

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.

Third Sunday of Lent, Year B

7 March 2021

First Reading Ex 20:1-17 (or shorter form Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17)

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
all of them just. (R.)

4. They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:22-25

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

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

***God loved the world so much, he gave us
his only Son,***

***that all who believe in him might have
eternal life.***

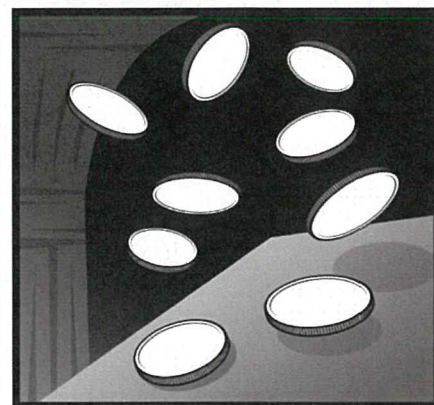
***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!***

Gospel Jn 2:13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The Temple in Jerusalem was (and still is) a powerful symbol of holiness and a symbol of the connection and relationship between God and the Hebrew people. It is often assumed that Jesus' anger was directed at the traders and moneychangers because their business had infringed on and desecrated the temple precinct. But the reality is a bit more complicated. The Temple was the holiest site for sacrifice to God. The tradition dictated that sacrifice made by a priest on the altar was the highest form of worship. The best animal to sacrifice was a healthy, properly formed creature. Rather than walking a lamb all the way from somewhere like Galilee to Jerusalem, the faithful would purchase their sacrificial animal at the Temple itself – thus the presence of the people selling cattle, sheep and doves. However, to further complicate matters, the Temple traders would not accept Roman coins to purchase the sacrificial animals as they bore the image of the deified emperor. Therefore, money changers were required to exchange Roman currency for acceptable coinage – so the money changers were also playing their part in the prayer life of the Temple.

Jesus' outrage is not so much with the traders and the money-changers as with the whole religious practice and hierarchical structure that has developed to a point where the only way a person can pray in a 'valid' way is to purchase an animal and hand it over to a priest who goes behind a screened wall to sacrifice the animal. The only way to seek God's forgiveness and mercy was to 'buy' it at the Temple. This was what outraged Jesus. He could not stomach the injustice nor the barriers that had been erected between the people and their God.

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Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am

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

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation Saturday 10am to 10.30am (Church)

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

This week our RCIA participants will take part in the Scrutinies. The Scrutinies are

a time to look deeper at their decision to join the Catholic faith.

We encourage them and ourselves to scrutinize our heart and see if anything is holding us back from committing wholeheartedly to God. We will present them with a copy of the Creed, which spells out what we believe to be true about our faith.

Please keep them in your prayers as they come closer to fully joining in the life of our faith community.



Child Safety Notice!

The parish was recently examined by external auditors appointed by the



Bishops Conference regarding our Child Safe practices. We were assessed as in "pretty good shape!" Well done us!

Training of volunteers is mandatory every two years and because of Covid 19 we are now *overdue* for this to happen.

If you are on a parish roster as a volunteer in **ANY MINISTRY** you are required to undertake

1 (ONE ONLY) of these training nights.

It will be for approx 40 – 60 minutes. **No pre-booking is required.** Training on "Essentials of Safeguarding" will be held:

**Thursday 11th March at 7:30pm in the Church
OR**

**Thursday 25th March at 6:00pm also in the Church
Thank you and see you there!**

Ministers of Communion

If you are a Minister of Communion, could you please consider volunteering to minister at mass. We need 3 ministers at 6pm and 8am masses and 4 ministers are needed for the 11am mass each week.

Fundraiser for L'Arche home

A Christmas Market will be held later this year (covid permitting) to raise funds for a L'Arche home in Shepparton.

Willing volunteers can contact Denise on 0432 054003 or Gail on 0400 531856 to share ideas, offer support and join a small committee to run the market. An initial meeting will be

**held at 2/16 Barker Avenue
on Friday 26th March at 10am.**

We then hope a fortnightly working bee/craft activity session will be held to make/sew/decorate items to sell at the market.

TAP n Go Donations (Loose Collection)



In the month of February 2021 we received a total of \$704 through our electronic Donation Tap Points located in the Piety Store area and in the Narthex.

THANK YOU to those who have supported St Brendan's Parish in this way.

To break it down further (in February) we received \$176/week = 22 taps/week.

CASH DONATIONS are welcome also and these can be made by placing your money in the baskets provided at the church entrances.

If you would like to come onto the **Parish Planned Giving Programme** or know more about it, please contact the Parish Office on 5821 2633.

AFL Tipping Comp

It's back again for 2021! Tipping is a great way to enjoy the footy season and boost the parish finances. It is fun to compete with your parish priest, family, friends, and fellow parishioners. The first round is just two weeks away (Thursday 18 March). Our tipping comp is on the official AFL website – tipping.afl.com.au. If you haven't played before, all you need is an email address for each family member who wishes to register, and once you have signed up, join our parish comp (Shepparton Parish, invite code WNSZ4U76). Cost per person is \$25, payable to the Parish office by 25 April. We hope that many of you will participate. Please call Ashley 0412475290 if you need any help or have any queries.

“Aspire not to have more, but to be more.” - Saint Oscar Romero

Oliva, 22, could not read, write or count, and her business was losing money. Then she attended Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes, and set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours. Now her classes, business and family are thriving, and she aims to become a pastor and run for local leadership.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Oliva's gain access to education to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone's dignity.

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

EASTER TIME e-WORKSHOP, Dr Mary Healy Tuesday 9 March 2020 7.45 – 9.15 pm (The Office for Mission Renewal, Melbourne). Parish and school leaders and interested individuals are invited to this free workshop for: Music ministry, RCIA, small faith sharing groups, faith development, Plenary Council, liturgy, parish leadership/Parish Pastoral Council, youth/young adult ministry, children's ministry, hospitality/ evangelisation and service/outreach. Register individuals or groups at: www.trybooking.com/BOVXZ by Monday 8 March.

Director, Mission and Pastoral Life, Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, Bendigo

An exciting opportunity exists to become part of the senior leadership of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst. This is a full-time role reporting to the Bishop. APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: 12 March, 2021; CONTACT PERSON: Garry Dewhirst hr@sandhurst.catholic.org.au For more information, a copy of the position description and how to apply. <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/director-of-mission-and-pastoral-life>

Executive Assistant to the Bishop of Sandhurst, Bendigo

An exciting opportunity exists for a highly organised, proactive, and detail-sensitive individual to provide administrative and personal support to the Bishop. This is a full-time role.

For more information, a copy of the position description and how to apply go to the Employment Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst website [Executive Assistant to the Bishop of Sandhurst \(catholic.org.au\)](http://Executive Assistant to the Bishop of Sandhurst (catholic.org.au))

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 2nd April 2021.



Ashley & Vanessa Madeira

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

eyeshopshepparton.com.au
**Personalised thorough eye
Examinations**

FRG Ministry - Holy Week Retreat

FRG Ministry is running an online Holy Week retreat, It is free but places are limited, to register please go to: <https://courses.frgministry.com/register>

2021 LENTEN PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES – Jesuit College of Spirituality Prof Maryanne Confoy rsc, Fr Chris Gleeson SJ, Fr Michael Head SJ, and Frances Tilly. Thursdays 4,11 & 18 March Individual lectures or series. TIMES: 6.00 – 8.00 pm VENUE: Online (RSVP for Zoom link) COST: Free RSVP: 2 days before chosen lecture: enquiries@jcs.edu.au OR 03 9448 8276

A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*: Did you know that each year the Catholic charity, *Aid to the Church in Need*, supports the training of 12,000 seminarians and provides ongoing formation for 8,000 priests. Could you help support a priest or seminarian? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/formation



**Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA**

ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS



121 Knight Street, Shepparton
Phone: 5821 2633 | Email: shepparton@cdos.org.au
Website: sheppartoncatholic.org.au Facebook: /sheppartoncatholic

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor
Priest in Residence: Fr Varghese Vithayathil
Deacon: Rev Francois Baguma
Office Manager: Diane Teitzel
Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm



Christ in community...the heart of our faith

Recently Deceased: Mathew O'Dwyer.

Anniversaries: Judy Cobbledick, Annie Linehan, William Linehan (Snr), William Linehan, Eugene Curtis, Nazzareno Ganino, Peter Clurey, Con & Barbara Zammit, Alma & Arthur Crawford.

Readers & Commentators 13 & 14 March, 2021

6pm	D Tarquini,	C Dainton
8am	P Guthrie,	G Jelliff
11am	P Richardson,	L Richardson

St Brendan's Parish Sacramental Programme 2021

A warm invitation is now extended to families to enrol their children in the 2021 Sacramental Program.

The program is suitable for children who have been baptised or received into the Catholic Church and are 8 years or older.



An information brochure and enrolment form is available on the parish website www.sheppartoncatholic.org.au

[go to the Sacraments Tab and choose Sacramental Program]

OR

Call into the Parish Office [9am - 2pm Monday—Friday] for any assistance.

Enrolments close 21st March.

An information evening is being held in the Mons Jeffrey Centre on the 9th March at 7pm.

ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH

SECONDARY SCHOOL SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

THIS PARISH BASED PROGRAM WILL PREPARE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO WISH TO CELEBRATE THEIR FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION.

THIS PROGRAM WILL BEGIN ON TUESDAY 27TH APRIL.



For more information and to enrol please contact either Jason Giuliani at Jason.Giuliani@NOTREDAME.vic.edu.au or Laura O'Sullivan at sacramental.coord@bigpond.com

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.
- Acts 1:8



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

on every FRIDAY throughout LENT @ 6pm

Our **Men's Group** will meet next Saturday 13th March at 7.30am in the Mons Jeffrey Centre. One of our group will share his story of faith with the group. All are welcome to join us, thanks. **Anthony**

Thank you from *Voice for Silent People*
Voice for Silent People would like to thank Fr Joe and the parishioners of St Brendan's for their recent donation of \$750. Our members greatly appreciate your support and your generosity will assist oppressed and disadvantaged children in the Congo.

An invitation to come along to our

ACTIVITY DAY

SUNDAY 7 MARCH, 2021
12.15 - 2.30PM
IN ST BRENDAN'S PARISH GARDEN & MPJ CENTRE
A JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN ST BRENDAN'S PARISH

2021 Laudato Si' + Conference

Realising the vision of regenerating Earth's community of life

ONLINE

15-17 March 2021 | Celebrating the special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year

About the Conference

In celebrating the journey since the launch of Laudato Si', the Vatican's Dicastery of Integral Human Development has launched the special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year and the seven-year challenge of the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

Against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic, rising sea waters in the Pacific and the collapse of overlapping ecosystems, this moment impels us to go deeper into the implications of the encyclical, celebrate its impact so far and take seriously our urgent responsibilities as people of faith and members of the Church to heal and restore Earth's community of life.

The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, in partnership with the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy at ACU and the CRA Ecology Alliance Committee, invite you to join us as we explore this call in collaboration with a wide range of internationally acclaimed scholars, animators, media personnel and practitioners.

The Process

In the spirit of Laudato Si', the conference is framed by a contemplative process facilitated by Margie Abbott RSM, which will guide participants towards an awareness of emerging, imaginative and transformative outcomes.

Study and Professional Learning

Participation in the conference event can be recognised as contributing towards entry into specified courses at ACU and/or credit for a particular unit in a specified academic course at ACU.

Please [contact us](#) for details.

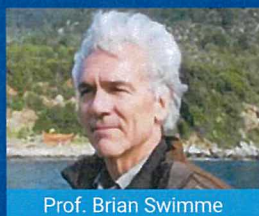
Presenters



Prof. Celia Deane-Drummond



Rev Dr Peter Loy Chong



Prof. Brian Swimme

Professor Celia Deane-Drummond - Director Laudato Si' Research Institute, Campion Hall, Oxford.

Rev Dr Peter Loy Chong - President of the Federation of Bishops' Conferences of Oceania and Archbishop of Suva, Fiji.

Professor Brian Swimme (Via Zoom) - Director of the Center for the Story of the Universe and professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco.

Ticket price includes all sessions over 3 days.

Earlybird: \$125 (+GST if applicable)
purchased prior to 29 January 2021

Full Registration: \$165 (+GST if applicable)
purchased after 29 January 2021

Scholarships are available.
Please [contact us](#) for details.

[Click here to book](#)

Email us at:
laudatosi.conference.ismapng@gmail.com



FROM THE READINGS

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Exodus 20:1

Here we are preaching a crucified Christ ... who is the power and wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:23-25

During Jesus' stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence of any person; he could tell what each had in them.

John 2:23-25

FROM POPE FRANCIS - LET US DREAM

What words or phrases stand out for you?

The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds ... start from the ground up.

Pope Francis, Interview, Sept 2013

Between the first step, which is to come close and allow yourself to be struck by what you see, and the third step, which is to act concretely to heal and repair, there is an essential intermediate stage: to discern, and to choose. A time of trial is always a time of distinguishing the paths of the good that lead to the future from other paths that lead nowhere or backward. With clarity, we can better choose the first. For this second step, we need not just openness to reality but a robust set of criteria to guide us: knowing we are loved by God, called to be people of service and solidarity. We need, too, a healthy capacity for silent reflection, places of refuge from the tyranny of the urgent. Most of all, we need prayer, to hear the prompts of the Spirit and cultivate dialogue in community that can hold us and allow us to dream. Thus armed, we can read right the signs of the times and opt for the way that does us all good.

Pope Francis, Let us Dream, 51

FROM A PLENARY COUNCIL THEME

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

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

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

How do we ... ?

- walk with people, leaving no one behind?
- become a healing Church, a field hospital amongst the broken, wounded, injured and dying, bringing compassion and healing in the midst of their immediate need?
- advocate on behalf of the deeply wounded, marginalised and disenfranchised groups in our communities — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, LGBTQI community, divorced and remarried, single unmarried mothers, unmarried couples raising children, people suffering from addictions, the mentally ill, the homeless, ... ?
- recognise the trauma of deeply damaged victims of abuse, survivors and their families and friends who have also suffered?
- recognise the trauma, hurt and pain of committed lay people whose trust has been broken, and of leaders, people and clergy struggling to come to terms with the evil in our midst?
- become a Church that will 'reach out your hand and put it into my side' by listening to the stories of those who have been wounded, standing alongside the suffering?
- foster pastoral care for all and honestly assess the effectiveness of our pastoral ministries? Develop, or access, robust pastoral care that is trauma-informed, professional, well-resourced, integrated and readily available?
- turn to Mary our Mother who can show us how to face our trauma? Stand at the foot of the cross with the wounded, poor, traumatised and those who have the lifelong scars of abuse, witnessing the death of Jesus as Mary did?

A PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

You call us to courage and fortitude.

For the times we have been cowards in facing suffering, pain and trauma;

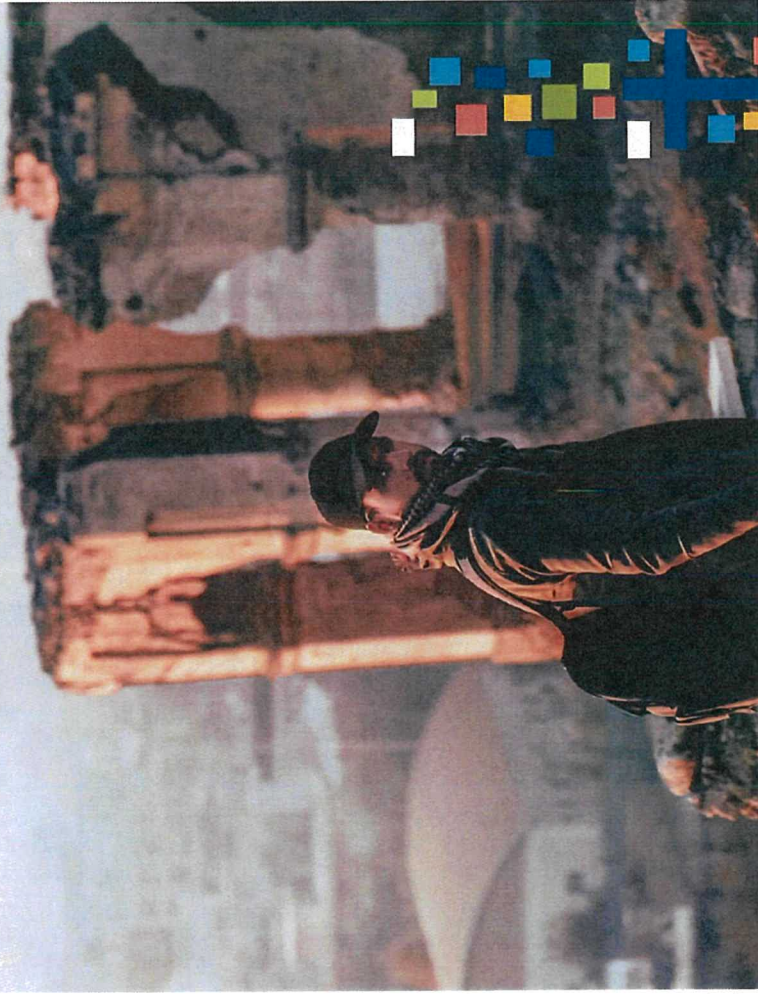
for the times we have not endured the crosses you ask us to carry;

for the times we have not recognised the crosses borne by others;

for the times we have let fear dominate our hearts, we pray:

Lord, have mercy. Amen.

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



Prepared for Lent Year B 2021 by: Adult Faith Education Sandhurst,

PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic, 3552. Email: adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Acknowledgements: *How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is Humble, Healing and Merciful? Continuing the Journey of Discernment towards the Plenary Council*, Sydney: Plenary Council, 2020 (Discernment Paper) www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au:

Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream: the Path to a Better Future* — Pope Francis in conversation with Austen Ivereigh, London / NY: Simon & Schuster, 2020. Pope Francis, *Interview with Antonio Spadaro SJ*, [www.americamagazine.org/faith/2013/09/30/big-heart-open-god-interview-pope-francis. Robert Morneau, *Reconciliation*, Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2007.](http://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2013/09/30/big-heart-open-god-interview-pope-francis)



Journey towards the Plenary Council
Reflecting on a Theme for Discernment

Third Sunday of Lent 2021

HOW ARE WE TO BE A
HEALING CHURCH,
A 'FIELD HOSPITAL'?

