



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 in Ordinary Time, Year A

1 February 2026

First Reading Zep 2:3; 3:12-13

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek
refuge in the name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

*(R.) Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!*
or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
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 1 Cor 1:26-31

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when
you were called: how many of you were
wise in the ordinary sense of the word,
how many were influential people, or came
from noble families? No, it was to shame
the wise that God chose what is foolish
by human reckoning, and to shame what
is strong that he chose what is weak by
human reckoning; those whom the world

thinks common and contemptible are the
ones that God has chosen – those who
are nothing at all to show up those who are
everything. The human race has nothing to
boast about to God, but you, God has made
members of Christ Jesus and by God's
doing he has become our wisdom, and our
virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom.
As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast,
let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 5:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 5:1-12

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill.
There he sat down and was joined by his
disciples. Then he began to speak. This is
what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their
heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for
what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the
cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you
and persecute you and speak all kinds
of calumny against you on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be
great in heaven.'

Fire Relief Collection

Thank you to all those who
contributed to the Fire
Relief Collection
last weekend.

We are grateful to share that
St Brendan's Parish
raised \$3,609.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel of Matthew is keen to cast
Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses'.
Moses was revered in Jewish history not
only as the one who led the people out
of Egypt, but even more importantly as
the one who received the Ten
Commandments from God. The first five
books of the Bible, known to Jews as
the Torah, or the Law, were accredited
to Moses for a very long time. So Moses
was seen as the one who received the
Commandments from God and who also
wrote down the Law of the people, the
Torah. He was the Law-Giver for the
Jewish people. When the gospel of
Matthew portrays Jesus as the new
Moses it emphasises the way in which
Jesus sought to bring the Law of Moses
to fulfilment and bring about a new
understanding and appreciation of both
the Law and God. Jesus introduced a
new way of perceiving God; as a God of
compassion and mercy, rather than the
jealous, vengeful God that is often
expressed in the Old Testament.

The Sermon on the Mount that begins
with the Beatitudes comes out of this
historical context. Jesus is trying to
present a new interpretation of the right
way to be in relationship with God; one
that is not dominated by rules and
regulations. The text is so familiar to us
today that it is almost bland. However,
at the time it must have been incredibly
confronting. The attitudes and states of
being that Jesus blesses were not the
characteristics that were valued in the
society of his time. Poverty, gentleness
and mourning were not considered
strong, desirable qualities. So, the
picture Jesus paints of how to be in
right relationship with God and others
was confronting the standards and
expectations of the time.

ST BRENDAN'S PARISH

121 Knight Street, Shepparton

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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 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 Feb 7 & Feb 8 2026

6pm	Anthony Kilmartin	Fran Smullen
8am	Les Billings	David Keenan
11am	Marie Fontana	Jean Marie Mupenda

Recently Deceased: Brian O'Sullivan, Brian Howard

Anniversaries: Giovanni Fiore, Bill Keyte, Francesco Scarcella

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

Anointing Mass will be held on
Wednesday, February 4 at 11am.



Children's Liturgy of the Word
resumes this
Sunday, February 1 during the 11am Mass.



NOTICE ON COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS

The Second Vatican Council states: "Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that FULLY CONSCIOUS, and ACTIVE PARTICIPATION in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such PARTICIPATION by the Christian people as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people (1 Pet 2:9; cf. 2:4-5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism" (SC 14).

In view of the Communion under both kinds during the Holy Masses on Saturday Vigil and Sundays in St Brendan's Parish, after certain valid liturgical observations and considerations of its recent implementation, your pastors have deemed it worthy to suspend the practice beginning this weekend, 31 January 2026.

For the time being, a series of liturgical formation will be held to facilitate an understanding and appreciation of the practice to promote 'a fully conscious and active participation' especially during the Eucharistic celebration.

A proper (re) training for the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion especially in the distribution on both kinds to avoid confusions among parishioners will also be in place.

Once these initiatives have been taken, Communion on both kinds will be reconsidered – keeping in mind the directives that might be given by the Diocese.

We thank you for your understanding.

Fr. Ronald N. Masilang, RCJ
Fr. Ruel Desamparado, RCJ
Fr. Addin Doe, RCJ
Fr. Adi Indra

ST BRENDANS CHURCH YOUTH GROUP



February 6

**3:30 (For a 4pm start)-5.30pm
in the Pastoral Centre
(hall behind the Church)**

Join us for food, games
and discussion

shepparton.ym@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Feast of the Presentation of our Lord

We cordially invite you to come and celebrate
the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord and pray for
our priests, for seminarians and for vocations.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

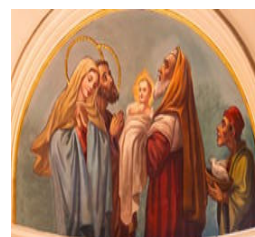
7:00PM - Holy Rosary

**7:30PM - Holy Mass with the
Blessing of Candles**

WHERE: 70 Tank Corner East Road, Lemnos

Please bring your
candles to be blessed,
a plate to share and a chair.

Tea and coffee
will be provided.



Blessing of the birthday celebrants

This weekend is the last Sunday of the month,
and we will be offering a special blessing for
all parishioners celebrating
birthdays this month.

Please join us at any of the weekend Masses
to receive this blessing.



Alpha Is Coming!

The Alpha Program is coming to
St Brendan's Parish Centre from
Monday, February 23, through to early May.

Alpha has been running around the
world for nearly **40 years**
and is a warm,
welcoming program designed to
explore faith in a relaxed,
community setting.



Each session includes **a shared meal, a short video,
and open discussion.**

Everyone is welcome—people from
all parishes and all stages of faith
are encouraged to come along.

If you would like to take part in the Alpha Program,
please email the **St Brendan's Parish office**
(shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au),
and a member of the Alpha team will be in touch.

The Parish RCIA process will resume this
Thursday, February 5 in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm.
We have a busy few months leading up to Easter, with
the Rite of Election in Bendigo on the 22nd of Febru-
ary and the retreat in Kyabram on the 15th of March.

We had the Rite of Welcome last weekend at
St Mary's Parish, Mooroopna, for Ola, Filippo and Tali;
please keep them in your prayers. We also have two
other people who are discerning the journey to faith,

Mal and Lexie,
please keep them in
your prayers as well.



2026 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

For children in grade 3 and above

Enrolment Masses
February 28- March 1
Sacramental Weekend
August 22 -23

For more information
shepparton.sacramental@sandhurst.catholic.org.au



Reconciliation



Eucharist



Confirmation

HELPERS NEEDED

The small band of loyal sacristans are needing fresh helpers to join them in their work.

PLEASE consider volunteering:

To dust and undertake light cleaning duties once every six weeks on a day and time that suits you. We work in teams of 2-3 and all training and support is provided.

-OR

Can you help prepare the altar for weekday or weekend Mass and clean up afterwards?

Again all training is provided and you will work with a team.

Roster every 6 weeks.

**Volunteers
Needed!**



-OR

CAN YOU DO BOTH?

Please contact Mary-Ann Demase

0409393067

or email maryanndemase56@gmail.com

Men's Group 2026

Our first meeting for the 2026 Men's Group this year will start on **Saturday, February 7** in the Parish Centre at 7.30am.

If you have been thinking about coming along to the men's group, this is as good a chance as any to join in our men's breakfasts.

We always begin with breakfast and then move to a faith topic for reflection.

The meeting lasts for one hour and is very welcoming to all newcomers.

If you have any questions, please call Anthony on

5821 2633

(Tuesday's or Thursday's).



The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2026

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. From time to time, the Holy Father may add a second prayer intention related to current events or urgent needs, like disaster relief. The second prayer request will help mobilize prayer and action related to the urgent situation.

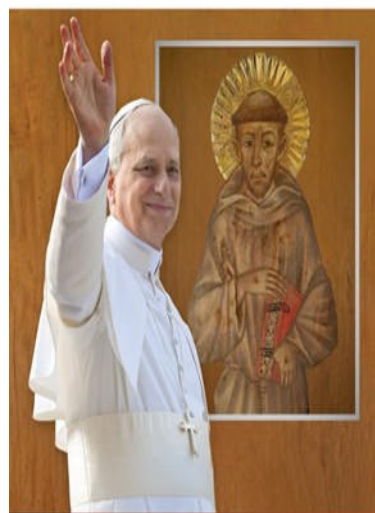
The Holy Father has entrusted these intentions in a particular way to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, an organization that works to encourage Christians to respond to the Pope's appeal and to deepen their daily prayer.

You can find more information about the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network on their website.

(The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network will also publish any urgent prayer intentions of the Holy Father as soon as they are received from the Holy See.)

Intentions for the month of February:

- For children with incurable diseases
- Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



St Brendan's Parish Friendship Group

Our monthly lunch will resume on **Sunday, February 15.**

Details will be provided closer to the date.

We hope to see you all there – new comers are very welcome!

Enquiries: Pat – 0423 343 711

Sandhurst Formation Institution

Diocesan Formation Gathering— Save the Date!

August, Friday 21 & August Friday 22

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