

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 Advent, Year A**

**11 December 2022**

## First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquill,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.  
Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,  
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.  
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,  
everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4**

*(R.) Lord, come and save us.*  
or

*(R.) Allelulia!*

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

## Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the

spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

*Allelulia, allelulia!*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;*

*he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.*

*Allelulia!*

## Gospel Mt 11:2-11

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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## A note from Bishop Shane Mackinlay..

I am pleased to announce the following diocesan appointments for the period 2023–2027.

**Vicar General:** Fr Joe Taylor

### College of Consultors

- Fr Vijay Bandanadam ALCP/OSS
- Fr Brian Boyle
- Fr Andrew Fewings
- Fr Jake Mudge
- Fr Junray Rayna
- Fr Joe Taylor

2–4 non-voting lay participants, to be appointed after establishment of Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council

### Deans

- Goulburn Valley: Fr John Paul Pasala
- North Eastern: Fr Junjun Amaya
- Western: Fr Novelito Lim

### Episcopal Vicar for Education:

- Fr Brian Boyle

### Vocations Director:

- Fr Nathan Verallo

**Director of Clergy Life and Ministry 2023:** Fr Brian Boyle, assisted by Fr Jake Mudge

**2024–2027:** Fr Jake Mudge

I am grateful to all those who have agreed to take on these responsibilities, and to those who have served the diocese in these roles over recent years.

+Shane Mackinlay

# 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:** Grace Longo

**Anniversaries:** Irene Breeze, Henry Restall, Joe Bugeja, Melita Bugeja, Pat Foster, Tessie Craig, Most Rev Joseph Angelo Grech, Maria Consiglio, Charlie Restall White, Emidia Micallef

## **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.



Thank you to all who donated towards the \$600 collected through Tap-N-Go during the month of November.



The Parish office will be closed from 12 noon on Wednesday December 14 for our staff Christmas Party.

Messages can be left on our phone or email the office for when we return. Please see details in header above.

## **Readers & Commentators** 17 & 18 December 2022

6pm	C. Villani	K. Hunt
8am	L. Boschetti	P. Guthrie
11am	S. Quilty	J. Pilkington

A new weekly Adoration time has been added. The current times are..  
Monday 1.45—2.45pm  
Thursday 7.00—8.00pm and  
Friday 5.00—6.00pm



## **L'ARCHE RAFFLE**

\$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5  
Drawn: Friday December 16 at 4pm  
at 8 Duncan Court, Shepparton

Tickets available at all St Brendan's Masses again this weekend—10 fabulous prizes available!



## **WALNUTS FOR CHRISTMAS: \$8kg (Limited stock)**

**\*\* Funds support orphaned children in DR Congo\*\***



Contact: Celie 0488 583 112  
or Damien 0438 088 403



## **Coming on-time... going on-cue**

"Advent is a special time of hope and waiting for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a time of becoming more aware of God's presence in our lives.

It is also a time of preparing ourselves more deeply in the practices of our faith as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

For the four weeks of Advent this year, St Brendan's parish has the theme...

**"Coming on-time... going on-cue."**

The Mass is a life-giving celebration and not something we do out of duty. Our intention is to deepen our prayer at Mass and strengthen our motivation. We have sadly noticed that we are getting worse as a parish at **"coming on-time... going on-cue."** People are arriving late and leaving early. This does not encourage communal prayer and is distracting for others. We understand that there are times when arriving on-time for Mass is beyond your control and leaving early might be essential. However, it should not be the norm.

The Mass is divided into four parts. Each part is significant.

We will explore these parts in light of the Gospels through Advent.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent- The Introductory Rites- "Stay Awake."

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent- The Liturgy of the Word- "A voice cries in the wilderness."

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent- The Liturgy of the Eucharist- "He will prepare your way before you."

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent- The Concluding Rites- "Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.'"

A blessed Advent to you all. God bless, Fr Joe and Fr Jackson

### Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & **11am**



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 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mondays 1.45pm to 2.45pm, Thursdays 7pm to 8pm, Fridays 5pm to 6pm

### Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.10am

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

**A note from Fr. Jackson Saunders...** Our first

**Misa de Gallo** Mass is this coming Friday at 6am.

Our celebrant will be Fr. Novie Lim. These Masses will be held at 6am daily until **December 24**. All are most welcome to attend these, whether it be all of the Masses or just some. Breakfast is served each day after the Mass. Thanks to Lady Price, Sr Bing and Cynthia Gorry, who are helping to organise these Masses. Different priests from



across the Diocese, including Bishop Shane, will celebrate Mass for us each day.

To sponsor a breakfast or to be involved, please contact Lady Price on 0413 804 263.

On Sunday, December 11, our 2nd collection will go to the Advent appeal to support the work of *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine.

The organisation has 3 focus areas: evacuation of people from frontline territories; food packages for people in need; shelters for internally displaced persons. For more information visit: [www.catholic.au](http://www.catholic.au)

### **FOOD FOR FAITH**

Through Advent, Fr Joe and Fr Jackson will be focusing on explaining the Mass.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2R-Q5CWRUAQ>



### Grand Organ Master Series - final 2022 concert

Sunday December 11, 2022, St Kilian's Church, Bendigo at 3pm to celebrate the 150th Birthday of the Opening Recital St Kilian's Pipe Organ (to the very day!).

Bookings are available on the GOMS website:

<https://www.grandorgan.com/concerts>

This concert will feature the St Kilian's Primary School Choir directed by Sharon Bourke and the combined Choirs from St Kilian's Church and Sacred Heart Cathedral directed by Dr. Paul Taylor, as well as Thomas Heywood (International Organ recitalist) playing the 1872 Randebrock Pipe Organ and Jacqui Vine and Henry Livingstone playing trumpet.

This Randebrock pipe organ was gifted to St Kilian's by Rev. Dr Henry Backhaus (1811-1882), the first Catholic priest on the Bendigo goldfields.

### **Preparation & Consultation Meeting for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (Catch Up sessions):**

On 27 April 2022 Bishop Shane Mackinlay announced a year of Preparation and Consultation for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC).

Dr Chris Cotter (Sandhurst Director of Mission and Pastoral Life) and Ruth Lawlor (Sandhurst Youth Ministry Coordinator) will be conducting a Preparation & Consultation Catch Up Meeting via Zoom for those that have been unable to attend through their parish/organisation.

The meeting will run for no more than 90 minutes. There will be two sessions available. The sign in details are below.

At the meeting you will: - find out about the SMPC, participate in a 'Listening and Dialogue' process (as used in the first phase of the Plenary Council), provide feedback and ask questions which will contribute to the establishment of a structure that will support synodality in our Diocese.

All are welcome.

**13 DEC 2022 9:00AM, Join Zoom Meeting**

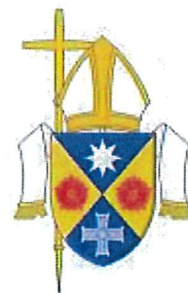
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4180840629?pwd=R1BxU2FtQktTVjlvR21kWXZ5WGZxdz09>

Meeting ID: 418 084 0629 Passcode: 1530

**13 DEC 2022 7:00PM, Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4180840629?pwd=R1BxU2FtQktTVjlvR21kWXZ5WGZxdz09>

Meeting ID: 418 084 0629 Passcode: 1530



### **Advent is upon us, is now**

If you are interested in joining one of our Advent groups, we meet

11.00am Mondays at Ave Maria

7.30pm Tuesdays at 8 Norton Avenue, Shepp.

For details on groups please contact Anthony on 5821 2633 or email [anthonypastoral@bigpond.com](mailto:anthonypastoral@bigpond.com)



### *Third Sunday of Advent*



The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* (pronounced Gow-day-tay) is the Latin word for **rejoice**. This Sunday is the time for us to rejoice because Jesus came and died so that we may live forever with him.



**ST BRENDAN'S  
CATHOLIC PARISH**

121 Knight Street, Shepparton Ph 5821 2633

**CHRISTMAS MASS PROGRAM**

**DAWN MASS /MISA DE GALLO**

Daily Mass 16 - 24 December at 6.00 AM  
Lavish breakfast in the Parish Centre to follow

**RECONCILIATION**

Wednesday 21 December 5PM - 6.30PM  
Saturday 24 December 9.45AM - 10.30AM

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER**

All Masses will be inside St Brendan's Church

**Children's Mass - 5.00 PM**

The cash collection for this Mass will go toward  
supporting an orphanage in the Congo

**Family Mass - 6.30 PM**

**Late Mass - 11.00 PM**

Christmas Carols from 10.30PM

Fundraising LED candles & Christmas decals will be available  
to purchase @\$2 at all St Brendan's Masses

**MASS AT DOOKIE - 7.00 PM**

**SYRO-MALABAR MASS - 8.00 PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER**

Masses at 8.00 AM  
& 11.00 AM

# Along the track

## Beyond Words

Sometimes words aren't sufficient. A piece of music, a scene or an event we have just experienced can make us speechless, what we try to put into words is just inadequate.

That applies to the early accounts of Jesus' birth, his entry into human history, the fact that he chose to become one of us. The second and third generations of Christians (70s-90s) had heard only the oral traditions about Jesus, his life, ministry, death and resurrection. They weren't there – they had to hear about this from others who struggled to put their experience into words. The four major accounts (the Gospels) were developed in the final three or four decades of the first century. Matthew and Luke began their accounts with a brief narrative about Jesus' birth, but these were not the only infancy stories about Jesus that circulated among the Christian communities of Asia and the Mediterranean. Like all storytellers, they borrowed from other narratives, from other traditions and cultures. Some of these wildly imaginative stories about the infant and young child Jesus proved to be very popular among early Christians but eventually their credibility came into question, and they faded into distant memory. Why is this important? Because they were attempts to put into words the indescribable. Does that make them wrong – no, just inadequate.

So over time the simple traditional image of Christmas emerged: a mother, father, shepherds and farm animals, gathered in a stable in wonderment around a baby in a manger. Where did that come from and why? Biblical scholars may question the historical accuracy of this story, but it is certainly heavy with symbolism and steeped in Jewish tradition and history.

The infancy stories were created after much reflection and with their audience in mind. Jesus was born at a difficult time. His country was under occupation by a foreign power that wielded that power ruthlessly. The faith he was born into was in disarray, it was divided into factions and had lost its way, lost its roots in a loving God. This was a time where some believed that power, wealth and privilege were concrete signs of God's blessing. Being needy was a sign of God's displeasure.

So, Luke has Mary set the scene when she visits her cousin Elizabeth, both pregnant at the time. Luke has her recite "The Magnificat" (Luke 1:46-55) which brings together so many of the prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. It heralded a dramatic shift. The old paradigms of power and oppression are replaced by God's vision for humanity founded on justice, mercy, inclusion and love:

*His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.*

*He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.*

Then Jesus is presented as one who comes with nothing, not even a place to be born. Yet it is to this destitute family that the angels appear and where the star (both signs of the divine presence) shows the way for the kings to come and pay homage. They bring the shepherds to be part of this momentous event. The story then has the family fleeing to Egypt – the place where Moses led the people from slavery to new life. Jesus is being depicted as The New Moses.

Over the next years, in a community of casual day labourers, subsistence farmers and handymen, in a time of precarious employment, Jesus came to understand that wealth and privilege are not signs of God's favour or justice. The exclusion of those who were ill or considered 'unclean', those who needed God's love the most profoundly, influenced his actions, his message of outreach and inclusion to all those he met.

So, because writers struggled to tell the story, because they borrowed from tradition and other narratives, does that make it all wrong? Far from it - Christmas has been celebrated by billions of people across the world since the fourth century when the church fixed Jesus' birth date at December 25. This story has touched them too.

So, at Christmas are you too lost for words? Can you find the words for this message of Jesus becoming one of us, his message of justice and fairness and inclusion too much to find words to explain? Or do you try to make actions speak where words fail. That's why we have a crib in our home, that's why we send Christmas cards or go to the Christmas carols. We join others at worship. We give gifts as our way of continuing this story of love and generosity? Do we seek out ways to help those who are unfairly treated or in need at this time?

Sometimes actions speak much louder when words fail.

Regards  
Jim Quillinan

Email: [jquillinan@dcsi.net.au](mailto:jquillinan@dcsi.net.au)

# GO AND TELL

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection and Prayer for Advent 2022 with Sunday readings and the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council Preparation and Consultation Plan 2022-2023.

# SIGN OF THE CROSS.

**Come, Lord Jesus!** Rev. 22:20

## FROM THE READINGS

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**First Reading:** Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees  
and say, to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid'.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed  
shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and  
gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended. *Isaiah 35:1-6,10*

## **Gospel:**

Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you hear and see: the blind see  
again, and lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the  
dead are raised to life, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and  
happy those who do not lose faith in me." *Matthew 11:4-5*

## Prayer and Reflection I

- **Read** the scripture passages aloud or silently.
- **Reflect and pray**, stopping to ponder any 'stand out' words or phrases. *10 mins*
- **Respond** *10-15 mins*

Individuals: Write or sit quietly with your reflections.

Groups: Share your responses and listen to others (*2-3 mins each*).

- What stands out for you?
- What do you want to take with you?

## FROM THE SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL PREPARATION AND CONSULTATION PLAN 2022 - 2023

- **A Sandhurst Diocesan Assembly (15 February 2023)**. The Diocesan Assembly is part of a larger movement of synodality, being a church on the journey together. This will be the first time in living memory that the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst has gathered as a whole community of parishes, schools, professed religious and chancery staff. It is the right time for our entire community, ordained and lay, to gather in one place at one time to celebrate, to pray, and to enter into the collective experience of listening and dialogue. At the Assembly a keynote address on Synodality will be delivered, the recommendations of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia noted, the synthesis from the diocesan consultation for the Synod on Synodality celebrated and feedback from the preparation and consultation meetings for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council will be considered. The Assembly will be held in Shepparton at the Riverlinks EastBank Centre on 15 February 2023. The date will be claimed, and invitations issued by the Bishop.

SMPC page 13.

## Prayer and Reflection II

- **Read** the paragraphs from the SMPC Preparation and Consultation Plan, aloud or silently.
- **Reflect and pray**, considering
  - What stands out for you?
  - Any Advent scripture insights that shine additional light on these words.
  - Ways in which your insights may relate to
    - a) your parish
    - b) our Diocese?
- **Express a hope for the future.**



# PRAYER

FOR THE SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL

**In this time of Advent, we turn to Mary,**  
our Mother of Good Counsel  
and patroness of our Diocese,  
as we seek to become a more missionary and pastoral Church:  
people of faith, hope and love for our world.

**May we be led**  
by the same wisdom and courage sent by the Holy Spirit  
to guide her along unfamiliar paths  
and through challenging decisions.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us. Amen.**

*Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC) Preparation and Consultation Plan, page 6.*



Prepared for Advent Year A 2022. Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic, 3552 Email: [adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au) **Acknowledgements:** Go to: [www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/) Click on banner 'A Year of Preparation and Consultation for a Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council', scroll down for prayer card and 'Preparation and Consultation Plan'. For SMPC updates and more diocesan news register to receive the Sandhurst eNews: [www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au) OR access digital code.

