

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 A

17 September 2023

First Reading *Sr 27:30-28:7*

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

Second Reading *Rom 14:7-9*

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation *Jn 13:34*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 18:21-35*

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This gospel passage follows directly from last week's passage. It concludes the whole of Matthew Chapter 18 that deals with sin, forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter's question to Jesus and suggested answer is a reflection of the view that there is a limit to the number of times we should forgive someone. Seven is a significant number in scripture and implies a 'perfect' amount. Even though by his use of seven, Peter is suggesting that he should forgive someone many, many times, Jesus quickly corrects Peter and says not seven, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven). Jesus plays on the use of the number seven and multiplies it to indicate that one should forgive as many times as is required - without keeping count; without keeping score.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a familiar one of forgiveness and mercy being shown but not passed on. The sting in the tail of this parable is Jesus' final warning that, 'So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.' This is an unsettling statement, as we believe God's forgiveness to be without measure and without end. Jesus warns that 'unless we seek to imitate God's forgiveness and forgive others 'from our heart' (with compassion) then we are not going to recognise the forgiveness of God and will cut ourselves off from it.

The whole idea of forgiving from the heart is a powerful contradiction of a popular concept: 'I can forgive, but not forget.' Is it really possible to forgive but refuse to forget? Surely holding on to a memory of hurt is holding on to the hurt itself and does not display that any forgiveness has occurred at all. To forgive but not forget is to keep count. How many times should I forgive the one who has hurt me? As many times as it takes!

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ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS



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 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: June Tidd, Roger Walker

Anniversary: Katherin Phelan, Gertrude O'Grady, Margaret Macgill, Catherine Entriiken, Greg O'Brien

Readers & Commentators September 23 & 24, 2023

6pm	D. Tarquini	L. Kelly
8am	P. Guthrie	V. Rando
11am	P. Chalkley	P. Crane

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.



Let Justice and Peace Flow
 Season of Creation 2023

Name badges are now ready for collection in the Narthex.

Due to unavoidable Powercor interruptions, the Parish office will be closed Monday, September 18 and Wednesday, September 20.

There could also be Powercor interruptions on Sunday, September 24.

We apologise for any inconvenience. Please email us with any questions.



BRIGHT IDEAS BOX

Thank you to everyone who has placed their Bright Ideas in our Bright Ideas Box (at the entrances of our Church).

We have been able to address a number of concerns and questions. We thank you again for your feedback and ideas. We do ask however, that if you have suggestions or concerns which you would like attended to, that you provide us with your name and contact details. Thank you

Introduction to Mark's Gospel

Maria Weatherill and Fr Joe will present an overview of Mark's Gospel at St Brendan's MPJC.

7.30pm—8.30pm, Tuesdays October 3, 10 & 17.



This will be a rich background for our Sundays of Year B. It will be particularly helpful for our readers and musicians.



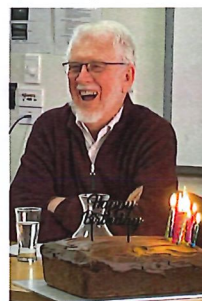
The young adults' group is for those aged between 18—35 and meets each Thursday night 6-7pm, in the MPJC behind the Church. Newcomers most welcome.

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. Thank you for your contributions and prayers.

Wednesday, September 13, Fr Joe celebrated his birthday. May he be

blessed with joy and good health for the year ahead.



Let's learn together about the referendum.

Australians are currently engaged in conversation about the Voice referendum to be held on October 14. Many have said they don't truly understand what the referendum is about. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has developed a Catholic resource informed by Catholic Social Justice Teaching (CST) to assist parishioners to engage in meaningful conversation about the referendum. The conversations will provide the opportunity for participants to learn together and make a more informed decision about the Voice and referendum. For more information please register at the Parish Office on 5821 2633.



Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & **11am** **PRAYING for 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)



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Are you looking to join the Catholic faith?
St Brendan's Parish has a vibrant RCIA team and
is a Parish that is welcoming and supportive.

The RCIA process opens up this journey.
We encourage questions and
what it could mean to your life to join the Catholic faith.

We are beginning a period of inquiry for RCIA on
Thursday October 5, 2023 at 7.30pm,
in the Parish centre behind St Brendan's Church.
There will be two more inquiry nights at 7.30pm:
Thursday, October 12, and Thursday, October 19.

For any questions regarding the RCIA process,
please call Anthony on 5821 2633 Tuesdays or Thursdays,
or e-mail anthony.pastoral@bigpond.com



St. Brendan's
Catholic Church

It can sometimes feel like we're "running on empty" in the
spiritual life. Ignatian spirituality offers a plethora of ways
for us to re fill our cups.

Nurturing Yourself and Others

Take gentle care of yourself and
others. We believe that each individual is created in the
image and likeness of God and that we are each temples of
the Holy Spirit.

When we digest this fully, we come to realize just how
important it is to care for ourselves in our totality—mind,
body, and spirit. Recognizing the Divine present within
each individual also serves to inform us of the sacred
responsibility we have to care for others. As St. Irenaeus
put it; "The glory of God is the person fully alive."



ST BRENDAN'S PARISH, END OF FINANCIAL YEAR PROFIT and LOSS SUMMARY REPORT, June 30, 2023

If anyone would like a copy of the extended (more
detailed) report (3 pages), please contact the Parish Office
on 5821 2633.

Thank you to our Finance Team (David Villani - Chairperson,
Ashley Madeira, Peter Fitzpatrick, Kerry Bridges, Maree
Pearse and Di Teitzel). They have the Parish at their heart
and discuss at length, the ways in which to move the Parish
forward and make us sustainable for our future.

Profit and Loss

St Brendan's Catholic Church Shepparton For the year ended 30 June 2023

2023

Operating Income

Sundry Income	79,448.10
Religious Ceremonies	57,585.36
Special Collections	33,798.94
Collections	293,884.90
Total Operating Income	464,717.30

Operating Expenses

Salaries for Staff Members	149,875.30
Pastoral Expenses	10,371.53
General Administration of Parish	83,732.20
General Property Costs	61,374.87
Capital Repairs - Church, Land & Surrounds	84,495.00
Clergy Expenses	80,732.91
Diocesan Levies	30,081.63
Total Operating Expenses	500,663.44

Net Profit (35,946.14)

Parish newsletter:

We are looking for some individuals to
assist with photography for our Parish
newsletter. Please speak with Philip Guthrie
or Fr Jackson, if you have a passion for
photography and would be willing to assist.



100th Anniversary Celebration

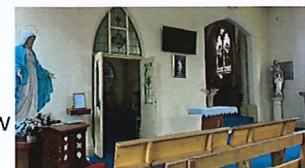


Saturday September 23, All parishioners and
friends are invited to join us to celebrate the
100th Anniversary of the laying of the Chapel
foundation stone.

We will first meet at the Notre Dame College
Chapel (10.30am) before moving onto the
Marian Chapel for **11am Mass**, followed by 12.00 lunch in
the MPJC (behind St Brendan's Church).

At lunch Dom Segafredo will give a brief history of the
Church and Chapel, followed by one of the Mercy sisters
giving a brief history of the

There will be a display of photos
and memorabilia available to view
at the lunch and after each Mass
on this weekend. If you would have any memorabilia to
share, or would like to join us for **12pm lunch Saturday
September 23**, please RSVP to Kathy Hunt on 0416 058 431.



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL Can you assist us with the
Prayers of the Faithful? We would only ask that you
help prepare for 3 months at a time. Please see
Di at the Parish office or phone 5821 2633.



Caritas Australia's Emergency Appeals – Morocco / Libya

Caritas Australia is helping in responding to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance.



Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals at www.caritas.org.au

God with us in light and darkest days –

We pray for all impacted by earthquake, flood or other disaster: survivors, displaced people, loved ones, lost ones.

Where there's life, let there be rescue.

Where there's need, let there be care.

Where there's loss, let there be consolation.

We pray for all on the ground, responding with urgency: emergency workers, medics, people donating food and blood.

Where there's fear, let there be hope.

Where there's confusion, let there be clarity.

Where there's weariness, let there be rest.

As we pray for people directly affected, we pray also for ourselves: aware, far-off, watching on.

Where there's compassion, let there be action.

Where there's love, let there be solidarity.

Where there's concern, let there be generosity.

God with us in light and darkest days – hear our prayer. Amen.

Annual Public Rosary

All are welcome to attend this prayerful and social gathering. **Saturday October 14, 2023.**

10.30am, St Brendan's Parish Church Gardens.

(If wet weather: we will move to the Church)

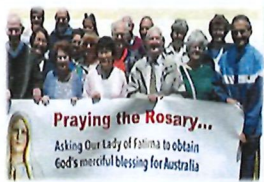
Followed by a cuppa in the Noel Daly Centre.

To help with seating, please **RSVP by 04.10.2023**

Centre will be open prior to Rosary, please bring a plate to share while socialising. All enquiries to Maureen 0403 876 578. Thank You.

PETITIONS: Prayers and thanksgivings to Our Lady will be forwarded by ANF to Fatima in Portugal.

BYO: Chair/Rug/Cushion/Hat and Spectacles for your comfort.

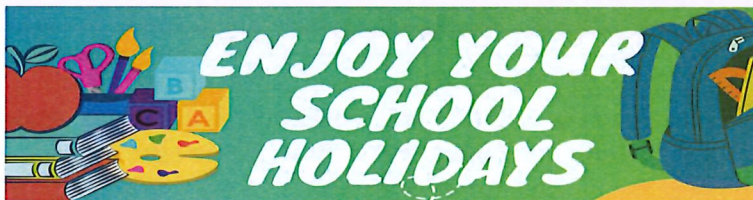


BULLETINS LEFT ON SEATS

As a courtesy to our priests and sacristans, we ask that you please take the bulletin home after Mass or leave it neatly with the bulletin pile when you leave the Church.

We have noticed a significant number of bulletins being left on seats, which means that our priests and volunteer sacristans need to clean up after others unnecessarily.

It takes time and also makes our beautiful Church look messy, so your attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.



A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend is for YOU...

"Live Your Best Married Life in Love"

Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse.

This weekend gives married couples time to nurture your relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. Every married couple deserves a Marriage Encounter weekend! The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome.

Please check our website for more details

Date: 3-5 November 2023 in Melbourne.

Website: wwme.org.au Book Now—

Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676,

email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au



September is Dementia Awareness Month

Dementia symptoms, including memory loss, are caused by diminished brain function, often because of an accumulation of protein in the brain. Many people continue to live well after their diagnosis, but often feel isolated because of the stigma and discrimination.

"A little support makes a big difference". For small, practical ways in which you can make a difference, visit <https://discrimination.dementia.org.au/>

Dementia impacts people in different ways. Help keep the world open for people living with dementia, every day.



Inner Peace in Divine Love



A 'retreat in daily life' - it is for busy committed

people who cannot afford to take time off work and pay for increasingly expensive retreats in centres. The retreat is made over four weeks (October 16 – November 6) and is based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

The retreat will be directed by Paul White, who brings a background of living Ignatian Spirituality as a member of Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia.

Mondays: October 16, 23 & 30, November 6

Times: 1:30pm – 3.00pm or 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Venue: Mons. Peter Jeffrey Centre, St. Brendan's Parish, Shepparton.

Cost: \$40.00 (covers the cost of the retreat book if required.)

Registration is required by Wednesday September 20.

Enquiries to Paul White – 0437 290 950.



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

