



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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year, Year A

22 MARCH 2026

First Reading Ez 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45
or longer form Jn 11:1-45**

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies
he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.
Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in Year A feature significant passages from the gospel of John. The first of the three readings was the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, to whom Jesus described himself as Living Water. The second was the healing of the blind man and Jesus declaring himself to be the Light of the World. In today's passage about the death and raising of Lazarus, Jesus declares, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' Living Water; Light of the World; and the Resurrection and the Life – three important images of Jesus that all emerge from the gospel of John. Each of the events relate to Jesus' response to some physical need: thirst; blindness; and death. However, in each case, Jesus not only responds to the physical need but also reveals a truth about himself that leads people to belief.

The raising of Lazarus marks a turning point in the gospel of John. Chapter 11 concludes with the Jewish authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and then Chapter 12 begins the final week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem. The significance of this episode is highlighted by the disciples who question Jesus about the wisdom of going back to Judea when the people there had wanted to stone Jesus to death. In going to save the life of his friend, Lazarus, Jesus knows that he is journeying towards his own death. In fact, the end of Chapter 11 makes clear that it is some of the witnesses to the raising of Lazarus who go and complain to the authorities and precipitate the action against Jesus. In the gospel of John, it is the episode with Lazarus that effectively signs Jesus' death warrant. The gospel makes clear that Jesus gives up his own life so that Lazarus may live.

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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

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 Mar 28 & Mar 29, 2026

6pm	Sr Bing	Chris Segrave
8am	Brock O'Hara	Lyndel Annett
11am	Loretta Richardson	Paul Richardson

Recently Deceased: Joyce Moylan

Anniversaries: Catherine Stein, John Stent, Michael Francavilla, Theresa Stehbens, Edward Phelan, Beverley Warburton

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

The Pope's Monthly Intention for March, 2026

For disarmament and peace
Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

The Parishes of St. Brendan's, St. Mel's, St. Malachy's, St. Mary's Mooroopna and St. Mary's Dookie

cordially and joyfully invite you
to join the
**FORMATION AND TRAINING
FOR EXTRAORDINARY
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
AND SACRISTANS**

When: 28 March, 2026

@10:30am – 2:00pm (Saturday)

Where: St. Brendan's Pastoral Centre
(MPJ Hall)

*Snacks and Lunch will be provided.

RSVP for catering purposes:

contact St. Brendan's Parish Office -

03 5821 2633

or via email:

shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

*'This is My
Body
This is My
Blood.'*

SUNSET SESSION

Young Adults

GOING WHERE YOU ARE CALLED
FATHER RONALD

6-8 pm Mar 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

Farewell Cuppa for Fr Adi

29 March [9am to 10.45am] at the St Brendan's Pastoral Centre.

Fr Adi will be celebrating both the 8am Mass and 11am Mass on this same day (Palm Sunday).

Given his very busy schedule, we will be having a small farewell for Fr Adi in between the above Masses.

All are welcome.
Please bring a plate to share.



Our parish has raised for
\$2,777.35 Caritas to date.
Thank you all for your generosity!

Ecumenical Palm Sunday Service 29 March 2026



At the CWA Gardens, Dookie.

4.30pm for 5.00pm start.

Bring your own everything, chair, rug, coat, hat, food, thermos, soft drink, torch & repellent.
Everyone Welcome.

Directions: Mary Street Dookie (the main street.)
In case of inclement weather, the service will relocate to the Uniting Church Hall, Curtain St, Dookie
Contact: Helen, ph 0427389721

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR EVERYONE—PLEASE READ

Following the many blessings and commitments of Holy Week and Easter, the clergy and staff of St Brendan's will be taking a short period of rest. This will be from **Tuesday, April 7** through to **Friday, April 10.**

During this time:

- The Parish Office will be closed
- There will be no 9:15am Masses
- There will be no Adoration

The church will remain open each day from 6:00am to 6:00pm for private prayer.

During this same week, we will also be:

- Painting the hallway area leading into the Sacristy and Flower Room
- Cleaning the large stained-glass window in the choir loft

Masses and other regularly scheduled liturgical services will resume on **Saturday, April 11.**

St Brendan's Parish Office will reopen on Monday, April 13.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and continued support of our clergy, staff, and parish works.

FIFTH
SUNDAY
OF LENT



If you would like to receive our Parish Bulletin on email, you can subscribe using this QR code or visit:

<https://www.catholicparish.app/subscription?>

[id=0018w000004eUxHAAU&req=subscribe](https://www.catholicparish.app/subscription?id=0018w000004eUxHAAU&req=subscribe)



HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE for the Parishes of St Brendans, Shepparton & St Mary's, Dookie, 2026

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28 & 29, SHEPPARTON

6:00PM SATURDAY VIGIL
8:00AM & 11:00AM SUNDAY

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29, DOOKIE

10:00AM SUNDAY



HOLY MONDAY, MARCH 30, SHEPPARTON

9:15AM DAILY MASS

HOLY TUESDAY, MARCH 31, CATHEDRAL BENDIGO

11:00AM CHRISM MASS

HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, SHEPPARTON

9:15AM DAILY MASS
5:00PM - 7:00PM RECONCILIATION



HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, SHEPPARTON

5:00PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, SHEPPARTON

3:00PM CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION
8:00PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS



HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4, SHEPPARTON

5:30PM EASTER VIGIL 'THE VIGIL OF LIGHT'

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, SHEPPARTON

CELEBRATION OF THE RISEN LORD
8:00AM & 11:00AM EASTER SUNDAY MASS

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, DOOKIE

CELEBRATION OF THE RISEN LORD
10:00AM EASTER SUNDAY MASS



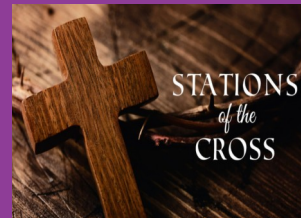
BENDIGO (*PRE-PALM SUNDAY) WALK FOR REFUGEES

On Saturday, March 28 at Lake Weeroona, Bendigo, from 6.30pm, we will meet at the northern end of the lake.

A brief vigil will be held around 7.15 pm.

Bendigo Churches ask you to join with people across the nation calling for justice and compassion for asylum seekers & refugees; and for a tolerant, generous and welcoming Australia.

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



AFL Tipping

The footy season is now in full swing and we have 26 participants in our tipping comp. Damien Preston has got off to a flying start leading by 12 correct tips, just one ahead of his mum, Margie.

Jennifer Madeira holds down third position on 10.

Our recent retiree, Fr. Joe has correctly tipped 8, to be just off the pace.

The winner of our comp will be receiving \$320 at the end of the season.

A big thank you to all tipsters for supporting this parish fundraiser.

We remind those yet to pay their entry fee of \$40 to get in touch with Di at the parish office at your earliest convenience.



St Brendan's parish friendship group will meet for lunch on Sunday, March 22 at the Terminus hotel in High Street at 12.30.

ALL WELCOME!!

Contact: Pat 0423343711 (please leave a message)

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LAUDATO SI' ANIMATORS PROGRAM

The program begins on April 19 runs over two months however all webinars are recorded so it can be done in your own time. This free online program brings Laudato Si' to life. Step into a journey of ecological conversion and join a global movement committed to healing and protecting our common home.

For information and registration go to www.laudatosianimators.org

Also see flyer on noticeboard.