



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 A

22 February 2026

### First Reading Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

*Creation of our first parents, and sin.*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3**

*(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)
3. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

### Second Reading Rom 5:12-19 (or Shorter form Rom 5:12, 17-19)

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

### 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 Mt 4:1-11

*Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

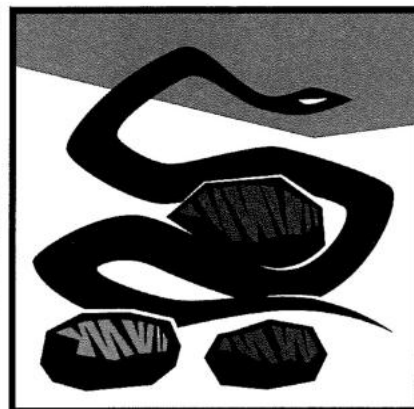
Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

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

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

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

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.



### Reflection by Greg Sunter

Sin and temptation are the dominant themes of the readings for this first week of Lent. Indeed, they are regular themes in the season of Lent. However, the scripture passages throughout this season allow us the opportunity to think again about these themes and perhaps reconsider some traditional understandings of them.

Today's first reading and gospel give us two different takes on the notion of temptation. In the passage from Genesis, humanity is tempted to ignore the will of God and, when they succumb, they lose their innocence and become embarrassed by their nakedness. The temptation they are offered is to believe themselves above and beyond the will of God; to believe that they can judge as well as God; and to rise to an equal level of power and authority with God. Their action breaks the trusting, loving relationship between themselves and God. In the Gospel, Jesus too is confronted with similar temptations. Ultimately, the temptation that faces Jesus relates to his purpose and ministry – will he trust to God's vision of the suffering servant who will bring about a change of heart in the people, or will he be the sort of Messiah that the people hoped for: a triumphant, glorious victor over all who stood in his way. He is tempted to break his self-imposed fasting, to test God's promise of nurture and security, and to seek glory and personal power. Whilst Adam and Eve surrender to temptation, Jesus holds fast to God's vision.

The second reading from Paul ties the Genesis and Gospel readings together and injects the notion of sin into the equation. However, Paul makes it perfectly clear that the sin of Adam, though carrying great ramifications, pales in comparison to the extraordinary abundance of God's love that is expressed through Jesus Christ.

**ST BRENDAN'S PARISH**

**121 Knight Street, Shepparton**

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**Website: [catholicparish.app/shepparton](http://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 28 & Mar 1, 2026**

|      |                 |                    |
|------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 6pm  | Chris Segrave   | Julie Kelly        |
| 8am  | Berni Spykers   | Brock O'Hara       |
| 11am | Paul Richardson | Loretta Richardson |

**Anniversaries:** Arnold Schroeders, John Stein, Sr Mary De Chantal RSM (Honnie Wardle), Bernard O'Shea

**Project Compassion – First Sunday of Lent (February 22)**

Unite against poverty this Lent with Caritas Australia and help vulnerable communities by supporting Project Compassion 2026.

This year, we meet people whose lives are changing through access to clean water, climate-resilient farming, food security and emergency relief amid conflict.

Your generous assistance this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes, or by scanning your parish's QR code.

QR code for St Mary's, Dookie



QR code for St Brendan's



**Weekend Mass Times**

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am

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**Syro Malabar Rite: Wednesday 6.00pm,**

**Saturday 8.30am & Sunday 5.30pm**

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St Mary's Dookie, Sunday 10 am

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**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

**Recessional Hymn during Lent**

The Vatican II's document *Musicae Sacram* (Sacred Music) and the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM) indicate that silence is preferred at the end of the Mass, that the priest depart in silence emphasising the penitential tone of the season.

Should a song be sung, let it be sober, simple and subdued which highlights prayer and penance.



**Mass will begin at 9:30am on Thursday, February 26**

Please note that Mass will be at 9:30am on Thursday, February 26, to accommodate St Luke's Primary School for their Opening School Mass.

**We warmly welcome the St Luke's school community to this special celebration.**



## **World Day of Prayer 2026**

**The 2026 Country of focus  
is Nigeria**

The World Day of Prayer for the  
Dookie area churches  
will be hosted by  
**St Mary's Church, Dookie on  
Friday, March 6 at 7:30pm.**



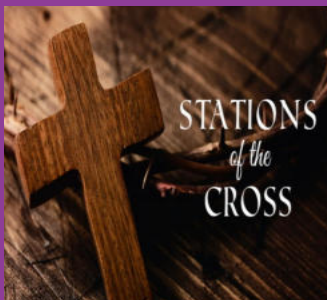
Our Guest speaker is Fr Martins Aloga  
Light supper will follow.  
For more information, please email  
[dookie@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:dookie@sandhurst.catholic.org.au).

In the Shepparton area, the World Day of Prayer  
service will be held at  
**St Mel's Church, Shepparton  
on Friday, March 6 at 10:30am.**

Guest speaker is Ify, who has moved to  
Australia from Nigeria  
Morning tea will follow, and all are welcome!

For Shepparton enquiries, contact  
**Sr Pam Barlow** on 0458 999 108.

**Stations of the Cross will  
be held at  
St Brendan's Church  
each Friday at 6pm,  
commencing  
Friday, February 27  
until Friday, March 27.**



**Our RCIA group** will travel to the Sacred Heart  
Cathedral this Sunday for the Rite of Election.  
Others from Mooroopna Parish will be joining us  
as part of their RCIA formation.

The Rite is an ancient tradition which asks them if they  
have committed to a new life, and asks us whether we  
have continued to support them and show,  
by our example, what faith in God looks and feels like.

They will also have the opportunity to look around the  
Cathedral, meet Rev Brian Boyle, and share a cuppa  
with others on the  
RCIA journey from  
across the  
diocese.



## **Peter's Pence 2025**

### **Message from Fr Brian Boyle (Diocesan Administrator)**

I have received notification from the Vatican of the  
Sandhurst Diocese contribution to Peter's Pence 2025.  
The sum raised was some €5800 -  
around Australian \$9600.

Pope Leo expressed his heartfelt  
gratitude for this gift from our diocese.

Kind regards,  
Fr Brian



### **Upcoming Formation Training – All 5 Parishes (Current and new volunteers welcome)**

Parish Formation Sessions  
for all 5 Parishes

Saturday, March 21  
Saturday, March 28  
10am–1pm

Snacks and lunch will  
be provided.

Further details will be advertised soon.



### **WITH SINCERE THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR THE DONATIONS FOR THE FIRE RELIEF**

I convey my deep appreciation to all the  
parishioners of the 5 parishes of the Goulburn  
Valley. Your extraordinary donation of \$10,207.50 has had a  
considerable impact on the people of  
Longwood and Ruffy. I drove into the Ruffy hills last week to  
visit some of the affected people and it was like driving  
through hell (not that I've been there!!). The devastation is  
enormous: the landscape is black, many homes, machinery  
sheds, and shearing sheds are all gone. Livestock are dead,  
many fences are burnt and trees are denuded. It will take years  
for recovery but our rural communities are resilient.

On talking to the affected people and to some of our  
community leaders it seems to me that, 5 weeks on from the  
fires, Blaze Aid is the best option for helping the locals.  
Di Teitzel has already paid for a freezer for Ruffy, \$338.00,  
which we provided 5 weeks ago. The rest of the money,  
\$9,869.50 has been put into the BlazeAid Inc. account for  
restoration of fencing. This will enable farmers to once again  
start to rebuild their livestock reservoir.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I am always  
conscious of the generosity of our Catholic parishes and this is  
a typical example of your commitment to those in need,

Yours in Christ,

Fr Joe Taylor

### St Vincent de Paul St. Brendan's Conference

At our local Vinnies Conference we are always looking for new members.

You can join us as we assist our welfare clients each week.

It is a time commitment of 3 hours once a fortnight.

You will always work with another member and we will support you in your training.

If you would like more information please call Gerry on 0413400318 or Alison on 0419504082.

We'd be glad to show you how you can be involved in our good works!



### AFL Tipping Comp

The new footy season is upon us and this is the time to join us in our annual tipping fundraiser.

All you need is an email address and access to the internet and you can tip from home, work, or indeed, anywhere in the world!



The details are:

Website: [tipping.afl.com.au](http://tipping.afl.com.au)

Comp Name: Shepparton Parish

Invite Code: 8J5CTLFN

Cost: \$40

The winner gets parish bragging rights and \$320 at the end of the season.

Join now and invite all your family and friends. But be quick...kick-off is on Thursday, March 5! C'mon!

### Blessing of the Birthday Celebrants

Celebrants of the month will be invited to receive a special blessing during the weekend Masses.



### *Little Red Skips*



We also have equipment and people to help you clean up.  
Call Joey for a bin delivery / quote  
**0428 713 708**  
[Rubbish@littleredskips.com.au](mailto:Rubbish@littleredskips.com.au)

### *Helping with all your dirty needs*

Skip bins available in  
2, 3, 5, 7+ metres

Hook bins available in  
12, 20, 32, 37 metres

# SUNSET SESSION

## *Young Adults*

WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE OF THE OLD  
TESTAMENT- FATHER JOE

6-8 pm FEB 27 Aged 18-35

All Young Adults are invited to join for a discussion in the Pastoral Centre (hall behind the church) and join us for dinner afterwards

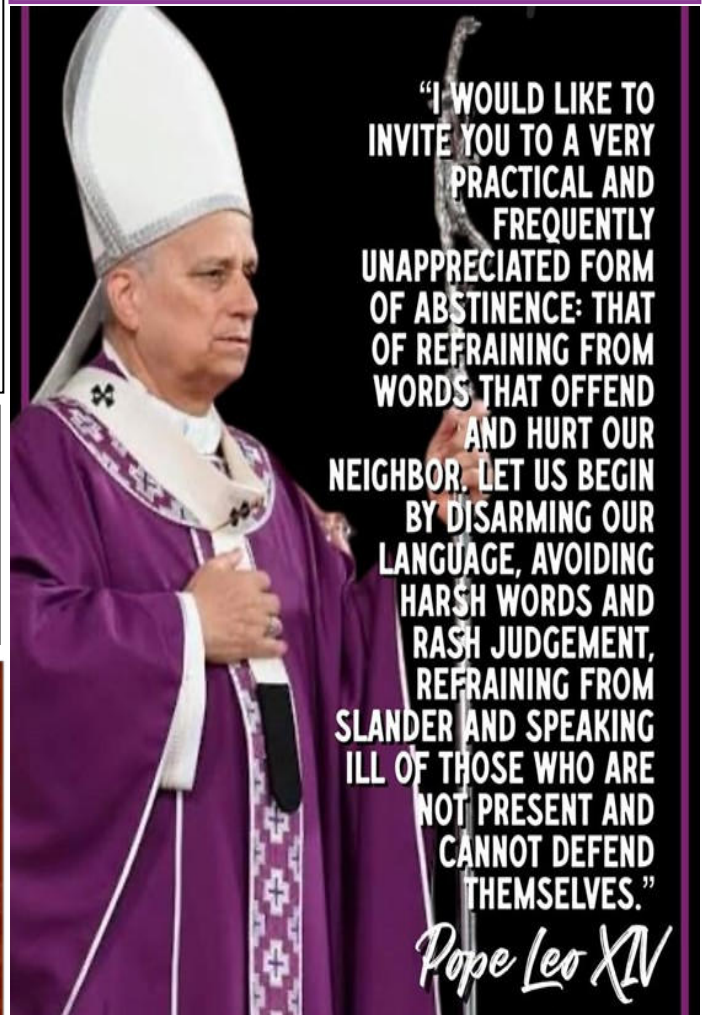
[SHEPPARTON.YM@SANDHURST.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU](mailto:SHEPPARTON.YM@SANDHURST.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU)

### Lenten Reminder

As we enter the season of Lent, all Catholics aged 14 and over are called to **abstain from meat on**

**Fridays**, including **Good Friday**.

This practice is a way to unite in prayer, penance, and reflection during this holy season.



"I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO A VERY PRACTICAL AND FREQUENTLY UNAPPRECIATED FORM OF ABSTINENCE: THAT OF REFRAINING FROM WORDS THAT OFFEND AND HURT OUR NEIGHBOR. LET US BEGIN BY DISARMING OUR LANGUAGE, AVOIDING HARSH WORDS AND RASH JUDGEMENT, REFRAINING FROM SLANDER AND SPEAKING ILL OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT PRESENT AND CANNOT DEFEND THEMSELVES."

*Pope Leo XIV*