



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.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

15 February 2026

First Reading *Ecc 15:15-20*

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. *(R.)*
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. *(R.)*
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. *(R.)*
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. *(R.)*

Second Reading *1 Cor 2:6-10*

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord

of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation See *Mt 11:25*

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.*

Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34. 37 (or longer form Mt 5:17-37)*

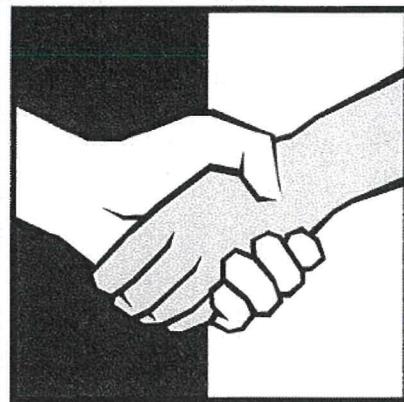
Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

Today's First Reading, Psalm and Gospel all relate to the way in which we are called to live in right relationship with God and with one another. What is referred to as the 'Law' is generally used as shorthand for the Torah - the first five books of the Bible - which first of all establishes the history of relationship between God and humanity through the books of Genesis and Exodus and then provides detailed instructions about how that relationship should be honoured and observed. When Jesus speaks about the Law and the Prophets, he is deliberately including the extensive collection of prophetic writings that interpret the Law in terms of justice and right relationships with others as being a reflection of the right relationship with God.

By declaring that he has come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to complete - or fulfil - them, Jesus is making it perfectly clear that his ministry and teaching is in alignment with and in accordance with the historical tradition and he is not setting out to overthrow the Jewish tradition. Rather, throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly calls the people to be true to the teachings of old and to live them with integrity and dedication. His constant complaint is against those who live by the letter of the Law and ignore what we would call the spirit or intention of the Law. This is the root of his swipe at the shallow virtue of the scribes and Pharisees in today's gospel. The criticism that Jesus levelled at these two groups was that their adherence to the Law made no room for the compassionate heart that the writings of the Prophets demanded.

ST BRENDAN'S PARISH
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Parish Administrator: Fr Ronald N. Masilang, RCJ
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 Feb 21 & Feb 22, 2026

| | | |
|------|-----------------|--------------|
| 6pm | Sr Bing | TBC |
| 8am | Paul White | Sara White |
| 11am | Mary-Ann Demase | Emma Christy |

Recently Deceased: Helen Cardwell (Whitney Greco's Grandma)

Anniversaries: Leo Clurey, Jo Chilcott, Shirley Moylan, Nunziato (Nick) Vittorio, Domenic Demasi, Ray Wardle, Ester Romeo, Vincenzo Cavallaro

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

Sacrament: Thursdays 7pm to 8pm and Fridays 4.45pm - 5.45pm

The Garabandal Prayer Group

will meet on

Monday February 16

at 1:30pm

in the Mary Mackillop room of the Parish Office (enter through the Office).



Project Compassion – This Weekend

This weekend we begin **Project Compassion**.

- Caritas boxes and envelopes will be available as you walk back after receiving the Eucharist.
- Please take a box or envelope home and support Caritas during Lent.
- Below you will find the **Parish QR Code** for both **St Brendan's Shepparton** and **St Mary's, Dookie**. This is for easy online giving and information.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of Caritas!

PROJECT COMPASSION

QR code for St Mary's, Dookie



QR code for St Brendan's



Pancakes will be available after all Masses, so stay and enjoy some fellowship.



ST BRENDANS CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

February 20

**3:30 (For a 4pm start)-5.30pm
in the Pastoral Centre
(hall behind the Church)**

Join us for food, games
and discussion

shepparton.ym@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Lenten Groups

Our Lenten groups begin next week and
will meet weekly until Easter.

These groups are a wonderful opportunity to
gather, share reflections,
and prepare for Lent and Easter.



Parish Centre

Thursdays at 1.00pm, commencing February 19
Books available for \$10.00

Barb's Home

Unit 73/9 Batman Avenue, Shepparton
Tuesdays, 7.30pm–9.00pm,
commencing February 17

To join the Parish Centre group or purchase a book,
please contact the parish office.

To join the group at Barb's home,
please contact Barb on 0447 778 846.

Men's Group

Our first Men's Group was a
wonderful beginning for 2026.



We will gather again on
Saturday, February 21 in the Parish Centre at 7.30am for
breakfast and a faith topic for discussion.

Please come along and join this great group of men.

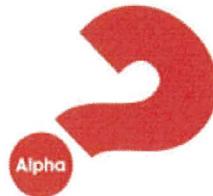
Any questions, please contact Anthony on
5821 2633 on Tuesday's or Thursday's.

Recessional Hymn during Lent

The Vatican II's document *Musicam Sacram* (Sacred Music) and the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) indicate that silence is preferred at the end of the Mass, that the priest depart in silence emphasising the penitential tone of the season. Should a song be sung, let it be sober, simple and subdued which highlights prayer and penance.

Alpha Is Coming!

The Alpha Program is coming to
St Brendan's Parish
Centre from
Monday, February 23,
through to early May.



Alpha has been running around the world
for nearly **40 years** and is a warm,
welcoming program designed to explore faith in
a relaxed, community setting.

Each session includes a **shared meal**,
a short video, and **open discussion**.

Everyone is welcome—people from
all parishes and all stages of faith
are encouraged to come along.

If you would like to take part in the Alpha Program,
please email the **St Brendan's Parish office**
(shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au),
and a member of the Alpha team will be in touch.

St Vincent de Paul St. Brendan's Conference

At our local Vinnies Conference we are always
looking for new members.

You can join us as we assist our welfare
clients each week.

It is a time commitment of 3 hours once a fortnight.

You will always work with another member
and we will support you in your training.

If you would like more information please call
Gerry on 0413400318
or Alison on 0419504082.

We'd be glad to show you how you
can be involved in our good works!



Catholic Earthcare Australia

A Program of Caritas Australia

We are looking for new members

We meet monthly in the
Parish Centre MPJC

Third Thursday of each month at
5.00pm-6.00pm



If interested please contact: 0428 996 975

Our first meeting for 2026 is Thursday, February 19

You are invited to attend a talk by International speaker,
Charbel Raish, of Parousia Media:

No Greater Love - a Lenten Talk.

Sunday 15th February 7pm

Mathoura-Murray Shire War Memorial Hall
19 Lawrence Street
Mathoura NSW

Welcome to our new Notre Dame College 2026 Catholic Identity Trainees

Notre Dame College are
proud to introduce to
St Brendan's Parish our
new Catholic Identity
trainees - Molly Walters
and Blayne O'Brien.



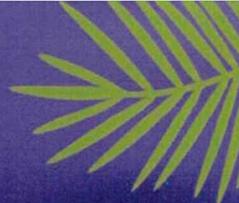
As part of their roles Molly and Blayne will
be involved with different parish events such as
Youth Masses and Weekday Masses.

They will also work with Emma Christie to assist
with parish youth initiatives to help engage Notre
Dame students with our parish.
Please say hello to them if you see them around.

**Brendan Lindsay
Deputy Principal – Catholic Identity**

Ash Wednesday 2026

Parishes in Greater Shepparton



St Brendan's Shepparton

7 am & 9:15 am

St Mel's South Shepparton

**9:30 am (with St Mel's Primary
School Community) & 6 pm**

St Mary's Mooroopna

6 pm

St Malachy's Nagambie

**11:45 am (with St Joseph's Primary
School Community)**

St Mary's Dookie

6 pm



Thank you for your support
of our Tap n Go.
We raised \$1,565 in January 2025
and \$1,523 in January 2026.



World Day of Prayer

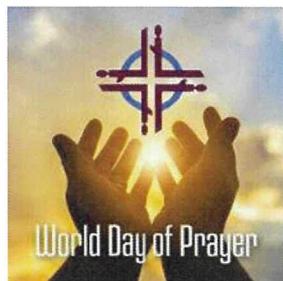
This year the World Day of Prayer will be on
Friday, March 6 at 10.30am at St Mel's Church,
18 Hamilton St, Shepparton.

The theme is Nigeria and our guest
speaker will be Ify who has
moved to Australia from Nigeria.

All are welcome!

Morning tea
to follow.

Contact Sr Pam
Barlow
(0458 999108).



Little Red Skips



Helping with all your dirty needs

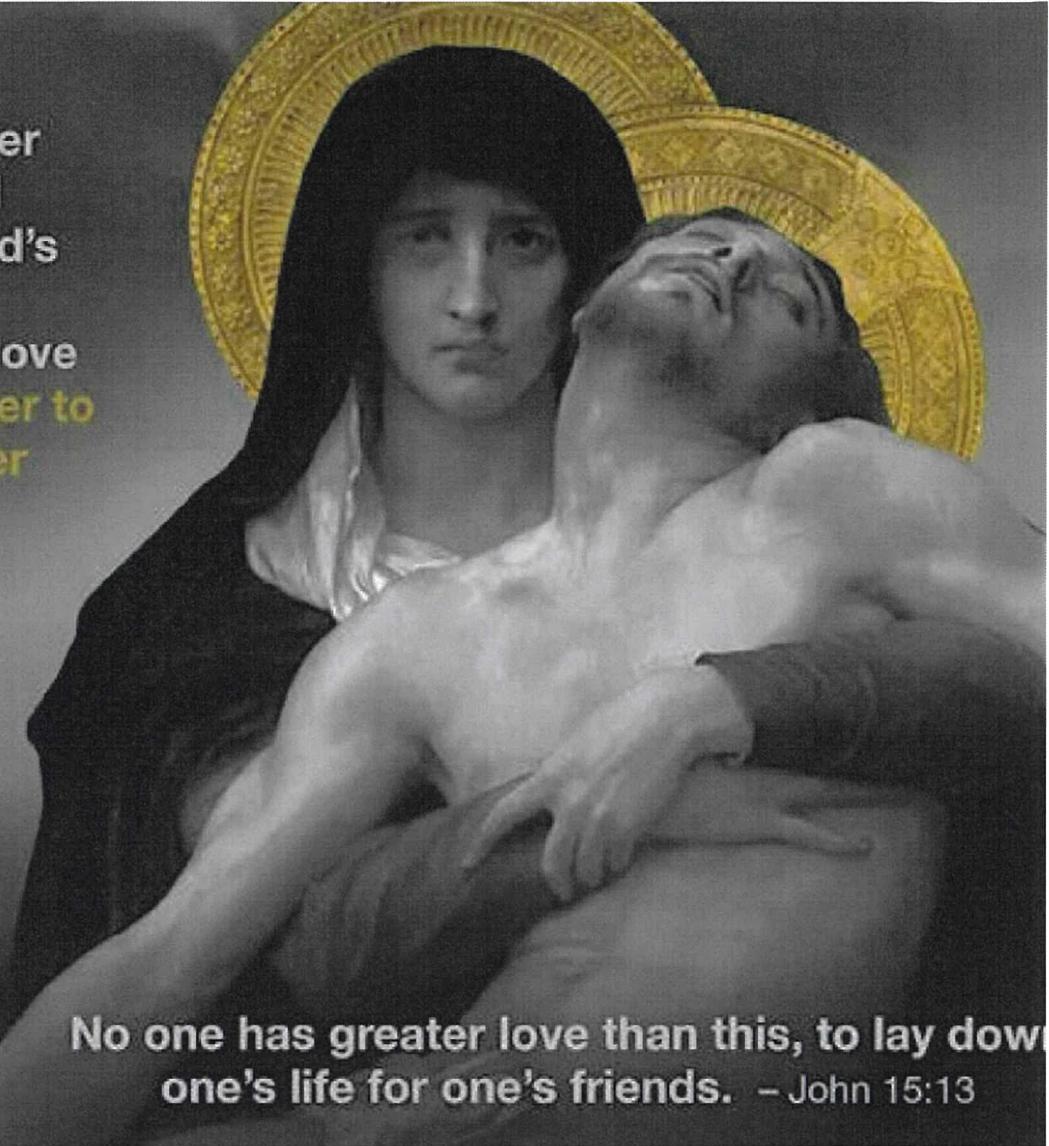
Skip bins available in
2, 3, 5, 7+ metres

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

We also have equipment and people to help you clean up
Call Joey for a bin delivery / quote

0428 713 708

Rubbish@littleredskips.com.au



Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you - **grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before!**



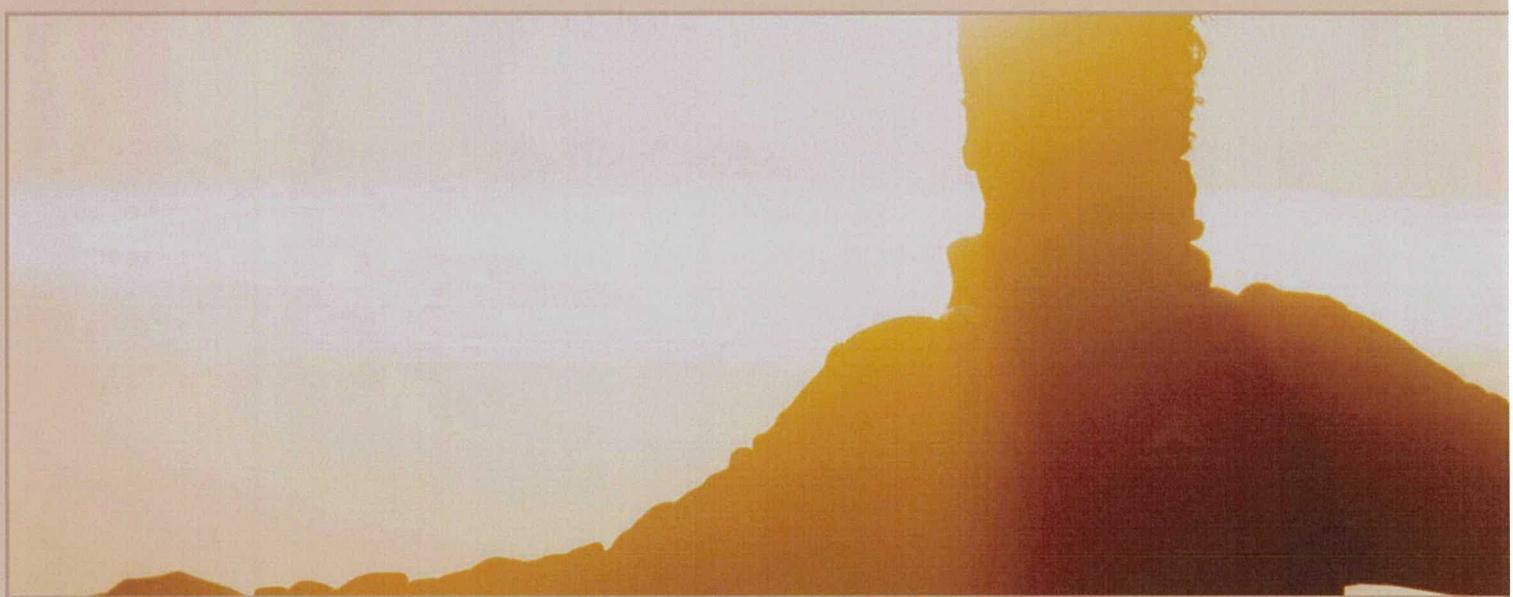
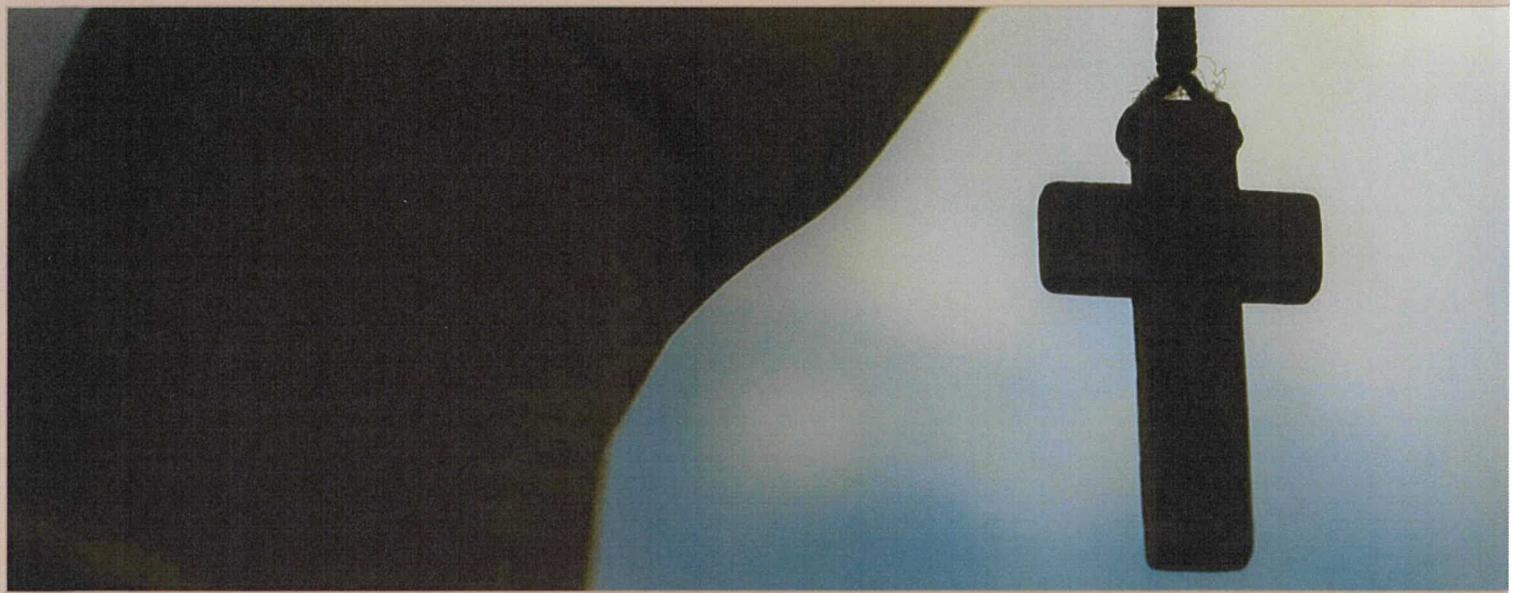
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. – John 15:13

NO GREATER LOVE

A LENTEN TALK

Join Charbel Raish, author of "How Islam Led Me to Christ," for a powerful Lenten reflection developed by Dr. Edward Sri.

This biblical journey walks with Jesus through the final days of his life — from the Garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary — drawing on Scripture, Old Testament prophecy, historical context to reveal the depth of Christ's sacrifice and the extraordinary love poured out for us.



LENT 2026

Along the track

Cradles of Hope

The school bell has been silent for these last weeks but now it is inviting this community to gather for another year, another adventure, to more challenges. A school doesn't work, it can't fulfil its purpose without a community, students, parents, carers, teachers and those who make it a place of welcome, support and adventure. I went to a small country primary school. There were eighteen of us there and it was a wonderful education. But then, some years later the numbers dropped and the school was closed and the heart and soul of the community went with it. We had no place to gather, no reason to raise funds or raise fun either. Schools can be and should be much more than just about the three Rs.

I read this definition of a person many years ago:
I am a person - I am unique
I have a unique set of experiences,
I am a combination of needs and possibilities,
Dread and desire, smiles and frowns,
Laughter and tears, fears and hopes
An inexhaustible resource of possibilities.

We are complex creatures, and we carry a lot with use – gifts and talents, memories, some baggage we perhaps would best discard and so on, but underneath it all, we are an inexhaustible resource of possibilities, no matter what age.

As parents or carers and as teachers too, we want our children to enjoy a full and happy life, to experience all the wonderful things this world has to offer. We want them to feel safe, that they can step out into the unknown, to try new ways and experiences. That's what education is about. We want them to learn the skills to manage through the hard times and the good times, exploring possibilities and what life has to offer. We are all on about making a life, rather than just making a living.

A school community prepares them for life by giving them an experience of life. So what kind of message do we speak in our homes and in our schools? In the world we parents, teachers and all those who work here show them, is it a place where our students meet God and are formed by God? Do they come to know that God loves them here? Is this a place of imagination, a place of wonder and celebration? Do we help our children imagine what world they might create? Way back in around the 550 BCE the prophet Jeremiah wrote these words that God had spoken to him to tell the people:

I know the plans I have in mind for you... It is Yahweh who speaks... plans for peace, not disaster, reserving a future full of hope for you. (Jeremiah 29 11-13)

In our homes and in the school, will our students come to know that? Schools should be places that challenge the imagination of the community they serve. Imagination has the capacity to surprise and delight not just the students. Such an education can be both life-giving and a powerful instrument of hope in a troubled world. What do we hope our students will experience in their time with us? And how do we encourage them to hope, to dream of better things, how do we help them come to know that they can make a difference? In a world where so many young people feel powerless and disconnected, each action to connect them to each other, to their communities, to show them that their future is not predetermined, can make a difference. By intentionally fostering a sense of belonging, purpose, and exploring pathways to the future, parents and teachers can help young people rediscover hope. Without wanting to load teachers with more tasks, I wonder what would change if we measured success by the hope and connectedness students carry into the future, as well as by their test scores?

What sort of message do we speak to this place, what words of encouragement, what actions of ours inspire and challenge, comfort and bring hope? Who are with winners we acknowledge and what message does that convey?

What sort of a world are we handing on? The major task of each generation is to prepare the world for the next generation and to prepare the next generation for the world. We bring children into being, we prepare them for life and, in due course, we hand over to them the world we have shaped. But you begin to ask yourself, is the world we are leaving our children better than the world we were given?

But then again, where would life be without a few challenges?

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

15 February 2026 - Year A

"Be reconciled before you offer your gift."

Something to Think About

What does it mean to be a peacemaker? How can you be a peacemaker in your family this week?

The Story

Jesus' message in today's short reading is simple: if we are to be true disciples, it's not so much what we say, but what we do that counts. He is saying to the people, "Don't pretend to be something you are not". Being a peacemaker is one way of showing a commitment to God's Kingdom. Jesus wants us to be peacemakers.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:23-24)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If you are about to place your gift on the altar
and remember that someone is angry with you,
leave your gift there in front of the altar.
Make peace with that person,
then come back and offer your gift to God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Group Discussion

Discuss with the children what it means for them - at their age and stage of development - to live in right relationships with all people and all of creation.

How might you treat people with kindness?

How might you show someone you are sorry?

How might you take care of God's creation so that it stays beautiful for other people to enjoy?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will care for all people and for the environment. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for people we find it difficult to forgive. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for people who show us how to be gentle and loving. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will be peaceful people. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that our actions will match our words as we follow Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 6: We pray for our own needs. (*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*) Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Fill our hearts with love for all people.
Help our actions to match our words as
we do our best to follow you.
Amen.

Video (optional)

Click to watch the video: [We can be Peacemakers](#)



Group Activity (optional)

I AM A PEACEMAKER

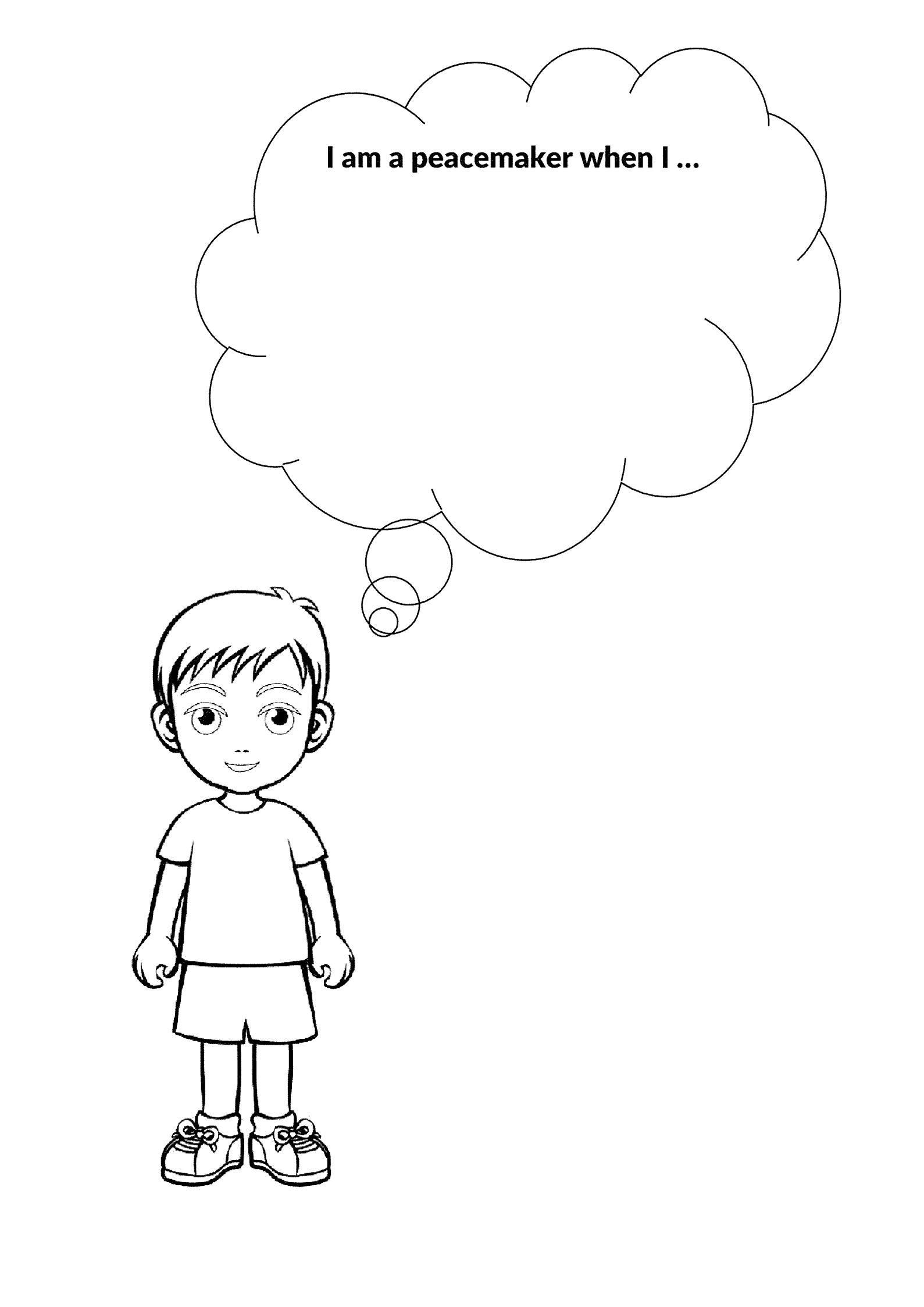
You will need: a worksheet for each child, coloured markers, optional decorative craft items.

- Talk to children about how they might be a peacemaker this week.
- Invite children to draw or write about this on the worksheet in the 'thinking bubble'.
- Children may then colour in the rest of the page.
- There may be time for a sharing session, where children can present their peacemaking ideas.





I am a peacemaker when I ...



I am a peacemaker when I ...

WHAT DOES THIS SIGN MEAN?



JESUS SAYS: MAKE PEACE!

Write or draw a story of how
you made peace with a friend