



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.

The Baptism of the Lord, Year A

11 January 2026

First Reading Is 42:1-4. 6-7

Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the
nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the
cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed
you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the
people and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the
dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

*(R.) The Lord will bless his people
with peace.*

- O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)
- The Lord's voice resounding on the
waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)
- The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

Second Reading Acts 10:34-38

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation See Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The heavens were opened and the
Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Mt 3:13-17

When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

Friendly reminders

The Parish Office will be closed on **Wednesday, January 14**, as Parish Staff and Clergy will be undertaking Workplace Health & Safety training.

St Brendan's Church will be closed to the public on **Monday, January 19**, for cleaning of the fans and high areas.

Thank you for your understanding!

Reflection by Greg Sunter

When Jesus approaches John for baptism, John recognises him as the Messiah that John has been preaching about, the one for whom he was preparing the way. Recognising the significance of the moment, John tries to reverse roles and force Jesus into a superior role to himself. But Jesus says let's just do it like this for now and 'do all that righteousness demands'. In the gospel of Matthew, whenever Jesus speaks about fulfilling the demands of righteousness or doing what is righteous, he is speaking about carrying out the will of God; acting in accordance with the covenant relationship between God and the people.

It would have been easy for Jesus to accept John's offer to exchange places. In many ways perhaps he would have liked to do so as a way of acknowledging the great work John had done. But part of the demands of righteousness that Jesus needed to fulfil was to be the sort of Messiah that did not sit within normal expectations. Part of his fulfilment of God's will was to be a servant Messiah rather than a powerful, avenging Messiah for which many of the people hoped and prayed. To have exchanged places with John would have been to say, here I am, I am greater than John and I am here to show you all the way. Rather, by submitting to John's baptism he does indeed show the way – the way of humility and gentleness. We are assured of the rightness of Jesus' actions immediately because, upon his rising from the water, the voice of God affirms favour and approval upon Jesus. In the first test of his will, Jesus has acted in accordance with the will of God.

**On January 8, 2026, the Sisters of Mercy will celebrate 180 years
of presence and service in Australia.**

**We give our heartfelt thanks for their faithful service and
lasting contribution to communities across the nation.**



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 Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm

Readers & Commentators Jan 17 & 18

6pm	Damien Sullivan	Anthony Kilmartin
8am	David Keenan	Les Billings
11am	Emma Christy	Rett Aitken

Anniversaries: Cardinal George Pell, Domenico Romeo.

Recently Deceased: Robert Scott, Giuseppa Garufi, Giovanni Fiore, Fran Gleeson.

Tap n Go

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Tap n Go in December.

We're pleased to share that \$2,842 was raised in December of 2025, up from \$2,040 in December, 2024!

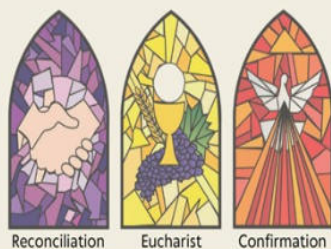


2026 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

For children in grade 3 and above

Enrolment Mass's
February 28- March 1
Sacramental Weekend
August 22-23

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



Reconciliation Eucharist Confirmation

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

More than just "nice"

"Well, that was nice, Father." This is a comment I often hear from family members after a baptism. And yes, the baptism ceremony is nice; but it is far more than simply nice or externally beautiful.

As a priest, I am privileged to celebrate many baptisms.

Some come with memorable moments - whether because of a child's crankiness or my own inexperience (though I trust they were still valid!). The Church sets a clear and simple standard: water is poured over the head, and the minister says, "I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." It is not complicated!

From time to time, issues come up when ministers attempt to be "creative," resulting in baptisms that are not considered valid by the Church. This can lead to criticism that the Church is rigid or unpastoral.

But such comments miss the point.

As ministers, we act not on our own authority, but on the authority of Christ and the Church. When we celebrate baptism - and indeed any sacrament - we do so in the name of the Church. As one of my lecturers used to say, echoing the Church's teaching: it is Christ who baptises.

It is fitting that we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord close to Christmas. Jesus did not need baptism, but He was baptised to make it possible for us to share in His life and mission. Baptism is not just "nice." If it were, we would be wasting our time. It is a beautiful gift; an entry into divine life, incorporation into Christ's Body, and a sharing in His death and resurrection.

Fr Adi

Please join us in wishing Elaine O'Dwyer a very happy 90th birthday on January 7!



SUNSET SESSION Young Adults

6-8 pm JAN 23 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



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