



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

Second Sunday of Lent

12 March 2017



Readings for this week:

Genesis 12:1-4
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9



Readings for next Sunday:

Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42



Lenten Focus: Fasting

Partial or total fasting is found in all religions and in all times for various purposes: strengthening against evil, repentance, remembrance, supplication in times of trouble, mourning, preparation for a great undertaking. Christian motives also include a means of uniting with the suffering of Christ, and acts of prayer and humility. Christ in his great teaching on fasting (Matt 6:16-18) relates it with humility, justice and charity so that we share our bread with the poor. Fasting and the Eucharist are also connected: as Christ's body is bread for the life of the world, so our giving to others, especially to the needy, our communion with Christ is more completely realised.

Quote for the Week

"Your words, Lord, are spirit and life" you have the words of everlasting life." (John 6:63,68 Gospel Acclamation, Monday)

Looking at the Readings

The blessings upon which we meditate today are undeserved gifts from God. They were not earned. The graciousness of God transforms us in such a way as to effect new beginnings. It can be seen in the promises made to Abram. He leaves the past behind and moves into a new future. It can be seen in the psalm response. The Lord delivers us from death and inspires us to look to the future. It can be seen in the reading from 2 Timothy. Through Christ Jesus we are called to a new life of holiness; we escape the fetters of death and are brought into the freedom of the resurrection. We see it in the gospel, a glimpse into the future glory of Jesus which, through grace, we will be able to share. Lent is a time of new beginnings which find their origin in the abundant blessings of God.

The ultimate blessing of God is Jesus himself. As Abram was called to be the source of blessing for all others, as Peter, James and John were chosen to witness the transfiguration of Jesus, so today we too are invited to look to Jesus for inspiration during this holy season. Paul speaks of the salvation that Jesus brings as having come, not because of any works of righteousness that we might have performed, but because of the grace of God. Once again the Lenten readings focus on the merciful action of God in our lives, and in the end they point to Jesus. © Dianne Bergant CSS

Pope Francis on Lent

I would like to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31). Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognising their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbour or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognising in them the face of Christ. (Lenten Pastoral 2017 para 1)

On the Lighter Side

An announcement in New York city church bulletin for the National Prayer and Fasting Conference stated: "The conference registration fees include all meals and snacks."



Reflection
Good morning God

*You are ushering in another day
untouched and freshly new,
So here I come to ask you God
If you'll renew me too?*

*Forgive the many errors,
that I made yesterday, and
let me try again dear God,
to walk closer in Thy way.*

*But Father, I am well aware
I can't make it on my own.
So take my hand and hold it tight
For I can't walk alone.*

#CathNews.

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



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

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

2017 Parish Sacramental Program:

Last opportunity to enrol in the primary or secondary school program. If you would like to enrol your child you can do so by calling into the parish office next Wednesday 15th March between 9am and 1pm asking for Laura. For all enquires or to obtain a copy of the enrolment form please contact Laura at sacramental.coord@bigpond.com



**Martina's story—
East Timor**

For Martina, an East Timorese mother of eight, escaping domestic violence was the first step in her journey to a new life. But at first, her future seemed very uncertain. The shelter where Martina sought refuge, Uma PAS, offered her many ways to transcend these challenges. Uma PAS is a partner in Caritas Australia's Protection Program, a holistic community-wide program in Timor-Leste that offers women like Martina economic empowerment and a life of safety in a supportive community.

"Martina is a person who did not want to give up".



Recently Deceased: Tanya Corcoran, Bernadette Watt, Patrick Kelly (Kilmore)

Anniversaries: Anthony Bell, Patrick Francis Deane, Pamela Sofra, Margot Conaughton, Eugene Curtis, Shenuka Vihen, Alma and Arthur Crawford, Peter Murray

Lectors 18th and 19th March

6pm	Youth Mass	
8am	A Leahy	T Francis
11am	S Quilty	Maureen Collins

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

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



Cuppa after 11am Mass . . . this Sunday

We are re-commencing morning 'cuppa after 11am Mass' with the Men's Group being our hosts today. 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.

Men's Group.....18th March

Our Parish men's group will gather next Saturday morning at 7.30am in the Mons Jeffrey 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 DGROUP & YOUTH-LED MASS

Our next DGroup will be on Saturday the 18th of March, we will be watching **Part 2** of the **YOU** series after our **Youth Led Mass**.

YOU Series

Identity. Gender. Love. Chastity.

The world is a difficult place for teens, and it has become increasingly hard for parents and educators to help teens discover the truth about their bodies, their sexuality, and their unique call to love. In an age of "selfies" and egocentrism, *YOU* cuts through the noise to present an authentic view of the human person. It presents young people with the extraordinary story of their creation as unrepeatably individuals.

But the program doesn't stop there.

YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body introduces teens to the truth that life is not, in fact, all about them; it is about going out of themselves to be a sincere gift for others.

St. Brendan's Friendship Group.....19th March

St. Brendan's Friendship group will be meeting for lunch at the Shepparton Club (Wyndham Street) on Sunday 19th March at 12.30pm. All Welcome.

Enquiries Pat (5821 1869)

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

11.30am to 2pm at The Carrington Hotel, 505 Wyndham St. Guest speaker Julian Burnside QC will speak on the challenge "Yes to Multiculturalism." \$35 per person includes lunch.

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



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.

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.

Youth Ministry Leadership Weekend

If you're between the ages of 16-30 and interested in being involved in youth ministry leadership in the Sandhurst Diocese, you're invited to the Youth Ministry Leadership Weekend held from **March 31-April 2** in Corop.

During the weekend we will be joined by Real Talk Australia, Fr Rob Galea and Stronger Leaders. There will be games, workshops, a chance to be a member of the champion trivia team and lots of fun! If you're interested or know someone who would be a great leader, please get in contact with Danielle from the Sandhurst Youth Office at

Danielle.sullivan@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

AFL Tipping Competition.

Calling all AFL Fans! The St. Brendan's Finance Committee invites you to join our footy tipping competition for the upcoming season. Think you know more about footy than the maddest Carlton supporter, Fr. Joe? Or just want bragging rights amongst your family and friends? Then join us as we test our knowledge against parishioners and friends of the parish.

We tip on the official AFL Website: <https://tipping.afl.com.au>. You need to register, so all you need is an email address and internet access. Once registered, click the "Comps" tab, choose join a comp, and use our invite code 6NP9NYM9. Joining fee is \$25, payable at the Parish Office by Friday 21 April. Prizes will be announced when we know how many people have joined.

Contact Ashley on 0412475290 if you need any help.

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

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

\$25.00 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

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.

THE SANCTITY OF WORK

7 Ways to Find God in Your Ordinary Life

cont.....

2. Most important meeting of the day (personal prayer time, planning the day with God)

While you're planning your day. Ask God to help you choose the top three things you would like to accomplish. Offer your work as a gift to God. Ask him to help do your work to the best of your ability. So "you can be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Let us work. Let us work a lot and work well, without forgetting that prayer is our best weapon. That is why I will never tire of repeating that we have to be contemplative souls in the midst of the world, who try to convert their work into prayer. (Furrow, 497)

3. Getting down to business (sanctification of work)

Years before the Second Vatican Council, Sr. Josemaria was speaking of the sanctifying and sanctifiable reality of work:

We must be convinced therefore that work is a magnificent reality, and that it has been imposed on us as an inexorable law which, one way or another, binds everyone, even though some may try to seek exemption from it. Make no mistake about it. Man's duty to work is not a consequence of original sin, nor is it just a discovery of modern times. It is an indispensable means which God has entrusted to us here on this earth. It is meant to fill out our days and make us sharers in God's creative power. It enables us to earn our living and, at the same time, to reap "the fruits of eternal life", for "man is born to work as the birds are born to fly". (Friends of God, 57)

~ From Scepter Publishers (Reprinted with permission - Nos. 4 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).



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, 3rd Sunday of the month 8.30am.