



Welcome to St. Brendan's Parish

Parish Priest: Fr. Joe Taylor

Associate Priests: Fr Benny Agustines & Fr Sebastian Mandapathil

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Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/sheppartoncatholic>

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



Christ in community...the
heart of our faith

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

16 July 2017



**Readings for
this week:**
Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23



**Readings for
next Sunday:**
Wisdom 12:13,16-19
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43



Liturgical Jottings

The Second Reading

During Ordinary Time, there is a semicontinuous reading of the Letters of Paul and James (the Letters of Peter and John are read during the Easter and Christmas seasons). Only readings that are short and readily grasped by the people have been chosen.

Introduction to the Lectionary n.107.

Pope Francis

On the Sower and the Seed:

"And it will do us good not to forget that we too are sowers. God sows good seed, and here too we can also ask ourselves: which type of seed comes out of our heart and our mouth? Our words can do much good and also much harm; they can heal and they can wound; they can encourage and they can dishearten. Remember: what counts is not what goes in but what comes out of the mouth and of the heart."

Looking at the Readings

This Sunday we begin a series of parables over three weeks. Parables have an illustrious place in the Gospels: "Parables direct the listeners to their life experiences and derive their power from that experience which we must own ... but to understand them we must allow ourselves to go through the personal experience of Jesus, to which they direct us and we endeavour to comprehend the manner in which Jesus spoke of himself and to see the reality as Jesus saw it." (J Dupont, Why Parables?)

Parables have their "moral" but at the same time invite us to ask questions, to debate the issues and come up with our own course of action in response.

We find the Jesus is a confident sower. He throws the high quality seed to the four winds. He sows without discrimination. The word of God goes to all and everywhere. We may argue that such a method is an extravagance. But God is extravagant. His word goes out to the rich and the poor, the learned and the simple, the careless and the fervent, the strong and the weak and all in between. The resulting harvest is also an extravagance: a harvest of a hundredfold! The poem below reminds us it is God's work:

I hardened myself like a rock;
I became like the path;
the thorns of the world have choked me
and have made my soul unfruitful.
But, O Lord, Sower of good,
make the seedling of the Word grow in me
so I may yield fruit in one of these three:
Hundredfold, sixtyfold, or even thirtyfold.

A prayer by Nerses Snorhali

Feast Day of the Week: St Mary Magdalene 22 July

Mary Magdalene is mentioned in all gospels as a witness to the Resurrection. In Luke's gospel we read that Jesus cured her of seven demons. John's Gospel more elaborately depicts Mary's role: delivering the message of Jesus' resurrection to the apostles. Thus she is given the title: "Apostle of the Apostles". Last year her memorial day was raised permanently to a feast day with its own Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer.

On the Lighter Side

Some of the seed fell into a dark place and without light there was no growth and some seed fell on a TV set resulted in a thistled theology and choked out any real spiritual growth. Jeff Larson, cartoonist, from "The Back Pew"



**Proposed Euthanasia Bill
NOW is the time to act!**

Write to your local state MP's
Visit them at their office
Organise petitions

Organise letter writing opportunities together
Do what it takes to defeat this bill

Pray
Visit the Blessed Sacrament

We urge parishioners to please pray for the defeat of the proposed euthanasia bill.

Novenas of Eucharistic Adoration in the Marian Chapel,
Thursday evenings 7pm to 8pm
and Fridays 3pm to 6pm.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will also be held after 8am Mass on Sunday 13th August from 9am to 10am.

Please join in prayer for the defeat of this anti-life legislation.

Four brochures are available in the narthex and side entrance for you to take:

'Real Care, Love and Compassion,'
'When Life is Ending,' 'Be Not Afraid'
and 'Euthanasia: Myths and Reality.'

Resources are available from:
www.cam.org.au/euthanasia and also
www.cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily

Lectors 22nd & 23rd July

6pm	P Stein	J Boccabella
8am	Sr R Crowe	A Leahy
11am	M Harmer	MA Demase

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 school hols)

Parish Schools

St Brendan's Primary School 5821 1926

St Luke's Primary School 5822 1834

Notre Dame College 5822 8400

Fr Joe's mother, Mary,
passed away on Thursday.

Please keep Fr Joe, his father, Des,
and the Taylor family in your prayers.
Eternal rest grant unto her Oh Lord,
let perpetual light shine upon her
and may she rest in peace.

Amen

Mrs Taylor's funeral will be held next
Wednesday 19th July at 2pm at
St Mary's Church,
258 Hare Street, Echuca.

Vigil prayers will be offered on
Tuesday 18th July in

St Brendan's Church at 6.30pm.

It is an opportunity for us to be united
with Fr Joe, his father Des, and
the family to support them with
our love and prayers during this
time of sorrow and loss.



Recently Deceased: Mary Taylor (Fr Joe's mother), Patricia Margaret Joyce (John Priestly's sister), Carmel Harris, Gary Larkin, David Kane, Gino Pacquola, Rosario Gangi (Reservoir).

Anniversaries: Joe Cobbledick, William Macaskill, Lorna Forde, Annie Linehan, Kevin Coppinger, Domenico & Carmela Leo, Lucia Rossi, Tony Demase, Darrell Doyle, Domenico & Maria Sofra.

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—in recess until 7th August.

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

Join us after 11am
Mass this Sunday in the
Mons Jeffrey Centre for a cuppa to say
farewell and thank you to our Parish Secretary
of 18 years, Debbie Friedlieb.

Farewell Debbie

Debbie's last day is this Wednesday.
Debbie has been instrumental in many of the
projects around the Parish: the new office,
church and parish centre renovations, just to
name a few. She has worked tirelessly for the
parish with efficiency and dedication, has
made many friends along the way and has
enjoyed a chat or two over many cups of tea!



We thank Debbie for sharing her
expertise, knowledge and friendship
with us and we wish her every blessing
in her future endeavours.

Debbie and Philip will be moving to
Yarrawonga very soon.

Office Closure . . . 19th July at 11am

Next Wednesday the Parish office will close at 11am to
enable staff to attend the funeral of Mrs Taylor.
Therefore the office will be open from 9am to 11am that day.

An Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality . . . 16th July

Sunday 16th July 2pm at St Mel's Parish House.

An Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality

'Inner Peace in Divine Love' . . . from 31st July

And a four week retreat in daily life commencing on

St Ignatius Feast Day Monday 31st July

Two time slots offered—1.30pm or 7pm.

To book, phone the Parish office on 5821 2633.

St Brendan's Friendship Group . . . 16th July

The group will be having lunch this Sunday to celebrate

Leigh Bamford's 50th birthday at the Goulburn Valley

Hotel at 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome!

For enquiries phone Pat on 0423 343711.

Recollection Day . . . 22nd July

Half Day Retreat at St Mel's Parish House Saturday 22nd July
commencing at 9am with Holy Mass in St Mel's Church
then Confessions.

10am Cuppa in the Parish house followed at

10.30 with Prayer During the Day

11am Talk by Fr Doroteo "How to Respond to God's Call"

Adoration then at 12pm Angelus Prayer

Followed by shared lunch (BYO plate to share). All welcome.

Men Alive Weekend . . . 19th & 20th August

St Patrick's Parish Hall, Victoria Street, Pyramid Hill on

Saturday 19th August (full day) and Sunday 20th Sunday

August (half day), 2017. For more information contact:

John Wallinger 0488 333728 johnwallinger@bigpond.com

Fr Jun Jun at Kerang 0428 792150 stpatker@bigpond.com

Accommodation available—please ask.

Driveway update

**** Please do not drive on the new
paved area until after Saturday 22nd July ****

The weather has been kind to us and works have been mostly
completed on our new driveway over this past week. We are
very thankful to all of the contractors (in particular Damian
Preston and his men) for all their work to make it happen. The
new pavement will remain closed to cars until Saturday 22nd
July whilst it cures, pedestrian traffic is fine however we ask
that you please be careful as the surrounding lawn edges will
be soft and settling for some time to come.

Some improved lighting to the area will be installed this
coming week. Thanks for your patience whilst we have
worked through these improvements.

New Rosters for Lectors, Ministers & Offertory

Have been emailed to all those on the roster.

If you don't have an email address your roster can be
collected from the narthex.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

The next set of giving envelopes and a record of giving for the
financial year are now available in the narthex.

**There will be no Children's Liturgy of the Word during the
school holidays. We will resume on 30th July.**

Child Safe Regulations Training . . .

Thank you so much to all of you who have completed the
training module 'Protecting Children and Vulnerable Adults'
either at the Parish meeting on 2nd May, at home or one of
the recent weekend training sessions.

This helps the Parish comply with its obligations in regards to
the new regulations. If you have a certificate of completion
please give a copy to the office. If you haven't yet completed
the training, please advise the office as soon as possible.

This can be as simple as completing it in your own home or
that of a family member.

We can help you arrange to complete it.

**This training is mandatory for all volunteers and staff to
ensure the Parish complies with the new regulations.**

'ENGAGING WITH THE HOPES OF PARISHES'

Fr Brendan Reed, Tuesday July 25th, 7.30 – 9.30 pm,
St Kilian's Church, BENDIGO. Fr Brendan Reed, Parish Priest
of Deepdene & Balwyn and Camberwell Catholic Parishes,

Catholic Theological College lecturer, with practical
findings from his research *Engaging with the Hopes of
Parishes*. ALL WELCOME to join the St Kilians's PPC. RSVP:

St Kilians 03 5441 6244

StKilians@sandhurst.catholic.org.au or The Chancery
adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au ' Ph: 03 5441 2544.

St Brendan's AFL Tipping Comp update

After Round 16 we have joint leaders, with Phil Friedlieb and
Kath Coppinger on 86. Clare Coppinger (84) and Jacob Preston
(82) are the closest chasers, with Father Joe (78) in eight
place. First prize is \$150.

Stations of the Cross DVD

We have some copies of the 2017 Stations of the Cross
production for you to purchase at \$25 each.

The word of God comes to us as a friend. It is a sign of God's love for us. Through the word God calls us to a fuller and more fruitful life. Its purpose is to enrich us, and a great enrichment does result when a person hears the word and acts on it. If we refuse to receive the word, or if we receive it but don't act on it, we are the losers.

Through the word God is continually calling us to a better and more fruitful life. Happy are those who make the voice of God the most important voices in their lives. God doesn't speak to us like a dictator to subjects. God speaks to us as a parent speaks to his or her children. God's word is as gentle, as weak, as defenceless as a seed falling into the soil. Yet that word is more effective than the word of the most powerful dictator – it can change people's hearts.

~ GPBS eNews 11/7/17

Thank you for the generous donation of \$779.30 received from St Brendan's for the 2017 Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land. Christians in the Holy Land, though a minority, make an invaluable contribution to the local culture together with their Muslim and Jewish compatriots. They are the living stones of the church.

The impact of Christians is particularly evident in institutions such as schools and hospitals that have shaped values in the Holy Land. Though often disadvantaged, Christians born in the Holy Land show heroic courage in the midst of severe trials. They greatly appreciate the generous support from their fellow Christians overseas. Your donation helps to ensure their survival in their own native land. The Franciscan Friars have been custodians of the sacred places for seven centuries are also very grateful.

~Carl Schafer OFM,
Commissary of the Holy Land, Australia

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

Youth Ministry Worker – Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

Applications are invited from people of varying ages and experience for this full time position with the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst – Bendigo.

The successful applicant will require excellent communication skills and the ability to relate to a wide range of people. They will be able to demonstrate a keen sense of networking and marketing, promoting the values, principles and ideals of Jesus Christ and of the Catholic Church to the young people of the Diocese. It is also desired that the successful applicant will have previous experience in active youth ministry leadership, or in working with young people in schools.

A copy of the position description can be obtained from www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

Applications to sally.holmes@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
For any questions please contact Sally Holmes on Ph 54453617

Applications close Monday, July 17, 2017.

STRONGER RETREAT - REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Registrations for the 2017 Stronger Retreat are now open on strongeryouth.com Register now if you're 13-26 years old to join 130 other young people from our diocese having fun, growing in discipleship and learning about your faith with our keynote speakers Fr Rob Galea, Fr Dan Serratore and Sr Bernadette Toohey! Date: September 15-17 Venue: Kyneton Cost: \$165 Registrations are now open at strongeryouth.com. Transport may be available. For more info follow @StrongerYouth on Facebook or contact Danielle at Danielle.sullivan@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

St Mel's Primary School Celebrating 60 years . . .

**Friday 27th October Saturday 28th October
& Sunday 29th October, 2017.**

See details on the website: <http://www.smshepparton.com/2017-celebrating-60-years.html>

Neighbouring Parishes

St. Mel's Shepparton South, Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am, Tuesday 9am Liturgy of the Word with Communion in the Gold Room of the Parish house.

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.

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

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