

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 A**

**19 November 2023**

## First Reading Prv 31:10-13.19-20.30-31

*Give her a share in what she has worked for.*

A perfect wife – who can find her?  
She is far beyond the price of pearls.  
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,  
from her he will derive no little profit.  
Advantage and not hurt she brings him  
all the days of her life.  
She is always busy with wool and with flax,  
she does her work with eager hands.  
She sets her hands to the distaff,  
her fingers grasp the spindle.  
She holds out her hand to the poor,  
she opens her arms to the needy.  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;  
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.  
Give her a share in what her hands have  
worked for,  
and let her works tell her praises at the city  
gates.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1

*(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.*

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. *(R.)*
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. *(R.)*
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life. *(R.)*

## Second Reading 1 Thes 5:1-6

*The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.*

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:4. 5

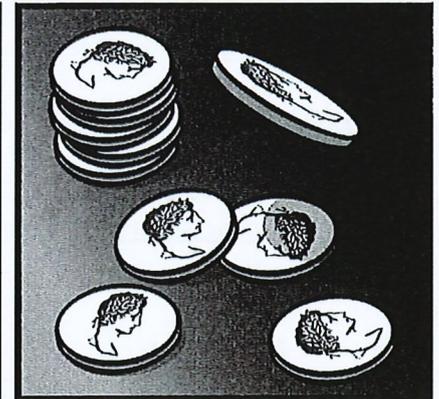
*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Live in me and let me live in you,  
says the Lord;  
my branches bear much fruit.  
Alleluia!*

## Gospel Mt 25:14-30

*Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."



## Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is a very familiar parable and one that is often used with students and young people. It is generally used as an encouragement to make the most of the gifts and skills that the listeners possess. It is rarely, however, placed in its context as part of the full Chapter 25 lesson about the time of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Lord and the Christian life.

Again, the story is presented as a parable of the Kingdom – a glimpse into the right order of things in the realised Kingdom. A very wealthy master entrusts his considerable assets to his servants to manage in his absence. The three servants were allocated money, 'each in proportion to his ability'. The emphasis of the parable is on what each servant did with the funds they were allotted. They were charged with managing the money in the place of their master; acting in their master's place to further develop his wealth.

Like all of Jesus' parables, this one has a sting in the tail. Although the third servant has done nothing illegal or corrupt, he is very harshly dealt with. His crime is laziness! He was given a great opportunity to demonstrate his abilities and yet he shied away and returned to his master exactly what had been entrusted to him, unimproved. The author of Matthew's gospel uses this parable to shock the audience out of complacency. They cannot rely solely on the promised return of the Lord, they must continue to act on Jesus' message and work to bring about the Kingdom in their own lives. Those who fail to act, leaving everything to the work of God, are as bad as the lazy servant who failed to grasp an extraordinary opportunity.

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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 Joseph Kunnackattu  
 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:** Maureen Mansfield, Carmel Buck, Faye Reardon.

**Anniversary:** Arnold (Nol) Neessen, Therese Stent, Gerrard Stent

## Readers & Commentators November 25 & 26, 2023

6pm	L. Kelly	J. Sutton
8am	D. Teitzel	L. Billings
11am	J. Pilkington	A. Madeira

**Feast of Christ the King Adoration:  
Sunday, November 26, 9am—10am**

## Melbourne Cup Sweep Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who partook in our 2023 Melbourne Cup Sweep Fundraiser. The Parish was able to profit a total of \$434.00.



## St Brendan's Parish FRIENDSHIP GROUP

will be holding our Christmas lunch get together: **12.30pm, Sunday November 26**, at BRACI Restaurant (formally Groove Train), 2/10 St Georges Road, Shepparton.

**Set Menu:** Roast Turkey / ham and vegetables. Choice of plum pudding or pavlova. Cost \$35 per head.

**Numbers MUST be confirmed by November 22.** Please leave a message for Pat on 0423 343 711, if attending. No late bookings. Everyone is welcome!



## Feast of Christ the King Procession.

Saturday, November 25, and Sunday November 26, we will be celebrating the Feast of Christ the King with our traditional flag procession at all three Masses.

If you would like to carry a flag in the procession, please see the person in the Narthex with the roster after each Mass this weekend, or phone Kathy Hunt (after Monday, November 20) on 0416 058 431.

## 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.

## Parish Contact for Persons with Disability.

Mary Pianta from the Chancery is endeavoring to establish contact people in each Parish of the Diocese to liaise with her regarding our support for people with disability. There are 3,000 people in the Diocese with disability. This role would involve assessing our Parish's ability to better reach out to people with disability. One aspect of this role would be to make sure that our parish is "user friendly." Please contact Fr Joe if you are interested in this most important role.



A great podcast to follow which explains this Sunday's reading from Bishop Robert Barron "Word on Fire"  
<https://www.wordonfire.org/videos/sermons/classic-sunday-sermon-you-must-rethink-your-spiritual-life/>



## VOICE FOR SILENT PEOPLE Fundraiser: for Orphaned Children in D.R. CONGO

**Saturday, November 18:** 6pm Mass  
**Sunday, November 19:** 8am and 11am Masses  
**WALNUTS \$10KG , HANDMADE SOAP \$5**

Also, handcrafted wooden crosses, plants and baked goods. All enquires to Celie 0488 583 112



## MACILLOP ART EXHIBITION 2023

Open for Viewing

10-25 November 2023

Open Wed-Sat | 10am-4pm | Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo

Online from Monday 13 November 2023

[ceosand.catholic.edu.au/mae](http://ceosand.catholic.edu.au/mae) (or scan QR code)

Vote for People's Choice Awards

until Sunday 26 November 2023

Enquiries Claire Spinelli [cespinelli@ceosand.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cespinelli@ceosand.catholic.edu.au) | M: 0407 721 088



### Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

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

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

**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

### Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

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

### You are invited to our **Parish Barefoot Bowls**

7pm BBQ Dinner: **Thursday, November 23**

\$2 per sausage. Funds raised to go to the Caritas Australia Gaza Conflict Appeal.

BYO salads and/or deserts to share.

Barefoot bowls to follow from 7.30pm.

\$10 per person. At the East Shepparton Bowls Club. Drinks at bar prices. To RSVP, please go to [https:// www.trybooking.com/CNDIF](https://www.trybooking.com/CNDIF)

or write your name on the clipboards available in the Church. RSVP is essential for catering purposes. Play bowls or just come for the social occasion.

If you'd prefer not to play in bare feet, please wear thongs or flat sole shoes.



### **PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME ENVELOPE PACKS AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION**



Thank you to everyone who is on our Planned Giving Programme.

NEW envelope packs are now ready for collection in the Narthex. These envelopes all commence on December 3, 2023.

We ask that you collect your packs as soon as possible as this will assist us greatly in cutting down our postage costs.

You will notice that your Statements will look different and it is because we are now operating under a new Database and Planned Giving Computer System. If you have *any questions or concerns* please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 5821 2633.

We encourage anyone who would like to come onto our Programme to give the office a call. Thank you to everyone who contributes financially to St Brendan's. Your generosity not only assists us with current costs but also helps us to plan for our future.

Our **Men's Group** had a wonderful meeting recently, with one of our Anglican members sharing how he finds St Brendan's Parish to be very life giving for himself and his relationship with God.

There were many questions and insights shared within the meeting. It was a blessing to be present.

Our next meeting is on **Saturday, November 26, at 7.30am** in the MPJC. One of the group will share a reflection on the Sunday Gospel. Please join us.



All are welcome to join the **GARABANDAL PRAYER GROUP:** Monday, November 20, from 1.30pm. Enter through the Parish Office.



### **CCR Sandhurst Renewal Day Christmas Celebration:**

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Day Christmas celebration and lunch is on November 25 at the MPJ Centre from 9.30am - 3.30pm at St Brendan's Shepparton.



Lunch: Please bring a plate to share. We enjoy fellowship over meals. All are welcome. For details contact Brigita Hore on 0412 042 196. See Church Notice Board for more details.

### **Staff retreat day**

On Wednesday our staff took a day out of their week to join in a day lead by Fr Des Welladsen.



The focus of the morning session was on a cosmic walk. This walk included lovely artwork placed around a garden. We started at the beginning of time 13.7 billion years ago, where out of deep mystery came the Universe. We walked through all the different stages of the evolution of the planet. We gained a perspective on the vastness of the universe and the smallness of the space in history that we take up. A couple of fascinating facts. Firstly, we may think that the earth is stationary but we are actually moving at around 1000 miles per hour at its axis. Secondly, it is only 54 years ago that looking back from the moon we had photos taken of our planet earth.

We then took some time to ponder on what all this means to us now in the situation we find ourselves in, our world, our community our family, but also our understanding of ourselves.

We focused after lunch on some writing by Diarmuid O'Murchu. He has written about the next world, the Church and this world we live in now.

We shared some beautiful food and celebrated a couple of birthdays over lunch and then back to the retreat Fr Des made some insightful comments about how this connects with our Church today and the different vision of the Church we take into the world. A most enjoyable day together. We don't spend a lot of time working at the same time, so these are great days.

*Anthony Kilmartin*



Please Note: The Tap-N-Go stations will soon increase from \$10 to \$12 per tap. Thank you to all who contribute to our Parish through this option.

**POP UP  
CHRISTMAS MARKET**

**16 FRASER STREET, SHEPPARTON**  
**FRIDAY DECEMBER 8, 9AM—4.30PM**  
**SATURDAY DECEMBER 9, 10AM—1.00PM**

CHRISTMAS GOODIES, PRE LOVED CLOTHING,  
 HOME MADE GOODIES, LOTS OF STOCKING  
 FILLERS, WELL ESTABLISHED PLANTS.

WE ARE RAISING FUNDS TO  
 ENABLE THOSE WITH DISABILITIES  
 TO GO AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND.

**CASH ONLY.**

**CARITAS SERVICE OF SOLIDARITY with Gaza & the Holy Land:**  
 In a time of deep sorrow and anguish for us all, we look for hope and healing. Let us come together in love, prayer and support. Australian Catholic Bishops have said: 'Peace can come only from justice. We call people of faith to pray with us for a lasting peace and the triumph of human dignity.'  
 Please join us: **Monday 27 November 4:30 to 5:00 pm.**  
 Everyone is welcome. Prior registration is necessary at [https://caritas.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DWj-zzzhRoGN8QOifg61Zg](https://caritas.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DWj-zzzhRoGN8QOifg61Zg)

 **Caritas AUSTRALIA**

**CHURCH ROSTERS**

It's that time again! We need to prepare the next set of Rosters. We would be grateful for assistance with:



- Ushers/Greeters (particularly at 8am)
- Readers and Commentators
- Special Ministers (Church)
- Special Ministers (Homes)
- Offertory

If you **are** currently on a roster – please email our office to confirm whether you are happy to CONTINUE, alter or prefer to be removed.

If you **are not** currently on a ministry roster – we would be grateful for new people to join, please email us your Name, Phone Number, Preferred Mass time and Preferred Ministry. If you have questions, please speak with Fr Joe or Fr Jackson after Mass.  
 Email: [shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

**SENIOR'S  
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

St Brendan's MPJC, 12 noon,  
 Tuesday December 19  
 2 course lunch, raffles and  
 Lucky Door Prizes  
**RSVP IS A MUST** by  
 December 14 to the Parish  
 office on: 5821 2633.



**Sunday, November 26, 5pm Mass at St Mel's Church:**  
 Father Rene Ramirez will be installed as the new Parish Priest by the Most Reverend Shane Mackinlay, Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst.

Following this Mass. There is a dinner at the Goulburn Valley Hotel to celebrate with Fr Rene. We encourage as many as possible to attend to help make this a joyful event. This represents an important moment in Fr Rene's priesthood and is a wonderful way to welcome him to St Mel's Parish.



To attend the dinner, we ask that you book online via: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1147677>  
 It will be a set menu with an alternate drop of two main courses and two desserts at a cost of \$50. Drinks can be purchased at bar prices and complementary tea and coffee will be available.

Bookings must close at midnight on Monday, November 20, as required by the GV Hotel.

*St Brendan's  
Christmas Mass Times*

Saturday, December 23 6.00pm 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24 6.00am 4th Sunday of Advent  
 11.00am

Sunday, December 24 5.00pm Christmas Eve  
 6.30pm  
 11.00pm

Sunday, December 24 7.00pm Christmas Eve, Dookie

Sunday, December 24 8.00pm Christmas Eve, Syro Malabar

Monday, December 25 8.00am Christmas Day  
 11.00am

**Parish Office Closure: Monday, December 25 - Monday, January 1**

*The  
EYE  
Shop*

**Locally owned business  
servicing Shepparton for 35  
years. For all your eye care  
needs, you can contact  
Ashley and Vanessa  
Madeira at The Eye Shop.**

Phone 5821 0311  
[enquiries@eyeshopshepparton.com.au](mailto:enquiries@eyeshopshepparton.com.au)

