

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: Monday and Tuesday 9am to 3pm,

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9am to 4pm (Closed Public holidays)



Christ in community...the
heart of our faith

First Sunday of Advent - Year B

Sunday 3 December 2017



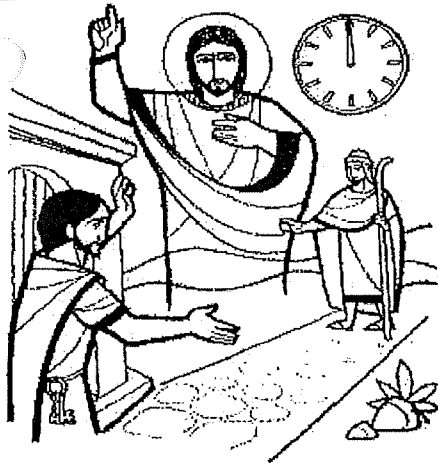
*Readings for
this week:*

Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37



*Readings for
next Sunday:*

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8



Liturgical Jottings

The **Advent Wreath**, once an ancient tradition, has enjoyed a great come back in the last 30 years. It has become a common sight in parish churches, schools, religious houses and family homes in the living rooms or dining room tables. Since Advent wreaths are now commercially available, we hope that its symbolic and spiritual value is not lost. Symbols by their very nature acquire layers of meaning over many years and become powerful means of communication.



The first candle of the Advent wreath may be called the **Prophet's Candle**. It reminds us of how God spoke to His people through the prophets, offering them the hope of a Saviour. It also reminds us of the faithfulness of God's promises, so that we can live in hope.

Looking at the Readings

Today's readings contain several images: the faithfulness of those who suffer, even as they lament their predicament; the admonition to watch and wait; the expectation of the coming of the Day of the Lord. As trustees of the one who is coming, we live in the 'in between' time of ambiguity and hope. The placement of these readings at the beginning of Advent shapes the context for understanding the entire season. They fix our gaze on the world of human pain and then moves beyond it to the hope of a brighter future. Lamentation and expectation find fulfilment in the Day of the Lord.

Waiting is a prominent image this Sunday. Some people wait to be released from suffering, others await the second coming of Christ. Waiting saps our energies and stifles our enthusiasm. Yet wait we must, and as we wait, we wonder: 'What should I be doing?' The readings suggest that we should wait with patient expectation for the day of reconciliation and peace; we should wait in joyful hope that what is to come will come soon. While we wait, we should faithfully fulfil our responsibilities. We believe that we have a future worth waiting for, that there are promises that God will keep. And so we look expectantly to the Day of the Lord, that future day of ultimate fulfilment. © Dianne Bergant CSS

Pope Francis on Advent

Advent encourages us to reflect on the contrast between our daily routine and the unexpected coming of the Lord. The Gospel is not trying to frighten us but to open our horizons to further dimensions, giving meaning even to everyday occurrences.

Pope Francis Advent Message 2016

On the Lighter Side

Harry and Shirley, enjoying a nightcap after Christmas midnight Mass, were interrupted by heavy knocking on the front door. He met a drunk who said, "'Th'cuse me thir. Will you helpth me with a puth?" Harry said, "Irresponsible people like you shouldn't be driving!" And slammed the door. Shirley reprimanded her husband's lack of Christmas goodwill. Full of remorse, he opened the front door, ran down the path, saw no car but shouted loudly. "Hey mister, needing a push, where are you?" The unmistakable drunken voice replied immediately. "Over here thir, on the thwing."



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE THIS WEEKEND IN THE NARTHEX

**There will be NO Holy Hour on December 14th.
Also -NO 8am Mass on 24th December.**

2018 has been designated The Year of the Youth You may know that the Australian Bishops have dedicated 2018 the 'Year of Youth' in Australia. It will be launched in our Parish this Sunday By Bishop Les.

Sandhurst Youth Ministry is very excited for the Year of Youth and has many exciting things planned including collaborations with the Catholic Education Office to hold youth events for all year 9-11 students in the diocese.

Young pilgrims from the Sandhurst Diocese who will be attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival this week will be commissioned at 11am Mass this Sunday. Bishop Les will be in attendance for this Mass to commission the students, staff and young adults attending the festival.

Mini Renewal of Planned Giving Program

We are a little over the half-way mark through our current Planned Giving Program and so it's timely that a progress report now be presented.

This is an opportunity for current planned givers to review their pledges and also for new givers to enter the Planned Giving Program. After Masses this weekend and 2nd/3rd December there will be people to speak with and discuss planned giving options.

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 ****no Holy Hour 14th December****

Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays 3pm to 6pm, First Friday of the month 3pm to 7.25pm

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

St. Brendan's Parish Sacramental Program 2018

The Sacramental Mass – the mass when the children will celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist will be on Friday 24th, Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th August 2018.

If you would like a copy of the dates for the whole of the Sacramental program, please email Laura at sacramental.coord@bigpond.com. Children must be baptised prior to participating in the Sacramental program. If you would like your child to be baptised, please contact the parish office on 58212633 as soon as possible. If your child was not baptised at St. Brendan's Parish you will need to provide a copy of their Baptism certificate at the time of lodging the enrolment form. Any questions can also be directed to the above email address.

Australian Bishops conference have released a letter in regard to the recent Marriage survey.

The letter and a Summary of explanatory memorandum are available at the office if any one would like a copy of these.
Please phone, email or call into the Parish Office if you would like a copy.

Recently Deceased: Sr Genevieve Fitzpatrick RSM (Sister of Pat Fitzpatrick), Betty Holland, Angelo Portea, Maria Torrisi.

Anniversaries: Brian Crowe (1 month mind), Jim Cummins, Kaye Kennedy, Kath McNamara, Ray O'Dwyer.

Lectors 2nd December and 3rd December

6pm Sr F Kennedy, J Boccabella

8am L Boschetti, D Teitzel

11am S Quilty, M Sarkady

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 St Mel's Parish house

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
*****not in December and January.**

Gospel Discussion Group - Mondays during Lent & Advent

Men's Group - Saturday fortnightly 7.30am in the Parish centre. Contact the Parish office.

Serra Club - 1st Friday monthly 7.30pm Church & Parish Centre

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

Notices

Nativity Display . . . 5th December Making a Scene at Christmas!

The Diocese of Ballarat will be sharing some of their incredible 400+ nativity cribs with us in a display in Mons Jeffrey Centre on Tuesday 5th December 3.30pm to 7.30pm.



The entire collection is on its way to Canberra for Christmas and we are fortunate to be offered the opportunity to view a significant number of the cribs from all over the world.

This is a private collection of over 400 nativity cribs and other items celebrating the birth of Christ.

Some exhibits are centuries old.

Gold coin donation will be appreciated.

True Colours Graduation: McAuley Champagnat are holding their Graduation on December 6th from 1pm onwards.

We wish the Graduates every success for the future. All parishioners are welcome to come along to this wonderful celebration.

Roses Pruning: A volunteer is needed to prune the roses in our Garden of Eden. Please ask at the Parish Office.

LOST: Rosary purse. It is a small brown purse with blue Rosary inside. May have been left in Mon. Peter Jeffrey Centre on 16th December. If found please leave at the Parish Office.

Change of Mass Time for 13th December

Mass will be start at 9am and will include Notre Dame Staff end of year Mass. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

Fr. Berny's Farewell . . . 15th December

On Friday December 15 at 6pm we will gather as a parish community to farewell our much loved Fr. Berny Agustines. In his time with us Fr. Berny has strengthened our faith and our community in many ways, he has shared our sorrows and our joys. Fr. Berny has reminded us to greet each other with smiles and joy - and to do our homework! We invite all parishioners to bring a plate of food to share a meal with him before he heads back to the Phillipines. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Fr. Berny, please put your contribution in an envelope with 'gift for Fr. Berny' on it and drop it in to the parish office.

DJ's Farewell . . . 17th December

Over the last six months we have been blessed to have DJ join us as part of his formation as a priest. DJ has immersed himself in every aspect of our parish and become a part of our community. While DJ will not be leaving us until after Christmas we will be saying farewell to him with a Cuppa after Mass on Sunday December 17. Please feel free to bring a small plate of food to share. If you would like to contribute to a gift for DJ, put your contribution in an envelope marked 'Gift for DJ' & drop it in to the office.

Looking for Gifts for Christmas?

Why not purchase:

- One or two of Fr Rob Galea's CD's
- St Brendan's 'The Journey' double music CD's
- St Brendan's Stations of The Cross DVD

These can be purchased at the Parish Office.

Advent Meditation

Meditation with Fr Joe will be on Thursday mornings during Advent at 7.15am commencing on 7th December then 14th December and 21st December.

All welcome.

As in previous years there will be no visitation by Ministers of Communion on Christmas Eve - Sunday 24 December OR New Year's Eve - Sunday 31 December 2017.

We are looking for volunteers to operated the laptop for 6pm Mass. If you can help, please talk to Fr Joe or the Parish office staff.

This is not difficult and training will be provided.

Little Blue Books

are now available in the narthex and west side entrance. These little books have 6 minute reflections. Take a short Scripture passage and simply let God speak to us through the words, guiding us to reflections that sometimes seem to come from nowhere.

Carols By Candlelight . . . 8th December

Special Event organised by Le Belle Arti Inc.

to be held on Friday 8th December at the Tatura Italian Social Club, 45 Martin Street. Bookings essential by Wednesday 6th December. Phone Andrea 821 5347, Vince/Rosa 5821 7599 . Cost \$25

The Piety Stall

has a great range of gifts that are perfect for Christmas! Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Columban Calendars and books for children and much more. Take a look!

Garabandal

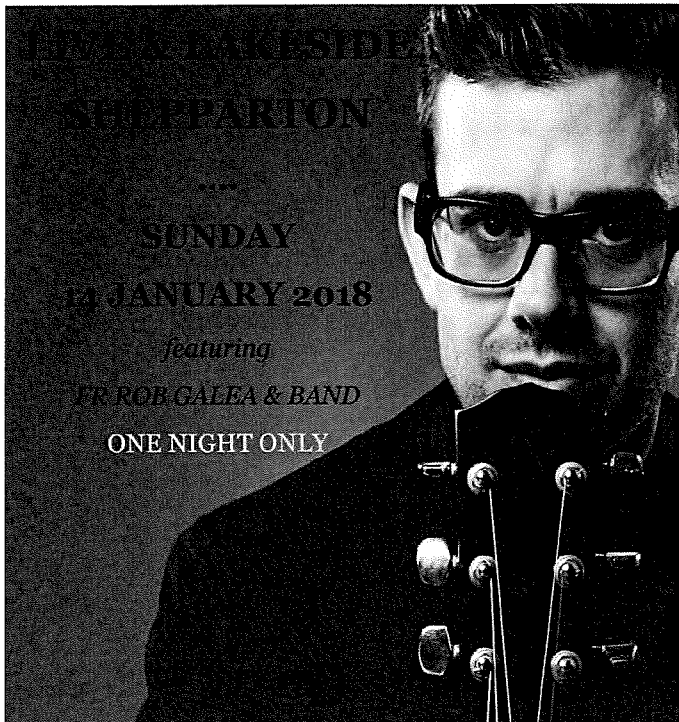
There will be no meetings in December and January.

We will recommence on 19th February 2018.

Incident Forms..... If an accident/incident occurs at any time on Parish property, an incident form must be completed. Please see Parish Office Staff for information and assistance.

**FR ROB GALEA'S
NEW BOOK 'BREAKTHROUGH'**
is due for release this week and will be available to purchase at St Brendan's Church after each Mass on December 16/17 & 23/24
Tickets to **LIVE & LAKESIDE** will also be available (unless sold out)





Tickets - Option 1 - Dinner & Drinks \$75
- Option 2 - Picnic Lawn seating \$50



Information & tickets ph 0408 149 962

All proceeds go to FRG outreach programs

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O	O	E	S	A	U	R	R	R	S	HEAVEN
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Google Images

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

Staying Mindful

An excerpt from "Along the Track" by Jim Quillinan

When a loved one dies, a part of us dies too. Our life will never be quite the same. They remain part of us not just in our memories; we carry them with us daily in who we are and what we do and hope for. Sometimes we yearn for the day when we will be reunited. We hang onto that hope as it can help us to bear our pain and the fear of death.

We mourn their loss, we are saddened that we will not hear their voice or see them again in this life. While time can go some way in healing the pain of loss, we will always miss them. Our love for them doesn't end at death.

we will remember past times together, how much we loved them and they us. We take some time to recall how they live on in us and other loved ones - in their habits and memories and expressions and mannerisms, in the lessons they taught us, the expressions they gifted us. And during this month especially we are united in prayer. But it is not all about us.

Death does not sever all connections. It is not the end.

We have not lost those who have died. We still love them and they still love us. They are still with us, still part of us and we them, not just in mind but also in spirit. Pope Benedict wrote:

The belief that love can reach into the afterlife, that reciprocal giving and receiving is possible, in which our affection for one another continues beyond the limits of death—this has been a fundamental conviction of Christianity throughout the ages and it remains a source of comfort today (Spe Salvi #48).

Let Us Pray:

Gracious and loving God, we come to you with our hearts full of prayers both spoken and those we cannot put into words. You are the light in our darkness, our refuge and strength, and so with confidence we offer our prayers to you.

There is no place where you cannot reach, God who made all the heavens and the earth, the light and the darkness.

We pray especially today for those who grieve.

Stay close to them, Lord so that they may feel your continued healing presence in their lives
 Stay with them, Lord. May they feel the comfort of your love so that they may come to face each new day with hope

May their memories become joyful, may their days be enriched with friendship and the understanding support of others.

We give thanks to You, loving God who made us, for all those who have been blessings in our lives.

Amen

Neighbouring Parishes

St. Mel's Shepparton South, Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm
 Saturday 9.00am, Every first Saturday of the month Holy Rosary & devotions after Mass,
 Wednesday 8am Mass.

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, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 6pm,
 Friday 10am, Saturday Vigil 6.30pm, Sunday 10am Mass.
Reconciliation Saturday mornings 10.30am to 11am
 (First check with St Mary's on Thursday beforehand).