



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.

Third Sunday of Lent, Year A

First Reading Ex 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' (R.)

Second Reading Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 4:42, 15

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst
again.*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel shorter form

Jn 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:
Give me a drink,
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again:
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall
give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to
eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know;
for salvation comes from the Jews.
But the hour will come – in fact it is here
already –
when true worshippers will worship the Father
in spirit and truth:
that is the kind of worshipper
the Father wants.
God is spirit,
and those who worship
must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'



Holy Hour on Thursday, March, 12
is cancelled due to the
Syro-Malabar Community's Annual
Retreat being held in the Church
from 5:30pm–8:30pm.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Jesus successfully gains the woman's attention by ignoring these social taboos but she fails to fully understand his reference to 'living water'.

The reference to the woman's five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. This reference is followed by another fact that set Jews and Samaritans apart: the Samaritans worshipped God on a local mountain, Mt Gerazim, whilst the Jews held that true worship could only take place in Jerusalem. Jesus dismisses this major difference between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law.

Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.

Our Parish Office
will be closed on
Monday, March 9.



ST BRENDAN'S PARISH
 121 Knight Street, Shepparton
 Phone: 5821 2633
 Email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
 Website: catholicparish.app/shepparton
 Facebook: sheppartoncatholic
 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 Mar 14 & Mar 15, 2026

6pm	Damien Sullivan	Anthony Kilmartin
8am	Sara White	Paul White
11am	Angel Vales	TBC

Recently Deceased: Sr. Shirley Kimbal FcJ, Guiliana Marogy, Susan Jelliff
Anniversaries: Salvatore Mangiameli, Adrian Scali, Keith Hendy, Iona Marlene Hines (Vanessa Madeira's mother), Len Stein, Alma Rose Gawne, Bernadette Watt

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

Funeral Notice
Sr. Shirley Kimbal FcJ



Shirley's Mass of Christian Burial will be held on **Tuesday, March 17 at 10:30am** at **Our Lady of Good Counsel, Deepdene.**

This will be followed by a burial service at **Melbourne General Cemetery at 1:30pm.**




THIRD SUNDAY of LENT – 8 March
MONORANJON from BANGLADESH

Monoranjon, 47, lives in a coastal village in southwest Bangladesh, one of the regions most affected by climate change. He and his family face extreme heat, cyclones, water scarcity, and rising salinity that is destroying crops and livelihoods. As a result of sea level rise and increasing salinity of crop soil, many farmers in the area have had to supplement or replace their incomes with various aquaculture livelihoods including prawning, crabbing, and fishing. With salinity already leading to severe water shortages, in the dry season many families are at the risk of running completely out of water. Without an increase of support in the coming years, families like Monoranjon's will have no way of escaping the cycle of poverty.




QR code for St Mary's Dookie



QR code for St Brendan's





this Lent

Calling All Actors and Actresses!

We are looking for volunteers to participate in the Good Friday "Stations of the Cross"

re-enactment on Friday, April 3 at 8pm.

If you're interested in acting, helping, or assisting with the Stations, please contact Dale Wright at 0408 216 522.

You can also speak with Dale after the 11 am Mass on Sundays if you'd like to get involved.



SAVE THE DATE

On the Solemnity of St Patrick, a Mass will be celebrated on TUESDAY MARCH 17 at 6pm at St Brendan's.

During this Mass we will also be honouring the Jubilee Migrant Cross that is arriving in Shepparton shortly.

We ask everyone to bring a plate (with food) to share following the celebration at the St Brendan's Pastoral Centre.



Upcoming Formation Training for All Five Parishes

Altar Server Training

📅 Saturday, March 21 & Saturday, March 28, 2026
🕒 10:00am – 1:00pm
📍 St Mel's Church

Please RSVP for catering purposes to St Mel's Parish by Tuesday, March 17 via email at sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Eucharistic Ministers & Sacristans Formation

📅 Saturday, March 28, 2026
🕒 10:30am – 2:00pm
📍 St Brendan's Pastoral Centre

Please RSVP for catering purposes to St Brendan's Parish by Tuesday, March 17 on (03) 5821 2633 via email at shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Snacks and lunch will be provided for both formation trainings.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Tap n Go.

We raised \$1,454 in February 2026 (84 taps) and \$1,173 (71 taps) in February 2025.



MANY THANKS

With the recent receipt of Anthony Kilmartin's resignation, we pause to offer our heartfelt thanks for the dedication and generous spirit he has brought to his role as Pastoral Associate of St Brendan's Parish.

Anthony's ministry among us has been a true blessing.

We are deeply grateful for the witness of faith he has shared within our community — especially through his pastoral visits and his compassionate accompaniment of those journeying through the RCIA Program.

His presence, guidance, and gentle leadership have touched many lives.

Anthony will conclude his employment after almost 14 years with St Brendan's on April 4, the evening of the Easter Vigil — a fitting moment of hope and new beginnings within our Church.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Anthony for his service, and we pray that the Lord continues to guide and bless him abundantly in all that lies ahead.

May God bless you, Anthony

St Brendan's Parish Community



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we mark International Women’s Day, I invite us to look again at the Gospel and notice the women who surrounded Jesus throughout his life and ministry.

Women were disciples, prophets of faith and witnesses. Mary of Nazareth opened her heart to God’s plan with courage. The Samaritan woman dialogued with Jesus in theological reflection and became a missionary to her community.

Women remained steadily with Jesus at the Cross.

Mary Magdalene was entrusted with proclaiming that Christ was risen. These are examples that remind us women have always lived out their faith with responsibility, agency, and a deep sense of mission.

Across Australia today, women continue to witness to God’s care and compassion whilst carrying immense responsibility.

Women lead organisations and classrooms, serve in health care and public life. Women raise children, care for the elderly, contribute to our economy, and sustain the life of the Church.

In rural communities, in cities, in remote regions, women’s participation and leadership is grounded, steady and often sacrificial.

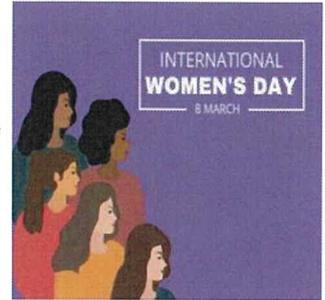
May Mary, Mother of the Church, guide us with her strength and faith.

And may we continue to grow into our Church in Australia where the dignity and capacity of every woman is not only affirmed but fully lived out in the mission of Christ.

With prayers and hope,

Bishop Michael Morrissey of Geraldton

Bishop Delegate for Women, Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry



NEW ROSTERS for the months of April, May, June 2026

Please let the Parish Office know by

Thursday, March 12, if you would like any

changes to your current roster.

If we don’t hear from you, we will assume your availability remains the same.

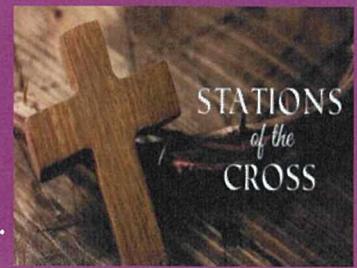
The following Ministries are rostered:



- Minister of Communion
- Reader
- Commentator
- Offertory
- Communion to the Sick and Housebound
- Greeters and Ushers

We thank everyone for their time and effort in being part of these important roles within our Parish.

Stations of the Cross will be held at St Brendan’s Church each Friday at 6pm, commencing February 27 until March 27.



CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL SANDHURST

“The Harvest of the Spirit of God”

Healing Day

Charismatic Mass celebrated by

Fr Arun Korlakanti



Spiritual Chaplain CCR Sandhurst

Saturday March 21, 2026

9.30 cuppa, 10.00am-3.30pm

St Brendan’s Knight St, Shepparton at Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre

Lunch: Please bring a plate to share

All welcome

An offering will be taken up

Contact: Brigita Hore: 0412 042 196

Mary Zobec: 0427 190 282 Denise Illot: 0407 506 813

Our RCIA Group at the Rite of Selection

Congratulations to all involved, and best of luck on your journey!



Little Red Skips



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

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Call Joey for a bin delivery / quote
0428 713 708
Rubbish@littleredskips.com.au

All Sacristans and ladies who help around the Church are invited to join us for a cuppa at Parklake on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10.00am, including **March 14.**

Enquiries to Kath 0409 003 420

