

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.

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

15 September 2024

First Reading Is 50:5-9

I gave my body to those who struck me.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand.
Does anyone start proceedings against
me?

Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.

The Lord is coming to my help,
who dare condemn me?

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9

*(R.) I will walk in the presence
of the Lord,
in the land of the living.*

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him. (R.)
2. They surrounded me, the snares
of death,
with anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord my God, deliver me! (R.)
3. How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me! (R.)
4. He has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living. (R.)

Second Reading Jas 2:14-18

Faith without good works is dead.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone
who has never done a single good act but
claims that he has faith. Will that faith
save him? If one of the brothers or one of
the sisters is in need of clothes and has
not enough food to live on, and one of you
says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself
warm and eat plenty,' without giving them
these bare necessities of life, then what
good is that? Faith is like that: if good works
do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind:
'You say you have faith and I have good
deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith
by showing you my good deeds – now you
prove to me that you have faith without any
good deeds to show.'

Gospel Acclamation Gal 6:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

*My only glory is the cross of our Lord
Jesus Christ,*

*which crucifies the world to me
and me to the world.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 8:27-35

You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages
round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he
put this question to his disciples, 'Who do
people say I am?' And they told him. 'John
the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others
again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he
asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke
up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And
he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone
about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of
Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be
rejected by the elders and the chief priests
and the scribes, and to be put to death, and
after three days to rise again; and he said
all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside,
Peter started to remonstrate with him.
But, turning and seeing his disciples, he
rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind
me, Satan! Because the way you think is
not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples
to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a
follower of mine, let him renounce himself
and take up his cross and follow me. For
anyone who wants to save his life will lose
it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake,
and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

**At our 11am Mass this
Sunday September 15,
we will celebrate the
Rite of Welcome
for Oscar and Kunind**



Reflection by Greg Sunter

'But you, who do you say I am?' This
would have to be one of the most
powerful questions of the gospels. It
echoes down the centuries and is just as
relevant today as it ever was. 'Who do
you say I am?' Our answer to that
question is perhaps the most revealing
statement of our faith. Our answer no
doubt changes over time as we grow in
understanding and as we experience the
ups and downs of life, but nonetheless,
just like Peter in the gospel passage, our
answer remains a clear statement of our
faith. 'Who do you say I am?' Just a good
guy who lived 2,000 years ago? A role
model? A friend? God made flesh? The
Word come down from heaven? Nobody?
Everybody? Our saviour? An inspired man
of God? The Messiah?

Perhaps you've never tried to actually
answer the question yourself. It is a
confronting question, 'Who do you say I
am?' It's confronting because, as
Christian people, we believe that our
actions are a reflection of our beliefs and
values. It's confronting because whatever
we say in answer to that question has
implications for the way we live. 'Who do
you say I am?' You see, the question is in
the present tense, not the past. It doesn't
ask 'Who do you say I was?'; it asks,
'Who do you say I AM?' The very question
asks us to recognise that Jesus was not
just some guy who lived 2,000 years ago
but rather someone who continues to be
a presence in our lives today. And he
stands before each and every one of us
today and asks that same, demanding,
confronting, purposeful question: 'Who
do YOU say I am?'

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**FOOTY BREAK-UP
and PRESENTATION**



10.00am FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27,
(public holiday) in the MPJC.
Please RSVP by September 20.

ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

121 Knight Street, Shepparton

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Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor

Priest in Residence: Fr. Joseph Thekkemuriyil CMI

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

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am



Syro Malabar Rite: Wednesday 6.00pm,
Saturday 8.30am, Sunday 5.30pm

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation

Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

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

Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament: Thursdays 7pm to 8pm and
Fridays 5pm to 6pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice.

Readers & Commentators September 21 & 22, 2024

6pm	D. Daunt	F. Smullen
8am	B. Sullivan	G. Adams
11am	R. Aitken	E. Christy

Recently Deceased: Dennis Newby, Neil Bartels, Valentino Pati

Anniversaries: Katherine Phelan, Gertrude O'Grady

The **GARABANDAL PRAYER GROUP** will meet Monday, September 16, at 1.30pm in the Mary Mackillop room of the Parish Centre (enter through the office).



Men's group will meet on Saturday, September 21, at 7.30 am in the MPJC. We meet for breakfast and a reflection topic, encouraging each other to grow in understanding of our God.



In memory of Frank Scott who worked tirelessly for our Parish for 18 years, we have planted a tree in the Church garden and will install a plaque at 12.30pm, Sunday September 15. Please join us to celebrate this occasion.



St Brendan's Friendship Group will meet at The Shepparton Club for lunch on Sunday, September 15, at 12.30pm. EVERYONE IS WELCOME! RSVP to Pat Simpson 0423 343 711 (please leave msg)



St. Brendan's Conference of SVDP is open 5 days and we interview up to 8 people per day, who are going through difficult times.

Two members are on our roster each day. (14 members over two weeks.) We always greet our clients warmly and discuss their needs and try to assist with food vouchers, welfare advice and referrals, financial advice and assistance and counselling. We might pay rent arrears, car rego, drivers licence, medical bills etc. Do you want to join our team? Call Gerry today on 0413 400 318.

ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT

St Brendan's Catholic **Church Office**

121 Knight Street, Shepparton
Permanent Part-time (11hrs/week)
9am - 3pm, Thursday and Friday

APPLY NOW!

Position Description available 5821 2633 or by emailing shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
APPLICATIONS CLOSE: September 20, 2024

FAITH THROUGH MUSIC

YOUNG ADULTS | 6-8 | SEPT
SUNSET SESSION | PM | 27

ALL AGED 18-35 ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US IN THE MPJC.
DINNER PROVIDED PLEASE RSVP BEFORE 25TH SEPT FOR CATERING
SHEPPARTON_YM@SANDHURST.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU



PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL will be taken up at all Masses this weekend for the support of the retired priests of our Diocese. The Retired Priests Foundation seeks your generosity in giving to this collection. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Those requiring receipts of donations over \$10, please use the envelopes provided. We will dedicate the 2nd Collection at all Masses this weekend to the Priests Retirement Foundation Appeal. Thank you for your contributions and prayers.

Along the track

'Just look at me'

Each of the Gospels include the story of Jesus feeding the thousands of people who had come to see him. Mark starts his account in this way: *When Jesus saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.* [Mark 6:34](#)

Mark's Gospel is full of activity. Jesus sets a hot pace. Just in this chapter alone, in the lead up to this event, Jesus preaches in the synagogue in his home town and is rejected, he sends out the twelve to preach in the surrounding towns, he learns that his much loved cousin John the Baptist has been beheaded, the twelve return but *because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat*, he said to them, *"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."* So they go away by themselves to a quiet place but he is recognised and *many ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.*

It is a remote place, they are all tired and hungry yet Jesus is moved with pity – in the other Gospel accounts that word is translated as compassion. So, despite his own grieving at the loss of his cousin John, despite his own tiredness and frustration at being rejected by his old home town and his desire to sit with the twelve to listen to their experiences, he is moved by these who come in search of his presence, in search of his message, in search of healing. He told them 'many things' and then, as evening came in this remote place, he was worried that they were hungry so he arranged to feed them.

It is a story about compassion on many levels. When Jesus looked out at the large crowd, he saw a group of people who seemed lost, 'sheep without a shepherd,' he called them, searching and spiritually hungry, some looking for healing, some looking for meaning and purpose, some looking for forgiveness, some just looking for love and acceptance, a message of hope. But they were also hungry, so he organised that all of them be fed.

What does that mean to us today? Compassion is not just about feelings but actions too, even the simplest at times. Have you ever noticed how many times Jesus touched people when he was healing them or the account of a particular encounter mentions that Jesus looked at them. These simple gestures that we take for granted can carry such a deeper meaning. I read a newspaper article that included interviews with some men and women who were homeless and

those who worked with them. One person noted: "Compassion is one of the most important things. To listen to someone, to not judge them, and to just show them respect – that's often all someone's looking for," she says. "They're not asking you to solve their problems. They know you can't solve their problems with a \$5 note. They're not asking for that. They're just asking for someone to listen to them and to be heard."

One woman, Grace who was experiencing homelessness said: "Little things like someone walking past and giving me a Slurpee and just looking me in the eyes. I used to go around and ask people for change. You just feel invisible." she says. "Just say no. But at least just look at me."

There are so many reasons why people are homeless. We don't know them all. Some choose to be homeless, some for short periods, others for much longer. Some have it forced on them, more and more often it would seem these days. Finding an answer is not easy – there isn't just one easy solution but treating someone who is experiencing homelessness with dignity and compassion reminds them of their intrinsic value as a human being. As Grace says: "I think people just need to know you're in it with them. You're sitting in the darkness with them, rather than trying to turn on a light somewhere."

There were times when Jesus just sat with people, often those who were considered unclean and therefore to be shunned. That simple gesture meant so much. We can show compassion by giving and giving generously but we can show compassion in the little ways too, just showing people that they are important and are still loved. And that doesn't take much.

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

15 September 2024 - Year B

"You must take up your cross and follow me."

Something to Think About

How do people show that they believe in God?

What sorts of things do they do? How do they act towards others? How do they speak to others?

The Story

In today's story, Jesus tells us that we must take up our cross and follow him. In Jesus' time, a criminal would carry a large wooden cross that was bigger than an adult person. The wooden crosses were heavy and difficult to carry. Jesus didn't mean we should carry a real cross. He meant that following Jesus would not be easy. He meant that we should obey Jesus even when we don't feel like it and even when it is really hard.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

8:31-35

Jesus began telling his disciples what would happen to him.

He said, "The nation's leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make the Son of Man suffer terribly.

He will be rejected and killed, but three days later he will rise to life."

Then Jesus explained clearly what he meant.

Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that.

But when Jesus turned and saw the disciples, he corrected Peter.

He said to him, "Satan, get away from me! You are thinking like everyone else and not like God."

Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and he said:

"If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself.

You must take up your cross and follow me.

If you want to save your life, you will destroy it.

But if you give up your life for me and for the good news, you will save it."

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

Video

Click to watch the video for some ways to take up your cross:

[The Science of Kindness](#)



Group Discussion

Following Jesus is something we put into action in our lives.

Talk about the good deeds each person has done recently. Ask everyone to try and look for ways to help people this week – it may be just to listen or to make someone laugh.

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 we will follow Jesus every day. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that that we will understand what God wants us to do. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for God's help when things are hard. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for God's blessing on those people who have heavy worries today. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will show our love for Jesus by loving others. 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,
We want to follow you always.
Help us to use our lives to help
others and to spread your love in
the world.
Amen.

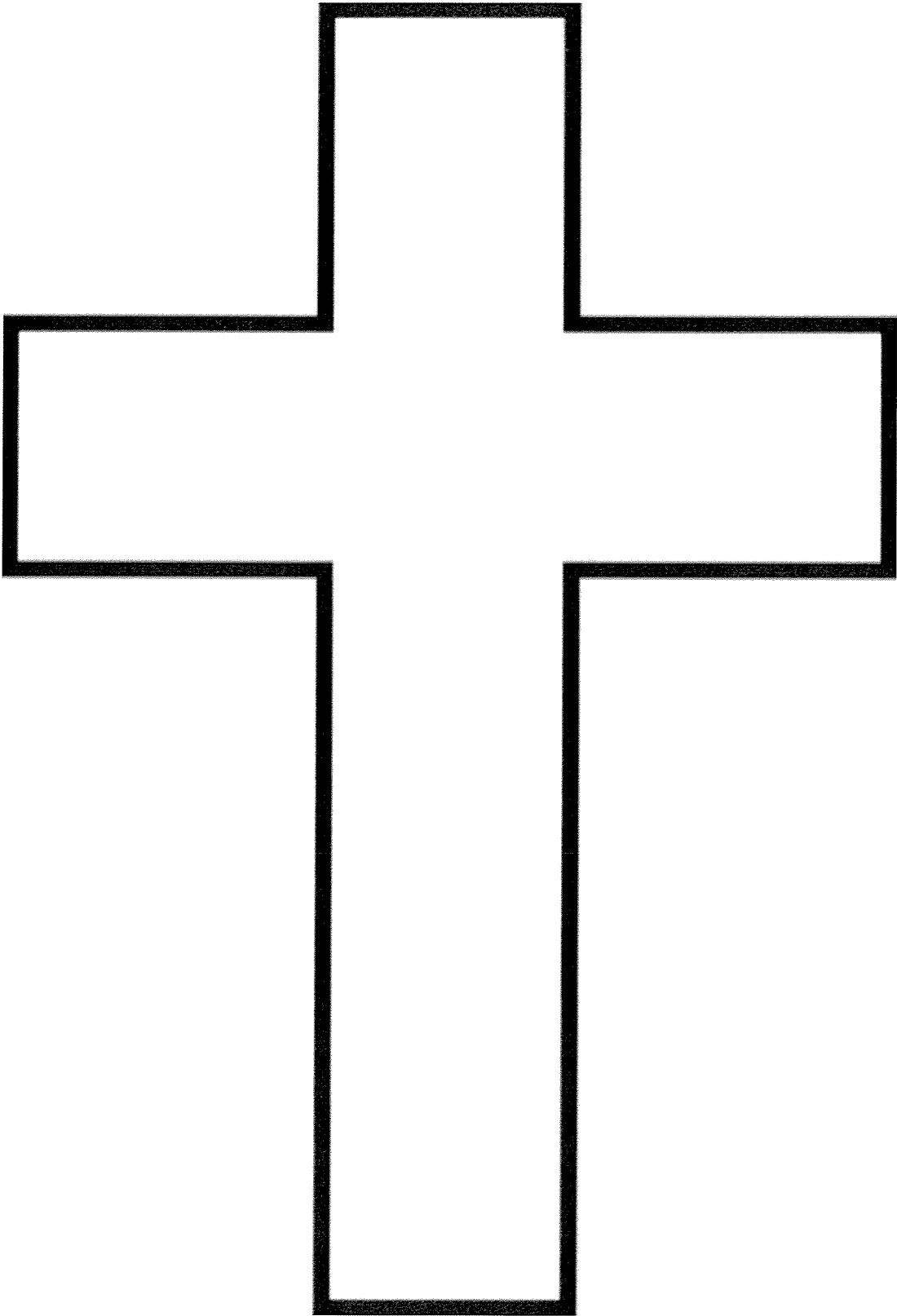
Group Activity

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME

You will need: a template for each child printed on A4 or A3 paper, paper in different colours torn into small pieces (you may like to use tissue paper), a bowl for each paper colour, paper plates, craft glue, brushes or sponges to apply the glue.

1. Suggest that children select one or two colours for the cross, and one or two colours for the surrounding area.
2. Squirt some craft glue onto each paper plate and give each child a paintbrush or sponge brush.
3. Invite children to apply glue to a small area at a time, and then press in the small pieces of paper.
4. Then repeat Step Three until the mosaic is complete.





JESUS SAID:

**YOU MUST FORGET
ABOUT YOURSELF,**



**YOU MUST TAKE
UP YOUR CROSS
AND FOLLOW ME.**

**WE FOLLOW
JESUS BY BEING
KIND TO OTHER
PEOPLE.**

FOLLOW THE PATHWAY TO JESUS

