



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 Epiphany of the Lord

4 January 2026

First Reading Is 60:1-6

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light
has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11

*(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will
adore you.*

1. 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.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon falls.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. (R.)
4. 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.)

Second Reading Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same
inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been
entrusted by God with the grace he meant
for you, and that it was by a revelation that
I was given the knowledge of the mystery.
This mystery that has now been revealed

through the Spirit to his holy apostles and
prophets was unknown to any men in past
generations; it means that pagans now
share the same inheritance, that they are
parts of the same body, and that the same
promise has been made to them, in Christ
Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

*We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mt 2:1-12

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in
Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some
wise men came to Jerusalem from the east.
'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they
asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have
come to do him homage.' When King Herod
heard this he was perturbed, and so was
the whole of Jerusalem. He called together
all the chief priests and the scribes of the
people, and enquired of them where the
Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in
Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the
prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the
leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to
see him privately. He asked them the exact
date on which the star had appeared, and
sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find
out all about the child,' he said 'and when
you have found him, let me know, so that
I too may go and do him homage.' Having
listened to what the king had to say, they
set out. And there in front of them was the
star they had seen rising; it went forward
and halted over the place where the child
was. The sight of the star filled them with
delight, and going into the house they saw
the child with his mother Mary, and falling
to their knees they did him homage. Then,
opening their treasures, they offered him
gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.
But they were warned in a dream not to go
back to Herod, and returned to their own
country by a different way.

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**There will be no confessions on
Saturday, January 3 and**

Saturday, January 10.

**However, parishioners are
welcome to approach the
priest before or after each Mass.**

**There will also be no Adoration
on Friday, January 9.**

Thank you for your understanding!

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel of Mark, the first of the four
canonical gospels to be written, does not
bother at all with the question of the birth
of Jesus. Written some ten or more years
later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew
both present a version of the
circumstances surrounding the birth of
Jesus. The gospel of John, written later
still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth.
The two accounts of the infancy that we
do have from the gospels tell very
different stories because they have each
been used to place the rest of the gospel
in a particular context. Unfortunately, the
two stories have been mashed together
so much that we now have one notion of
the Christmas story that is a poor
amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary
are living in Nazareth and travel to
Bethlehem and are forced to give birth
out in a field because there is no room at
the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who
bear witness to the birth in this account
are shepherds – some of the lowest of
the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies
Jesus as having a preferential option for
the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew,
Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem
and give birth in their own house. They
later flee to Egypt and then settle in
Nazareth. The two towns need to be
included in both accounts because they
are named in some of the ancient
prophecies about the Messiah. In the
gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the
birth are wise men, dignitaries from
another land. The Matthew writer wants
to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and
it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present
gifts on the birth of a king.

The two stories deserve to be dealt with
uniquely and should be unravelled from
the muddled, entwined version that
dominates our Christmas imagery.

ST BRENDAN'S PARISH

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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 Jan 10 & 11

6pm	Fran Smullen	Anthony Kilmartin
8am	Di Teitzel	Brock O'Hara
11am	John Pilkington	Mary-Ann Demase

NO ANOINTING MASS ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7



Updates for Next Week at St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton:

Clergy Absence

Our clergy will be away from Monday, January 5 and will return on Saturday, January 10. During this time, we thank Fr Saji and Fr Joe Taylor for generously making themselves available to celebrate Mass.

Weekday Mass & Service Times for next week

Tuesday, January 6 – Mass at 9:15am

Wednesday, January 7 – Communion Service at 9:15am

If you wish to attend Mass, you may do so at:

-St Mel's (9:15am)

-St Mary's, Mooroopna (6:00pm).

Thursday, January 8 – Mass at 9:15am

Friday, January 9 – Mass at 9:15am

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

St Brendan's Parish Office and Church will be closed on the Following Days:

St Brendan's Church will be closed to the public on Monday, January 12 and Monday, January 19, due to cleaning of the fans and high areas of the Church.

Our Parish Office will also be closed on Wednesday, January 14, for a staff training day.

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



St Brendan's, Shepparton and St Mel's, Shepparton South invite you all to the Alpha program in 2026!

(Dates to follow)

The Alpha Course has been running around the world for nearly 50 years and will begin in early 2026.

Alpha is a series of 10 weekly sessions held on Monday nights at St Brendan's Parish Centre.

While it will be hosted by St Brendan's and St Mel's, it is open to the wider community and people from all parishes.

Each session includes a video presentation, a short talk, and small-group discussion in a friendly, relaxed setting.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Parishes Alpha Team via the parish office:

shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

