



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.

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

7 December 2025

First Reading Is 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the
land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the
Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

*(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.*

- O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
- In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
- For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
- May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the
scriptures was meant to teach us something about
hope from the examples scripture gives of how
people who did not give up were helped by God.
And may he who helps us when we refuse to give
up, help you all to be tolerant with each other,
following the example of Christ Jesus, so that
united in mind and voice you may give glory to the
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat
each other in the same friendly way as Christ
treated you. The reason Christ became the servant
of circumcised Jews was not only so that God
could faithfully carry out the promises made to the
patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give
glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one
place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans
and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:*

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he
preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was
his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven
is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet
Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair
with a leather belt round his waist, and his food
was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and
all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their
way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the
river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when
he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees
coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of
vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution
that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce
the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell
yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father,"
because, I tell you, God can raise children for
Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe
is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree
which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down
and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for
repentance, but the one who follows me is more
powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his
sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and
fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear
his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the
barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will
never go out.'

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

121 Knight Street, Shepparton

Phone: 5821 2633

Email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Website: catholicparish.app/shepparton

Facebook: [sheppartoncatholic](https://www.facebook.com/sheppartoncatholic)

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.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Tap & Go during November. Together, we raised \$2,020. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Readers & Commentators Dec 13 & 14 2025

6pm	Fran Smullen	David Tarquini
8am	Berni Sullivan	Lyndel Annett
11am	Louise Tumua-Malolo	Angel Vales

Recently Deceased: Denise Crawford

Anniversaries: Tommaso Giuliani, Michelina Limosini, Jim Cummins, Salvatore (Sam) Sciacca



Praise and Worship

Join us every second Friday of the month for an evening of praise and worship, including:

Friday, December 12

7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

St Brendan's Catholic Church

All are welcome!

All Sacristans and ladies who help around the church are invited join us for a cuppa at Parklake on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10am, including **Saturday, December 13.**

Contact Kath on 0409 003 420.





ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH

INVITES YOU TO COME
AND JOIN OUR

Misa De Gallo

A CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASS

16-24 DECEMBER 2025
@6:00AM

"Come Lord Jesus, come!"



SEND O LORD HOLY APOSTLES INTO YOUR CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent – A

Let's reflect and learn.

Readings – Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2,7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Matt 3:1-12

Integral to the season of Advent is the person and ministry of John the Baptist. He was, in every way, a strange character. His clothing was made of animal hair. He ate locusts and wild honey for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. He spent much of his time in the wilderness, far from human company. When he came to town—that is, to where people lived—it was usually to scream at the top of his lungs, calling everyone to repentance in preparation for the coming of the Messiah.

No one was spared. He challenged the soldiers and the tax collectors. He called out the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Not even the commoners were exempt. While many of them were pious, some were not. And none were free from sin. John the Baptist was intolerant of sin and even less patient with hypocrites. His invitation to everyone was simple: produce fruits as evidence of righteousness.

We appreciate John the Baptist better when we understand his mission in relation to the ministry of the promised Messiah, whose coming he dedicated his entire life to heralding. John knew what the coming of the Messiah meant for his people, who at that time were languishing under an oppressive Roman regime. He was deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of injustice in the land, especially the suffering of the poor—those at the receiving end of military brutality, extortion, and all other forms of dehumanization. He was saddened that so many of his people had abandoned the path of righteousness and had succumbed to despair. Above all, he understood the urgency of his mission. He was preparing the way for the Messiah, the only true king of justice and prince of peace.

In this season of Advent, the church presents John the Baptist to us as a model. John teaches us that waiting for the coming of Christ is not merely a joyful expectation—it is also careful preparation. It requires a commitment to making the world more just for everyone. It involves fearlessly challenging the structures of sin and oppression. Often, it means standing courageously against abusive power, protesting if necessary. Most importantly, it demands that our lives, at every moment, embody the fullness of the gospel of Christ, especially its emphasis on love, justice, mercy, and peace.

John the Baptist's total commitment to his mission as the herald of the Messiah is therefore very instructive.

Pope Francis reminds us, in his 2013 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) that, through our baptism, God has called us all to be missionary disciples. This means that, like John the Baptist, everything about us must point to the Christian message. It is not enough to proclaim the gospel with our lips; we must live it.

As in John the Baptist's time, our world today faces a myriad of challenges. Many parts of the world are experiencing violent crises: Nigeria, Sudan, Ukraine, Israel-Palestine. Numerous people continue to live under repressive regimes and inhuman conditions. We must never forget that we are the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus to a world desperately in need of peace, justice, and mercy.

The good news is not just the imminence of justice and peace, but that it is through our lives and ministry that the justice and peace of God will flourish.

William Orbih, Ph.D.

CHANGE OF MASS SCHEDULE –

There will be Mass on Monday, DECEMBER 8 at 9:15am
(Immaculate Conception)

There will be no 9:15am Mass on Tuesday, DECEMBER 9
or Thursday, DECEMBER 11.

Scheduled school Masses:

• St Brendan's Primary School End-of-Year Mass –
Wednesday, DECEMBER 10 at 10:15am

• St Luke's Primary School End-of-Year Mass –
Thursday, DECEMBER 11 at 9:30am

Our Parish Office
will be closed on

Monday, December 8 and

Tuesday, December 9.

We apologise for any inconvenience and
thank you for your understanding.

**OFFICE
CLOSED**

Men's Group

Well, another year of Men's Group has come to this—
our Christmas Breakup Breakfast.

On **Saturday, December 13 at 7:30am** in the St
Brendan's Parish Centre,
we will close the Men's Group for 2025.

You are invited to join us.

If possible, please bring along some Christmas food
that has special meaning for you.

As we look back, we will share some of the highlights,
challenges, and joys of 2025.

Please come and join us!

If you have any
questions, call Anthony on
5821 2633
(Tuesday or Thursday)



Hear from Emma Christy, Our Youth Worker at St Brendan's Parish

There is Always Room for One More

At the feast of Christ the King, I was rostered to read at Mass. Beforehand, I tried to save my seat with my bag and my bulletin. But when I returned, the pew was full—people were even standing over my bag.

I picked it up and looked around for somewhere else to sit, feeling a little lost, when a parishioner caught my eye and waved me over. As I squeezed into the pew, she smiled and said,
"There is always room for one more."

What a beautiful way to begin our journey into Advent—and to live our Catholic life in general.

We are called to make room: in our pews, in our communities, and in our hearts.

Sometimes it is as simple as sliding along to let someone in. Sometimes it is welcoming someone into our lives, even when it feels a little crowded.

Advent invites us to open ourselves to Christ and to others. And as I was reminded that day, there is always room for one more.



ACYF Reflection – Hope is Alive

Last weekend I had the privilege of attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF).

In the lead-up, I'll admit I was stressed about the lack of communication and planning.

But God always has a way of revealing His plan—even when we can't see it yet.

So I chose to go into the festival with an open mind. Early Saturday morning, our group set off: students from Notre Dame, young people from surrounding Catholic schools, and seven young adults. That evening, we gathered as the Sandhurst Diocese for a beautiful moment of unity, where one large candle lit many smaller candles—symbolising how faith is shared and how light spreads from person to person.

On Sunday, we joined a pilgrimage walk with 6,000 other young Catholics, accompanying the World Youth Day Cross and the icon of Mary. Walking together was powerful; for four days we were surrounded by thousands of like-minded young people, a moving reminder that *hope truly is alive* in the Church today.

Throughout the festival, we were given so many opportunities to grow in faith, to hear stories that challenged and inspired us, and to encounter Christ in new ways. The celebration concluded with a magnificent Mass—6,000 young Catholics, over 50 priests, 30 bishops, and the Archbishop gathered around the altar. It was an incredible experience of the universal Church alive and joyful.

I cannot wait to see how our young people continue to stay ignited after this festival. As we enter the Advent season, I hope you too are able to experience how *hope is alive*.

God Bless,
Emma Christy

NEW ROSTERS for the months of January, February and March, 2026

Please let the Parish Office know by

Wednesday, December 10, if you would like any
changes to your current roster.

If we don't hear from you,
we will assume your availability remains the same.

The following Ministries
are rostered:

- Minister of Communion
- Reader
- Commentator
- Offertory
- Communion to the Sick and Housebound
- Greeters and Ushers

We thank everyone for their time and effort in
being part of these important roles
within our Parish.



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