



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.

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

14 December 2025

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the

spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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Listen to our ACYF pilgrims share their experiences of encountering God with 6,000 young people from across Australia.

Open to all!
HOPE IS ALIVE

Friday 19 December
6pm
at MPJ
Pastoral Centre
Pizzas provided
(with donation)



ST BRENDAN'S PARISH

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Parish Administrator: Fr Ronald N. Masilang, RCJ

Assistant Priests:

Fr Adi Indra

Fr Ruel Desamparado, RCJ

Fr Addin Doe, RCJ

Office Manager: Diane Teitzel

Pastoral Associate: Anthony Kilmartin

Sacramental Coordinator: Jess Doyle

Administration Support: Laura Thompson

Youth Worker: Emma Christy

Housekeeper: Louise Tumua-Malolo

Maintenance Officer/Gardener: Gavin Doherty

Visiting Psychologist: Estela Hutchings

Safeguarding Officer: Kathy Hunt Ph: 5821 2633

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm

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

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 Dec 20 & 21 2025

6pm	Anthony Kilmartin	Damien Sullivan
8am	Vince Rando	Les Billings
11am	Marie Fontana	TBC

Anniversaries: Winifred Grace, Vincenzo Barca, Matteo Todaro, Irene Breeze

Funeral Mass Livestream & Tributes for

Monsignor Francis Kelly Marriott

The Livestream recording of Monsignor Frank's Funeral Mass can now be viewed on the diocesan website or YouTube Channel.

Go to: <https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/2990-funeral-mass-for-mons-frank-marriott>

Tributes to Monsignor Frank.

You can upload a tribute and read tributes to Monsignor Frank on our website.

Go to: <https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/2994-tributes-for-monsignor-frank-marriott>

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



St Brendan's Earthcare meets on the third Thursday of each month from 5pm to 6pm in the Parish Centre (MPJC).

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 18.

However, this week's meeting will begin at 4pm on Thursday, December 18 at Sr Agnes Murphy's address.

All welcome!

Christmas Mass Times across the Diocese

Travelling over Christmas?

Check Christmas Mass times for parishes of the Diocese on our website.

www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au



**Third Sunday of Advent
Let's reflect and learn.**

"When John heard in the prison the works of Christ" (tou Christou—the anointed one) (v. 2a). "Messiah" is a transliteration of the Hebrew word for "anointed" and "Christ" is a transliteration of the Greek word for "anointed." In the Old Testament, kings and priests were anointed or set apart for their respective offices. The Jewish people looked forward to the coming of the Messiah—the anointed one who would bring salvation—but they thought of the Messiah as a great king like David, a warrior who would restore Israel to its former glory. John's question in verse 3 is surely occasioned, in part, by this understanding of the Messiah.

Matthew mentioned John's arrest in 4:12, but offered no explanation. In 14:1-12, he will tell us the sordid story of Herod's marriage to his brother's wife, John's criticism of Herod and his subsequent arrest, and the daughter's dance that leads to John's beheading. Josephus tells us that John is imprisoned at Machaerus, Herod's desert fortress east of the Dead Sea.

"Are you he who comes, or should we look for another?" (v. 3). We are surprised that John would ask such a question. The reason behind John's question is found in his messianic expectations. He called people to repent (3:2), because "Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't bring forth good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire" (3:10). He warned that the one who was to come would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. "His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire" (3:12). John clearly expects a fire-and-brimstone messiah.

"Go and tell John the things which you hear and see" (v. 4). As noted above, what John's disciples heard was the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7), and what they saw was Jesus' miracles (chapters 8-9). "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them" (v. 5). In his catalogue of miracles, "the poor have good news preached to them" (v. 5b) seems minor by comparison with giving sight to the blind and cleansing lepers (v. 5a). Most people save the best for last, and the most dramatic miracle was raising the dead (9:18-27).

"Most certainly I tell you, among those who are born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptizer" (v. 11a). Jesus declares John to be, not just the greatest prophet, but the greatest figure ever. Given Israel's pantheon of heroes, such as Abraham, Moses, and David, this is an astonishing statement, indeed. What makes John so special is not his personal characteristics, excellent though those might be, but his privileged place in salvation history. All the other heroes of the faith have done mighty works, but only John has the privilege of introducing the Messiah.

"yet he who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he" (v. 11b). John stands at the pinnacle of the old era, but even the greatest representative of the old era is less than the humblest representative of the new. Like Moses, John marched up to the border of the promise without actually entering it himself. He was Jesus' forerunner – not his disciple. If the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John, consider where that places us.

We may be very ordinary Christians, but God considers us to be great.

ADVENT COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION

at St Mel's Parish, Shepparton

9:15am - Holy Mass

**9:45am - Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament/Silent Adoration**

9:50am -11:20am - Confessions

11:20am - Benediction

Please note, as mentioned above this will be held at St Mel's Parish, but parishioners from all parishes are very welcome.

**Advent & Christmas Prayer & Reflection
Leaflets 2025**

The Diocese has again created its traditional Advent and Christmas leaflets. This year, they focus on the scriptures of Advent and Christmas Year A, and Dilexi Te, Pope Leo XIV's Apostolic Exhortation to all Christians on Love for the Poor. These six handy A5-sized leaflets can be downloaded from our website: <https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/2993-advent-and-christmas-prayer-and-reflection-2025>

**St Brendan's Misa de Gallo
16-24 December at 6am**



Fr Addin RCJ
Tue 16 Dec



Fr Ronald RCJ
Wed 17 Dec



Bishop Rene RCJ
Thu 18 Dec



Fr Saji MST
Fri 19 Dec



Fr Ruel RCJ
Sat 20 Dec



Fr Adi
Sun 21 Dec



Fr Uday ALCP/OSS
Mon 22 Dec



Fr Jackson
Tue 23 Dec



Fr Joe
Wed 24 Dec

Breakfast will be served after Mass.



CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST BRENDAN'S, SHEPPARTON & ST MARY'S, DOOKIE

2025 Christmas Mass Times

MISA DE GALLO DAWN MASSES (9 DAY NOVENA)

- **6.00 am Tues 16 December until Wed 24 December**

WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

- **5.30 pm – Christmas Re-enactment followed by the 6pm Family Mass, St Brendan's Church**
- **St Mary's Church Dookie – 7.30 pm**
- **8.00 pm – Syro-Malabar Mass, St Brendan's Church**
- **11.00 pm – Late Mass (10.30 pm Carols), St Brendan's**

THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

- **8.00 am & 11.00 am**



Cathedral Choir Scholarships & Bursaries Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir is calling all young singers and adults ready to grow, soar, and sing with brilliant musicians in one of Australia's most stunning cathedrals.

Student Scholarships (Years 5–12) Develop your skills, perform in inspiring liturgies, and be part of a choir that shapes voices and confidence alike. Adult Choral Bursaries Join as Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass — sing extraordinary music, be mentored by top musicians, and lift your voice where it will truly be heard.

For more information go to:

<https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/2991-cathedral-choir-scholarships-and-bursaries-2026>