



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 also New Year's 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

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Year B

Sunday 31 December 2017



Readings for this week:

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40



Readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12



Liturgical Jottings

Octaves

The two principal feasts in the Liturgical Year are the solemnities of Easter and Christmas. They are the only feasts that have octaves attached. Octave means an eight-day celebration, that is, the prolongation of a feast to the eighth day inclusive. The feast itself is considered the first day, and it is followed by six days called "days within the octave." The eighth or octave day is kept with greater solemnity. The octave gives us time to impress upon us the mysteries, joys and graces of the principal feasts of the Church year and to continue the celebrations, especially after long preparations of Advent and Lent.

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Looking at the Readings

The readings focus our attention on true family values. God promises an heir to a couple that cannot produce a child, and when the promise is fulfilled and the child is born, God asks for the life of that child. The hopes that were kindled by the promise and that blazed brilliantly with the child's birth now lie like ashes on a heap. Is God reneging on the promise of a descendant? Is God playing with people's dreams and aspirations? Or might God be preparing them for yet another marvel?

The couple had placed their trust in God's initial promise of new life, and it was fulfilled. Now Abraham, as the representative of the entire family, is asked to hope against hope, to relinquish the child in whom all of the hopes of the future rests. Trust does not really depend upon the promises made, but upon the one making the promises. God is a God of surprises, of the paradoxical, of the preposterous. This is a God who opens closed wombs, rescinds death sentences, takes an obscure child and makes him the light to the nations. Trust in such a God requires that we sacrifice our own presuppositions. Then, expecting nothing from God, we can be open to everything. In the face of such mystery, the human heart can only sing with gratitude. We live in the presence of God, and this sustains us through whatever seems impossible. Thanksgiving opens us to receive God's promise and God's gifts.

Pope Francis on Christmas

On this day of joy, we are all called to contemplate the Child Jesus, who gives hope once again to every person on the face of the earth. By his grace, let us with our voices and our actions give witness to solidarity and peace. Merry Christmas to all!

Pope Francis' Christmas Message Urbi et Orbi 2016

Basilica of the Holy Family Barcelona

Sagrada Família a large unfinished Catholic church designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí (d. 1926) is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and in November 2010 Pope Benedict XVI consecrated and proclaimed it a minor basilica. It combines Gothic and curvilinear Art Nouveau forms and noted for its three grand façades: the Nativity, the Passion and the Glory façades. This last façade, several towers and some structures are to be completed by 2026

On the Lighter Side

After the Christmas pageant, I asked my 6-year-old son if he remembered the gifts that the Magi brought to Jesus. He thought for a minute then said "Gold, Frankenstein and Humour". We could all use that last one!



Welcome to St Brendan's Parish

The Perfect gift . . . It needn't cost a lot of money. In fact, it needn't cost any money at all. The price is in the risk . . .

The difference between a present and a Gift of the Heart is the love that goes into it.

Gifts with a message:

Make the most of your Christmas cards. Don't let them gather dust on a shelf. At each family meal over the Christmas New Year period, read out the name and message from one Christmas card received. Think about this person and remember him or her in your family prayer.

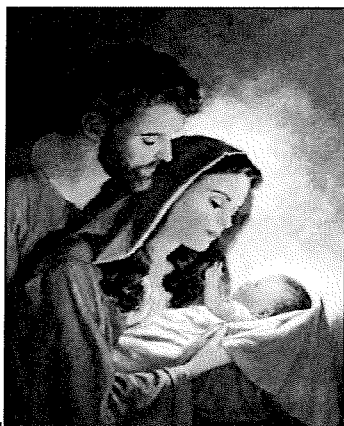
The Gift of Christmas

Christmas reminds us of Emmanuel, that God-is-with-us. But our world is not in good shape. Millions dispossessed, wars and devastation, starvation for many, selfishness, and bitterness linger. Racism is on the rise. The Christian, along with others can wonder where God is in all this. Where is God in this illness, this hurt, this injustice, this death, these broken dreams and promises? Where is God for the cold, hungry, and lonely?'

Emmanuel promises God's presence in our lives, that in all of this, God is with us. Christmas is a reminder that neither allowing ourselves to be overcome by the world's current direction or complacency that we can't do anything about it are sensible options. Maybe it is time to not dwell on where God seems silent or absent, but where God was present in our lives over the past twelve months, where God is now in our lives and in our world. That takes faith.

Knowing that God is with us can empower us to give up our anger, to forgive, to move beyond cynicism, bitterness, suspicion and jealousy. When we become more aware that God is with us, we can have the courage to reach out to others, to seek understanding, to work for change. Best of all, it helps us realise that reconciliation, peace and justice start with small steps, small gestures. Ours.

~ Excerpt from 'Along the Track - The Gift of Christmas' by Jim Quillinan, 5th December 2017



There's no gift like the gift of Christ to our world.

Fr Rob's Book 'Breakthrough' is available at the Parish office at a cost of \$20.

'Pathways for Families' booklet is available for all families so take a copy home with you.

For the month of January, the weekend bulletin will be produced in this smaller, one page, A4 version.

Estela Hutchings, Psychologist

is available for private and confidential consultation on a wide variety of issues. Estela is normally available for consultations on Fridays in the Parish but will also consult out of hours.

There is a small charge for a 60 minute consultation.

For information and bookings contact the Parish office on 5821 2633 during office hours.

Google images

Mass on New Year's Day . . . Monday 1st January, 2018

Mass will be celebrated for the New Year on Monday 1st January at 9am.

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

Lectors	6pm: M Keyte, Volunteer required
6th/7th January	8am: L Boschetti, P Guthrie
2018:	11am: P Crane, P Chalkley

Sacraments

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 and bookings, contact the Parish office.

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 ****not school holidays.**

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 (not in 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