

WELCOME TO

ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH



St Brendan's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

First Sunday of Lent, Year B

21 February 2021

First Reading Gn 9:8-15

I will recall the covenant between myself and you...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and
teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from
of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness,
O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who
stray,
he guides the humble in the right
path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:18-22

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

*No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God.*

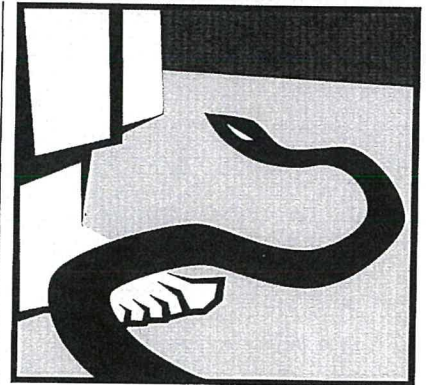
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Mk 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In the Genesis reading, God has just wiped clean the earth and is ready to re-establish the relationship with humanity through Noah and his family. In the short gospel passage, Jesus enters the wilderness as a time of preparation and renewal, ready to embark on his mission of re-establishing the relationship between God and humanity. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start – a clean slate – for humankind. It is a clear indication of God's commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God's constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world. The presence of Jesus in the world was as clear a signal as the rainbow in the sky that God was willing to give us another go – give us a chance to again see God with new eyes and new understanding.

In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe. It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. © 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am

Saturday 8.30am *Syro Malabar Rite*, Sunday 5.30pm *Syro Malabar Rite*

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am



First Sunday of Lent 21st February 2021



"Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

- Saint Oscar Romero

Jamila is a Rohingya refugee living in a camp in Bangladesh with her elderly mother and baby daughter. With the support of Caritas Australia, and through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila has been able to access to emergency food, shelter, counselling, and vocational training that will help to support her family.

*We pray for all refugees who are forced to flee their homeland.
That we, as a global family, will respond generously to their needs and assist
in developing a safe and secure future for all.*

Please Donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help mothers like Jamila be more for her family and her community.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Lenten reflection by Anthony Kilmartin, Pastoral Associate

Well we have again been forced outside our comfort zone with another period of lockdown. It is amazing to think that our two great feasts namely Easter 2020 and the beginning of Lent 2021, both have been derailed from the normal way we would celebrate them in our Parish. However, I feel there is some great connections with the Season of Lent and in what has taken place. We no longer could celebrate with our parish community and were asked to find a new path to honour these significant days in our Catholic faith.

The season of lent normally asks of us to give up something that we find pleasure in or to do something outside our normal life choices to help another person. Lent is supposed to shine a light on our attachment to worldly things, an x-ray of our inner longings or passions. Where does God and his plans for humanity sit in the inner workings of us? By denying ourselves or going outside our normal activities to help others we see and feel clearer what our strongest desires are.

The covid lockdown has in a way, done some of the work of Lent in helping us look at our lives and where we spend our energy, and what is most important to us? God wants our hearts focused on him, for he wants all that is good in us to shine forth in our families, parish community, and our local community. It is a difficult thing to shine a light into our heart; it will surprise and shock us at times. Our actions are often connected to the same temptations that Jesus was tempted with in the desert: power, greed and materialism. These are choices that we make every day. Lent encourages us to turn away from things that draw us away from God.

I find that quite time in prayer is a good time to examine our hearts. We can ask God for the grace to change the pattern of our daily life and to be open to the Good News. I hope this lent is a time of great change for you.

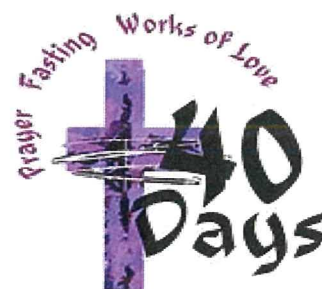
LENT 2021 WITH BRUCE DOWNES THE CATHOLIC GUY

Be inspired, Be refreshed, Be renewed!

Come on a 40 day journey with me and I know this will be a powerful and prayerful Lenten journey together. Receive a short inspiring video each day during Lent.

This program is FREE and you can sign up here:

<https://BruceDownes.org/Lent> Call 1300 734 880 for more information.



ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS



121 Knight Street, Shepparton

Phone: 5821 2633 | Email: shepparton@cdos.org.au

Website: sheppartoncatholic.org.au Facebook: /sheppartoncatholic

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor

Priest in Residence: Fr Varghese Vithayathil

Deacon: Rev Francois Baguma

Office Manager: Diane Teitzel

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm



*Christ in community...the
heart of our faith*

Recently Deceased: Joyce Boccabella,
Pauline Chalkley

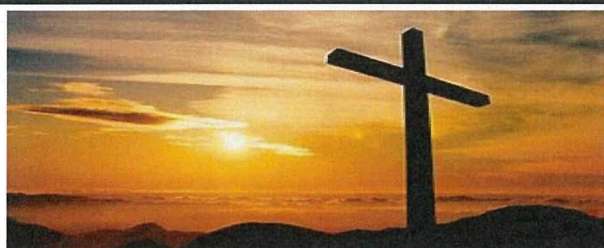
Anniversaries: Maria Audino, Martin O'Dwyer

Readers & Commentators 27 & 28 Feb, 2021

6pm M. Johnson, A. Kilmartin

8am Sr R Crowe, P. Stein

11am J. Pilkington, S. Quilty



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

COMMENCE FRIDAY 19th FEBRUARY @ 6pm
and occur every FRIDAY throughout Lent.

RCIA Rite of Election

This Sunday 21st of February at 1.00pm at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo we are invited to be part of the Rite of Election. This Rite is a time of commitment to the journey to full initiation into the Catholic faith. It will be a great day with the opportunity to meet Bishop Shane, followed by a cuppa. Please keep our Catechumens in your prayers at this time.

Fr Minh Tran as Administrator of White Hills Parish

For a number of months, Fr Peter Dell'Avo has been undertaking sick leave on the advice of his doctor. After considering comprehensive medical reports, I have now accepted his resignation as Parish Priest of White Hills, effective from 6 March.

Since the end of November, Fr Rob Galea has been celebrating a Vigil Mass each Saturday evening at White Hills. This will continue until the end of February (COVID restrictions permitting).

I have appointed Fr Minh Tran SJ as Administrator of the White Hills Parish, effective from 6 March. Fr Minh is a Jesuit priest who has been made available for ministry in the diocese until the end of 2021 and who has been assisting in the Shepparton Parish since COVID restrictions eased in October. Initially he will reside at St Kilian's Presbytery.

Yours sincerely,

+Shane Mackinlay

Attention: Altar Servers

If you are an existing Altar Server or would like to join this very special ministry, please complete your details on the A3 form in the Narthex or side foyer.

We are currently in the process of updating roster times and looking for new recruits so it is important to include your preferred Mass times and contact details on the form.

As we are updating rosters in the coming weeks, can all altar servers attending Mass please check to see if they are needed to serve.

Thank you to our current altar servers.

We appreciate your commitment and dedication to this great service.

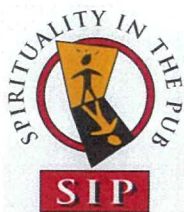
Thank you, Leanne Pellegrino,
Catholic Identity Coordinator
St. Brendan's Primary School

Quote of the Day

"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." Pope Benedict XVI

Our parish Men's group will meet next Saturday the 27th of February in the MPJC. We had a false start last week, so this will be our first gathering for the year. The group will gather for breakfast and a reflection topic. The group is a great opportunity to share our faith and fellowship.

Any questions call Anthony 58212633

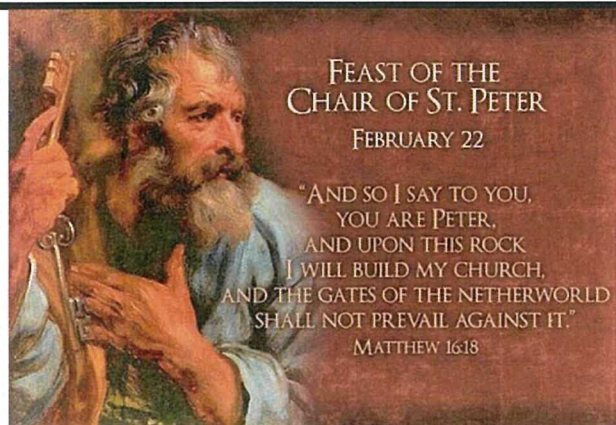


Spirituality in the Pub

at the Terminus Hotel, Shepparton on **Monday 1st March 7.30 – 9pm** (meals from 6pm optional) Come and join the conversation about **WHY GO BACK TO MASS?**

Speakers are **Cathy Jenkins**, Assistant to the Director: Leadership with Catholic Education and one of Sandhurst Diocese' Delegates to the Plenary Council.

And **Alma Limbrick**, Pastoral Associate in Kyabram Parish. More information on fliers in the church. Enquiries: Kerry 0408 579904, Frank 5821 4362, Fran 5829 0301



The Feast of the Chair of St Peter commemorates St Peter's founding of the Church of Antioch, as well as his role as the first bishop of Rome. The portable chair believed to have been used by St Peter himself is preserved at the Vatican, above the apsidal altar of St Peter's Basilica. In ancient times it was customary for teachers to sit while teaching their students, who would stand around them.

Even in the early church, bishops would give the homily seated, with the congregation standing as they listened. And so it is that the celebration of St Peter's Chair is a remem-

C. W. L. Annual Conference

"The Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga will hold its Annual Conference on Wednesday 3rd March at St. Joseph's Church and Presbytery, 42 Arundel St. Benalla. There will be Holy Mass at 10am, Morning Tea, opening prayer, followed by the Meeting. Lunch is at 12.30. At 1.30 Fr. Vijay Bandanadam, the Administrator of the Parish, has kindly agreed to be our Guest Speaker. Various reports will be presented, announcement of Office Bearers, and final prayers, concluding at approximately 3.30pm. All are welcome, including non-members. This wonderful and prayerful Catholic Organization, which promotes Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, promotes the Teachings of Christ and His Church concerning the dignity and freedom of the human person, promotes the spiritual, intellectual, and social development of women, and encourages their involvement in the Church in building up God's Kingdom, is always looking for new members. Please give it some thought.

Fr. Peter Ferwerda, Spiritual Director." 16/2/21

FRG Ministry - Holy Week Retreat

FRG Ministry is running an online Holy Week retreat, It is free but places are limited, to register please go to

<https://courses.frgministry.com/live-event-registration>

2021 National Day of Prayer

Join us once again at Mt Major Dookie in a time of prayer and worship for our area as we look out over Greater Shepparton

SATURDAY 27th FEBRUARY @ 6.30pm
concluding at Sunset at approx. 8pm

BYO chair, rug, insect repellent, sunscreen, torch and water
[Note: Gates to the road leading up to Mt Major - TV access road open at 6.15pm and shut again at 6.30pm]

Shepparton + Mooroopna Combined Churches
Contact Matt Briggs 0403 159 437



Ashley & Vanessa Madeira

Shop 1, Tirana City Walk
302 Wyndham St Shepparton
5821 0311

eyeshopshepparton.com.au

Personalised thorough eye
Examinations

Celebrating 200 years

Catholic Education is celebrating 200 years in Australia, marking the bicentenary of the first Catholic school established in Parramatta in October 1820.

A national theme, "**Faith in the future**" has been developed for the 200 years celebrations. The theme reflects the core purpose of Catholic education to form students in their faith, and to provide an education that enables our graduates to make a meaningful contribution to the world.

The theme reflects our commitment to build on the great work of those who have come before us and to provide a Catholic education for future generations of students in a world that is rapidly changing and poses new challenges for Catholic school communities. Yet, we have faith that we can face these challenges and continue to build on, and strengthen, our mission of Catholic education.



Catholic Education
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS
Faith in the future

A PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
You call us to faith and trust.
For the times we have failed to believe in you and your word;
for the times we have entertained doubts
and failed to trust in your loving providence, we pray:
Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Adapted from 'Examination of Conscience: Theological and Moral Virtues' in Robert Morneau, Reconciliation, 94-95.



Prepared for Lent Year B 2021 by: Adult Faith Education Sandhurst,
PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic, 3552. Email: adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Acknowledgements: *How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is Humble, Healing and Merciful? Continuing the Journey of Discernment towards the Plenary Council, Sydney: Plenary Council, 2020 (Discernment Paper) www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au; Pope Francis, Let Us Dream: the Path to a Better Future – Pope Francis in conversation with Austen Ivereigh, London / NY: Simon & Schuster, 2020. Robert Morneau, Reconciliation, Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2007.*



Journey towards the Plenary Council
Reflecting on a Theme for Discernment
First Sunday of Lent 2021

HOW ARE WE TO BE A HUMBLE CHURCH?



FROM THE READINGS

See, I establish my Covenant with you,
and with your descendants after you.

Genesis 9:9

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins,
died for the guilty to lead us to God.

1 Peter 3:18

'The time has come' Jesus said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand.
Repent and believe the Good News.

Mark 1:15

FROM POPE FRANCIS - LET US DREAM

What words or phrases stand out for you?

I see this as a time of reckoning ... The question is whether you're going to come through this crisis and if so, how. The basic rule of a crisis is that you don't come out of it the same. If you get through it, you come out better or worse, but not the same.

We are living a time of trial. The Bible talks of passing through fire to describe such trials, like a kiln testing the potter's handiwork (*Sirach 27:5*). The fact is that we are all tested in life. It's how we grow. In the trials of life, you reveal your own heart: how solid it is, how merciful, how big or small ... To act in a Samaritan way in a crisis means letting myself be struck by what I see, knowing that the suffering will change me ... If we are to come out of this crisis less selfish that we went in, we have to let ourselves be touched by others' pain ...

This is the moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities – what we value, what we want, what we seek – and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. What I hear at this moment is similar to what Isaiah hears God saying through him: Come, let us talk this over. Let us dare to dream. God asks us to create something new.

Pope Francis, *Let us Dream Prologue*, 1,3, 5 & 6.

FROM A PLENARY COUNCIL THEME

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is Humble, Healing and Merciful?

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/]

Take a few moments for stillness and prayer to respond to two of the challenges suggested in this theme paper, for your parish, community, a group, or for you personally:

How do we ...?

- start afresh as a Church, as people who serve others from a place of humility with love, to reflect and reveal God?
- respond to trauma and woundedness with humble merciful healing hands and support?
- find ways to restore wounded people to the family of God and help them experience wholeness and healing?
- Open up possibilities for scars to become fonts of life and healing?
- find new ways of doing business that hold the wounded close to our hearts, enabling each to bear their scars with dignity and hope for the future?
- nurture a passion for caring for the world?
- Protect the delicate ecology of the earth, recognising the rights of all, including future generations, to the fruits of the earth?
- learn from our Aboriginal brothers and sisters to see the connectivity between the land, the environment and humanity?