

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.

**Second Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**10 December 2023**

## First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11.

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.  
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'  
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.  
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'  
Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'  
Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8**

*(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

## Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

## Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:*

*all people shall see the salvation of God.*

*Alleluia!*

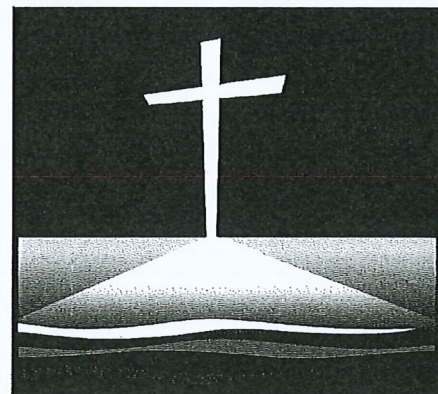
## Gospel Mk 1:1-8

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.  
A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



## Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to 'do the groundwork' preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus' public ministry.

John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well.

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# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS



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 Phone: 5821 2633 | Email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au  
 Website: sheppartoncatholic.org.au  
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 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:** Ann Poelsma

**Anniversary:** Sr Peter Wilson, Tess Love, Doreen Townsend, Tommaso Giuliani, Salvatore Sciacca, Petronella Van Dillen, Henry Restall, loved ones of Emidio Restall.

## 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 December 16 & 17, 2023

6pm	B. Lindsay	M. Johnson
8am	V. Rando	F. Smullen
11am	E. Christy	R. Aitken

## Fr Joe's Meditation Group

Our last session will be Wednesday, December 13, 7.15am—7.45am in the Parish Centre. All welcome

Thank you to all who contributed to the \$1,018 collected in November 2023 through

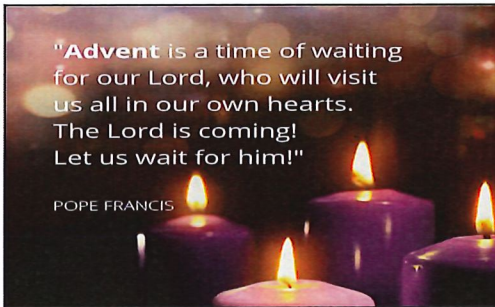
Tap-N-Go.



We welcome Fr Michael Grace, who celebrates the 11am Mass with us this weekend.

"Advent is a time of waiting for our Lord, who will visit us all in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!"

POPE FRANCIS



Next Thursday December 14, is our final meeting for the year. We will start again next year and have many exciting things planned. If any young adults would like to join us we are having a farewell picnic in the gardens by the Church from 6pm. Please bring a plate to share.



## Anniversary celebration



On May 18 next year, I will celebrate my 50th ordination anniversary. I am inviting all married couples who are celebrating 50 years of marriage to come and join me (There are 2 couples already!). I am keen for this to be a whole parish celebration: not just for me but for others celebrating their 50th anniversaries. If there are Religious who are celebrating, I would love them to join in a parish celebration as well. Please see me as soon as possible, Fr Joe Taylor.



The end of year is particularly busy with end of year celebrations.

We have also had lots of funerals recently. Many thanks to all of our Sacristans and Volunteers in various Parish Ministries. Everything runs so much smoother because of your commitment to our Parish.

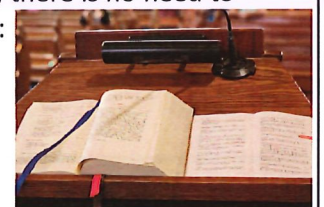


## READERS/COMMENTATOR FORMATION

Thank you to those who have already attended a Reader/Commentator Formation Session. We are delighted to see that more and more NEW people are coming forward to embrace such a wonderful Ministry. If you have completed this formation previously, there is no need to attend again. Our next formation sessions are:

Tuesday, December 12, 5pm— 6pm OR  
 Saturday, December 16, 3pm— 4pm  
 Look forward to seeing you there.

Fr Jackson Saunders



**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)

**Anointing Mass: 11.00am,  
Tuesday December 19, followed by the:**



**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.



**Altar Servers  
Christmas Party**

4PM – 5.30PM  
ST BRENDAN'S CHURCH  
**SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER**

All altar servers are invited.  
We also invite children to join us, who have received  
their Sacraments and not yet been trained for ministry.

We will also prepare for our  
Christmas Masses during this session.  
Please RSVP to Fr Jackson on 5821 2633  
or email  
jackson.saunders@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

**Advent 2023 – Preparing  
for Christmas with: The  
Catholic Guy**



“You don't become who you hope to become, you only become what you do!” You are invited to prepare for Christmas this Advent with a new daily devotional series. Each day you will receive a short inspirational video from Bruce Downes, known as 'The Catholic Guy'. It's full of inspiration, real-life stories and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be! <https://BruceDownes.org/Advent>



Join us for a night of prayer and reflection with  
Fr. Jackson

**12 December, Tuesday, 7:30PM start  
University of Melbourne - Shepparton Campus  
Conference Rooms 1 & 2**

Free event and open for all!

For more information, contact Vanessa 0481783400

To Know Him is to Love Him: Catechesis for Today's Catholic

**'It's Not Fair'**



It's easy to be overwhelmed by the state of the world and to feel helpless. There's not much any single individual can do. A starting point is to see how the world works through the eyes of the disadvantaged, the poor, the marginalised and those most impacted by climate change. When leading sixth year Quo Vadis pilgrims on a three-day hike over the mountains, there was an implicit understanding. 'I' am not there yet until 'we' are all there. No matter how fast or athletic a person was, the pace had to accommodate the weakest. We would often stop to wait for the stragglers who were finding it difficult to climb the steep sections and then continue only after they had recovered. While the stronger may have been frustrated from time to time, there was an invaluable lesson. We walked as a community where people watched out for one another. We weren't in competition. We were in empathetic solidarity. This experience mirrors our better nature.

Excerpted from **Reimagining Religion** by Jim Maher SJ (p.116)

**Misa de Gallo** will begin next Saturday, December 16, at 6am.

Please join us for the nine novena Masses, each day at 6am until December 24, as we prepare for Christmas. We are grateful to have the presence of Fr Rene, Fr Joe, Fr Jophin, Fr Joseph, Fr DJ, Fr Novie, Fr Ruel, Bishop Shane and Fr Jackson for these Masses. There will be live music each morning.

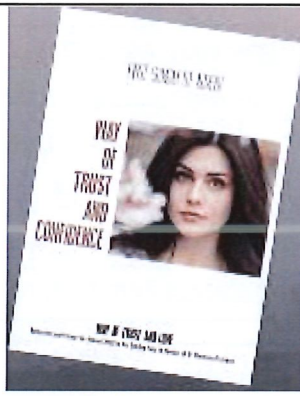
Breakfast is served afterwards.

This is a great way to enter more deeply into the Advent season. *Misa de Gallo* planning committee.



## SANDHURST ADVENT 2023

**LEAFLETS** 'The Way of Trust and Love' is the theme for the 2023 Sandhurst Diocese Advent leaflets. This includes Scripture readings, and passages from the writings of Pope Francis and St Therese of Lisieux in honour of the Jubilee Year of St Therese of Lisieux. This highlights the simple way of trust and love St Therese implemented in her life leading to her Sainthood. Available online at [www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au).



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# ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH 121 KNIGHT ST SHEPPARTON. PH 5821 2633 2023 Christmas Mass Times

## RECONCILIATION

- Thursday 21 December, 5.00-6.00 pm
- Saturday 23 December, 9.45-10.30 am

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES (4th Sunday of Advent)

- Saturday 23 December, 6.00 pm
- Sunday 24 December, 6.00 am - Misa de Gallo
- Sunday 24 December, NO 8.00 am Mass
- Sunday 24 December, 11.00 am

## SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

(in St Brendan's Church)

- 5.00 pm - Children's Mass
- 6.30 pm - Family Mass
- St Mary's Church Dookie - 7.00 pm
- 8.00 pm - Syro-Malabar Mass
- 11.00 pm - Late Mass

## MONDAY 25 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

- 8.00 am & 11.00 am

## MONDAY 1 JANUARY 2024 - NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

- 10.00 am

The parish office is closed Monday December 25 - Monday January 1



.. and this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths lying in a manger. Glory to God in the highest! - Luke 2:12-14