

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



5th Sunday of the Year (Yr C) 9/10 February 2019

THE HOUND OF HEAVEN

Recently, a Baptist lady said to a Catholic priest: 'God is so big and we are so puny.' The lady's humility somewhat surprised the priest, because she was an outstanding Christian. She and her husband had built a hospital in Africa. She had trained a group of young women to nurse the poor. Now in her 80's she was still reading the bible and praying every day. When the priest asked her what her life, her work and her faith had taught her most of all, she simply said: 'God is so big and we are so puny.'

That Christian lady had discovered from life experience that her smallness, her insignificance, even her sense of being unworthy, did not stop God from doing good things, even big things, using her as his humble agent and instrument. It was the same with the Old Testament priest, Isaiah. He caught a glimpse of the glory and majesty of God in the Jerusalem temple. Compared with God he saw himself not just as puny, but as completely unworthy of what he saw. So he cried out: 'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips.' But God transformed him, by sending an angel to touch his lips with a burning coal and purify him. Now he was ready to be God's messenger, and was able to say to God with confidence and enthusiasm: 'Here I am, send me.'

The apostle Paul too has insisted [in our Second Reading today] that it was 'by the grace of God that he gave me' that he became an apostle, a missionary for Christ. Much the same may be said of Simon Peter and his friends. They too had an experience of the bigness, the generosity – in short they had a profound experience of the 'amazing grace' of God.

In their case it happened through taking Jesus at his word, believing in him and trusting him. As a result, despite toiling all night, and not netting a single fish, now in the daytime they were hauling in a

massive catch. So, in the presence of the power and generosity of God, Peter drops to his knees and says to Jesus: 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' Jesus is not put off by this. He has big plans for Peter and the others. Jesus tells them: 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will catch.' There and then, supported by his trust in them, they leave everything – occupation, home, family, location and property – to join Jesus in netting people into the kingdom of God.

At different times in our lives, God has been in touch with us as well. God has spoken to us and called us to do God's work. Usually there hasn't been anything particularly grand about where God has called us. With Isaiah it was at his work the Jerusalem temple. With Paul it happened as he was galloping towards the city of Damascus on his horse. With Peter and his companions it was while they were trying without success that night to catch fish. So too with you and me, God has tracked us down wherever we live or work or pray.

Notice that I just said, 'God has tracked us down.' I now say that God will keep tracking us down, and never stop tracking us down. In a famous poem he calls 'The Hound of Heaven', the poet Francis Thompson, reflecting on his life-experience of trying to run away from God, presents God as being like a bloodhound, who never stops chasing us till he catches up with us and reaches us so irresistibly, that finally we surrender to God and to God's great expectations and dreams for us. The whole powerful truth of this is captured in the very first verse of the poem. Let me quote it now:

'I fled him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled him down the arches of the years;
I fled him down the labyrinthine ways of my own mind;
and in the mist of tears I hid from him, and under
running laughter. Up vistaed hopes I sped;
and shot, precipitated, adown Titanic glooms of chasmed

fears, from those strong Feet that followed, followed after. But with unhurrying chase, and unperturbed pace, deliberate speed, majestic instancy, they beat—and a Voice beat more instant than the feet—“All things betray thee, who betrayest me.”

There's simply no getting away from God. For us too, resisting God and saying 'Leave me Lord, I'm not good enough. I'm a sinner' won't be the end of the matter. If God could use Peter for God's good work with people, or Paul, or Isaiah, or the Baptist lady, God can and will purify and use us too to do good things, truly beautiful things in fact, for both God and God's people.

So, we better stand by, ready to hear his call! At any time! At any age! In any place! In any situation!. And be ready to say, like Isaiah: 'here I am Lord, send me.'

bgleesoncp@gmail.com

* Parish Youth Worker Wanted

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.

Parish Team

Congratulations to Br Tony Simbel CP who will be Ordained to the Diaconate at St Brigid's by Bishop Terry Brady at the 5.00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 2 March 2019! Watch this space for further details.

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.

Ordination—Accommodation Needed

At the 5.00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 2 March 2019 the Parish will celebrate the Ordination to the Diaconate of Br Tony Simbel CP. There will be a number of Visitors in the Parish that weekend – Passionists, family and interstate guests—and we may need assistance with accommodation once the Monastery becomes full. If you are able to assist, please e-mail the Community Leader, Fr Ron Davoren CP, at: rpdavoren@gmail.com.

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.

Casimir Catholic College—Open Day

For Year 7, 2020 and 2021

Come along and tour the school on

Friday 1st March 2019 from 3.00pm to 7.00pm.

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME!

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.

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

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.

Eremos Retreat Day

"Wandering with Wide-Eyed Wonder"

Saturday 2 March: 10am-4.00pm at Bundeena House, Bundeena. \$60 incl m.tea & lunch. Register by 25/2/19 at : www.eremos.org.au

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
Ecumenical & Interfaith Co-chairs
John McGrath, Pat Bowthorpe FMM
Family Groups Contact: Adrienne Harverson
Finance C'tee Mary Leask
Justice & Peace Network Peter Jennings
Liturgical Ministries Fr Erick, Sr Elena
Maintenance C'tee: Michael Daher/Pongia Fenukitau
Men's Club: Arthur Kassisi; John Skinner, Mick Ward
Parish Safeguarding Support: Sue King
Pastoral Council Co-chairs Peter Jennings, Arthur Kassisi.
Youth Ministry: Oliver Bautista

Parish Collections

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

3/2/19

1st (Passionists): \$ 2,210
2nd (Parish): \$ 4,277
Cash & Envelopes: \$ 2,981
Credit Cards: \$ 1,296

27/ 1/19

1st (Passionists) : \$ 1,930
2nd (Parish): \$ 3,792



ST VDP Marrickville Conference Thank you!

We would like to thank our wonderful parish for the generous donations for our Christmas Appeal 18. We received an amazing total of **\$29,000** which will go a long way to assisting our community in need.

Special mention to Casimir Catholic College for providing 30 Special Family Christmas Hampers, Financial Services Council who annually volunteer to deliver the Christmas Hampers, Staff at Australis Facilities Management for their generous and thoughtful initiative.

We Remember

Recently Deceased: James Bleasel; Italia Napoli.

Anniversaries: Leonard Macaig; Patricia Murray; Concetta Schembri; Maria Lieu Thi Mai; Donald Harkness; Marianna Tesoriero; Thomas Mahony; Pavlovic Jophéf; Maria Trang Minh Thi Nguyen;

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

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

Mass Texts: Sunday 6 (Yr C)

First Reading: Jeremiah 17: 5-8
Response: .Happy are those who have put their trust in you.
Second Reading: 1 Corin 15: 12. 16-20
Gospel: Luke 6: 17.20-26
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

**Wednesday
13, 20, and 27 February
2019
at 7.00pm in Shrubland Hall**

**for children in Year 3 and
above AND who have com-
pleted
First Reconciliation**

**First Holy Communion 2019
will be celebrated on the
weekends of
9/10 March and
16/17 March**

Calendar

February 2019

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
Seniors' Meeting: 2.00pm**
- 26 Parish Pastoral Council**
- 27 First Communion Prep (final): 7pm**
- 28 Finance Committee**

March 2019

- 1 Men's Club: Annexe at**

2-3 8th Sunday of the Year

Ordination at Vigil Mass: 5pm

- 3 Baptism Preparation : 10am in Annexe**
- 4 Catholic Schools Week begins**
- 6 ASH WEDNESDAY**
- 8 First Communion Reflection Day: Hall**

Sunday Mass Ministries: Sunday 5 and Sunday 6 Year C

	Lectors/Commentators		Communion Ministers		Altar Servers	
	9/10 February	16/17 February	9/10 February	16/17 February	9/10 February	16/17 February
5 pm Sat	Liz Buchel Margaret Dos Santos Michael Schiano	Karen Whitby Robert Whitby Mary Leask	Gabrielle Bietola William Metlej Ofa Tupola Kelelia Apikotoa	Liz Buchel M. Dos Santos Leila Walsh Michael Schiano	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi
7.30am Sun	Susie Houssarini Mary Leask	Carolan Ibbotson Marg Barrett	Margaret Kelly Theresa James	Maria Mansour Marg Barrett	Michael Dillon	Michael Dillon
9 am Sun	Reader: Catechist Commentator: Kath Walton	Joseph Tupou Peter Jennings	Catechists	Sue King George Harb' Jose Hartany Jessica Hartany		
10.30 am Sun	Separate List	Maria Barlow Italian Reader George Harb	Maria Barlow Bernadette Yammine + 2 Italian minis- ters	Geoffrey Lean Terry Reyes Lope Reyes Maria Barlow	Geoffrey Lean Aldrick De Vera Alfred De Vera	Albert Naticchia Anthony Naticchi
a6 pm Sun	TEEN GROUP	Maria Fuller John Skinner	Natasha Rego Naomi Rego Anneliese Roehrig	Arthur Kassis Jackie Kassis Tony Hayek Therese Skinner	Tony Hayek	Tony Hayek