

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.

**First Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**3 December 2023**

## First Reading Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

*Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens  
open and come down  
– at your Presence the mountains  
would melt.

No ear has heard,  
no eye has seen

any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy  
clothing.

We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the  
wind.

No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our  
sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 R. v.4**

*R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see  
your face and we shall be saved.*

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim  
throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we  
implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has  
planted. (R.)

3. May your hand be on the man you  
have chosen,  
the man you have given your  
strength.  
And we shall never forsake you  
again:  
give us life that we may call upon  
your name. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Cor 1:3-9

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the  
graces you have received through Jesus  
Christ. I thank him that you have been  
enriched in so many ways, especially  
in your teachers and preachers; the  
witness to Christ has indeed been  
strong among you so that you will not  
be without any of the gifts of the Spirit  
while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus  
Christ to be revealed; and he will keep  
you steady and without blame until  
the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, because God by calling you has  
joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and  
God is faithful.

## Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.*

*Alleluia!*

## Gospel Mk 13:33-37

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your  
guard, stay awake, because you never  
know when the time will come. It is like  
a man travelling abroad: he has gone  
from home, and left his servants in  
charge, each with his own task; and he  
has told the doorkeeper to stay awake.  
So stay awake, because you do not  
know when the master of the house is  
coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow,  
dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he  
must not find you asleep. And what I say  
to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

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## PARISH NAME BADGES

A friendly reminder to those  
who have ordered one: please  
collect your name badges  
from the back of the Church.

Diane Teitzel

St Brendan's  
Parish

## Reflection by Greg Sunter

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that.

# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS



121 Knight Street, Shepparton  
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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:** Anne Sutherland, Laura Polwarth, Veronica Griffiths, Fr Gerard Dowling

**Anniversary:** Jim Cummins

**Readers & Commentators** December 9 & 10, 2023

6pm	M. Keyte	D. Tarquini
8am	B. Sullivan	P. Guthrie
11am	P. Richardson	L. Richardson



We congratulate **Dorcas Tendilonge** and **Mulebing Bazunga** who are celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist at our 11.00am Mass this Sunday.

We welcome Jason Collier this weekend at our 11am Sunday Mass. Jason is part of our RCIA process. This is the first stage of his commitment.

We have 5 more people on the RCIA journey. We will welcome them in the coming months. Please keep them in your prayers.



**Vale Fr Gerard Dowling** Born August 30, 1932, he entered life eternal on Sunday, November 26.

A faithful priest of the Melbourne Archdiocese for 65 years. He died with his boots on after 50 years of broadcasting on the radio. He was on-air just two weeks ago on Radio Sport National in Melbourne. I often joined him. He was a dear friend and mentor. He attended both of my ordinations as a deacon and priest in Bendigo. Fr Gerard is well-known to many of us through his radio work and columns in various Catholic media over decades. He taught Fr Joe and many seminarians counselling. He is Dean Emeritus of St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, was a key figure of CatholicCare in Victoria and is a former club historian and chaplain of the North Melbourne Football Club. **His funeral will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral on Thursday, December 7, at 10am.** Live-stream is available on the Tobin Brothers Funeral website. *Fr Jackson Saunders.*



**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.



**Men's Group:** Our last meeting for 2023 will be **Saturday December 9, in the MPJC at 7.30am.**

We do things a little different for our Christmas meeting. The men are invited to bring food to share that represents their family Christmas celebrations. The year that has past has held many special moments at our breakfast gatherings. We are very grateful for this time together. Our meetings provide a space where we can ask questions, share and offer our thoughts on a lot of different topics. If you feel like developing and growing your faith with a group of men from this area, then please come along and join us.

All enquiries to Anthony on: [anthonypastoral@bigpond.com](mailto:anthonypastoral@bigpond.com).



**'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)



**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)

“Take an Advent moment..... Let us experience the Light.”

St Brendan’s parishioners are invited to join us for a Day of Reflection at St Mary’s Dookie, facilitated by the Sandhurst Retreat and Accompaniment Team.

- When:** Monday, December 4
- Where:** St. Mary’s Church, Dookie
- Time:** 10am (Gathering from 9:30am) until 4pm
- Cost:** \$20.00
- BYO:** Contribution to a shared lunch.



Amidst the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations, the true essence of Advent can be overlooked.

This reflection day offers an opportunity to pause reflect and share our Advent experiences with others in sacred conversation.

Come and join us as we embrace this Advent season.

**Registrations:** Paul White: [sapwhite@hotmail.com](mailto:sapwhite@hotmail.com) or 0437 290 950 (leave a msg) or Kate McKinlay: 0431 114 278

The team of four local Spiritual Directors is endorsed by Bishop Shane to provide reflection days, retreats and spiritual accompaniment.

**Fr Joe’s Meditation Group**

Wednesday, December 6

Wednesday, December 13

7.15am—7.45am in the Parish Centre.  
All Welcome (Only running over 2 weeks instead of the usual 4 weeks)



A BIG THANK YOU from Voice For Silent People. Your generous donations and support of our fundraising stall helped us raise \$1961.65. This allows us to cover the costs of running the household and educating the Congolese orphans for the next 12 months. Thank you so much!



**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.  
THE ST BRENDAN'S FAITH & LIGHT COMMUNITY ARE RAISING FUNDS TO ENABLE THOSE WITH DISABILITIES TO GO AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND.  
CASH ONLY.

**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.

**Advent**  
hope, peace, joy and love  
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: Catechists for Today's Catholic

**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.  
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



**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](mailto:jackson.saunders@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)



**Thank you from St Brendan’s Conference of St Vincent de Paul**  
Grateful thanks to Brendan Lindsay, Zoe Hamilton, Callum McGrath and the students of Notre Dame College who donated food for Christmas hampers for St. Vincent de Paul. Thanks also to those that attended the Youth Mass and after Mass packed the hampers and made Christmas cards for each hamper. They will be distributed to the needy in our community.



**Community of the  
Sons and  
Daughters of God**

11am Mass  
Saturday,  
December 9,  
Celebrated by  
Mons Peter Jeffrey at  
St Mary's,  
Mooroopna  
Adoration 3– 4pm  
ALL WELCOME



**SANDHURST ADVENT 2023 LEAFLETS**

'The Way of Trust and Love' is  
the theme for the 2023  
Sandhurst Diocese Advent  
leaflets. With 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, highlighting 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