



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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

26 April 2026

First Reading Acts 2:14, 36-41

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22:1-6. R. v.1

*(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of
darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your
staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:20-25

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate.
Anyone who enters through me will be
safe:
he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.
The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes known as Good Shepherd Sunday. In the three different cycles of the liturgical year, the gospel on this Sunday comes from John, chapter 10 – an extended discourse by Jesus on the image of himself as the good shepherd. This year the reading is the beginning of the chapter and stops just immediately before the words, 'I am the good shepherd'.

Our understanding of this whole image and the scene that is set in today's passage is very dependent upon a contextual understanding of the times. Whilst shepherds were generally regarded as being little better than criminals, they often put their lives in danger to tend to their flocks. Of a night time, several flocks of sheep would be penned in a communal sheepfold, usually made of stone walls. There was only one entrance to the sheepfold and one of the shepherds would effectively become the gate by sleeping across the entranceway. This was to keep the sheep in but also to guard against thieves. Thieves might climb over the wall into the sheepfold but the sheep were trained to respond to their shepherd's voice alone so thieves could only steal what sheep they could carry off or those that were not sufficiently trained to their shepherd's commands.

When Jesus described himself as the gate of the sheepfold, his audience would have immediately understood the analogy. For a shepherd to become the gate to the sheepfold of a night was to risk his life for not only his own sheep but all the sheep in the fold overnight. It took courage and demonstrated utter commitment.

ST BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Parish Administrator: Fr Ronald N. Masilang, RCJ

Assistant Priests:

Fr John Paul Pasala

Fr Ruel Desamparado, RCJ

Fr Addin Doe, RCJ

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 May 2 & 3, 2026

6pm	Danica Daunt	Julie Kelly
8am	Amanda Pellegrino	Brock O'Hara
11am	Mary-Ann Demase	Angel Vales

Recently Deceased: Peter Smullen

Anniversaries: Margaret McNally, Anne Magee, Alberto Patone, Raymond John O'Brien



Everyone is welcome to the **SPECIAL ANZAC DAY MASS** on Saturday APRIL 25 at 10am at St Brendan's Church.

Please note that **RECONCILIATION** which is usually on Saturday from 9.45am to 10.30am will be **CANCELLED** on April 25.

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for April

-For priests in crisis

-Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

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 10 am

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

**Priestly Ordination Anniversary
of Fr. John Paul Pasala**

We give thanks to God for the gift of Fr. John Paul's priesthood as he celebrates 15 years of ordination on Tuesday, April 28.

May the Lord bless him abundantly for his faithful service, kindness, and dedication.

We pray that God will continue to guide and strengthen him each day in his priestly ministry.



Serra Club Mass – Friday, May 1

Mass for vocations will be held Friday, May 1, at 7.00pm.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will commence at 4.45pm and conclude just before Mass.

There will be a cuppa afterwards in the Parish Centre.

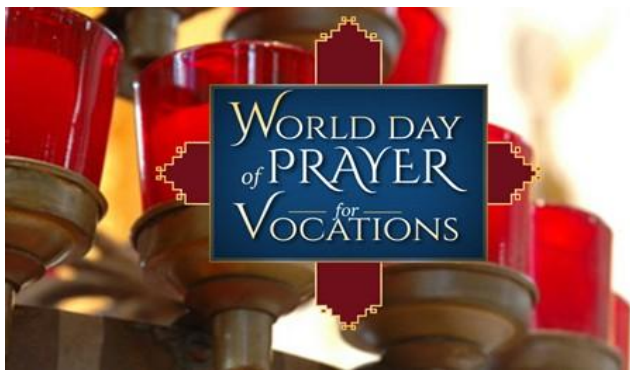
All are welcome.



63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations (WDPV)

The 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, is a significant event in the Catholic Church, celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Easter.

It serves as an occasion for reflection and prayer, encouraging vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and marriage lived in service of God's mission. The Pope's message emphasizes the interior discovery of God's gift and the importance of contemplation and interiority in recognising the beauty of life and vocation. The day invites communities, families, and Church realities to become fertile environments that welcome and accompany the gift of vocations, fostering a dynamic process of growth and a deep relationship with God.



**On Sunday, April 26, 63rd WDPV,
after the 8:00am Mass
there will be a Eucharistic Adoration
for Vacations from 9:00am—10:15am.**

Children's Liturgy will
resume this Sunday, April 26.
It is held during the 11:00am Mass each
Sunday throughout the school term.



*Remember, O Lord,
all those the brave and the true,
who have died the death of honour and
are departed in the hope of the
resurrection to eternal life.*

*In that place of light from
which sorrow and mourning
are far banished,
give them rest,
O Lord,
thou lover of men.
Amen.*



Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal (Sunday, April 26)

Support the education and formation of our diocesan seminarians by donating to Corpus Christi College and Catholic Theological College Good Shepherd Sunday Appeal.

Your tax-deductible donation will support the educational costs of Corpus Christi College seminarians and help build tomorrow's Church.

There will be two collections at all Masses this weekend

(Saturday, April 25– Sunday, April 26).

**The second collection will be dedicated
entirely to the Good Shepherd
Sunday Appeal.**

Thank you all, for your continued generosity!

<https://pay.divinity.edu.au/payments/donation/good-shepherd-sunday-appeal/>

Birthday Blessing for April

At this weekend's Masses, as it is the last Sunday of the month, there will be a special blessing for all those who celebrated their birthdays in April.



Alpha Program 2026 Process



Over the past few weeks, 20 participants from both St Brendan's and St Mel's have been journeying together through the Alpha Parish Program. Supported by a dedicated team, the group includes both returning participants and those experiencing Alpha for the first time.

Each evening begins with a shared meal, followed by a video from Alpha International, and concludes with small group discussions. These conversations have been thoughtful, engaging, and enriching, creating a space where participants feel comfortable to share and explore their faith together.

Many have expressed how much they value this opportunity for open and meaningful discussion, and the sense of community that has grown each week.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who have been involved in organising and supporting the program, and to our parish communities for your ongoing prayers.

As the program comes to an end in the coming weeks, the friendships formed along the way will remain. The connections built within our parish communities, with those who have shared in this journey, are something we will carry with us long after it finishes.

2026 National Count of Attendance

Each parish is asked to participate in the 2026 National Count of Attendance, conducted by the National Centre for Pastoral Research on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

The Count will take place over four consecutive weekends in May 2026 (2–3, 9–10, 16–17 and 23–24 May).

All people present are to be counted.

Attendance numbers only

1. Weekend 1 – count of all persons.
2. Weekend 2 – count of all persons.

Demographic information collection

3. Weekend 3 – count of males and females
4. Weekend 4 – count by five age groups (0-17, 18-29, 30-49, 50-69 and 70+)

We ask for your cooperation and understanding during the National Count of Attendance and appreciate your patience as this important work is completed.

AFL Tipping Update -

After Round 6,
Margie Preston is in the lead on
42 correct tips, two clear of the
chasing pack on 40 which includes Marlene Coppinger,
Peter Chalkley, Brendan Smith,
Anthony Tinkler, and Mary-Ann Demase.



Fr. Joe remains upbeat despite Carlton's woes,
and sits in 18th position on 36. This week's matches
feature the big Anzac Day clashes.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY MAY 17

Parish Gathering starting
at 12pm after the 11am Mass
on Sunday May 17.

BBQ and Soup will be provided.

Donations towards costs
will be gratefully received.



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PARISH QR CODE

This is for anyone who would like to make a one-off or
regular donation to our parish.

It can be found on the parish website
catholicparish.app/shepparton under the
DONATE TAB.

Thank you for your generosity.



Engaging Your Faith – Online Evenings throughout May

Catholic Theological College invites you to join
any of 12 online sessions in the evenings
from **May 4–26** .

Explore topics from the Gospels and moral
theology to AI, politics, and ethics with expert
lecturers from Catholic Theological College. Pick
the sessions that interest you!

For more information, go to:

[Engaging Your Faith –](#)
[Catholic Theological College.](#)