

# 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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**Administrator:** Fr Erick Niyiragira CP ([erick@stbrigid.org.au](mailto:erick@stbrigid.org.au))

Sr Elena Daton CP ([elena@stbrigid.org.au](mailto:elena@stbrigid.org.au))

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Sue King (SRE Co-ordinator) [catechetics@stbrigid.org.au](mailto:catechetics@stbrigid.org.au)

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

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



## 3rd Sunday of the Year (Yr C) 26/27 January 2019

### THE MISSION OF JESUS THEN AND NOW

There is a story (told by Flor McCarthy SDB) about a people who had never heard of the Gospel. One day a stranger arrived and announced, 'I'm here to bring you the good news.' Unfortunately he contracted a disease and died before he could tell them what he meant. They found a small book in his rucksack. The title read: The Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ. They concluded that this is what the stranger was talking about. They began to read it.

Though the book was old, the message sounded brand-new. The central character Jesus Christ leaped out at them from its musty pages – a man full of vitality, yet possessing great gentleness and compassion. They read accounts of miracles he performed for sick and needy people. They read how he went out of his way to mix with outcasts. The beauty and authority of his words made a deep impression on them. 'What a pity the carrier of the book died,' someone said. 'Obviously he was a follower of this Christ.' 'But there must be more where he came from,' another said. 'Could we not send someone there to see how the people live this new teaching? Then he or she could come back, make a report, and perhaps we could try it for ourselves?'

They chose Francis, a young man of deep integrity. He travelled widely and observed keenly. He went out of his way to meet as wide a cross-section of Christians as possible. He didn't jump to conclusions or rush to judgement. Finally the day came when he felt he had seen enough, and so he headed for home. No sooner had he arrived back than he was bombarded with questions: 'Do the adherents of the book love one another?' 'Do they live in peace with one another?' 'Do they live simply?' 'Are they happy? But all the questions could be reduced to one: 'Do the followers of Christ live according to The Book?' Here, in summary, is the account he gave them of his findings:

'Basically, I found five kinds of Christians. First, I found some who are Christian in name only. Even though they were baptised, they adhere to none of the observances of Christianity, and have no commitment to it. Secondly, I found some who are Christian by habit only. Even though they are committed to the outward observances, it

doesn't affect the way they live. As far as I could see, they live according to principles that have nothing to do with the teachings of The Book, and in many cases are contrary to it. Thirdly, I found some who are clearly devoted to the Christian faith. They are engaged in good works. Yet a vital element seems to be missing. They seem to possess few, if any, of the qualities which made their Master so appealing. Fourthly, I found some whom you might call practical Christians. It seemed to me that they have grasped the heart of what The Book is about. They are clearly concerned about other people, and are not ashamed to be seen to be Christians. In some places I saw them being persecuted. In other places I saw them meeting something which is probably worse – the deadly indifference of their fellow citizens. Lastly I met some, admittedly not many, whom I would have no hesitation in calling the genuine article. They are deeply spiritual people. In meeting them I felt I was meeting Jesus himself.'

But accepted or not, the gospel stands as good news – good news from God and with the authority of God behind it. It is summed up today in the Vision Statement which is also his Mission Statement that Jesus makes in the synagogue of Nazareth, his home town. There, making his own a text from the prophet Isaiah, he presents himself as the Messiah called by God, filled with God's Spirit, and sent by God on this mission: - To be a missionary of God's love and agent of God's healing, wherever needed! To set people free from all kinds of evil, limits and handicaps!

The mission of Jesus then is also our mission now – yours and mine. To see how it is done today, just look to Pope Francis. He is passionately committed to poor and troubled persons in his own back yard, and further afield. He refused to live in the palace provided for him, but settled in two rooms of St Martha's Guest House. He regularly sends a bishop to give food and money to poor persons in substandard houses. He has provided showers and toilets in St Peter's Square for homeless people. Every now and then, he goes to prisons to comfort and encourage persons locked behind bars. A recent news despatch reports him dropping into a nursing home unannounced, to mix with the residents there, and going on from there unannounced to visit patients in a facility for the mentally ill.

If we are unable to do all works of mercy our Pope is managing to accomplish, surely we can settle for at least one or two. Take, eg, what Tracy Ryan, school-teacher, has been able to do with the grace of God.: "One of the girls in my class is hunched over and her shoulder blade sticks out. Nobody would talk to her as she looks really "different". They were never unkind, they just didn't include her in anything. I had meetings with her mother & the Principal to try to remedy the situation but nothing worked. Eva, it seemed, was doomed to be an outsider.

Then, an idea! There is a student in my class who comes from a very poor economic background, has learning difficulties, but is very popular. I thought "if I can get her to befriend Eva, we may have a chance here." I was really delighted by her response. I told her what a special person she was and how grateful I was for her support. The next thing I know, she had worked her magic. These days Eva can't wait to get to school. She came up to me the other day and said: "Miss Ryan, I LOVE school!" *It just goes to show how a little bit of kindness can change a child's life."*

[bgleesoncp@gmail.com](mailto:bgleesoncp@gmail.com)

### **Part-Time Positions Vacant**

#### **\* Parish Youth Worker**

St Brigid's Parish is seeking an experienced Youth Worker to look after our Junior Youth Group (Yrs 7-9) in social, prayer and outreach activities centred around Passionist Spirituality. Up to 10 hrs per week, including some weekend & evening work. Applications close: 18 February 2019. Please send resume & covering letter to: [parish@stbrigid.org.au](mailto:parish@stbrigid.org.au). Further Information on Facebook and Website OR phone: 8577 5670.

**\*Cook** : The Passionist Community at Marrickville is seeking a cook commencing 11 February 2019 for a period of six weeks while the current cook is on leave. This is a paid, part-time position on three days per week. If interested, please phone Fr Ron Davoren CP on 0419 891 764 or e-mail [rpdavoren@gmail.com](mailto:rpdavoren@gmail.com)

#### **Parish Team**

**Sr Elenita** sends warm greetings from the Philippines where she is recuperating and resting after surgery: "I am recovering well. Thank you to all who prayed for me and offered masses. I cannot thank you enough. I miss you all so much."

#### **Help Wanted**

The PNG parish at Baro, for many years run by Passionists including Br Jim Coucher CP who is now retired and living at Marrickville, is attempting to set up an orchestra with the children in the parish. They are seeking no longer wanted musical instruments in good condition (**string, wind or percussion**). Children's books (5-12 years) to help grow their small library would also be very welcome. If you can help, please bring the goods to the Parish Office **no later than end of FEBRUARY 2019**. From here they will be loaded into a shipping container bound for Vanimo.

### **Attention Parents of Children Attending Public Primary Schools in 2019**

St Brigid's has a Catholic Scripture programme running in the four schools in our parish—Marrickville, Marrickville West, Ferncourt and Wilkins. This is a way to ensure your children have further education in their Catholic faith and the importance of Jesus in their daily life. If you are interested, please ask the school to enrol your child in these weekly classes. Further information, please contact our Co-ordinator, Sue, on 0448 808 204.

### **Devotions to Honour Our Lady of Lourdes**

Mass & Blessing of the Sick at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood on Sunday 10 February 2019, commencing with Rosary at 2.30pm followed by Mass and Blessing of the Sick at 3.00pm. Celebrant: Bishop Terry Brady.

### **Bible Study: Matthew—"The King & his Kingdom"**

Commencing Wednesday 13 February 2019, 7.30-9.30pm at St Paul of the Cross Parish Hall, 532 New Canterbury Rd, Dulwich Hill. Presented by Fr John Ssmeganda & Deacon Louis Azzopardi. Study guide: \$45 (24 sessions). Enquiries: Michael on 0420 990 501

### **Feast of St Josephine Bakhita: 8 February 2019**

**Act to eradicate slavery— "an open wound on contemporary society and a scourge on the body of Christ"** (Pope Francis)

**Ethical Sourcing Seminar & Expo** against Trafficking in Persons sponsored by the Archdiocese of Sydney Anti-Slavery Task Force as part of the programme directed at eradicating modern slavery which was announced by Archbishop Anthony Fisher in March 2017. Hear church, business, government and community leaders discuss the reality of slavery in our world today, including in Australia, and what can be done to address it. Seminar & Expo from 9.30am in College Hall, St Mary's Cathedral; Mass of St Bakhita in St Mary's Cathedral at 1.10pm.

### **Seminar: "Uluru Statement from the Heart" (2017): Prof. Lindon Coombes (UTS)**

At Grail Centre, 22 McHatton St, North Sydney, 10am-4.00pm, on Saturday 23 February 2019. How have governments & the community responded to this? What is holding back progress? Registration: 0408 291 429 OR 9955 3053. Donation: \$20 or what you can afford.

### **Healing Mass**

Friday 1 February—St Joseph's Enfield at 8.00pm  
Bishop Umbers D.D.

### **Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney** **Safeguarding Office**

*If you or anyone close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney, we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options available to you. Please contact the office on 9390 5812*

## Information Directory

### St Brigid's Primary School

9558 6926

### Casimir Catholic College

9558 2888

### Baptisms

**Preparation:** 1st Sundays 10am-11.30am

**Presentation:** 2nd Sunday 9am/ 10.30am Masses

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

### Marriages

Saturday: 10am—3.00pm

Preferably 6 months notice

Contact: Parish Secretary 8577 5670

### Pastoral

### Ministry Contacts:

**Adult Sacra-**

**ments**

Sr Elena

**Bereavement**

**Ministry:**

Sr Elenita

**Care of Sick & Aged**

Sr Elena

**CCD in State Schools**

Sue King

**Children's Sacraments**

Sr Elenita

**Cultural Committee Chair**

George Harb

**Ecumenical & Interfaith Co-chairs**

John McGrath, Pat Bowthorpe FMM

**Family Groups Contact:** Carole Price

**Finance C'tee Chair:** Mary Leask

**Justice & Peace Network Chair:** Peter Jennings

**Liturgical Ministries** Fr Erick, Sr Elena

**Maintenance C'tee:** Michael Daher/Pongia Fenukitau

**Men's Club:** Arthur Kassis; John Skinner, Mick Ward

**Parish Safeguarding Support:** Sue King

**Pastoral Council Co-chairs** Peter Jennings, Arthur Kassis.

**Youth Ministry:** Ollie Bautista

### Parish Collections

**Counters: This week (28/1): Jim's Team**

**Counters: Next Week (4/2): Lea's Team**

**20 / 1 / 19**

**1st (Passionists): \$ 2,425**

**2nd (Parish): \$ 4,785**

Cash & Envelopes: \$ 3,489

Credit Cards: \$ 1,296

**13/ 1/19**

**1st (Passionists): \$ 1,710**

**2nd (Parish): \$ 4,019**

## Celebration of

# FEAST OF ST BRIGID of IRELAND

SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2019

at 10.30AM MASS  
followed by

PARISH PICNIC on the lawns



Please bring a plate of  
finger food to share

## We Remember

**Recently Deceased:** Italo Testa; Stella (Holly) Holland

**Anniversaries:** Maria Chi Thi Pham; Vincenzo Tesoriero; Teresa O'Brien

**Carrying Severe Illness:** Sue Ryan; Mary Harb; Antonio Di Sisto; Winifreda Jauco.

### Mass Texts: Sunday 3 (Yr C)

**First Reading:** Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10

**Response:** Your words are Spirit Lord, and they are life

**Second Reading:** 1 Corin 12: 12-30

**Gospel:** Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

**Intercessions Response:**

Lord, graciously hear us

### Mass Texts: Sunday 4 (Yr C)

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 1:4-5. 17-19

**Response:** .My lips will tell of your help

**Second Reading:** 1 Corin 12:31—13:13

**Gospel:** Luke 4: 21-30

**Intercessions Response:**

Lord, graciously hear us

## Liturgical Timetable

**Mon—Fri:** Mass at 6.45am followed by adoration until 8.45am.  
Benediction at 8.45am followed by Mass at 9.00am.  
(**Communion service at 9.00am Monday**)

**Public Hols: Mass 9.00am only**

**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);  
and 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.



# CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTS 2019

Preparation classes for  
**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019**

commence on  
**WEDNESDAY 6 February 2019**  
at 7.00pm in Shrubland Hall

for children in Year 3 and above  
**AND** who have completed  
**First Reconciliation**

**First Holy Communion will be  
celebrated on the weekends of :**

**9/10 March and  
16/17 March 2019**

## Calendar

### January 2019

**26-27 3rd Sunday of the Year**  
**26 Australia Day: Mass : 7.30am**  
**27 Baptisms: 12 noon**  
**28 Australia Day Public Holiday: Mass: 9am**  
 30 Term 1 commences

### February 2019

1 **Feast Day of St Brigid**  
Men's Club

**2-3 4th Sunday of the Year**  
February Baptism Preparation: 10.00am  
Vietnamese New Year begins

**6 First Communion Prep (1): 7pm**  
**Plenary Council C'tee: 7.30pm**

**8 St Brigid's School Opening Mass: 9.00am**  
**8 Casimir College Opening Mass: 11.30am**

### 9-10 5th Sunday of the Year

**Feast of St Brigid Celebration: 10.30am**  
Mass + parish picnic on the lawns.

11 **World Day of Prayer for the Sick**  
 13 **First Communion Prep (2): 7pm**  
 15 **Mass at Minehan Village: 11.00am**

### 16-17 6th Sunday of the Year

**Presentation of First Communion**  
Candidates at masses

17 **Baptisms: 12 noon**  
 20 **First Communion Prep (3): 7pm**

### 23-24 7th Sunday of the Year

**Plenary Council 2020 Discussion: at ALL Masses**

24 **Baptisms : 12 noon**  
 27 **First Communion Prep (final): 7pm**

## Sunday Mass Ministries: Sunday 3 and Sunday 4 Year C

	Lectors/Commentators		Communion Ministers		Altar Servers	
	26/27 January	2/3 February	26/27 January	2/3 February	26/7 January	2/3 February
<b>5 pm Sat</b>	Gabrielle Bietola Paul Cloran Kelelia Apikotoa	Mary leask Michael price Leila Walsh	Mary Leask Maria Fuller Paul Hurst Shelley Hopper	Carole Price Michael Price Carmel Cloran Paul Cloran	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi
<b>7.30am Sun</b>	Carolan Ibbotson Pat O'Reilly	Janice Schubach Marg Barrett	Margaret Kelly Theresa James Janice Schubach	Susie Houssarini Janice Schubach Maria Mansour	Michael Dillon	Michael Dillon
<b>9 am Sun</b>	Peter Jennings Sue King	Sue King Bec Wong	Kath Walton Pedro Moreira Diane Moreira Judith Flett	Frank Cowell Jenny Oesman Justin Hartany Joanne McGrath John McGrath		
<b>10.30 am Sun</b>	Mely Siasat Italian Reader Kate Johnston	Bernadette Yammine Italian Reader Catherine Vagnozzi	Kate Johnston George Harb Mely Siasat	Angie Chiapoco Elvie Chiapoco George Harb + 2 Italian	Geoffrey Lean Aldrick De Vera Alfred De Vera	Albert Naticchia Anthony Naticchia
<b>6 pm Sun</b>		Arthur Kassis Robert Gascoigne		Anthony Kassis Alex Kassis Lea Paladino	Tony Hayek	Tony Hayek