



St Brendan's & St Mary's Parishes are child safe communities. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

First Sunday of Lent, Year C

9 March 2025

First Reading Dt 26:4-10

The confession of faith of the elect.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

(R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' (R.)
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. (R.)
3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. (R.)
4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 10:8-13

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe

in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Lk 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Lent is a time when we are reminded that there is nothing we can do to win our salvation. It is a pure gift from God. Like Jesus in the wilderness, we are to allow God's plan to unfold in and through us. Lent is a time for us to enter actively into the mysteries of the death and resurrection of Jesus, and there to marvel at what God has done for us.

The temptations of Jesus are the same temptations that we face when we are inclined to think that somehow we are in control. While the goals of the temptations may be admirable – feed the hungry, bring the world under the control of good, trust in God's power to protect us – we often choose to accomplish them in ways that are less than admirable. We try to perform the extraordinary so that what we do reflects favourably on us. We use brute force in order to achieve control. We put God to the test rather than live peacefully with God's plan as it unfolds within and around us. We seek to become the super-hero, the super-minister, the super-Christian on our own. In his responses to the tempter, we see Jesus constantly deferring to the power of God: It is not by bread alone . . . worship only God . . . do not put God to the test. In a real sense, these temptations are a reminder that the fundamental temptation is to deny our human limitations and refuse to let God be God for us.

ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

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Priest in Residence: Fr. Saji Thomas MST

Assistant Priest: Fr Adi Indra

Office Manager: Diane Teitzel

Safeguarding Officer: Kathy Hunt Ph: 5821 2633

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm

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 March 15 & March 16, 2025

6pm	Fran Smullen	Martina Johnson
8am	David Keenan	Di Teitzel
11am	Michael Frizzell	Jean Marie Mupenda

Recently Deceased: Janice Grasso, Pat O'Keeffe, Brian Morley.

Anniversaries: Brian Thomas Closter, Pamela Sofra, Keith Hendy.

NO ANOINTING MASS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

NO HOLY HOUR ON THURSDAY MARCH 13

During the season of Lent there will be
NO recessional hymn – people will be asked
to leave the church in total silence.

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am



Syro Malabar Rite: Wednesday 6.00pm,

Saturday 8.30am, Sunday 5.30pm

St Mary's Dookie, Sunday 9.30am

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 4.45pm - 5.45pm

Meditation each Thursday during Lent

7:15am to 7:45am

Join us in the Pastoral Centre.

All are welcome!



The Parish Office
will be closed on
Monday, March 10, due to
the Public Holiday.



Pastoral Notes

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year (CCL 97, 1251f).

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are baptised. Other celebrations in Lent (e.g. Marriage) must take account of the Spirit of penance: musical instruments are only used to sustain singing, and floral decorations are very simple.

Catholics are obliged to receive holy communion at least once a year in Australia and New Zealand between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles

Maria Weatherill and Fr Joe will present an overview of the Acts of the Apostles at St Brendan's Pastoral Centre (behind St Brendan's Catholic Church)

7.30pm—8.30pm, Tuesdays March 25, April 1 and April 8.

Aims

- To introduce us to the story of the early Church in Acts of the Apostles.
- To better understand the life and struggles of the early Church.

To understand how Peter and Paul shaped the early Church through their personal missions.

Everyone is most welcome!



LECTOR'S PRACTICUM

A formation evening for all our Lectors/Readers/Commentators has been set for THURSDAY MARCH 20 from 6pm – 6.45pm.



Fr Joe would encourage as many as possible to attend this important Practicum.

"Let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth."
Hosea 6:3

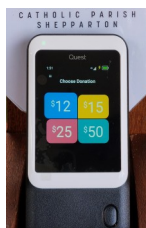


We are an Earthcare Parish and Diocese under Caritas Australia.
Contact 0428 996 975

For the month of February 2025, we received a total of \$1,173.00 in donations through our Tap N Go system.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributes, whether through Tap N Go or other forms of donation. Your generosity is deeply appreciated, and we are grateful for your continued support.

Thank you!



Parklake

All Sacristans and ladies who help around the church are invited to join us for a cuppa on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10.00am, including **Saturday, March, 8.**
Contact Kath Smyth for any questions.



PRIMARY SCHOOL YOUTH MASS



MARCH 15/6-8

Primary School Age Children are invited to attend Mass.
Food and games provided afterwards in the Pastoral Centre (Hall behind the Church)
RSVP March 13
shepparton.ym@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Praise and Worship Hour

Every Tuesday during Lent we will celebrate a Praise and Worship hour.

Starting on **Tuesday, March 18**, join us at **St. Brendan's Church** for one hour of Praise and Worship, beginning at **7:00pm.**

Kirk Nicholas will lead us in prayer.

St Brendan's Parish Friendship Group Lunch

The St Brendan's Parish Friendship Group will meet for lunch on **Sunday, March 16**, at **The Shepparton Club**, located at **455 Wyndham Street**, at **12:30 PM.**
Everyone is welcome!



For enquiries, contact Pat at **0423 343 711** (please leave a message.)

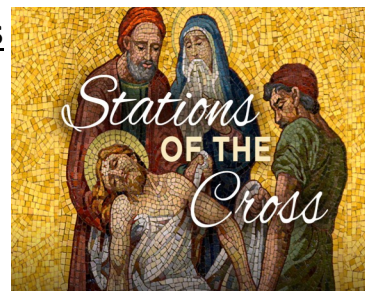
Charismatic Prayer Group

Wednesday, March 12.
at 1.30 pm in the MacKillop Room.
All are welcome—come and join us.
Enquiries to: Lorelei Goodall 5798 5331.



Stations of the Cross

St Brendan's Church,
6pm on every
Thursday during Lent.





**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

First Sunday of Lent 8th and 9th of March 2025

This Lent, we're invited to *Unite Against Poverty* with Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. This year is especially significant as we celebrate the Jubilee Year - *a time of renewal and solidarity.*

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a young student from Samoa who faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her school now has a 10,000 L water tank, improving access to clean water and allowing teachers to prioritise education.

We'll get to know **Lam** from Vietnam. Born with short stature, Lam faced social exclusion and limited employment opportunities. Through the I-SHINE program, Lam completed a course and is now a freelance graphic designer.

And we'll meet **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the Shepparton Parish QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

A Prayer Day sponsored by the Catholic Women's League will be held at

Our Lady's Church, South Wangaratta,

on **Wednesday, March 19**, commencing with Mass at 9am, followed by the Rosary and a talk on St. Joseph and prayers, concluding approximately 2 pm.

BYO Lunch All Welcome

M. Lucas 0409 621 080

UNITE  AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

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