



# 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

## Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

7 May 2017



Readings for  
this week: Acts 2:14, 36-41  
1 Peter 2:20-25  
John 10:1-10



Readings for  
next Sunday: Acts 6:1-7  
1 Peter 2:4-9  
John 14:1-12



### Liturgical Jottings Month of May

In celebrating the annual cycle of Christ's mysteries, the Church honours with special love, Mary the Mother of God. She is joined by a special bond to the saving work of her Son. (SC 103)

#### Mother's Day 14 May

On the fifth Sunday of Easter the Church joins with human society in recognising the gift of mothers by special intentions, prayer cards, décor, symbols etc. in the liturgy.

#### Pope Francis

Pope Francis explained Christianity is based on three pillars: Carrying, Building and Confessing the Faith. "When we walk without the Cross, when we build without the Cross, and when we profess Christ without the Cross, we are not disciples of the Lord. We are worldly, we are bishops, priests, cardinals, popes, but not disciples of the Lord." Sistine Chapel, his first homily as Pope Francis, 14 March 2013.

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### Looking at the Readings

Perhaps we could call this Sunday "Good Shepherd Sunday". The imagery in the readings and psalm strongly present Jesus as the Good Shepherd and He has been depicted this way in many paintings and pictures. It is fair to say that Psalm 23 (The Lord is my Shepherd) is probably the best known of all the psalms.

However, this image may not readily sit with the Australian experience of sheep farming which is based upon far different methods and practices. To be likened to "a mob of sheep" is not flattering in our cultural context and indicates a lack of initiative and independent thinking. But rather than the large mobs of sheep driven by motorbikes and patrolled by energetic dogs, the Good Shepherd bases his relationship with us his 'flock' upon tenderness, care and a deep personal recognition – "they know my voice and I know them." This relationship is deeper than mere familiarity as it calls us to pass through the Gate (Jesus) in order to reach the green pastures of God's kingdom. He does not simply point the way and let us muddle our way through but draws us to himself with love and forgiveness.

The second reading reminds us that the Good Shepherd has suffered much and sacrificed himself for us. "That you should follow in his footsteps" indicates the path of the Good Shepherd is not easy. But in the course of our daily lives it is comforting to know that He is not only with us but that He knows each of us by name. We are not simply a mob on the long paddock with a distant drover.

Let us take time and reflect on how well we currently recognise and respond to the voice of the Good Shepherd.

### Quote of the Week

You have been taught and fully instructed that what seems to be bread is not bread, though it appears to be such to the sense of taste, but the body of Christ; that what seems to be wine is not wine, though the taste would have it so, but the blood of Christ ...So strengthen your heart by partaking of that spiritual bread, and gladden the face of your soul. *St Cyril of Jerusalem (c 348), Catechesis to the newly Baptised, Sermon 4.9*

### On the Lighter Side

Moses was leading the Hebrews to the Red Sea and the Egyptians were coming fast. Moses turned to his PR agent: "Where are all those boats I told you to get!" he replied, "What boats? You never mentioned boats to me." "Just great" said Moses; "what am I supposed to do, lift my staff and part the waters?" The PR man answered: "If you can pull that one off, I can get you a whole section in the Bible."



### A prayer request

You might know of a young person in the parish, in your family or an acquaintance whom you think would make a good priest or religious. Why not pray for them by name on a regular basis? Carry them with you 'spiritually' to Mass on Sunday. If the opportunity arises, you might mention that you are praying for them and their future. Sometimes the Lord uses us as his instruments to encourage vocations.

#### Think about it....

Have you thought about how much work goes into to celebrating our Sunday liturgies? How much our musicians prepare and practice? Our sacristans and florists work hard. Our liturgical ministers prepare and participate in our service, to name a few people who give generously of their time and talents. Our priests spend many hours preparing homilies and other things for the liturgies and sacraments they celebrate for us. Perhaps today we might pause and give a prayer of thanks for all those who serve us in our parish.



#### 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

### Good Shepherd Sunday

Today the Church asks each of us to pray for, or to consider a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. Each person in the community has a role to play in encouraging vocations – whether by prayer, encouragement or personal suggestion. The Pope, in his Letter for today, tells us 'There is no room for fear!' May each one of us be fearless in praying for, and promoting more vocations.

**Following the 8am mass we will have a Holy Hour** when we will pray for more vocations to the religious life. We pray for our priests and for those priests who are now retired after many years of ministry to the faithful. So can you spare an hour or so next Sunday to especially pray for them all. We need them!

**\*\*\* Jackson Saunders, a seminarian for the Sandhurst Diocese, will be a guest speaker at all masses this weekend.\*\*\***

#### A request from Pope Francis

"I ask parish communities, associations and the many prayer groups present in the Church, not to yield to discouragement but to continue praying that the Lord will send workers to his harvest.

May he give us priests enamoured of the Gospel, close to all their brothers and sisters, living signs of God's merciful love."

~ Message of Pope Francis,  
54th World Day of Prayer for Vocations

**Recently Deceased:** Peter O'Reilly, Paul Merrigan, Mary Fenn (Echuca—mother of Grant Fenn).

**Anniversaries:** Martin Hickey, Barry Connolly, Tim Vallence, Thomas & Kathleen McMahon, Carmen McCart, Kath Hutchinson.

#### Lectors 13th & 14th May

<b>6pm</b>	J Boccabella,	M Sexton
<b>8am</b>	L Boschetti,	P Guthrie
<b>11am</b>	B Carey,	S Pivac

**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

Thank you to all the wonderful ministers and volunteers who attended the Child Safe induction and training meeting last Tuesday evening. This helps the parish implement the new procedures relevant to the new regulations that came into force in Victoria in January.

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**Mother's Day Gifts for sale . . . 6th/7th April** Our Faith and Light Community will be selling some Mother's Day gifts after all Masses this weekend. We appreciate your support.

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**Mass at Tarcoola . . . 10th May** Mass will be offered at Tarcoola Aged Care facility next Wednesday at 10.30am.

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**Catholic Women's League . . . 11th May**

The next meeting of the CWL will be held next Thursday 11th May at 1pm in the Mons Jeffrey Centre. All welcome.

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**St Brendan's Day Celebration 2017 . . . 21st May**

Theme "**Families of the Parish**" celebration is on Sunday 21st May after the 11am Mass. For details or if you can help please contact Irene Garla on 5823 1311 or email: [garla.irene@gmail.com](mailto:garla.irene@gmail.com)

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**'Touching the Imagination: The Adventure of Faith' and 'What Hope can we offer the Young?' . . . 23rd May**

Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP Tuesday 23rd May 9am to 4pm at The Eastbank Centre, Welsford Street, Shepparton. This is a free event but RSVP needed for catering purposes by 5th May to Jake at 5443 2377.

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**Prayer for Christian Unity . . . 31st May** During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity there will be a prayer service in the Mons Jeffrey Centre on Wednesday 31st May at 7.30pm.

All welcome to come along and join in.

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**Seminary Enquiry Day . . . 3rd June**

Corpus Christi College Seminary in Carlton will hold an enquiry day on Saturday, June 3, for any men interested in a vocation to the priesthood.

The format of the afternoon is as follows:

3.00 pm Arrival at seminary and afternoon tea,  
3.30 pm Talks by seminary staff & students and Vocations Director, 4.30 pm Tours of the College,  
5.30 pm Evening Prayer in the Chapel with Archbishop Hart presiding, 6.00 pm Barbeque dinner, 8.00 pm Depart.  
RSVP is essential by Tuesday, May 30. Email [ccc@cam.org.au](mailto:ccc@cam.org.au) and [chancery@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:chancery@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

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**Stations of the Cross 2017 DVD** Is now available at a cost of \$25. If you would like to purchase the DVD, please place money in an envelope and clearly mark your name and contact details on it and leave at the office.

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**Marist Youth Festival Sydney 2017 Register Online Now**

MYF17 is a vibrant four-day celebration of Catholic faith, where young people aged 18-25 are inspired to deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their desire to serve as disciples of Christ and agents of change in today's world. **Friday 30 June to Monday 3 July, 2017 at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill, Sydney. \$270 per participant.** For further information please visit the festival website: <https://www.maristyouthministry.com/marist-youth-festival-2017-home>

## May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary



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**Parish Sacramental Program**

Families are reminded that they are **to attend their allocated workshop this week** on either Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 5pm, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 6pm, or Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 7pm. During the workshop families will complete week 2 in the purple Steps in Faith workbooks. It is extremely important that you have completed week 1 at home with your child prior to attending the workshop. The workshop will be held in the Monsignor Jeffrey Centre. Children will need to bring to their purple workbook, bible, pens, pencils and their favourite toy or book. Parents are also encouraged to help their children learn the *Prayer of Sorrow* in readiness for their first Reconciliation. The prayer is on page 28 of the purple workbooks.

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**The 100 Year Anniversary of Fatima . . . 13th May**

Come and Celebrate FATIMA 100 YEAR Anniversary on Saturday 13th May 2017 at Holy Rosary Church, White Hills, Bendigo. Father Peter Dell'Avo, Chaplain of Bendigo Apostolate of Fatima will offer Mass at 9am, followed by The Rosary, procession, information and spiritual talks, concluding around lunch time. BYO lunch, tea and coffee provided. Also, on this day Pope Francis, in Fatima, will declare Blessed Francisco and Blessed Jacinta saints of the Church. These are two of the three young shepherds to whom Our Blessed Mother appeared at Fatima for the first time on 13th May 1917. In our present times the Fatima message of hope is more important than ever, and you are invited to attend for all or part of this celebration of the wonderful Fatima events.

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**Visits to Parishes of Our Lady of Fatima's Pilgrim Virgin Statue**

Coinciding with Our Blessed Mothers six apparitions in Fatima from May 13<sup>th</sup> to October 13<sup>th</sup> 1917, the Sandhurst Diocesan Pilgrim Virgin Statue will visit parishes in the diocese starting on May 13<sup>th</sup>, the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima on May 13<sup>th</sup> 1917.

This will be a great opportunity for parishes, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions, to be reminded of Our Lady's urgent message and call for repentance, daily rosary and reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary to bring about the saving of souls, world peace and the triumph of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart.

Parishes wishing to be part of this visitation can contact Margaret Watson at the Chancery, phone 5441 2544.

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**Pope Francis' 'On Care For Our Common Home' . . . 20th May**

A workshop on Pope Francis' call to all to care for our world and its people, with Sr Cecilia Merrigan csb & Lyn Breen Adult Faith Education, Sandhurst. Saturday 20th May 10am - 12.30 pm. All Welcome. No cost. Venue - Former Mercy Convent, 12 Coghill St, Yarrowonga. RSVP: Sr Helen Glasheen 0439 721 657 OR [helen.glasheen@mercy.org.au](mailto:helen.glasheen@mercy.org.au) \*Please indicate if staying for lunch.

## *He Is Risen!*

We are called not only to believe that Christ  
rose from the dead,  
thereby proving that he was God;  
We are called to experience the Resurrection in our own lives  
by entering into this dynamic movement,  
by following Christ who lives in us.

This life, this dynamism,  
is expressed by the power of love and of encounter.  
Christ lives in us if we love one another.  
And our love for one another  
means involvement in one another's history.

Christ living in us leads us  
through mutual love and commitment,  
into a new future which we create together for one another.  
That future is called the Kingdom of God.  
The Kingdom is already established,  
the Kingdom is a present reality.  
Christ calls us to work together in building his Kingdom.

Such is the timeless message of the Church not only on Easter Sunday  
but on every day of the year until the world's end.  
The dynamism of the Easter mystery  
is at the heart of the Christian faith.  
It is the life of the Church.

The Resurrection is not a doctrine we try to prove  
or a problem we argue about.  
It is the life and action of Christ himself in us by his Holy Spirit.

*'He Is Risen'* by Thomas Merton, 1975 *Argus Communications, Illinois* (p.8-10)

## *Prayer for Vocations*

Heavenly Father, help us  
respond to and live out  
our mission in the  
Church. Help all your  
people to know their  
vocation in life, and  
assist them to  
prepare for it.

For your greater glory,  
and for the service of  
your people, call many to  
be Priests and Religious.  
Give those whom you call  
the grace to respond  
generously and to  
persevere faithfully.

We ask this through  
Christ our Lord. Amen

~ 'Living Liturgy' From Sophy Morley, Diocese of Sale.



Thank you for your support of Project Compassion  
for 2017. Please bring your boxes and/or  
envelopes to Mass or drop them off at the Parish  
office by next Friday 12th May.

## **Mass Times**

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

#### **Weekend Mass times**

Saturday Vigil 6pm  
Sunday 8am and 11am  
Sunday 5pm 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  
Fridays 9.15am, Saturday 9.00am

**Reconciliation** None until further notice. See St Brendan's.

**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, Fridays 10am except Friday 12th May  
at 9.15am in Marian Centre.

**Reconciliation** None until further notice. See St Brendan's.

**St Joseph's Undera**, No Mass until further notice.