



St Brendan's & St Mary's Parishes are child safe communities. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year A

29 MARCH 2026

Gospel Mt 21:1-11

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.'

First Reading Is 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
2. Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
3. They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading Phil 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus

and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel shorter form Mt 27:11-54

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

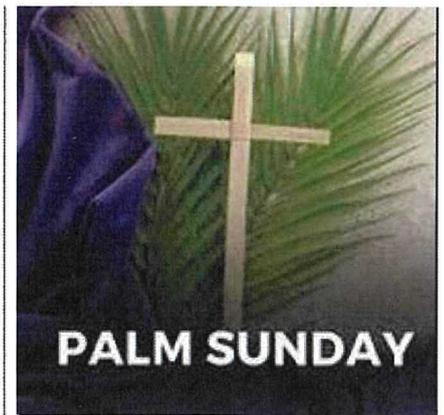
On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

As we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. We have a saviour who was finally lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine privileges. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. We have a saviour who first offered himself for us and then continues to offer himself to us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we must be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with Jesus is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where despair holds sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for our sake.

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ST BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Assistant Priests:

Fr Adi Indra

Fr Ruel Desamparado, RCJ

Fr Addin Doe, RCJ

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years.

We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice.

Readers & Commentators April 4 & 5, 2026 (EASTER WEEKEND)

5.30pm	Various people	Marie Fontana
8am	TBC	Vince Rando
11am	Jean-Marie Mupenda	Michael Frizzell

Recently Deceased: Ronald W. Cooper

Anniversaries: Gwen Farrell, Jack Phillips and Cass Phillips, Eileen Dolan, Angela Nicolaci

Farewell Cuppa for Fr Adi

29 March [9am to 10.45am] at the St Brendan's Pastoral Centre.

Fr Adi will be celebrating both the 8am Mass and 11am Mass on this same day (Palm Sunday).

Given his very busy schedule, we will be having a short farewell for Fr Adi in between the above Masses.

All are welcome.

Please bring a plate to share.



Blessing of the Birthday Celebrants

Celebrants of the month will be invited to receive a special blessing during the weekend Masses.



Our parish has raised for \$4,162.35 Caritas to date. Thank you all for your generosity!

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am

Syro Malabar Rite: Wednesday 6.00pm,

Saturday 8.30am & Sunday 5.30pm

St Mary's Dookie, Sunday 10 am

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation

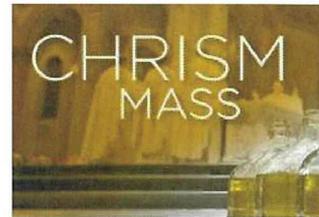
Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

Rosary— The Rosary is prayed in the Marian Chapel after weekday Masses and after the 8am Mass on Sunday.

Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament: Thursdays 7pm to 8pm and

Fridays 4.45pm - 5.45pm



Mass of the Holy Oils

11:00am Tuesday 31 March

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo

You are warmly invited to join Sandhurst priests, religious, and faithful from every parish, when the whole Diocese gathers in communion as one Body in Christ.

The principal celebrant will be **Archbishop Charles Balvo, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia.**

At this Mass priests and religious renew their vows, and all the faithful are invited to renew their baptismal promises, celebrating our shared life and mission as the Church in Sandhurst.

A sausage sizzle and light refreshments in the Cathedral grounds will follow Mass.

Please note there will be no parking in the Cathedral grounds on Tuesday morning, not for choir members nor parishioners or visitors. Drop off for elderly and disabled will be available at the McKenzie Street side of the Cathedral, but strictly drop off, drive through and park outside the Cathedral grounds. Please allow time to find a suitable park in the nearby streets.

MEN'S GROUP

On Saturday 4 April we have Peter Crew coming along to give the Men's Group some training on how to use the defibrillator which is in the church. Peter was an ambulance paramedic so we are glad to have his experience to give us some basic instructions. We will meet as per normal (7.30am) in the Pastoral Centre for breakfast and then Peter's presentation.



Thanks to Emma Christy and all who have kindly made palm crosses for this weekend.



Parish Morning Tea on THURSDAYS to resume on THURSDAY 16 APRIL following the 9.15am Mass.



SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 17 MAY

To celebrate St Brendan's Feast Day for 2026 we will be having a Parish Gathering in the Sacred Heart Hall at 12pm after the 11am Mass.
All welcome



Our RCIA group met for the last time in their journey this week. The preparations are complete, but we have explained that God is forever renewing us, if we can stay open to this transformative process.

Please keep them all in your prayers, praying that this Easter Vigil, the day they are fully received into the Catholic faith and the St Brendan's and St Mary's faith communities is the greatest day of their lives.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BOOKS?



At the back of the church in the narthex area you will possibly have noticed a range of books displayed in this bookshelf. They are for anyone to borrow or take home. We have a new selection of books now so if you are interested, please feel free to avail yourself of them.

Ecumenical Palm Sunday Service 29 March 2026



At the **CWA Gardens, Dookie.**
4.30pm for 5.00pm start.
Bring your own everything, chair, rug, coat, hat, food, thermos, soft drink, torch & repellent.
Everyone Welcome.

Directions: Mary Street Dookie (the main street.)
In case of inclement weather, the service will relocate to the Uniting Church Hall, Curtain St, Dookie
Contact: Helen, ph 0427389721

Sandpiper e-News comes out this Friday

In this edition, we hear from **Sr Hartini fcj and Brendon Lane** on their experience accompanying adults on their journey to becoming Catholic; we cover the **Northeastern Deanery Forum**, and **the plans of Sandhurst Youth Ministry** to create an environment where young people feel trusted, encouraged and sent on mission.

Read the online version after 8:30am on 27 March or subscribe and receive Sandpiper e-News straight to your inbox. To subscribe go to the Sandhurst Diocese Website: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au under the heading News & Events.

ANOINTING MASS - 1 APRIL at 11am



If you would like to receive our Parish Bulletin on email, you can subscribe using this QR code or visit:
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HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE
for the Parishes of St Brendans, Shepparton
& St Mary's, Dookie, 2026

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28 & 29, SHEPPARTON

6:00PM SATURDAY VIGIL
 8:00AM & 11:00AM SUNDAY



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29, DOOKIE

10:00AM SUNDAY

HOLY MONDAY, MARCH 30, SHEPPARTON

9:15AM DAILY MASS

HOLY TUESDAY, MARCH 31, CATHEDRAL BENDIGO

11:00AM CHRISM MASS



HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, SHEPPARTON

9:15AM DAILY MASS
 5:00PM - 7:00PM RECONCILIATION

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, SHEPPARTON

5:00PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, SHEPPARTON

3:00PM CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION
 8:00PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4, SHEPPARTON

5:30PM EASTER VIGIL 'THE VIGIL OF LIGHT'

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, SHEPPARTON

CELEBRATION OF THE RISEN LORD
 8:00AM & 11:00AM EASTER SUNDAY MASS

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, DOOKIE

CELEBRATION OF THE RISEN LORD
 10:00AM EASTER SUNDAY MASS



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

FOR THE HOLY LAND

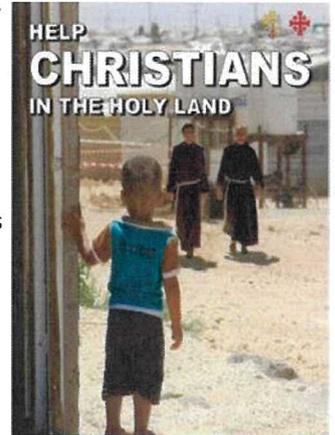
Envelopes will be available on **Good Friday Mass** for donations. There will also be a collection taken up for the **Good Friday Collection**.

The annual collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 3.

This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health,

education, employment, housing, Parishes, and orphanages.

Thank you for your generosity!



Prayer for the
NEW BISHOP OF SANDHURST

Almighty Father, knower of all hearts, grant that our brother, your servant, who is to be chosen for the office of Bishop of Sandhurst, may be a true shepherd of the flock entrusted to his care.

Pour out now upon this chosen one that power which comes from you, the Holy Spirit, whom you gave to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, that same Spirit which Christ bestowed on his own apostles.

May this chosen one fulfill the ministry of shepherd of your people of our diocese.

May he please you by the sincerity of his service, the purity of his heart, the humility of his interactions, the simplicity of his demeanour. May he direct by word and example the people of Sandhurst entrusted to his care.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever, Amen.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Patroness of our Diocese,
 Pray for us.

Come to the Feast of the Divine Mercy this Easter

St Brendan's Catholic Church Sunday, April 12

-2.00pm Exposition of the

Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation

-3.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet - in song Benediction

-3.30pm Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Jackson

-4.30pm Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image

CUPPA at the Pastoral Centre to follow. ALL

WELCOME. Contact: Tom Melis on 0431 706 296.



LOST AND FOUND

Due to the number of items left in the Church after Masses, a box is kept in the main entrance of the Church (Narthex).

These items will be kept for 1 month before being disposed of.

Please check the box in case one of these items belong to your family.

Little Red Skips *Helping with all your dirty needs*

Skip bins available in 2, 3, 5, 7+ metres

Hook bins available in 12, 20, 32, 37 metres

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