



# St Brigid's Marrickville

*In the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia*

**One Family, Alive in Christ**

*Est 1886. Under the Pastoral Care of the Passionists since 1887*

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Facebook: **St Brigid's Marrickville** (Now 960 likes)

Parish Priest: Fr John Pearce CP (pp@stbrigid.org.au)

Associates: Fr Peter Gardiner CP (peter@stbrigid.org.au)

Fr George Koloth CP (george@stbrigid.org.au)

Deacon Erick Niyiragira CP

Sr Elena Daton CP (elena@stbrigid.org.au); Sr Elenita Flores CP

Darren Dela Rosa (darren.delarosa212@gmail.com)

Parish Secretary: Ms Terrey Trethowan (9.30am - 4pm)

**We stand at the Crossroads of life for many people**

## 4th Sunday of Advent (Yr.C)



### Advent-Christmas Message from Fr Joachim Rego CP, Superior General 2015

**Dear Brothers, Sisters and  
Friends in the Passionist Family,**

As we begin the liturgical season called 'Advent', it is a reminder to us that the significant and precious feast of our faith called 'Christmas' is approaching. So the message to us is: PREPARE! But, "prepare what?" ... "prepare how?"

Since the beginning of November I already noticed the secular signs of Christmas, such as Christmas trees, advertisements, and other decorations on display around the city and shops of Rome. The same is most probably also true in your part of the world.

Many people have already been, or are in the process of, buying Christmas presents for loved ones and friends. For some, this whole exercise becomes stressful in deciding what to buy, in running around from store to store to find the right product for the right price, in trying to keep within and not to blow out the budget. For others, this is the one time of the year when contacts will be renewed and friendships kept

alive through the sending and receiving of Christmas cards (or emails!). For others still, this will be a time to remember those who are less fortunate and, through the distribution of Christmas hampers will bring some cheer to the needy. If done for the right reasons, all these things are obviously very good and positive, because it reaches out to others, it strengthens bonds of relationships and, hopefully, contributes to building a better world.

However, all this is only the **external preparations** and, as important and necessary as they are, Advent is more than this. So often Advent becomes the season we play in the background while we neurotically work our heads off preparing to celebrate Christmas. We get whisked away in doing all the external preparations of work and planning and buying that we arrive at the celebration of Christmas exhausted. This is not what Advent is about!

Rather, Advent is the season of "waiting" and "longing" and "expectation". Advent is that liturgical, prayerful time that invites us to make an internal, **spiritual preparation** – not for something important, but for someone special: Jesus – our Redeemer and Saviour.

I remember one year being asked by a friend what I would like for Christmas, and I replied: "Nothing! Don't worry about buying me anything because I don't really need anything." Of course I knew that she would go ahead and buy me something anyway! But her question drew me inside and got me reflecting because, later on, I was prompted to ask myself the same question: "What do I really want for Christmas this year?", which, in turn, led me to ask

the deeper Advent question: "**What am I yearning for?**" In my reflection on this question I came to understand that my "yearnings" are not really concerned with those external things which are so easily purchased; rather, my "yearnings" are for those deeper, more wholesome gifts of peace, and joy, and mercy, and contentment which only God can give, and which God does give – if we let God in.

The Jewish philosopher, Martin Buber, tells a Hasidic story that touches on the significance of times and seasons for us as human beings, and as Christians: *A Rabbi once asked a group of learned men who were visiting him, "Where is the dwelling place of God?" They simply laughed at him. "What a question to ask," they said. "Is not the whole world full of God's glory?" Then the Rabbi answered his own question, "God dwells wherever people let Him in."*

This is our ultimate purpose: **to let God in**. When all the world is about "doing", our prime concern as people of faith is about "letting" – letting God in, letting God do. With all the preparations that you will be making in the lead up to welcoming Christ in a new and fresh way this Christmas, try to make time during these weeks of Advent to reflect on the Advent question: "**What are you yearning for?**", and commit to make greater room in your life **to let God in**.

In the midst of our Ad-



## From Fr Joachim Rego CP, Superior General (cont)

vent preparation this year, our Holy Father, Francis, has proclaimed **an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy** – a Holy Year which invites us to open the door of our hearts more boldly and trustingly to let God in. This is an opportunity and moment for conversion! Let us accept with joy and not fear.

The angel's message to the terrified shepherds at the birth of Jesus was: *"Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you **news of great joy**, a joy to be shared by the whole people....a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."* (Lk. 2:10-11).

Jesus saves us and loves us with the mercy of God which, for us Passionists, is contemplated in the Passion of Jesus.

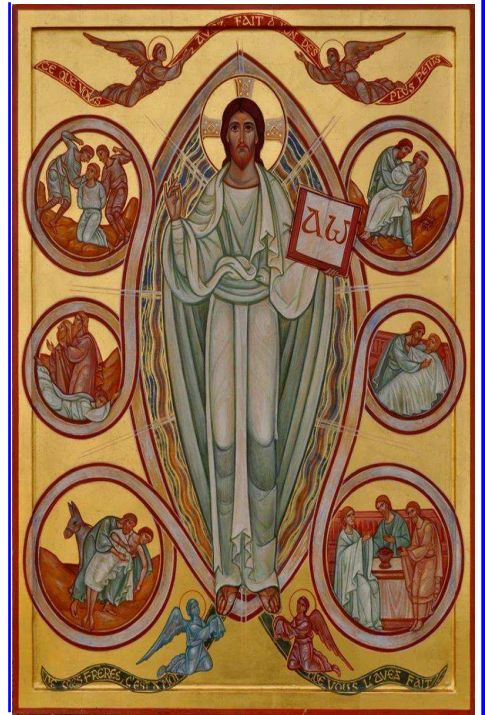
In his Bull of Indiction, **Misericordiae Vultus**, Pope Francis reminds us that the Child born to Mary and Joseph, wrapped in swad-

dling clothes, and lying in a Bethlehem manger is someone special: *"Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him."* (n. 1)

And so, as we ponder the Christmas event this year, let us take up the invitation of the Holy Father *"to constantly contemplate the mystery of mercy"* which, he says, *"is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it."* (n. 2)

I wish you every blessing in your preparation, contemplation and celebration during this Advent and Christmas time. May your yearning bear fruits of joy, serenity and peace.

*Joachim Rego CP  
Superior General*



## The Year of Mercy

### Prayer for the Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.



### The Year of Mercy & the Importance of Conversion

Before the recitation of the Marian Prayer on the second Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis referred to Sunday's liturgy in which John the Baptist, preaches "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins".

The Holy Father pointed out that conversion is not just for atheists but also for those who already consider themselves Christians.

Pope Francis continued by saying, "No one can say: I'm fine. Not true, it would be presumptuous, because 'we must always be converted.'"

The Pope then invited the faithful ask themselves some questions. "Is it true that we feel how Jesus feels? For example, when we suffer some wrong or some affront, do we react without animosity of heart and forgive those who ask your forgiveness?"

"When we are called to share joys and sorrows, do we sincerely weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice? When we express our faith, we do it with courage and simplicity, without being ashamed of the Gospel? "

Pope Francis underlined that, We must always have the same sentiments that Jesus had, adding, John the Baptist's voice cries out even in today's deserts of humanity that are closed minds and stony hearts, and makes us wonder whether we are actually going the right way, and living a life according to the Gospel."

"Salvation, the Pope said, "is offered to every human, to every people, without exception, to each of us. None of us can say, 'I am holy, I am perfect, I am already saved'. No. Again we must take this offer of salvation."

The Pope then stressed that, for this reason, we must use the Year of Mercy to go further on this path of salvation, the way that Jesus taught us, for God wants all humans to be saved through Jesus Christ, the only mediator .

## Information Directory

### CatholicCare Family Help Line

1300 1300 52

### St Brigid's Primary School

9558 6926

### Casimir Catholic College

9558 2888

### Catholic Church Marriage Tribunal

9390 5120

### Baptisms

**Preparation:** 1st Sundays 10am

**Presentation:** 2nd Sunday Masses

**Baptisms:** 3rd & 4th Sundays at 12 noon or at Masses

### Marriages

Preferably 6 months notice

Contact: Parish Secretary 8577 5670

## Pastoral Ministry Contacts:

**Adult Sacraments** Sr Elena  
**Care of Sick & Aged** Sr Elena  
**CCD in State Schools** Sue King  
**Children's Sacraments** Fr John  
**Cultural C'tee** Maria Barlow-Sawaszenko  
**Ecumenical & Interfaith** John McGrath  
 Sr Pat Bowthorpe FMM  
**Family Groups** Carole Price  
**Finance C'tee** Michael Curran  
**Justice & Peace** Peter Jennings  
**Liturgical Ministries** Fr John, Sr Elena  
**Men's Club:** Arthur Kassis, John Skinner,  
 Mick Ward  
**Pastoral Council** Paige Bullen,  
 Peter Jennings, Adrienne Harverson.  
**Seniors Club:** John Freeman & Fr George  
**Youth & Young Adults:** Darren De la Rosa

### Our Parish on FaceBook

We have grown to **960 friends**.

Tell your friends about us.

**1000 friends by Christmas?**

We are nearly there.

## Liturgical Timetable

**Mon—Fri:** Masses: 6.45 am, 9.00 am; Wednesday 7.00 pm  
 Eucharistic Adoration: 7.15-8.45am. Benediction: 8.45am

### Public Hols: Mass 9.00am

**Saturday:** Mass 7.30 am; Reconciliation 9-10 am; Marriages 10-3 pm;  
 Reconciliation 4-4.45 pm; Mass: 5 pm; & 6.30 pm (Vietnamese)

**Sunday:** Mass at 7.30 am, 9 am, 10 .30am (multilingual); 4.30pm (Viet); 6pm

## Ministry of Care & Support to Aged and Infirm

**Mass** is celebrated monthly in all the Nursing Homes in Marrickville.

**Communion** is taken to sick residents in Nursing Homes & in their homes on a weekly basis, either by Ministers of Care or family members.

**Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick** is offered after Masses on First Fridays, and at the 10am Italian mass on 4th Fridays. Also available on request and recommended before attending hospital for major surgery.

## We Remember

**Recently Deceased:** Sr Adrienne Dyt FMM; Brian Liston.

**Anniversaries:** Br Rupert FMS; Dominico Nguyen Van An; Francisco Caires; Netty Too; Christopher Howard; Emanuel Bugeja; Michaela Bodycote; Teddy Lakiss; Guise Bui Van Dan; Nora Kelly; Juliet Pastor; Monica Bugeja.

**Recently Ill:** .Edna Taylor; Lisa Masonwells; Lee Tillam.

## Parish Collections

**Counters: This week (21/12)**

Jim/Lalo/Maree

**Counters: Next Week (28/12)**

Jim/Lalo/Maree

### 12/13 December

**1st (Passionists): \$ 1,985**

**2nd (Parish): \$ 4,802**

Cash & Envelopes:\$3,535 ,

Credit Cards: \$ 1,267

### 5/6 December

**1st (Passionists): \$ 1,985**

**2nd (Parish): \$ 5,111**

## Mass Texts: Advent 4 (Yr C)

**First Reading:** Micah 5:1-4

**Response:** God of hosts, bring us back;  
 let your face shine on us & we shall be saved

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 10: 5-10

**Gospel:** Luke 1: 39-45

**Intercessions Response**

Lord, graciously hear us

## Holy Family (Yr C)

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28

**Response:** .He, the Lord, is our God; he remembers his covenant forever. .

**Second Reading:** .1 John 3: 1-2.21-24

**Gospel:** Luke 2: 41-52

**Intercessions Response:**

Lord, graciously hear us

## Sunday Mass Ministries: Advent 4 and Holy Family (Yr C)

### Lectors/Commentators

### Communion Ministers

### Altar Servers

	19/20 December	26/27 December	19/20 December	26/27 December	19/20 December	26/27 December
<b>5 pm Sat</b>	Kelelia Apikotoa Yvette Apikotoa Mary Leask	Vanessa Penitani Paul Cloran Leila Walsh	Jack Houssarini Susie Houssarini Liz Buchel Margaret Dos Santos Samiuela Kula	Mary Leask Maria Fuller Liz Carnabuci Paul Hurst Shelley Hopper	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Visesio Siasau Joseph Kula Alycia Young	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Visesio Siasau Joseph Kula Alycia Young
<b>7.30am Sun</b>	Elizabeth Delaney SGS Maree Doyle Marg Barrett	Pat O'Reilly Carolan Ibbotson	John Freeman Maria Mansour Marg Barrett	Maree Doyle Margaret Kelly Janice Schubach	Michael Dillon	Michael Dillon
<b>9 am Sun</b>	Christina Day Joseph Tupou Peter Jennings	Kath Walton John McGrath Frank Wassef	Sue King George Harb Jim Yeo Antoinette Grigg Francis Seufale	Kath Walton Pedro Moreira Diane Moreira Peter Jennings Christina Day	Xavier Rego Naomi Rego Natasha Rego Olivia Moreira Ivy Bullen Fergus Bullen Theodore Bullen	Adrian Begg Michael Moreira Claude Walton Louis Walton Jacqueline Flett Nicholas Sourlas
<b>10.30 am Sun</b>	Maria Barlow Italian Reader George Harb	Bernadette Yammine Italian reader Kate Johnston	Geoffrey Lean Terry Reyes Lope Reyes Maria Necesito Maria Barlow	Adrienne Harverson Kate Johnston Frank Wassef Maria Wassef George Harb	Geoffrey Lean Aldrick De Vera Alfred De Vera James Poonan	Albert Naticchia Anthony Naticchia John Dorrington
<b>6 pm Sun</b>	Jacquei Hicks Michael McGrath	<b>YOUTH</b>	Pei-Pei Coa Lea Paladino Tony Hayek Noeleen Fernandez Ever Landero	<b>YOUTH</b>	Tony Hayek	Tony Hayek



# Parish Calendar 2015 & Coming Events

## Passionist Ministries

**Frs John. Peter, George & Dc Erick** at St Brigid's.  
**Fr Lex** Marriages.  
**Fr Michael** in Bossley Park Parish  
**Fr Phil** in Port Moresby.  
**Fr Ron** on holidays.

## Advent Reconciliation

For those seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas, priests will be available in the Reconciliation Room at the following times:

Every Saturday: 9-10am, 4-4.45pm  
Mon 21 Dec: After morning Masses  
Tues 22 Dec: After morning Masses  
Wed 23 Dec: After morning Masses  
Thurs 24 Dec: After 9am Mass.



**Piety Stall:** Columban Calendars & Christmas Cards still available in Piety Store

## December

### 19-20 4th Sunday of Advent

21-23 Reconciliation available after morning Masses.

23 Set up Church for Christmas (9.30am)

**No Mass on Wednesday nights until Jan 27.**

23 Mass at 9am only.

### 24 Christmas Eve Masses

5pm Vietnamese; 6pm, 9pm, 11.30/12am

### 25 Christmas Day Masses

7.30am, 9am, 10.30am only

4.30pm Vietnamese

### 26 Boxing Day

Mass @ 9am only

Vigil Mass 5pm & 6.30 (Viet)

Immersion Pilgrimages to Cambodia & Vietnam

### 27 Feast of the Holy Family

28 Normal Mass times

29 Mass @ 9am only

30 Mass @ 9am only

31 Mass at 9am only

## Syrian priest abducted by IS heads back to conflict zone

*Published: 15 December 2015*

A Syrian priest who spent more than four months as a captive of the Islamic State is headed back to the conflict zone – and he wants both Christians and Muslims to embrace mercy, reports the Catholic News Agency.

"I will return right away to the Middle East. It's God who asks us to continue our mission," said Fr Jacques Mourad, a Syriac Catholic priest of the Community of Al-Khalil, based at Deir Mar Musa (the Monastery of Saint Moses the Abyssinian) in Al-Nabek, 80 km northeast of Damascus.

He spoke to a press conference in Rome December 10 organised by the pastoral charity Aid to the Church in Need. Fr Mourad said Christian outreach to Muslims can be part of the Church's Year of Mercy. "I ask first that Christians look with eyes and hearts of mercy and carry out the mission of mercy for all Muslims. It's a way of combating violence. In this way

they are a witness, a true testimony for our brothers."

"I want to tell Muslims to remember that they are a religion of mercy," he added. "They understand Christians well, they accept them because they are mentioned in the Quran. They have nothing to do with religion and war. One can't use religion to make war. Religion is a call to a righteous life, to peace, not to war." He characterised Deir Mar Musa as "a symbol of dialogue between Christianity and Islam." He said it works to provide "aid and closeness" to the people, especially those in need. The monastery helped families, the sick, migrants and the displaced.

"It's impossible for us Christians to live under ISIS," Fr Mourad said. "The entire Syrian people are victims of this war. I believe that when Jesus gave his life he gave it for all, and we, as a Church, are responsible for the entire Syrian people, not only the Christians. This is a responsibility to commit ourselves with very seriously, that everyone has peace."

## From Vinnies

On behalf of St Vincent de Paul Marrickville conference, we would like to thank you all for your generous donations throughout the year to support our conference.

**Our Christmas Appeal is currently at \$6,900.00.**

We would also like to recognise the ongoing support we receive from Casimir Catholic College, St Brigid's Primary School, Financial Services Council who volunteer every year to help us deliver Christmas Hampers, Banana Joes Foodworks who we work alongside to allow our clients to purchase fresh food, and Judy in our Piety Store. We wish you all a very happy and life giving Christmas this year.

## Time for Forgiveness Begins as Holy Doors Open Worldwide

*15 December 2015*

### Year of tenderness and joy

Pope Francis has opened the Holy Door at the Basilica of St John Lateran, declaring that the time for tenderness, joy and forgiveness has begun, reports the Catholic News Service.

As holy doors around the world were opened at city cathedrals, major churches and sanctuaries on Sunday, the Pope said this simple gesture of opening God's house to the world serves as "an invitation to joy. The time of great pardon begins. It is the Jubilee of Mercy." Dressed in rose vestments on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, marking the joyful expectation of Christmas, the pope began the ceremony outside the basilica in front of the bronze holy door.

The door depicts a *bas relief* of the crucified Christ

looking down on Mary tenderly holding the baby Jesus, whose small foot shone like bright gold from the countless kisses and touches of visiting pilgrims.

**"This is the door of the Lord. Open for me the gates of justice. I will enter your house, Lord, because of your great mercy,"** the pope read solemnly before climbing two marble steps and pushing open the large door.

He crossed the threshold decorated with a garland of flowers and greenery and bowed his head in silent prayer inside the darkened interior of the basilica.

The church and the people of God are called to be joyful, Francis said in his brief homily.

With Christmas approaching, "we cannot allow ourselves to become tired, no form of sadness is allowed even if we have reason for it with the many worries and multiple forms of violence that wound our humanity," he said.