

Welcome to St. Brendan's Parish



Parish Priest: Fr. Joe Taylor

Associate Priests: Fr Berny Agustines & Fr Sebastian Mandapathil

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Website: www.sheppartoncatholic.org.au

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

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

Second Sunday of Advent - Year B

Sunday 10 December 2017



*Readings for
this week:*

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



*Readings for
next Sunday:*

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28



Liturgical Jottings

Advent Colours

Violet (colloquially called purple) is the liturgical colour for Advent. It symbolised penance, preparation and waiting. Rose may be used for the third Sunday of Advent, adding a sense of anticipation and joy into this season. Many churches, however, have a range of shades in the vestments: from red-purple to blue-violet as to differentiate between Lent and Advent Seasons respectively.



The second candle on the Advent wreath is called the **Bethlehem Candle**. Jesus was born in an ordinary little town, in a stable full of animals. He comes to us also in ordinary places, among ordinary people. And just as God set His star above Bethlehem that night, He also fills our seemingly ordinary lives with His light.

Looking at the Readings

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

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Quotable Quote

Advent ... is also an invitation to "sobriety, to not be dominated by the things of this world" but rather to keep them in their proper place. If, on the other hand, we allow ourselves to be overpowered by a concern for material things, we will not be able to perceive what is much more important: our final encounter with the Lord.

Pope Francis Advent Message 2016

On the Lighter Side

A man sent his friend a cryptic Christmas card. It said:
I send A B C D E F G H J K M N O P Q R S T V W X Y Z to U.
The recipient puzzled over it for weeks, finally gave up and wrote asking for an explanation. Months later he received the explanation on a postcard: To "You (U)" a Christmas message "No L." from me (I).

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**St Brendan's Parish
Christmas Celebrations**

Reconciliation: Saturday 23rd December
9.30am –10.30am

Christmas Eve: Mercy Centennial Stadium
Carols 6.30pm
Mass 7.30pm

Midnight Mass: (in Church)
Carols from 11.30pm

Christmas Day: 8.00am & 11.00am

Syro Malabar: Christmas Day 5.30pm

St MeIs Parish

Christmas Eve Children's Mass 5.30pm
Christmas Day: Mass 9.30am

St Mary's Mooroopna

Christmas Eve: Mass 7.00pm
Christmas Day: Mass 10.00am

St Mary's Dookie

Christmas Eve: Mass 6.00pm



OFFICE CLOSURE: The Parish Office will be closed this Wednesday 13th December from 12noon to 3pm

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

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.

Parish Men's Group

Our last **Men's Group** for the year will be a **big one**. The Christmas party not to be missed! Everything you shouldn't eat will be there, Christmas Carols sung and stories shared! We give thanks for the year past and we look forward to the opportunities of 2018.

We encourage men to bring a dish so special that not even their wife would allow them to eat for breakfast—pavlova, sponge cake, trifle, biscuits from your country of origin, anything special to you, a true Christmas fair.

**Saturday 16th December at 7.30am in the
Mons Peter Jeffrey Parish Centre.**

Any questions call Anthony 0408 269426

Recently Deceased: Maria Sciacca, Rosario Trimboli, Vera Dullard, Patricia Balkin.

Anniversaries: Irene Breeze, Michael Zito, Leon Parker Molly Hickey, Petranella Van Dillen, Sr Henrica Jans.

Lectors 16th December and 17th December

6pm F Scheibel,	D Sullivan
8am M Hicks,	S Hicks
11am P White,	S White

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

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 *****not in January.**

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

*****not in January.**

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 *****not in January.**

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

Notices

Thank you

The Parish wishes to say a big thank you to the **Sacristans and the Bereavement Team**. Their support to the Parish and bereaved families is invaluable.

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.

Mass at Tarcoola: Mass will be held at Tarcoola on Wednesday 13th December at 10.00am,

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 Suguitan 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.

Also available is a selection of Christmas Songs CD's from Peter Kearney at <https://peterkearneysongs.aradium.com>

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.

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.

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.

NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE PACKS (Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, Half-Yearly and Yearly Givers)

Please collect your NEW ENVELOPES which commence 17 Dec 2017.

Thank you for your on-going financial contributions.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME

Stewardship Pledge Cards have been distributed over the past 2 week-ends following on from a talk given by Peter Chalkley.

The Parish Finance Committee is budgeting for future maintenance works and for this to occur Peter stated that we are looking at trying to *increase* our weekly pledges by another \$300. So far we have increased the pledges by \$51.80. Thank you so much to those parishioners who have contributed to this outcome.

We are still working at trying to reach our goal and we need everyone's help.

IF you would like to come onto our Planned Giving Programme or alter your current giving please contact the Parish Office on 5821 2633.

Again, thank you one and all for your support to St Brendan's Parish.

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.

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!

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.

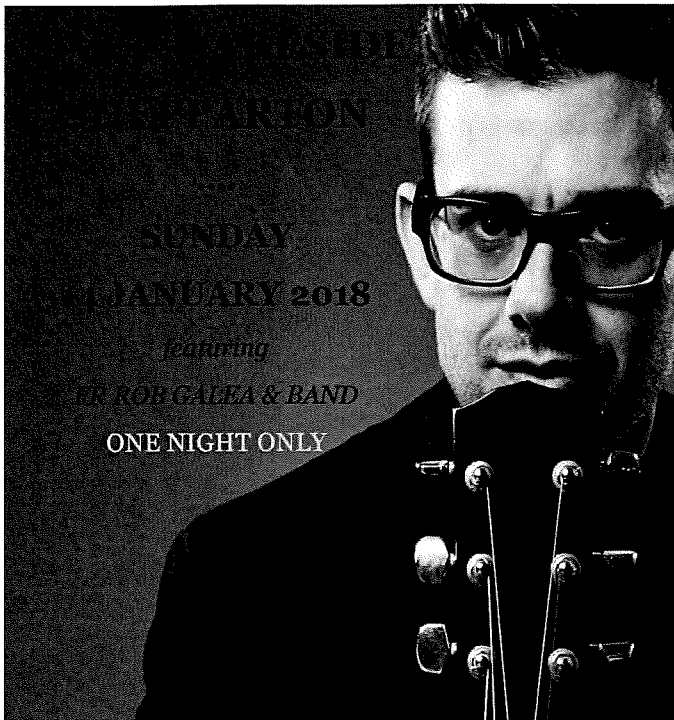
St. Brendan's Conference, St. Vincent de Paul Society

This month the St. Vincent de Paul Society celebrates 80 years since a Conference was formed in Shepparton.

This anniversary was recognised at our recent combined Conferences Christmas Dinner.

St. Brendan's Conference wishes to thank Fr. Joe and the parish for the support over the past year, through our Winter Appeal, the Primary Schools' combined Poor Man's Mass clothing donations, and also donations to the Poor Box.





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

FRG
 MINISTRY

Information & tickets ph 0408 149 962

All proceeds go to FRG outreach programs

**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)

Stations of the Cross 2018
 Calling for actors and volunteers for the
 Good Friday Stations of the Cross.
 A formation meeting will be held soon for those
 interested in participating.
 Please contact Dale on 0408 216522 or see him
 at 11am Mass.

The Lantern Bearers

It may be that night will close over us in the end, but I believe that morning will come again.

Morning always grows out of darkness, though maybe not for the people who saw the sun go down.

We are the Lantern Bearers my friend: for us to keep something burning, to carry what light we can forward into the darkness and the wind.*

These are troubled times. It would seem that we are on edge, concerned and uneasy about the present as well as the future. But if we are lantern bearers, what do we want our light to reveal, to bring out of the darkness? Jesus told his followers that they were to be 'the light of the world'. People don't light a lamp and put it under a bowl, He said, 'Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house'. Our faith calls us to community, to work for justice for everyone, no matter who they may be.

* The Lantern Bearers by Rosemary Sutcliffe.

Excerpt from 'Along the Track—The Lantern Bearers' by Jim Quillinan

7th November, 2017

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

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).