

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.

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

13 November 2022

First Reading Mal 3:19-20

The sun of righteousness will shine on you.

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:5-9. R. see v.9

(R.) The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

1. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. *(R.)*
2. Let the sea and all within it, thunder; the world, and all its peoples.
Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy at the presence of the Lord. *(R.)*
3. For the Lord comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the world with justice and the peoples with fairness. *(R.)*

Second Reading 2 Thes 3:7-12

Do not give anyone food who refuses to work.

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 21:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.
Alleluia!*

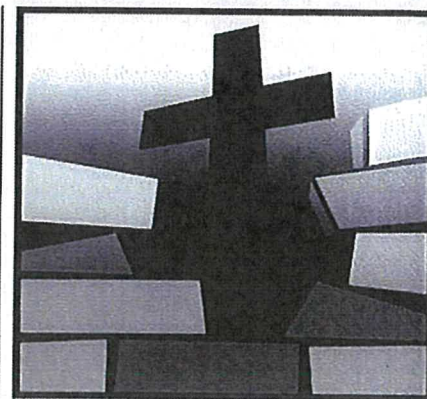
Gospel Lk 21:5-19

Your endurance will win you your life.

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week marks the final week of Ordinary Time in the Church's liturgical calendar and draws us almost to the end of our Journey through the gospel of Luke. Next week's reading of the crucifixion concludes the Year of Luke. It is in this context that we need to read today's gospel passage. Jesus and his disciples are gathered around the Temple in Jerusalem in the final days before he is to be put to death. The end is imminent and Jesus takes the opportunity to reassure the disciples that, although they are about to experience a period of distress, betrayal and persecution that will stretch well into the future, ultimately, God's love and mercy will triumph – not only in their own lives but also in the world.

The language of passages like today's gospel can be off-putting at times and can also be seized upon by those who would interpret scripture literally. The graphic descriptions certainly lend themselves to predictions of gloom and doom. However, we must also remember that the gospel was written some 50 or more years after the death of Jesus. At the time of writing, many of these things had already come to pass. The message for the community who were suffering through these very experiences is that they should not despair because all of this was anticipated by Jesus and that ultimately the reign of God will come about and the effort and distress that they have endured will be vindicated.

Unfortunately, the lectionary has the passage concluding at verse 19; the complete passage continues on for another 17 verses and so we don't get the full effect of Jesus' speech. In the latter portion, Jesus assures the disciples that the kingdom will surely come to pass. It is a promise that we affirm every time we say the Creed.

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ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS



121 Knight Street, Shepparton
Phone: 5821 2633 | Email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
Website: sheppartoncatholic.org.au
Facebook: sheppartoncatholic
Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor
Priest in Residence: Fr Varghese Vithayathil
Associate Priest: Fr. Jackson Saunders
Deacon: Francois Baguma
Office Manager: Diane Teitzel
Child Safe Officer: Jason Giuliani Ph: 5821 2633
Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm



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

Recently Deceased: Michelangelo Sacco,
Melien Groat (Fr Paul Sireh's sister)

Anniversaries: Marie Wardle, Margaret Shannon

Readers & Commentators 19 & 20 November 2022

6pm	M. Keyte	D. Sullivan
8am	P. Guthrie	D. Teitzel
11am	P. Richardson	L. Richardson

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.



Our Parish RCIA process continues to meet Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in the MPJC.

Anyone wishing to join the process is very welcome.
For more information: Anthony 5821 2633 (Tues and Thurs)

Mass Intentions for November ... These will be prayed for at Masses during the month of November. There are yellow envelopes on the table at the back of the church and piety store area for you to write your intentions. Please hand to the Office.



2022 SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

We are pleased to announce that with the help of some lovely ladies who have offered to host it this year, this luncheon will return:



Tuesday November 29

We will commence with an anointing Mass at 11am. The luncheon will follow in the Monsignor Peter Jeffrey Centre at 12 noon.

RSVP by Friday 25th November to the Parish Office on 5821 2633 or shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

REMEMBRANCE BOOK

For the month of November the Remembrance book will be on the table in the Piety Store entrance of the Church. You are invited to enter the names of your loved ones at any time throughout the month. Our special Remembrance book for babies is also located in this entrance near the beautiful enclosed Remembrance Garden.

FOOD FOR FAITH

All Souls' Day and the Mystery of Immortality

Near death experiences, the loss of a loved one, other out-of-body occurrences point toward the truth that we are meant to be born out of this world into a higher one, even though this transition is often a traumatic one. The reality that our mind wants not just particular truths, but the Truth itself, indicates our orientation to God. We *are* our bodies, rooted in this world, but we are more than our bodies.

<https://www.wordonfire.org/videos/sermons/all-souls-day-and-the-mystery-of-immortality/?queryID=5d1b6dcb111ae180a862adee5ec92e10>



Church and Home Visitation rosters for 2023

Please contact the Parish office on 5821 2633 or email shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au of any changes for the next roster period.

- ♦ January - June (incl) for church
- ♦ January - March (incl) for Home Visits.

Please make contact by Friday, December 2. Thank you



PIETY STORE

Don't forget to check out the Christmas Cards, Baptism Packs, Sunday Missals, Columban Calendars, Rosary Beads, Prayer Cards, Statues and Medallions.



Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & **11am** **PRAYING WITH CHILDREN**
SUNDAY LITURGY

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

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

Holy Hour— Thursdays 7pm to 8pm

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.10am



PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME

Reconciliation Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament— Fridays 5pm to 6pm



The Sacrament of Baptism for older children

Would you like your child to be Baptised?
Is your child at primary school, in Year 3 or higher?

At St. Brendan's Parish, families with a child/ren in Year 3 or higher requesting the Sacrament of Baptism will need to enrol their child/ren in the Parish Sacramental Program.

Children will be Baptised prior to the program beginning and complete their initiation into the Catholic Church by celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist at the end of the program.

The Sacramental Program is held once a year and starts in Term 1.

In 2023 Sacrament of Baptism preparation is being held in late January and the children will be Baptised in February 2023.

For more information or to enrol your child please contact Laura **before December 4, 2022** by phone 5821 2633 (Wed 9am-2pm) or email sacramental.coord@bigpond.com

CCR SANDHURST RENEWAL DAY, Sat Nov 19, 2022



Living a life in the Power of the Holy Spirit
"A journey of faith, fellowship and discovery"
Guest speaker: Adrian Commadeur
Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre, St Brendan's
121 Knight St, Shepparton.

Join us from 9.30 cuppa - 4.00pm. Please bring a plate to share for lunch. All enquiries to; Brigita 0412 042 196 or Mary 0427 190 282.

St Brendan's Friendship Group

It's that time of year again! It will be a good time for everyone to get together for Christmas.

If you are new to the area, this is a perfect opportunity to meet others. Numbers need to be finalised by November 24, so please leave a message for Pat Simpson on 5821 1269 if you're coming!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Venue: The Aussie Hotel,
73 Fryers Street, Shepparton

Time: 12.30pm

Date: Sunday November 27



*Seniors Meals Available

Can you help???

A guitarist is needed to join the 8am Sunday Music Group on a regular basis.

Especially needed over Advent, Christmas / Holy Week. Sheet music, practice times and full instructions will be provided.

Please phone Loretta on 5831 2969 if you can help. Thank you!



Advent is just around the corner beginning on November 27.

The season of Advent is all about preparation. Are we ready in spirit to enter into the miracle of Christmas?

God reaches down to earth, to his people with the gift of his son Jesus.



We are offering the opportunity to be part of an Advent reflection group. We will offer a zoom option, or face to face.

If you would like to prepare your heart to be amazed and surprised by the beauty of God's great gift - Contact Anthony on 58212633. Tues & Thurs or email anthonypastoral@bigpond.com

Fran Smullen will also offer an Advent reflection group, which is focusing around the significant women of the bible. We can easily be connected with them during the season of Advent and also the lives of women in the present day.

If you would like to prepare your heart to receive this Christmas in a new way, please consider joining in with others of our Parish this Advent.

The Parish plans to host some advent activities.



We are looking for a small committee to help coordinate these. Please contact Katie Mills on 0417 504635 if you are interested in assisting with this.

I look forward to the time when nothing can separate me from the love of God – neither death, nor things present, nor things to come, nor anything in creation. Sacred Space

ST. BRENDAN'S ADULT FAITH EDUCATION PRESENTS

TUESDAY
22
NOVEMBER

HOLY MASS, HEARTY MEALS & Heavenly Ministry

An evening with
FR. ADI INDRA

- 6:00 PM Holy Mass at St. Brendan's Church with Choir
- 7:00 PM Pub meals available from the menu at Terminus Hotel, Shepparton
- 7:30 PM Talk from Fr. Adi on 'The Role of the Priest' at Terminus Hotel (Pippins Room)

All Welcome!

No RSVP Needed | \$5 cash per person to cover venue cost
For more information, contact Winona on 0432 865 933

Synod of Bishops: The Continental Stage is here!

Your thoughts and reflections are needed.

We are looking for a mix of lay, religious and clergy to complete the Continental Stage of Synod.

This will entail attendance at one 2 hour meeting, either in person or via Zoom.

Please contact the Project Support Officer, Mission and Pastoral life for more information or to express your interest, leslie.cooper@sandhurst.catholic.org.au by November 18, 2022.

St. John of God Auxiliary CLEARANCE SALE:

26 November 10am - 2pm, St John of God Hospital, Lily Street, Bendigo. Raffle, Toys, Bric-a-brac, Baby / childrens knit wear, handmade quilts and lots more. All at reduced prices. Raffle to be drawn at 1.30pm.

Formation for Mission Officer:

An exceptional opportunity exists to be an integral member of the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Life team. For more information, a copy of the position description and how to apply go to the Employment Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst website:



<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/positions-vacant>
APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 5:00 p.m. 28th November 2022.

Crossword

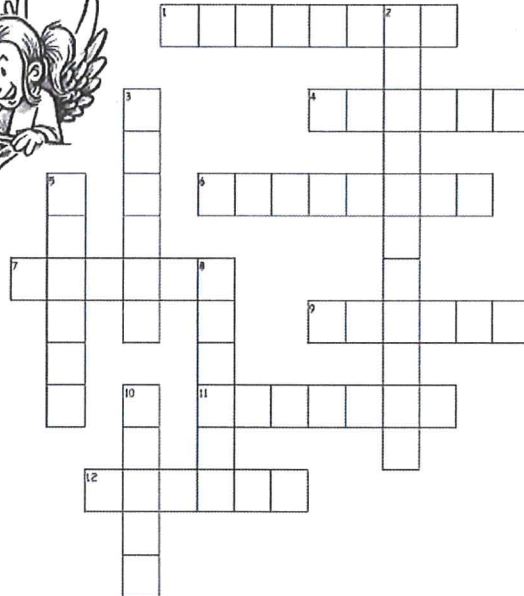


Across

- 1: sicknesses
- 4: the Messiah
- 6: disciplined
- 7: tricked
- 9: to go hungry
- 11: those who are against you
- 12: wise thought

Down

- 2: when the ground shakes
- 3: a place of worship
- 5: carved rocks used to make buildings
- 8: protect
- 10: belief



Lord, as we pray for those who seek reconciliation on the world stage, so do we pray for those in every community. Teach us when to climb down from our embattled certainties in search of even a hard and bitter peace. Teach us how to soften the bitterness through continual attempts at reconciliation. And teach us when to defend our truth unto the very end.

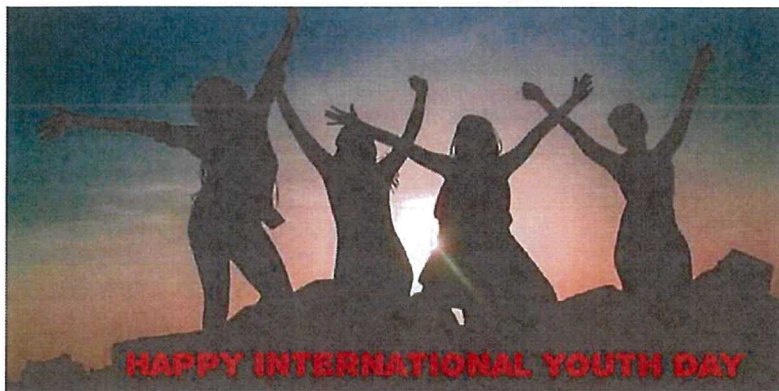
**Lest we forget, lest we forget:
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**



No foreign notes and coins please

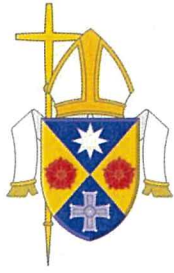
Thank you to all those who give generously to our collection each week at Mass. We would appreciate it if you do not place any foreign notes and coins on the plate please—we cannot bank them. Thank you

Would you like to advertise your business in our bulletin? Please contact Diane on 5821 2633 or email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au



HAPPY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Saturday 19 November 2022—Sandhurst Diocese



Sandpiper e-News

WHEN IN ROME

METHODIST - ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION MEETS IN ROME

Wearing his hat as Catholic Co-Chair of the Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission (MERCIC), Bishop Shane and fellow MERCIC members met in Rome for a week of dialogue. At the end of the week, they met with Pope Francis to present the quinquennial report for the 11th round of 5-year dialogue: *"God Reconciling in Christ on the way to Full Communion in Faith, Sacraments and Mission."*



Addressing Pope Francis, Bishop Shane introduced the focus of the 12th dialogue which will continue for the next five years:

"Our focus in this round of dialogue is on models of unity in belief and mission. Encouraged by the World Methodist Council's concern to promote mission and inspired by your own emphasis on the call to each of the baptised to live as missionary disciples, we are exploring the structures and processes of faith and communion that enable and support the flourishing of the Church's mission."

In reflecting on these structures in our ancient, shared tradition, we are very mindful of the forthcoming 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. At the same time, in the more recent practices of our particular traditions, we are reflecting on the theological significance of the synodal path on which you are leading the Catholic Church, and of the various conferencing processes that are so well established in the Methodist Churches for shared discernment and decision making."

There have been 11 dialogues since MERCIC was established in 1967. In 2017, acknowledging the work of MERCIC on its 50th anniversary, Pope Francis said, "After fifty years of patient dialogue we are no longer strangers, but rather, through our shared Baptism, members of the household of God". Pope Francis continued, "True dialogue, gives us courage to encounter one another in humility and sincerity as we seek to learn from each other. We cannot grow in holiness without growing in communion."

Addressing MERCIC Members, Pope Francis said, "... may your discussions be a gift for Christians everywhere to become ministers of reconciliation. Let us prepare ourselves with humble hope and concrete efforts for that full recognition which will enable us to join one another in the breaking of bread together."

The Commission has 16 members, 8 Methodist members and 8 Catholic members who meet in person each year. Three of the current members are Australian: Bishop Shane, Fr Gerard Kelly (Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney), Rev. Glen O'Brien (Uniting Church in Australia, which is an ongoing member of the World Methodist Council). Every five years, the commission selects a theme for its 5-year cycle of dialogue and produces a theological report as fruit of this dialogue.

SYNODALITY TOP OF AGENDA FOR POPE, ARCHBISHOP COSTELLOE

Australian Bishops Conference President, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, has been in Rome to assist with the ongoing work of the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. While there, he met with Pope Francis and discussed the Church's embrace of synodality, which he said was lived out through the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia – of which he was also President.

Archbishop Costelloe, whom Pope Francis appointed President of the Plenary Council in 2018, was in Rome to take part in the drafting of the working document for the next phase of the journey towards the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

The document will form the basis for the discernment to be undertaken at the continental level in the coming months.

This discernment, in turn, will help shape the drafting of the *instrumentum laboris* – the preparatory document that will contribute to the discussions during the formal sessions of the Synod next October.



In a private audience with Pope Francis, Archbishop Costelloe explained that the formal “acts” of the Plenary Council, the outcome of four years of nationwide prayer, listening, dialogue, discernment and eventually decision making, will be received by the Bishops Conference at its November plenary meeting.

They will then be forwarded to the Holy See for consideration.

“The Holy Father expressed great interest in the work of the Plenary Council,” Archbishop Costelloe said. “I was able to explain to him that the Council had moments of challenge and tension, which we navigated with prayer and dialogue, but it now holds great hope for the renewal of the Church in Australia.

“I told Pope Francis that the Church in Australia, notwithstanding the many challenges it faces, is alive and vibrant. Pope Francis was particularly pleased to hear of this vitality.”

Reflecting on his time in Rome, which included meetings with key officials from Vatican offices, Archbishop Costelloe expressed his gratitude that the experience of synodality, “which emerged as such a strong feature of the Plenary Council in Australia”, had been recognised and received as a valuable contribution to the journey that the Church throughout the world is undertaking.

“It is clear to me,” Archbishop Costelloe said, “that Pope Francis is absolutely committed to this path towards the more truly synodal Church to which the Lord is calling us, which is the Lord’s particular gift to the Church at this time.”

“It was an honour to be able to share our experience with him.”

Archbishop Costelloe also met with Australia’s Ambassador to the Holy See, Chiara Porro, during his time in Rome.

GLOBAL COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY OF SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD WELCOMES BISHOP SHANE

Florence: The Community of the Sons and Daughters of God has recently enjoyed the company of Sandhurst visitors. In early September, they welcomed Bishop Shane to their community, where he immersed himself in community life. Then at the end of the month, they welcomed Fr Jackson Saunders. **Br Massimo**, who usually lives in community in Dookie, shares their news ...

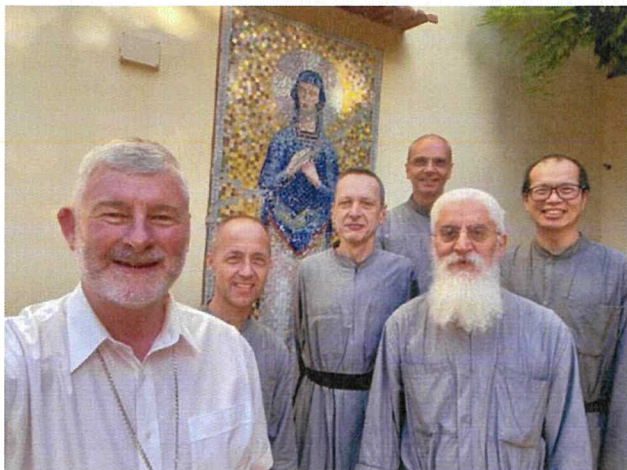
By **Br Massimo**

We were delighted to have Bishop Shane visit us in Florence for a few days. It was a beautiful time of friendship and sharing. We appreciated, most of all, Bishop Shane’s friendliness, down-to-earth character, his sensitivity and understanding of our spirituality, and of religious communities in general.

Bishop Shane was able to visit three of our monasteries (or “houses of common life”): Casa San Sergio, which is our motherhouse; Our Lady of Sasso, which is a beautiful Marian Shrine in the hills of Tuscany, built during the Renaissance; and Casa Trasfigurazione, which is the home of our Sisters.

The first day of Bishop Shane’s visit, he and our superior general, Fr Agostino, engaged in an enlightening conversation about our Father Founder and the charism of our community, which Bishop Shane understood perfectly in spite of the fact that Fr Agostino spoke only in Italian!

Later that evening, Br Daniele accompanied Bishop Shane for some sightseeing in Florence. The main attraction was the Church of San Miniato al Monte, probably one of the most beautiful churches in all of Florence. San Miniato al Monte is a romanesque Church, located near Piazzale Michelangelo, a large piazza where there is a breathtaking view of Florence.



Bendigo goldfields, Dr Henry Backhaus. **Bishop Shane** shares an overview of his visit.

I was hosted with great warmth and generosity by Bishop Matthias König, Auxiliary Bishop of Paderborn, who has visited Sandhurst twice and is well-known to many from the Diocese who have visited Paderborn over the years. I joined Bishop König at Saturday evening vespers and concelebrated the Vigil Mass in the Cathedral, which is dedicated to Mary, St Liborius and St Kilian.

On Sunday, I concelebrated a pilgrimage Mass arranged by the Knights of Malta at the Wallfahrt Church of the Assumption in Werl and then, in the afternoon, attended the installation of a new parish priest in Büren. In a fortunate coincidence, the new assistant priest in the Büren parish was one of the two Paderborn priests who had been in Australia at the time of my episcopal ordination and had represented the Archdiocese at the ceremony.

On Monday, I had the opportunity to visit the secretariat of the German Bishops' Conference and meet with some of those coordinating the 'Synodal Path' in Germany. They were very interested to hear about the experience of the recent Plenary Council in Australia.

On the final day, I met with the mayor of Paderborn before a tour of the Cathedral and the Archdiocesan seminary. That evening, I was hosted by the family of Christopher Müller. Christopher had been working with Sandhurst Youth Ministry for his gap-year when his plans were abruptly interrupted by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The visit to Paderborn was a very welcome opportunity for me to personally renew the connections that have been built up over the decades with the Archdiocese of Paderborn. Our Diocese is fortunate to have such strong links in the present with the original home of our earliest priest.

RUTH REFLECTS ON RELEASE OF INTERIM REPORT, AND CONSULTATION PHASE OF SMPC

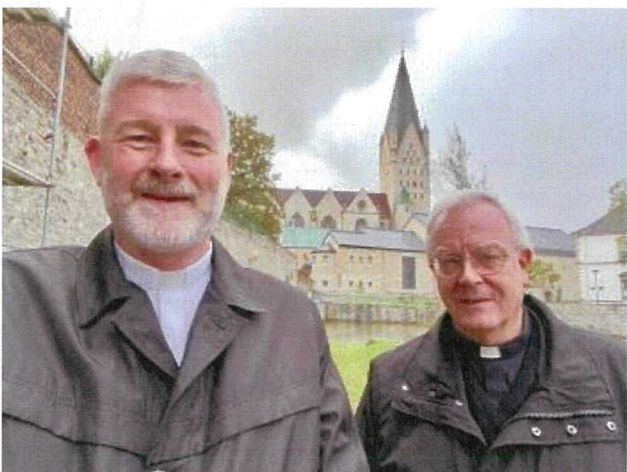
As the interim report on the consultation Phase of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC) is released this week, **Ruth Lawlor** reflects on her encounters with parishioners from across Sandhurst. Ruth writes, "The data is interesting, insightful and worth looking at. The final report, when it is finished, will prove invaluable for the creation of the new Mission and Pastoral Council ... But for me, the data

The next day, Fr Bernardo, the superior of Our Lady of Sasso, gave Bishop Shane a tour of the Church, monastery and grounds, explaining the history and the Marian apparitions that took place. For lunch, an Italian lay member of our community, Carmela, prepared a five-star meal: pasta with bolognese sauce made with wild boar meat. Spectacular!

The final night, we had dinner together at Casa Trasfigurazione. Towards the end of the dinner, the Sisters asked Bishop Shane if he had any words of encouragement for our Community. He replied saying that a strong point of our community is our relationship with the laity and encouraged us to continue along those lines. We are grateful to him for his reassuring words.

Unfortunately, Fr Doroteo was not in Florence at the time of Bishop Shane's visit.

BISHOP SHANE VISITS PADERBORN, HOME OF DR HENRY BACKHAUS



Bishop Shane with Bishop Matthias König in Paderborn City Square.

In mid-September, Bishop Shane spent several days visiting the Archdiocese of Paderborn in Germany, which has a long connection with the Diocese of Sandhurst, as it was the home of the first priest on the

and the report is only one small part of what we have gained through our travels.”

By Ruth Lawlor

When the Second Assembly for the Plenary Council ended, many members breathed a sigh of relief. They knew their role in the Council was, for the most part, finished. But for me there was a different feeling. Finally, we were able to move beyond the national conversation about the realities and future of the Catholic Church towards a more practical implementation stage within Sandhurst.

So, Chris Cotter and I began travelling around the Diocese to meet with people in parishes as part of the Preparation and Consultation phase for a Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC).

An interim report on the findings of these Preparation and Consultation Meetings has been made available this week for anyone who would like to read it. It details some of the data we have gathered during our meetings so far. The data is interesting, insightful and worth looking at. The final report, when it is finished, will prove invaluable for the creation of the new SMPC and help provide the new members with a clear snapshot of what Chris and I have heard in our travels. But for me, the data and the report is only one small part of what we have gained through our travels.

The people of Sandhurst are wonderful. They are resilient, hopeful, passionate, caring, and so many other positive things. They are also hurt, disillusioned and worried. In short, they are experiencing a wealth of human responses to the current world we live in. I have gained so much more insight into our Diocese by listening to the stories from our parishioners. Stories of pain and stories of hope. It is the stories that humanise the data. Unfortunately, the report, based on the data we gathered, has been unable to capture these stories. From one parishioner I heard the sorrow they felt after feeling they had said the wrong thing to a parent during a sacramental program. From another I heard the concern that possible membership to a council would be limited if the Diocese does not consider the real commitments people have outside of Church, particularly for those who have full-time employment or are studying. From another parishioner I heard the pain they felt for their grandchild who walked away from the Church due to being a member of the LGBTQI+ community and feeling unwelcome. There are so many stories like this in our Church community that need to be shared and acknowledged.

Not everything we heard told stories of pain, sorrow or concern. There were also the stories of people finding community in their parish after the death of a spouse, or a loved one. Stories of parish communities rallying around someone when they were in need. There were stories of volunteers and parish groups sharing meals and coming together to share their lives. And that is, to me anyway, what a Parish should be; a place we can belong in both the highs and lows of our lives. These stories reminded me to not only tell the stories of hurt in our Church. We all need to share and listen to the stories of hope that exist.

And this doesn't even touch on what we have been learning from students in the Secondary Schools we have visited so far. Maybe I'll save that for another reflection, but the responses have not been all that different from what we've heard in the parishes.

So, what do all these stories have in common? Whether they are stories of pain or joy, or a combination of both, they have all reminded me that everyone who has attended one of the Planning and Consultation Meetings loves our Church. We may not always like it, but we still love it. And that love comes with a sense of hope that maybe we, as the Body of the Church, can do better in the future. It can be easy to focus on the challenges we face, but what I am hearing as I travel around and meet with people is that I need to remember to focus on the hope; I am going to continue seeking out stories of hope in our Diocese for our Church. And when I see you next, I hope that you know I would love to hear your story as well.



Ruth Lawlor and Dr Chris Cotter in Benalla with FCJ College students and teachers in early August 2022.

BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Across the Diocese on Migrant and Refugee Sunday, (25 September), we remembered the difficult journeys which migrants and refugees have made to start a new life in Australia. We acknowledged the heartbreak in leaving home and the challenges of being new in a land with a different culture and even

language. We also celebrated the gifts migrants and refugees bring to Australia, enriching our life with “beautiful diversity”, as Pope Francis has called it in his recent message for this day.

“... the arrival of Catholic migrants and refugees can energise the ecclesial life of the communities that welcome them. Often they bring an enthusiasm that can revitalise our communities and enliven our celebrations. Sharing different expressions of faith and devotions offers us a privileged opportunity for experiencing more fully the catholicity of the People of God.”

Pope Francis in his letter, “Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees”, for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2022.

Pope Francis writes of migrants and refugees as people who must be fully included in our society, and assisted to reach their full potential, so that they can bring their gifts and join us to build God’s Kingdom.

“ ... history teaches us that the contribution of migrants and refugees has been fundamental to the social and economic growth of our societies. This continues to be true in our own day. Their work, their youth, their enthusiasm and their willingness to sacrifice enrich the communities that receive them. Yet this contribution could be all the greater were it optimised and supported by carefully developed programs and initiatives. Enormous potential exists, ready to be harnessed, if only it is given a chance.”

FILIPINO STREETFOOD FIESTA

St Kilian’s Parish, Bendigo celebrated Migrant and Refugee Sunday with Mass followed by a spectacular Filipino Streetfood Fiesta. In his Homily, Parish Administrator, Fr Junray Rayna, humorously shared a story of his first arrival in Australia and then reminded parishioners that every one of us is a traveller and that all of us bring gifts to enrich the tapestry of our communities.

St Kilian’s Church was bursting at the seams on Migrant and Refugee Sunday. Members from Filipino communities far and wide came to join the celebrations, which started with Mass concelebrated by Fr Junray and Mons. Frank Marriott. In his Homily, Fr Junray, who is from the Philippines, shared his first experience of coming to Australia.

Randomly held up by Australian Border Force Officers, Fr Junray was shown a series of papers. The first in Chinese, to which Fr Junray

nodded his head gesturing, “No, that is not my language”, then Bahasa, to which he again said, “No that is not my language”. This went on a few more times until finally Fr Junray mustered the courage to say, in a very polite and nervous voice, “I can speak English.” Of course, the congregation laughed at the punchline, but they also understood the clear message that we should be careful not to make assumptions about people from other places.

Fr Junray said that we all take our culture with us wherever we go. In Cebu, he remembers seeing Australians who had gathered to watch the “Footie” and he just didn’t understand why it was so important to them. He continued to say that many migrants initially just don’t understand “Footie” or its cultural significance in Australian society. “I was driving through Geelong, and I saw this sign – “Drive carefully, because you’re not a cat. You don’t have nine lives”,” he said. It was only later, that Fr Junray fully understood the meaning of the billboard slogan.



After Mass, the congregation poured out of the Church to enjoy an array of Filipino streetfood and song. Fr Junray expressed his gratitude to the many wonderful, hardworking and generous people who supported the St Kilian’s Parish Day, including the Bendigo Filipino Community Choir.

MULTICULTURAL SUNDAY NUMURKAH

Parishioners at St John’s in Numurkah had a wonderful time celebrating the gifts migrants have brought to parish life. First with prayer at Mass, then sharing food, song and good company outdoors in the beautiful sunshine, *writes Kerry Stone*.

By Kerry Stone

The last Sunday in September was Sunday at St John’s. Not only was it the fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation but it was also the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Each year, St John’s

takes this opportunity to celebrate those from other cultures who have brought their gifts to our community.

And, as well as all that, this Sunday was special because we welcomed Nate George Morton into our parish community as he was baptised during Mass.

Processing in with Fr Jophin Joy, our Parish Priest (from India), were parishioners from Italy, the Netherlands, Canada, Ireland, England, and the Philippines. At the conclusion of Mass, each read this simple prayer in their own language, "We pray for Australia, and for our community here at St John's Parish. May we treasure the gifts of all cultures and work together for the good of all in this beautiful land we are so lucky to live in," to which all responded, "Amen".

Following Mass, 60 parishioners gathered for lunch to share culinary delights from India (prepared by Fr Jophin), the Philippines, Indonesia, Ireland, Canada, the Netherlands and England. Those who prepared the food were invited to describe their dishes before we all enthusiastically lined up to try them.



The food was fabulous and so was the entertainment. Chrissie and two of her Filipino friends had volunteered to sing the Filipino World Youth Day song "Tell the World of his Love," which they did beautifully. This gave courage to others, so then, Soei sang a lovely childhood song in Indonesian; Gino serenaded Carmel and Pat Connellan (who were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary) in magnificent Italian style; Colleen led Kris and Kerry in "We Are Australian" (the crowd joining in for a rousing chorus); then back came our Filipino friends in greater numbers with a couple more songs. All this outdoors on a beautiful Spring Day – a perfect parish community celebration.

ST THERESE OF LISIEUX FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

"Our Lord does not so much look at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them."

St Therese of Lisieux

ST THERESE'S STUDENTS ASPIRE TO BRING GOD'S LOVE TO OTHERS

On 6 October, St Therese's Primary School celebrated the Feast Day of St Therese of Lisieux with Mass followed by the annual St Therese's Awards Presentation.

Addressing the students, Principal Petra Teggelove said, "We can participate in bringing God's love to others in the world through serving God and each other. St Therese teaches us that we do not need to do big acts or make great sacrifices. She shows us how to do the little things in life; the ordinary things in our day and by acting in service for others and doing things with great love. St Therese reminds us that we are already loved by God, simply for being who we are ..."

CONGRATULATIONS TO FR ANDREW FEWINGS



60 years ago, Fr Andrew Fewings received his First Holy Communion at St Therese's Church Kennington, where he is now Parish Priest. He remembers it was close to the Feast Day of St Therese and said the St Therese's banner, which is now in the

narthex of the Church, was made especially for the occasion by Sr Kathleen.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

Saint Francis of Assisi, who saw himself as brother of the sun, the sea and the wind, sowed seeds of peace everywhere, and walked alongside the poor, the abandoned, the infirm, the outcast, the least. Let us follow his example!"

Pope Francis added on Twitter (4 October 2022)

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AT ST FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS PRIMARY

There was a buzz of excitement at St Francis of the Fields on 4 October, as the school community gathered with their pets, for the Blessing of the Animals. There were dozens of dogs, a pony and even chickens! During the Liturgy, Fr Andrew Fewings explained that the Feast Day of St Francis is an opportunity to focus on St Francis' message of fraternity and peace.

Principal, Tim Moloney announcing the recipients of the annual St Francis' Awards to students who most exemplify the qualities of St Francis, said that he was proud of all 600 students, who share qualities of St Francis.

NUMBER OF HOMELESS WOMEN OVER 55 EXPECTED TO DOUBLE

A major new report by progressive think tank, Per Capita, has found that homeless women over 55 are expected to double in less than a decade. The report, using data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, forecasts that without significant new policies, more than 15,000 older women will become homeless by 2031. It also found the most recent census data might not truly reflect the extent of homelessness among older women given they are more likely to be in emergency shelter, couch surfing or sleeping in cars.

Executive Director of Catholic Social Services Australia, Ms Monique Earsman, said older women are the fastest growing group among the homeless, making up the majority of social housing tenants, and are the most significant users of specialist homelessness services.

"Older women are a very vulnerable group who, in the event of a relationship breakdown or being widowed late life, can find themselves with little or no superannuation or other financial resources," Ms Earsman said.

"Women and children escaping family violence, single mothers, and older single women are most at risk of falling into homelessness due to a crisis in affordable housing that has been years in the making.

"It is a thin line between having a home or not, between being safe or being in real danger because of homelessness.

"The facts are that providing affordable social and emergency housing which prevents domestic and family violence will require a long-term commitment from governments and the community," Ms Earsman said.

The 'A Home of One's Own' report, commissioned by Australians Investing in Women, a not-for-profit organisation that advocates for philanthropists to invest in women, considers a gender view of the housing crisis.

Social housing stocks have declined markedly over the past three decades, and make up just 3 per cent of all residences, down from 6 per cent in the early 1990s.

While state and federal governments have recently committed more funding to increase the social housing stocks, this alone won't solve the crisis.

Older women make up 19% of public housing and 16% of community housing tenants in Australia, and 45% of older women who rent in the private market spend more than 30% of their income on rental costs.

The report recommended the following actions to mitigate the risk of vulnerable women being homeless:

- more social housing investment by state and federal governments;
- reforms to the rental market to increase the number of genuinely secure and affordable options for those who will never own their own home;
- investment in shared-equity and build-to-rent models;
- establishment of innovative financial models to lend to women; and
- an increase in funding for homes and services for women and children fleeing family violence.

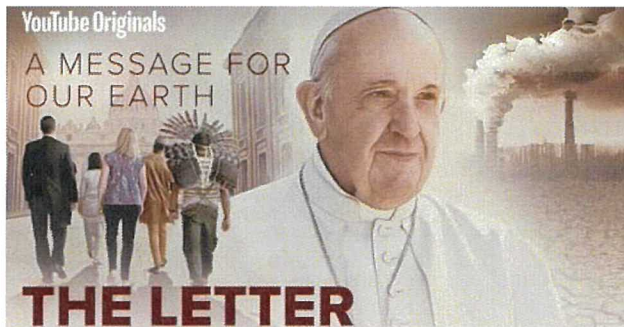


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EASON OF CREATION

The 2022 Season of Creation concluded on 4 October with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology. This global ecumenical celebration encourages over 2.4 billion Christians to pray and take action for our common home. Across our Diocese there were many special Liturgies, educational and active activities, to motivate and inspire, and enhance our awe for creation.

We need to think of the Season of Creation as an injection of motivation propelling us – 12 months of the year – towards achieving the 7 *Laudato Si'* Goals. In doing so, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, St Francis of Assisi, and Pope Francis, responding to the Cry of Earth, and the Cry of the Poor.



"The Letter: A message for our earth", a documentary focusing on Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* is compelling viewing.

This film, directed by a science documentary maker, follows five representatives of "unheard voices" on their journey to Rome to meet with Pope Francis, and evocatively shares their powerful personal stories.

Freely available on YouTube "The Letter" went live hours after its official premiere at the Vatican on 4 October, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi (naturally!).

If you would like to host a screening in your parish, school or community, you can register to receive resources, and your screening will be placed on the 'Screening Map'.



Bishop Shane's Calendar

- **Wednesday 12 October** – College of Consultors
- **Wednesday 12 October** – Catholic Theological College Knox Public Lecture, East Melbourne
- **Saturday 15 October** – Council of Priests, Shepparton
- **Tuesday 18 October** – Marist College Graduation Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 7.00 p.m.
- **Wednesday 19 October** – Permanent Committee, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
- **Thursday 20 October** – Opening Plenary, National Evangelise Conference
- **Sunday 23 October** – Confirmation and First Eucharist, St Joseph's Parish, Benalla, 9.30 a.m.

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PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

13 November 2022 - Year C

"Your endurance will win you your life."

Something to Think About

Can you remember a time when you felt sad or upset? Who helped you to feel better?

The Story

In this gospel reading Jesus is reminding his followers that it isn't easy to be a disciple. In fact, Jesus tells them that they will have hard times in their lives and that terrible things may happen in the world. However, Jesus tells them not to be afraid, but to keep trusting and believing in him.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

21:5-15

Some people were talking about the beautiful stones used to build the temple and about the gifts that had been placed in it. Jesus said, "Do you see these stones? The time is coming when not one of them will be left in place. They will all be knocked down."

Some people asked, "Teacher, when will all this happen? How can we know when these things are about to take place?"

Jesus replied: "Don't be fooled by all those men who will come and claim to be me. They will say, 'I am Christ!' and 'Now is the time!' But don't follow them. When you hear about wars and riots, don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that is not the end.

Nations will go to war against one another, and kingdoms will attack each other. There will be great earthquakes, and in many places people will starve to death and suffer terrible diseases. All sorts of frightening things will be seen in the sky. Before all this happens, you will be arrested and punished. You will be tried in the Jewish meeting places and put in jail. Because of me you will be placed on trial before kings and governors. But this will be your chance to tell about your faith.

Don't worry about what you will say to defend yourselves. I will give you the wisdom to know what to say."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

[Won't Worry 'Bout a Thing](#)



Group Discussion

As a group, brainstorm suggestions about what can be done to make people feel better when they are sad. Even a smile, a friendly 'hello' or a helping hand can sometimes make all the difference to someone who is lonely, upset or in pain.

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 be people who care for others. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for all those who have lost a loved one. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for our families and friends. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will turn to Jesus in difficult times. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will let go of our worries and trust in God. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

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

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Help us to trust in you at all times.
We know we don't have to worry
because you are with us always.
Amen.

Group Activity

Jesus Protects Me

There's no need to worry. Jesus keeps us safe!

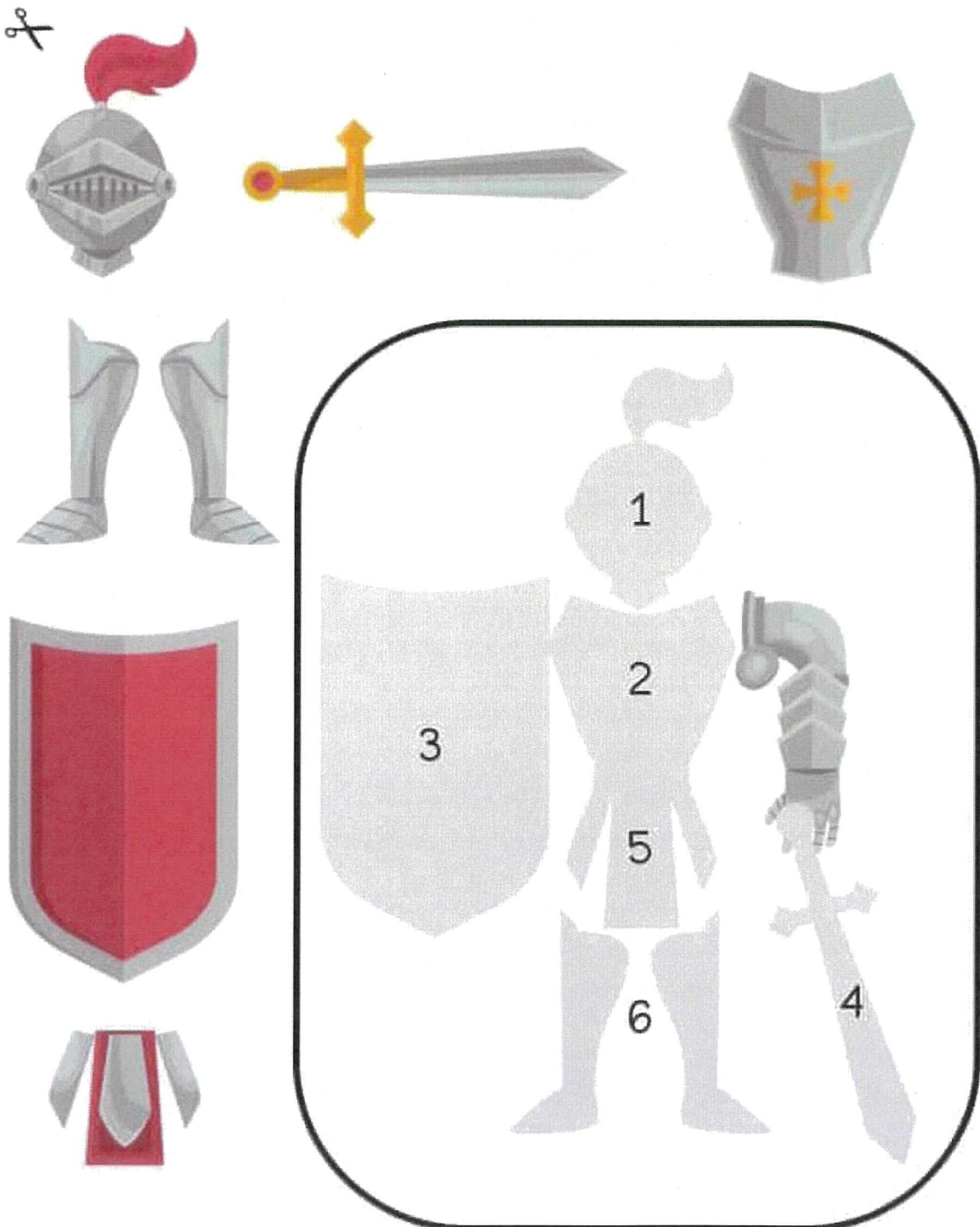
You will need: a template printed on card for each child, scissors, glue, dice.

1. Cut out the pieces of armour.
2. Roll a dice, and collect the matching piece of armour.
3. Glue it onto the person so they are strong and protected.

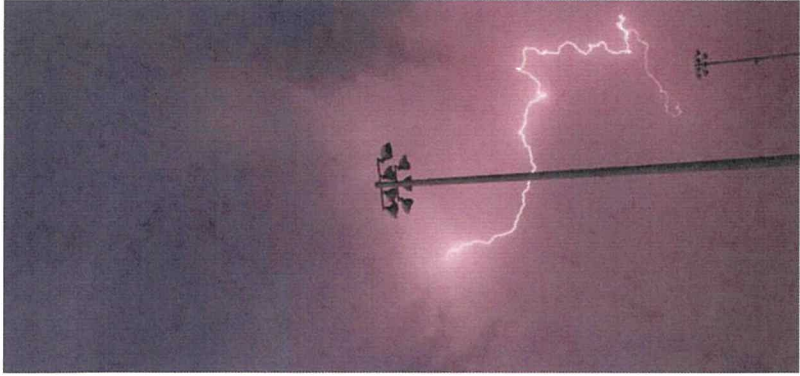


Jesus Protects Me

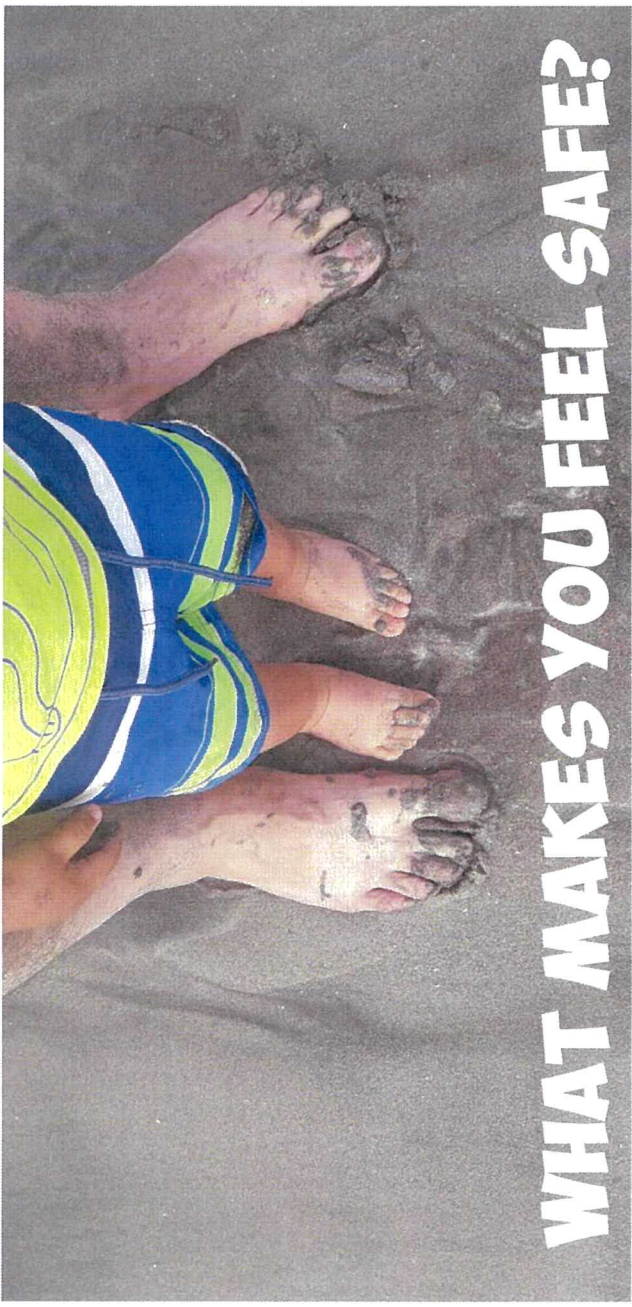
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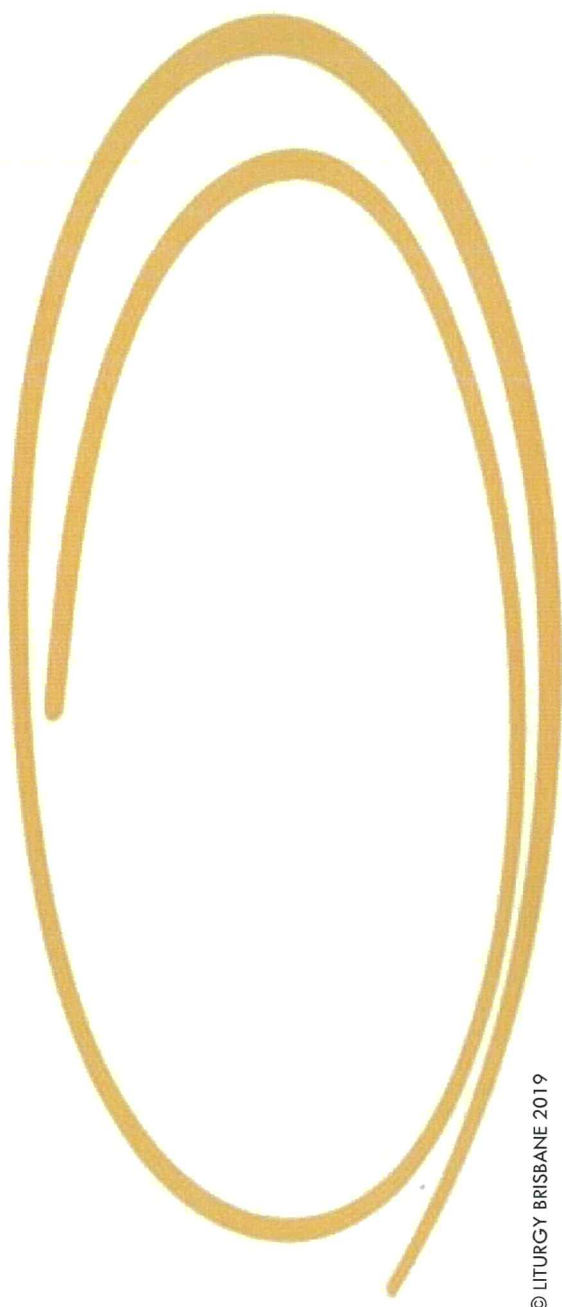
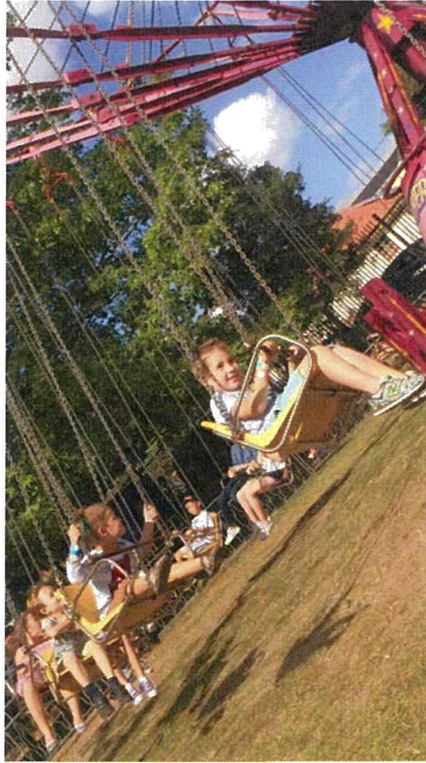
**JESUS SAID, DON'T WORRY!
DO NOT BE AFRAID!**



WHAT MAKES YOU SCARED?



WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL SAFE?



ST. BRENDAN'S ADULT FAITH EDUCATION PRESENTS

TUESDAY
22
NOVEMBER

HOLY MASS, HEARTY MEALS & Heavenly Ministry

An evening with
FR. ADI INDRA

- ✦ 6:00 PM Holy Mass at St. Brendan's Church with Choir
- ✦ 7:00 PM Pub meals available from the menu at Terminus Hotel, Shepparton
- ✦ 7:30 PM Talk from Fr. Adi on '*The Role of the Priest*' at Terminus Hotel (Pippins Room)

All Welcome!

No RSVP Needed | \$5 cash per person to cover venue cost
For more information, contact Winona on 0432 865 933