young people. He broke the cycle of greed and selfishness that traps many people in wealthy towns.

Tyson and Jack put this week's Gospel into practice. Jesus challenges his disciples to break the cycles of evil that suck so many people in and cause so much destruction in the world. Turn the other cheek. That means standing up for your rights without restoring to violence or seeking revenge. Jesus also tells us to sacrifice time and money for the needs of all people, even for our enemies. These are tough teachings. But our world hurts. Practicing violence, revenge, and greed hasn't made things better. Maybe it is time to try Jesus' way.

Many people today – like Tyson and Jack – take Jesus' challenges and ask God for the strength to meet them. Will you?

How in your family, school, workplace, or community could you break a cycle of violence, revenge, or greed?

GPBS-eNews

LET YOUR HOPE KEEP YOU JOYFUL,
BE PATIENT IN YOUR TROUBLES,
AND PRAY AT ALL TIMES

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

Ash Wednesday 1st March see times on page 3

Other Mass Times

Mass of Anointing, Wednesday preceding first Friday monthly at 11am except March which will be on Sunday 26th February 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.