



Welcome to *St. Brendan's Parish*



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

Parish Priest: Fr. Joe Taylor

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

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 February 2017



Readings for this week:

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



Readings for next Sunday:

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11



Ash Wednesday 1 March

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season. It is not just a period of self-discipline but an opportunity for self-development and growth.

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Looking at the Readings

One of the hardest things to do in our busy modern lives is to live in the present moment. Our lives are almost consumed by a mixture of anticipating what we have to do next and reliving what we have done. We are constantly making plans for catching up with friends, organising chores that need to be done, working or studying to 'get ahead' and create a better future for ourselves. We live our lives in the future and in anticipation of what is to come so much so that we often don't seem to actually enjoy the event when it comes because we're already planning what we'll be doing next. In this incredible rush of living our lives forward, suddenly out of nowhere we'll be swamped with regrets about some mistake in the past or how we might have handled a situation better.

There is an incredible challenge to simply be mindful of the now. If we can be mindful of what we're doing now then we can be purposeful and intentional about our actions rather than operating habitually on auto pilot or operating reactively. When we live in the now, instead of the once was or soon to be, then we find ourselves actually listening to our friends when they speak to us; savouring the food we eat; noticing both the beauty and the pain around us; and sometimes even becoming aware of the presence of God around and within us.

Today's gospel tells us not to worry about what is to come but be attentive to the way we are living our lives. It tells us to be attentive to living in accordance with the will of God and when we do that it will be amazing just how other things seem to fall into place. © Greg Sunter

Autumn Ember Day (Friday 3 March)

Ember days have been observed in the Church since the fifth century. They mark the start of each of the four seasons. The Autumn and Spring ember days (first Friday of the month of March and September respectively) are special days of prayer and penance. The practice of the Church is to offer prayers to the Lord for the needs of all people, especially for the productivity of the earth and for human labour, and to give God thanks. (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year Calendar 45*).

On the Lighter Side

A man walked up to a Franciscan and Jesuit and asked, "How many novenas must I pray to win a Mercedes Benz?" The Franciscan asked, "What's a Mercedes Benz?" The Jesuit asked, "What's a novena?"



Why I will attend Mass this Sunday

These are difficult days to be a Catholic. We are all seriously impacted by the recent release of a report from the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse. Our Church that aspires to deliver hope and support and comfort and goodness is at the epicentre of so much that has caused despair, damage and hurt. Many authorities and the media have been condemning of the Church and its hierarchy which seemed to do little to protect the most vulnerable. All of these matters have been under the spotlight for some time, so I will not dwell on them here. Someone mentioned to me that they could not possibly attend Mass this week, such is the impact the Report has had. This stopped me in my tracks.

I will be in Mass this weekend and, as is my custom, each Sunday after that. Why?

- This is my Faith. I have always needed the nourishment that the Eucharist provides. This need has not evaporated because of recent events.
- It is my Church. Yes, it is also the Church of the abusers, but neither determine nor diminish my membership. The Catholic Church is (and has always been made up of "Saints and Sinners". Describing the Catholic Church, James Joyce once said, "Here come the Catholics. Here comes everybody" Simply, it reflects humanity.
- My relationship with God is too important to me to allow it to be damaged by criminals who betrayed the trust of others. I choose to refuse to give them that power.
- Importantly, I see this is a good opportunity to support my Parish Priest, (and the many, many other priests who have not committed crimes and we are devoted and loyal) who have served me, my family and the people of the Church faithfully for so long. I want to let these men know that I continue to trust them and respect and I am thankful for the goodness they bring into the Church I love, despite the hurt they must be feeling on a personal level. I believe the world would be a poorer place without them. Yes, they too were betrayed by their brother priests who ignored their vows and abandoned decent standards of behaviour. They too must feel angry and devastated at the revelations of the Royal Commission. Yet they continue to serve us, difficult though that must be at present.

So I will be in Mass on Sunday, knowing that I belong to a Faith community of good citizens, strugglers and doubters, guided by good clerics, ordinary human beings who have similar frailties, experience the same fears and are weighed down by the same imperfections as me.

(Communication Matters—10th February, 2017)

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

New Victorian Government Laws

Child Safe

With the introduction of new Victorian Government Laws from 1st January regarding Child Safety rules, we have had to change some of our procedures with regard to volunteers.

We now need to have two referees and some documentation completed.

We will be delighted to help with this procedure.

These changes will effect new volunteers only.

Pilgrim Cross coming to Shepparton

... 4th March

"A call to hope through Prayer"

Our parish will be involved with a day of adoration next Saturday 4th March from 10.30am to 5.45pm. The day will be a witness by groups in our Parish and to the great work they do to bring hope to our broken world through their witness to the message of the Gospels. The day will begin with Fr Berny opening from 10.30 to 11.00 and then throughout the day different groups from our Parish will lead an hour of prayer to show their connection through prayer, music or photos, to our vision to be God's witness to others.

Parish groups involved.

11-12noon Prayer group; 12-1.00pm St Vinnies

1-2pm Mothers prayers; 2-3 Faith & Light community

3-4pm Garabandal group; 4-5 Men's group.

This day is for the whole Parish to be involved in so feel free to drop in throughout the day at a time that suits you.

Recently Deceased: David Calandro, Sr Mary Griffiths csb, Patricia Hogan, Antonina Renato, Fallon O'Keeffe.

Anniversaries: Jack O'Connor, John W O'Connor, Leo Clurey, Marie Barwick, Bernard O'Shea, Francesco, Domenico & Rocco Mammone, Carmine Nappa, Angioletta (Jean) Sfirro.

Lectors 4th & 5th March

6pm J Boccabella, A Kilmartin

8am M Hicks, S Hicks

11am A Madeira, A Ferguson

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 7.30pm Church & Parish Centre

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

NOTICES

Lenten Reflection Group . . . 27th February

The group will meet this Monday 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

Serra Cub . . . 3rd March

This Friday, March 3rd, is 1st Friday. The Serra Club will have mass for vocations and our priests which will be in the Mons Jeffery Centre at 7.30 pm. We plan to have some time with the Pilgrim Cross which will be with us at this time.

A cuppa will follow and our film this month is "The Abbey that refused to Die." The story of Ballintuber Abbey in Ireland where mass has been celebrated every week for over a 1000 years. Everyone is welcome.

Men's Group . . . 4th March

Our Parish men's group will gather next Saturday morning at 7.30am in the Mons Jeffery centre. If you are new to the Parish our breakfasts are a great way to meet people and to strengthen your connection with our Parish faith community. If you have any questions please call Anthony on 5821 2633.

Stronger Youth – Annual Road Trip . . . 4th March

The Shepparton Stronger DGroup will be heading on a road trip to Bendigo on Saturday March 4.

All youth are invited to come along! Details are to follow. Please keep checking the St Brendan's Facebook Page and the Stronger Youth Shepparton Facebook Page for updates.

Anointing Mass . . . 5th March

At 11am Mass next Sunday 5th March
not Sunday 26th February or Wednesday 1st March.

Spirituality in the Pub . . . 7th March

will be held Tuesday 7th March at the Terminus Hotel. 7.30pm to 9pm. The speaker will be Richard Campbell (Caritas Australia's Lenten Speaker Program). Bookings not required. Just Come along. Enquiries to Kerry 0408 579904.

Reunion of St Colman's Students . . . 9th March

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.

'Engaging with the Hopes of Parishes' . . . 15th March Fr Brendan Reed

Wednesday 15th March 7.30 – 9.30 pm, Mons Jeffrey Centre. Fr Brendan Reed, Parish Priest of Deepdene & Balwyn and Camberwell Catholic Parishes and Catholic Theological College lecturer in Theology, will give an interactive presentation based on his research work *Engaging with the Hopes of Parishes*. All are welcome to join the St Brendan's PPC for a dynamic and thought provoking evening.

RSVP: phone 5821 2633 or The Chancery
adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au 5441 2544.

Ash Wednesday 1st March, 2017

Mass times: St Brendan's Church
7am, 9.15am and 6pm
Mercy Stadium, Skene Street, 11am
4.30pm at Ave Maria Village
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.

Parish Sacramental Program

Enrolments are now open for children to participate in the sacramental program. To receive an Information Booklet and an enrolment form please call into the parish office during office hours or email Laura at sacramental.coord@bigpond.com.au.

For children who attend government schools, enrolments need to be lodged in person on either Wednesday 1st March or Wednesday 8th March between 8.30am and 4pm. Details are provided on the enrolment form. Please note that enrolments will close on Friday 10th March. Ideally the children should be in Year 3 or older.

A separate program for secondary school age children will also begin shortly. For more information and an enrolment form please contact Laura on the above email or Miss Jess Alampi at the parish office on 5821 2633.

Little Black Books (Lenten Reflection) 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.

New Rosters (Ministers, Lectors, Offertory)

have been emailed to those who have advised an email address. If not, they will be in an envelope in the narthex.

Lost Items There are several lost items of jewellery at the parish office waiting for their owners to collect them!

Caritas Australia's Lent Calendar Phone App

provides daily information, prayers, reflections and actions that will help you "Meet your Neighbour" and "Love your Neighbour" during Lent.

Download at <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar>

The Year of the Rooster

For Chinese people this is the Year of the Rooster. No offence is intended to those people who fall under this zodiac sign but my father used to say that rooster's crow as the sun rises, hoping that everyone would think they are responsible for it!

He also used to read us the story of the stone soup, attributed to Henry Lawson but it is actually an old European folk story. A swaggie came to town carrying nothing more than an empty cooking pot and a stone. No-one was willing to share any of their food so he went to the creek and filled the pot with water, dropping the stone in it, and put it on a fire. One by one the townspeople became curious and ask what he's doing. I am making "stone soup", which tastes wonderful, although it still needs a little bit of something to improve the flavour. So one person does not mind parting with a carrot to help them out. Another walks by, inquiring about the pot, and the swaggie again explains about the stone soup but it could do with a potato perhaps? That goes in the pot. One by one, more and more people visit, each adding another ingredient. Finally, the stone is removed from the pot, and a delicious and nourishing pot of soup is enjoyed by all-comers. Everybody contributed whatever each had, with great results. That's a very abbreviated version but I loved that story.

When Jesus sent out the Twelve to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick, He told them: *"Take nothing for the journey -- no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town.* Luke 9:1-10

So what does the rooster, the soup and Jesus' instructions have in common? Jesus' instructions weren't simply an exercise about trust in God. It was a reminder to them that it is not all about you! It is a reminder that while we might have much to contribute, we depend on the work of others, the generosity of others. We are always enriched by the generosity of others in our lives and so are our own endeavours. We won't get very far going it alone, taking all the credit or by continually telling people what's wrong, where they are falling down, what could be done better. It is always better to start with acknowledging the contribution and labours of others rather than being inclined to take credit for their work. Acknowledging the positive, what is going well, what others are doing is essential. Underlying Jesus' instruction is a reminder to ask ourselves where and how we work to enrich the

lives of those around us? Do we praise, thank and encourage? Are we positive influences? Surely that is the message of the Gospel – not just hearing the Good News but being good news?

When we become alert to the efforts of those around us and how much we are indebted to them, then we can begin to understand how much in our own lives depends on God and how much on ourselves? In practice, most of us focus on what we have to do rather than what God has and is already doing. But even then, we can have preconceived ideas about what God ought to be doing and where God ought to be working, where God ought to be showing Godself. But most often we find God at work in the ordinary, right under our noses, in the contributions of others, in the work of others as they use their gifts and talents which God has given them. They too are using them in the service of God.

We seem to have lost the sense that all the world is sacred and that what we do is part of the continuing work of God's creation. That may be because the world seems so full of sadness and misery, the nightly news so filled with horror stories. Finding God's presence in all that seems impossible. All the more reason to go looking, all the more reason to find ways to seek out God's presence and purpose in what we are creating and in those we are working with. Is it true that we don't seem to bless our workplaces or our workbenches, our offices or factories or even our homes anymore? Do we start our journeys, our days, our endeavours with a prayer, silent or shared? Such prayers not only seek God's protection but they alert us to God's presence in our work and that of others. Prayer reminds us to give thanks to God and to our co-workers. When we do not link our everyday activities to God's care, when we under-appreciate the sacredness of what we and others do, those activities soon become flat and ordinary and we unconsciously compensate for that by rewarding ourselves and criticising others.

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au



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 5th March 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, Ash Wednesday 8am, 12noon, 7pm.

Friday during Lent Stations of the Cross 5.30pm then Mass.

Saturday 9.00am. *Reconciliation*, Saturday 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 Mooropna, Saturday Vigil 6.30pm,

Sunday 10.00am Mass, Monday No Mass,

Tuesday to Thursday 6pm Mass, Ash Wed 9.15am & 6pm.

Friday 10am Mass. *Reconciliation* Saturday 10.30am - 11am.

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