



# ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Parish Priest: Fr. Joe Taylor

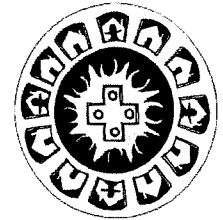
Associate Priest: Fr Sebastian Mandapathil

**Weekend Mass times:** Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 8am and 11am and 5.30pm Syro Malabar Rite

**Weekday Mass times:** Tuesday to Friday 9.15am (not Boxing Day), Thursday Ave Maria Village 4.30pm

**Reconciliation:** Saturday mornings 9.30am to 10.30am

**Parish Office Hours:** Monday & Tuesday 9am to 3pm Wednesday to Friday 9am to 4pm (Closed Public Holidays)



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

**Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B**

**24th December 2017**

**Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve/Day)**

**25th December 2017**



*Readings for 2 Samuel 7:1-5,  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 8-12, 14, 16  
of Advent: Romans 16:25-17  
Luke 1:26-38*



*Readings for  
Isaiah 9:1-7  
Titus 2:11-14  
Christmas: Luke 2:1-14*



*Readings for next  
Sunday  
Genesis 15:1-6,  
21:1-3  
Hebrews 11:8,  
11-12, 17-19  
Luke 2:22-40*



## Liturgical Jottings

### Three Masses of Christmas

Christmas carries many meanings in our world including secular, pluralistic and religious. In Christian tradition the feast of Christmas also carries several spiritual or theological overlays. From the earliest centuries this has been typified by three different liturgies in Jerusalem, Rome and then the rest of the world. Today we have Mass during the night (emphasising the eternal Son born today), Mass at Dawn (new light shining for us) and Mass during the Day (divinity of Christ sharing our human nature). Each Mass has its own distinctive prayers and readings (see above).

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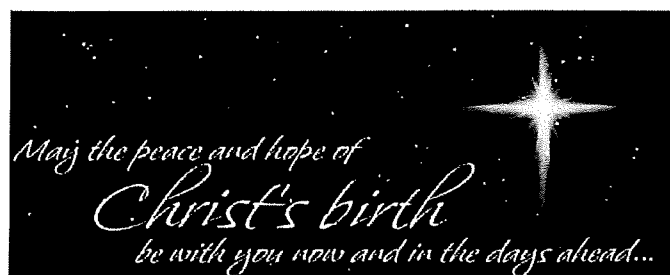


## Looking at the Readings 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

The world in which we live and the events of which we are a part are the stage upon which the drama of salvation is enacted. God works through real flesh and blood people, those like David, who occupy the seats of power and influence as well as those like Mary and us, who are unseen and unknown. All can be agents of salvation. God's future is in our hands. Human history is really the history of salvation. Each turn of God's revealing causes us to wonder at what might come next. In this tension, mystery is revealed. What was hidden is now made known. Jesus establishes a people of covenant promise. Still, the mystery is unknown, for it continues to come to us from the future, revealing more and more of itself in the junctures of history.

## Looking at the Readings Christmas

The Luke account of the nativity carries a very specific theology that runs throughout the rest of that gospel. It is a theology that places the outcast and downtrodden at the centre of Jesus' mission. In this account, Jesus is born outside the town because there is no room for Joseph and Mary within the safety of the inn. Like those he will minister to later in life, Jesus is born 'on the edge' – even outside the boundaries. Rather than the impressive 'Wise Men' of the Matthew infancy account, the witnesses to Jesus' birth in the Luke account are lowly shepherds. Unlike the somewhat romantic notion we may have of shepherds, in Jesus' time they were regarded as little better than thieves and cut-throats. All they could be trusted to do was tend sheep outside of townships and away from 'civilised' society. The gospel writer's choice of these witnesses to the birth of Jesus is a very deliberate one that clearly announces the purpose and direction of Jesus' mission.



## On the Lighter Side

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?

- The Elfabet!



# Welcome to St Brendan's Parish

## Christmas Greetings

I write to wish you all the peace and blessings of Christmas. We celebrate the birth of our Saviour and again we are called into the great treasure of life with our Risen Saviour. This is a time of relaxation (after a great Christmas meal) and the days that follow. May it be a peaceful time with family and friends.

I am also conscious that Christmas is a difficult time for many especially for those who have had losses and sadness during the year. May the Saviour's birth give you a new heart.

I especially thank God for the great staff that we have here at St Brendan's. At the moment I am overseeing 3 parishes (St Mel's, St Brendan's and Dookie) and I know that there is great support to make it all happen. It is all God's work and our efforts are always richly blessed.

Have a peace filled Christmas.

~ Fr Joe



**Office Closure . . .** The Parish office will be closed Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th, Friday 29th December & Monday 1st January and will re-open Tuesday 2nd January. If needing a Priest urgently please phone 5821 2633.

### "Pathways for Families"

Share in the Spirit of Christmas, by taking home our gift to families this Christmas. A free copy of the "Pathways for Families" booklet is available at all Masses.

The **Christmas Collection** this year will be divided between: Fr Godwin Muhangi, Mons Gerard Kalumba and St Brendan's Youth Ministry.

**There is only one bulletin for this weekend & Christmas.**

**Christmas Masses . . .** Christmas Eve 7.30pm Carols 6.30pm at Mercy Centennial Stadium, Skene Street, Shepparton. Midnight Mass in the Church 12midnight Carols 11.30pm, Christmas Day 8am & 11am. 5.30pm Syro Malabar Rite.

**No morning Mass on Boxing Day Tuesday 26th December.**

**Mass on New Year's Day . . . Monday 1st January**  
There will be Mass here in the church on 1st January at 9am.

**St Mel's . . .** There will be NO Wednesday morning Mass at St Mel's for all of January. Mass on Saturday mornings at 9am.

### View Bishop Les' Christmas message:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtqo78JfXkA>

OR [www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

**Gluten Free Hosts . . .** If you would like to receive Holy Communion but have coeliac or food intolerance issues we have a supply of gluten free hosts. Please see Father before Mass so a pyx can be arranged for you (via the sacristy door in the west/side entrance).

**Audio Loop . . .** For those with a hearing impairment an Audio Loop is available in the Church.

**Sacramental Program 2018 . . .** Children must be baptised prior to receiving the Sacraments. Call the office on 5821 2633 asap.

**Stations of the Cross 2018 . . .** Actors & volunteers needed for the Good Friday Stations of the Cross. Call Dale on 0408 216522.

**Caritas Global Gift . . .** You may choose to change lives through a *Caritas Global Gift* bringing the JOY of clean water, nutritious food, health, education, peace – to children in communities around the world. Visit: [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

**Free eMagazine . . .** All parishioners are encouraged to subscribe to: [www.cathfamily.org](http://www.cathfamily.org) Free resource for the family.

**Faith on The Goldfields . . .** Information, photographs, artefacts etc either from a personal, family or community story, that provide insight into the role and value of faith, spirituality, or religion in the lives of Bendigo's past and present faith communities are wanted for history project examining expressions of all faiths. Contact Dr Jennifer Jones at La Trobe University. Phone: 02 60249848 Email: [j.jones@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:j.jones@latrobe.edu.au)

**Women in Leadership: a gift for the world . . .** A program for women at the Benedictine Abbey, Jamberoo on April 13-15, 2018. Information and bookings: 02 4236 0533 or [cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au](mailto:cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au)

**Recently Deceased:** Fr Kevin Flanagan, Antonio Flammea  
**Anniversaries:** Bishop Joseph Grech, William Linehan, Marie & Kevin Coppinger, William Linehan (Snr), Annie Linehan, William & Pachie McCaskill, Alice Stein, Kevin Lancaster, Angelo Portia (one month mind), Patricia O'Sullivan, Alan Appleton, Mary Vescio, John Mahony, Luigi & Nancy Rimato, Louis Tasman Michel.

### Lectors: 30th & 31st December, 2017

6pm	D Tarquini,	Sr F Kennedy
8am	Sr R Crowe	A Leahy
11am	MA Demase	M Harmer

**Holy Hour** Thursdays 7pm to 8pm **\*\*not 28th December.**

**Eucharistic Adoration** Fridays 3pm to 6pm in the Church  
First Friday of the month **\*\*not on Fridays in January.**

**Holy Rosary** Pray the Rosary after 8am Mass on Sundays and after 9.15am Mass weekdays.

**Altar Society** Morning coffee 1st Friday monthly

**Catholic Mothers of Young Children** 1st & 3rd Thursday  
monthly 10am in the Parish Centre

**Catholic Women's League (CWL)** 2nd Thursday monthly 1pm in the Parish Centre (not in January)

**Charismatic Prayer Group** Tuesdays 7.30pm in Parish Centre (in recess, next meeting 23rd January)

**Christian Meditation** Mondays 7.30pm St Mel's Parish House (not in January)

**Faith & Light Community** 1st Sunday monthly (not in January)

**Friendship Group** 3rd Sunday monthly (not December)

**Garabandal** 3rd Monday monthly 1.30pm (not in January)

**Gospel Discussion Group** Mondays during Lent and Advent

**Men's Group** Saturday fortnightly 7.30am (not in January)

**Serra Club** 1st Friday monthly 7.30pm (not in January)

**St Vincent de Paul Society** 2nd Thursday monthly 7pm