



Welcome to *St. Brendan's Parish*

Parish Priest: Fr. Joe Taylor

Associate Priests: Fr Berny Agustines & Fr Sebastian Mandapathil

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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

First Sunday of Lent

5 March 2017



Readings for this week:

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



Readings for next Sunday:

Genesis 12:1-4

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Matthew 17:1-9



Lenten Focus

The three good works we are encouraged to take on during Lent are Prayer, Fasting (Jesus' words from Gospel of Ash Wednesday). Prayer may be individually, in a group or attending extra Masses. Fasting is going without to exercise both body and spirit and the money saved and more may go towards Project Compassion or other charities.

Pope Francis

Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts", to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive.

Lenten Pastoral Letter 2017 intro.

Looking at the Readings

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent act as a kind of overture to the entire season. They enable us to engage in a double confession: a confession of sin and the repentance which follows; and a confession of praise for the mercy of God which is shown us in spite of our sin.

The very first reading reminds us of our fragility. We are made of the dust of the ground, the very stuff that represents death and decay. We were reminded of this when ashes were used to sign us on Ash Wednesday. At the beginning of Lent we are invited to acknowledge honestly and realistically our fundamental human weakness.

Despite our weaknesses, the situation within which we find ourselves is not hopeless. Somewhere deep within ourselves we know that we are not helpless prisoners of our limitations. God has not deserted us to our guilt. The form that God's compassion takes is outlined in the reading from Romans. It is in the death and resurrection of Jesus that we see the extent of this divine compassion. Its scope is first measured by the yardstick of human sinfulness, and then it outstrips those dimensions. God's gracious gift far exceeds the effects of human transgression.

The gospel reading moves us from both the anthropological and the theological considerations to the crowning Christological reflections. As we look to Jesus, we see humanity at its best, tempted but not overcome. There will certainly always be human limitations, human weaknesses that will open the door to temptation. But Jesus shows us that we are not thereby doomed. Jesus is a model for our own journey to new life. © Dianne Bergant CSS

Quote for the week

"With all your heart, turn to me for I am tender and compassionate." says the Lord. (Joel 2:12-13, Gospel Acclamation Wednesday)

On the Lighter Side

A Catholic walks into a cafe on the first Friday of Lent and orders fish and chips. He pays the bill, but leaves no tip. He repeats this every Friday during Lent. On the last Friday, the waitress asks "Excuse me sir. You've been eating here every Friday but never left me a tip. Didn't I provide good service to you?" The man replied "Your service is excellent. But because it's Lent, I giving up tipping and giving the money to the poor."



Reflection

Lent - A great time to reflect and rededicate ourselves to our work.

Our life - a Christian's life - has to be as ordinary as this: trying every day to do well those very things it is our duty to do;

carrying out our divine mission in the world by fulfilling the little duty of each moment.

Or rather, struggling to fulfill it. Sometimes we don't manage, and when night comes, in our examination, we'll have to tell Our Lord, "I am not offering you virtues; today I can only offer you defects. But with your grace I will be able to count myself a victor."

~ St. Josemaria Escriva, *The Forge*, #616



Dina's Story—
The Philippines

Dina's story is a story of healing, through her own skill and perseverance, and through support from a Caritas-Australia funded program. Living in the Philippines, she struggled daily with poverty in a country with many vulnerable communities. Her community encouraged her to participate in the Social Pastoral Action Centre Foundation supported by Caritas Australia. Now she has an integral role in her community, a sustainable livelihood and a brighter future for her children.

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Please pray for our catechumens who are preparing to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church at Easter:



Jarrold Hall, Rebecca Riordan, Jok Deng,
Andrew Bradley and Gabby Lie.

International Women's Day - 8 March 2017

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, the present and in the future. The theme the Australian National Committee of UN Women has chosen for International Women's Day on 8 March 2017 is Empower a woman, empower a nation. Together we can empower women across the globe. Women face – particularly in developing countries – systematic discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, control of assets and participation. We can help through Project Compassion during Lent.

- Women make up approximately 70 percent of the world's poor.
- Two-thirds of people unable to read and write are female.
- 11.4 million women and girls are in forced labour.
- 1 in 3 women and girls experience physical and sexual violence.

For more information and resources please visit:

<https://unwomen.org.au/campaign/international-womens-day-2017/>

<http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/global-poverty-issues/women-and-development>

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Fiorina Arlia, Peter Clurey, Judy Cobbledick, William Linehan Snr., William Linehan, Annie Linehan, John Stein, Len Stein, Peter Clurey.

Lectors 11th & 12th March

6pm J Howley F Scheibel

8am G Jelliff Sr R Crowe

11am J Pilkington P Cooper

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

Anointing Mass . . . 5th March

At 11am Mass this Sunday.

Spirituality in the Pub . . . 7th March

at the Terminus Hotel, 212 High Street, Shepparton this Tuesday 7.30 – 9 pm (meals from 6 pm optional).

Come and join the conversation with internationally renowned Aboriginal artist, *Richard Campbell*, a Stolen Generations survivor, as he shares his journey towards healing through his faith, his art, and through coming together with his fellow survivors at the Caritas supported Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation which offers a peer model of support and empowerment founded on brotherhood & neighbourly love.

See the flyer on the noticeboard in the narthex.

Enquiries: Kerry 0408 579904 Frank 5821 4362.

Mass at Tarcoola . . . 8th March at 10.30am

Catholic Women's League (CWL) . . . 9th March

Meet on Thursday at 1pm in the Mons Jeffrey Centre.

All welcome.

Cuppa after 11am Mass . . . 12th March

We are re-commencing morning 'cuppa after 11am Mass' next Sunday 12th March with the Men's Group taking charge this month. It is a great way to meet everyone. So please stay around and join others to have a cuppa and a chat together.



Thanks to all organisers.

'Engaging with the Hopes of Parishes' . . . 15th March

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.

Stronger DGroup . . . 18th March

Our next DGroup will be on Saturday 18th of March, we will be watching Part 2 of the YOU series after our **Youth Led Mass**. If you would like to be involved in any of the ministries for the Youth Mass please contact the Shepparton Stronger Leadership Team.

Retirement Party for Fr Edward 'Ted' Harte . . . 24th March

All are invited to a retirement function for Father Harte At All Seasons Conservatory, Mclvor Road, Bendigo on Friday 24th March. Time: 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

\$25 per person. Finger food will be provided with participants responsible for purchasing their own drinks. Bookings: Can be made by paying into the Holy Rosary White Hills, Fr Harte Retirement Function Account at any National Bank (nab), BSB 083 543

Account number 51 302 3240.

Please add all names attending when making deposit.

Meditation Thursday mornings during Lent

7.15am in the Mons Jeffrey Centre. All welcome.

Lenten Reflection Group . . . Mondays during Lent

at Ave Maria Village at 1.30pm. All parishioners welcome.

Just turn up! For information phone Anthony on 5821 2633

or email: anthonypastoral@bigpond.com

Parish Sacramental Program

2017 Parish Sacramental Program: Enrolments are now open for children to participate in the sacramental program.

To receive an Information Booklet and 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 no later than next 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. For more information please contact Laura on 5821 2633 Wednesday mornings.

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.

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.

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>

Part-time Unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

A part-time Unit of CPE will be conducted in Shepparton in second semester, from 11 July to 22 November. The course will be conducted by the North-east Victoria CPE Centre. It will be coordinated by Dan Murphy, who works as Pastoral Care Coordinator at Northeast Health Wangaratta and is accredited as a Clinical Pastoral Supervisor.

Prospective applicants should contact the Course Coordinator, Dan Murphy, at dan.murphy1949@gmail.com or on 0408 841997.

Voices For Harmony 10th Anniversary . . . 21st March

11.30am to 2pm

at The Carrington Hotel, 505 Wyndham Street, Shepparton. Police Prosecutor Gordon Porter, Cameron Albanoi and Azem Elmaz formed the group 'Voices for Harmony' in 2007.

Since then they have conducted annual events to bring together new, older and Aboriginal Australians through sporting and cultural activities. Guest speaker Julian Burnside QC will speak on the challenge "Yes to Multiculturalism."

\$35 per person includes lunch.

RSVP by Friday 10th March to

Cameron Albanoi 0429 036738, Azem Elmaz 0413 897209, Frank Purcell 5821 4362 or Rev Chris Parnell 0459 560273.

THE SANCTITY OF WORK

7 Ways to Find God in Your Ordinary Life

Our lives nowadays are so filled with activities, it's easy to forget about how God is always with us. It's true. He wants to accompany us throughout our day. Even the most mundane, ordinary moments. We just need to remember to let Him.

"Either we learn to find our Lord in ordinary, everyday life, or else we shall never find Him."

~ *Conversations with Msgr. Josemaria Escriva, #114*

In the short paragraphs that follow, please find 7 things you can do to find God in your ordinary life and to sanctify yourself through your work. We hope that it whets your appetite for more. And that it helps you grow closer to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

1. Starting the day off right (morning offering to God)

When your feet hit the floor, express your gratitude to God for another day, and set an intention to do His will.

"Thank you, Lord. Not my will but thy will be done".

Conquer yourself each day from the very first moment, getting up on the dot, at a set time, without granting a single minute to laziness. If with the help of God, you conquer yourself in the moment, you have accomplished a great deal for the rest of the day. It's so discouraging to find yourself beaten in the first skirmish. (The Way, 191).

~ *From Scepter Publishers (Reprinted with permission)*

(Nos. 2 to 7 cont. in following bulletins)

In 2017, may you find God more often in ordinary moments.

And may you be successful serving others through the apostolate of your work.

(Parishioners can sign up at the website <https://www.scepterpublishers.org> and obtain a 10% discount on their first purchase of any of Scepter books).

'Into the wilderness.....' Leaflets for Sundays of Lent & Easter

The Adult Faith Education Sandhurst Ministry has prepared leaflets for reflection and prayer, for individuals or small groups, for each of the Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday 2017. The leaflets are free to download at: <http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/index.php/resources/lent-leaflets-2017>.

There are also some available with the bulletin.

Mass Times

St Brendan's Parish

Weekend Mass times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am and 11am

Sunday 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,

Fridays 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 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.