

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

392 Marrickville Rd (PO Box 237), Marrickville NSW 2204

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FaceBook: [St Brigid's Marrickville](#)

Administrator: Fr Erick Niyiragira CP (erick@stbrigid.org.au)

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

Sr Elenita Flores CP (elenita@stbrigid.org.au),

Fr Thomas Nguyen CP (Thomas.thanh@stbrigid.org.au)

Br Tony Simbel CP (tony@stbrigid.org.au)

Deacon Christopher Roehrig (Christopher@stbrigid.org.au)

Sue King (SRE Co-ordinator) catechetics@stbrigid.org.au

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

We stand at the Crossroads of life for many people

4th Sunday of the Year (Yr C) 2/3 February 2019

TRUE AND FALSE RELIGION

Every now and then a family decides to leave the hustle and bustle of the big city and move to a small town or village in the country. City life has become too busy, too chaotic, too demanding and too impersonal. They go to some place where, they claim, people know one another and care about one another. They are looking for meaning, acceptance and belonging.

What such city people are looking for among country people generally happens, and especially in times of crisis, e.g. when someone's hurt in an accident, somebody loses a loved one from a sudden heart attack, someone's house burns down or is washed away in a flood. Such events bring out the best in neighbours. They arrive with kind words, hugs and kisses, and any number of casseroles to tide the family over till they can get back on their feet.

But there can be a down side to everyone knowing everybody else. Some people may become the target of suspicious, gossiping, mean and nasty neighbours. This is certainly what happens to Jesus when he comes back to his own people at Nazareth. At first they welcome him as the local boy made good, the town hero. They are full of praise for what they have heard about him - his good and kind deeds, and his powerful and challenging message.

But one influential group in the town becomes particularly jealous, angry and annoyed with him, the more they hear about him. He's become too big for his boots, they say, too high and mighty. They begin to sneer: Who does he think he is? No better than anyone else, surely! Just the son of that carpenter, Joseph, that's what! As ordinary as everybody else around here!

They, and more and more others like them, decide that if he has anything to offer, they, the people of his own home town, should be the first to benefit. Without showing any real faith in him as God's

agent and spokesperson, they begin to demand that he do in Nazareth some of the wonderful things he is said to have been doing elsewhere.

But Jesus says back to them the plain truth, the truth they need for their own good. In the community and kingdom of God that is his mission, there is no place for privilege. What matters most is to have faith, and along with faith, trust and love. God's love and help begin wherever there is human need for it, as with the starving widow of Zarephath, and with Naaman, covered with leprosy. Both were Gentiles, non-Jews. But they were persons in need, and therefore loved by God like any Jewish person.

At this message of the indiscriminate love of God, the people of his home town are outraged. They turn on Jesus. They throw him out of the synagogue and even try to finish him off by tossing him over a cliff. Jesus at Nazareth was experiencing the fate of all prophets. But prophecy, being a spokesperson for God, is not about pleasing people. It's about speaking the truth, sometimes the truth that no one wants to hear, the truth that often gets covered up, and yet the truth that one must hear and heed for one's own good.

But why did the locals turn on him with such fury? The first reason was because of what he said. But there was a deeper reason. It was because he showed up the ugly parts of their personalities. After all, if you stir up a stagnant pool, a lot of mud comes to the surface.

Sad to say, religion can become misunderstood, twisted and distorted. When that happens, it tends to bring out the worst in people. They become narrow and bigoted, feisty and fanatical, mean and nasty, hateful and hurtful, even to the point of wanting to kill anyone who dares to disagree with them.

True religion, however, and especially that of following Jesus, brings out the best in people. It liberates and humanizes them. It makes them friendlier, more accepting and more forgiving persons. It fos-

It fosters harmonious relationships and builds community. When this happens, religion is something beautiful.

In true religion there is an essential link between faith and love—doing things for others because of what we believe. We heard St Paul say in our Second Reading: “there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love”. But what’s the use in having both faith and hope if we are lacking love?

The question, then, each of us must ask here and now is this:

What does religion bring out in me? Is it really and truly making me a better person?

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. Further Information: 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

Parish Team

We welcome back Br Tony CP from his holiday with his family in PNG—he now begins preparation for his Ordination as a Deacon at St Brigid’s on

Saturday 2 March at the 5.00pm Vigil Mass
(please put in your diary—more details to come.)

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 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.

Piety Store

Newly arrived—mantillas in four colours; large variety of statues including our Lord and many saints; small bottles of Lourdes water @\$3.00 each.

Accommodation Wanted

A senior parishioner has a Dep’t of Housing 1 Bedroom, ground floor unit with garden in Marrickville, close to amenities, quiet neighbours, available for exchange for 1 Bedroom unit in Marrickville surroundings or Campsie. Please contact Josephine on 9569 8882.

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 set up in 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.

Congratulations!

To Frances Rush, CEO of the Asylum Seekers Centre, who was awarded OAM in Australia Day honours for her “service to the community through social welfare organisations”; also to volunteers Jude Stoddart & Margaret Tung, who received Senior Inner West Citizen of the Year Award for their work with ASC’s Employment service.

Seminar: “Uluru Statement from the Heart” (2017): Prof. Lindon Coombes (UTS)

At Grail Centre, 22 McHatten 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.

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 Sacraments 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: Olliver Bautista

Parish Collections

Counters: This week (4/2): Lea's Team
Counters: Next Week (11/2): Jim/ Maree/Lalo

27 /1 /19

1st (Passionists): \$ 1,930
2nd (Parish): \$ 3,792
Cash & Envelopes: \$ 2,496
Credit Cards: \$ 1,296

20/ 1/19

1st (Passionists) : \$ 2,425
2nd (Parish): \$ 4,785

Celebration of

FEAST OF ST BRIGID of IRELAND

NEXT SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY

at 10.30AM MASS
followed by

PARISH PICNIC on the lawns



Please bring a plate of
finger food to share

We Remember

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Xuan Phung Pham; Sidney James; Bede Price; Margaret Abbott; John Mahony; Gloria Randazzo; Linda El Tabar.

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

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

Mass Texts: Sunday 5 (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
commence

NEXT 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 2019 will
be celebrated on the weekends of**

9/10 March and

16/17 March

Calendar

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
- 5 **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.
Catechist Sunday: 9.00am Mass
- 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 4 and Sunday 5 Year C

	Lectors/Commentators		Communion Ministers		Altar Servers	
	2/3 February	9/10 February	2/3 February	9/10 February	2/3 February	9/10 February
5 pm Sat	Mary Leask Michael Price Leila Walsh	Liz Buchel Margaret Dos Santos Michael Schiano	Carole Price Michael Price Carmel Cloran Paul Cloran	Gabrielle Bietola William Metlej Ofa Tupola Kelelia Apikotoa	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi
7.30am Sun	Janice Schubach Marg Barrett	Susie Houssarini Mary Leask	Susie Houssarini Janice Schubach Maria Mansour	Margaret Kelly Theresa James	Michael Dillon	Michael Dillon
9 am Sun	Sue King Bec Wong	Reader: Catechist Commentator: Kath Walton	Frank Cowell Jenny Oesman Justin Hartany Joanne McGrath John McGrath	Catechists		
10.30 am Sun	Bernadette Yammine Italian Reader Catherine Vagnozzi	Kate Johnston Italian Reader Angie Chiapoco	Angie Chiapoco Elvie Chiapoco George Harb + 2 Italian	Maria Barlow Bernadette Yammine + 2 Italian ministers	Albert Naticchia Anthony Naticchia	Geoffrey Lean Aldrick De Vera Alfred De Vera
6 pm Sun	Arthur Kassis Robert Gascoigne	TEEN GROUP	Alex Kassis Lea Paladino Anthony Kassis	Natasha Rego Naomi Rego Anneliese Roehrig	Tony Hayek	Tony Hayek