

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

Tel: 02 8577 5670 Fax: 02 8577 5679



Email: parish@stbrigid.org.au Web: www.stbrigid.org.au

FaceBook: [St Brigid's Marrickville](https://www.facebook.com/StBrigidMarrickville)

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



6th Sunday of the Year (Yr C) 16/17 February 2019

THE FORTUNATE AND THE UNFORTUNATE

Sometimes when Jesus speaks, he comforts. At other times, he challenges. Today he is challenging you and me. I hear him asking us these three questions: 1. What makes you truly happy? 2. What 'hungers' drive you? 3. What makes you weep?

On level ground, in the presence of his first followers and a big crowd of curious others, he speaks his four beatitudes and his four woes – four ways of being fortunate or unfortunate. He says: Blessed are you who are poor who are hungry who weep who are hated Woe to you who are rich who are full who laugh who are honoured

The story is told of a black lady who was hired as a live-in housekeeper for a white wealthy couple in California. The couple lived in a magnificent house with fourteen bedrooms, a swimming pool, a spa, three cars, and a manicured garden. Every day their housekeeper served them and their frequent guests 2 the most delicious meals. But as the years passed and the couple grew old they stopped entertaining. Eventually they settled for an evening meal of just scrambled egg, toast, and weak tea, and even stopped talking to one another as they ate it. On Saturday nights, meanwhile, their housekeeper would invite some of her friends to her basement flat. There they would eat some plain but good food, share a few drinks, tell jokes, play cards, and laugh and dance the night away together. One night in the midst of all their hilarity, the door opened. There in the hallway were her employers. 'We don't want to disturb you,' they said. 'But on Saturday nights we hear you all having such a good time, we'd just like to watch you. Could you leave your door a little ajar then, so we can share a bit in the fun? We promise we won't intrude, we won't make a sound.'

That true story illustrates how the poor can be better off than the rich. Their secret lies in their love of life, and their ability to get great pleasure from

little things and simple things. Too often rich people, accustomed to so much ease and comfort, expect good things to keep coming their way, and so they bring no great joy when they get them. Poor people, on the other hand, have much harder lives, and are all the more grateful for those good things of life that they get. They receive them as surprises, as gifts they were not expecting.

The rich too tend to rely on their riches. For them it's this world that matters, and any thought of cultivating an everlasting relationship with God is remote and hazy. On the other hand, poor people tend to turn to God with trust in God's goodness and care. As a poor old lady said to her priest: 'Isn't it great that we have God to lean on?'

It's not that poverty in itself is a good thing. When Jesus says that the poor and hungry are fortunate, he is not endorsing abject poverty and starvation. These are evil things that rob human beings of their dignity. He is speaking of too much commitment to the pursuit of money, pleasure, popularity, power and fame, and too little commitment to such satisfying values of the Kingdom of God as detachment from riches, honesty, sincerity, integrity, kindness, compassion, generosity, peace-making, forgiveness, and defending the victims of injustice and oppression.

The poverty that is blessed is the poverty of those who put their trust in God rather than in material things and superficial benefits. Ultimately, only God can fill our emptiness and satisfy the deepest hungers of our human hearts. St Augustine put it so well when he wrote: 'You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless till they rest in you' (Confessions, Bk.1).

Jesus is urging the poor people listening to him then, and urging us now, to trust in God and to rely on God as the one source of life, here and hereafter. As needy people in the gospel did – people like Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zachariah, the shep-

herd & the wise men, Simeon and Anna, and especially Jesus himself.

God is your King, Jesus keeps insisting. God has come and keeps coming into your life and mine to take away our misery, to put an end to our hungers & to put a smile on our faces. For God is 'the God of the humble, the help of the oppressed, the support of the weak, the refuge of the forsaken, the Saviour of the despairing' (Judith9:11). God is with us as our Companion on our life journey of life, to lift us out of our misery, and not because we deserve it, but because we need it.

To have such trust in God's providence—God's goodness, kindness and care—is to be like a thriving tree planted by a flowing river.

As a practical response to all this in the coming week, why not consider giving a 'scary' amount to a charity or justice organisation? Or some of your time and skills to some needy group? Or be more available to a lonely neighbour, an elderly relative, or a child crying out for affection and attention? Why not, then?

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: THIS Monday, 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 Richard Umbers 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. If you are able to assist, please e-mail the Community Leader, Fr Ron Davoren CP, at: rpdavoren@gmail.com.

St Brigid's Seniors' Group

First Meeting for 2019 NEXT Sunday, 24 February in the Parish Centre at 2.00pm. ALL WELCOME!

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.

First Holy Communion 2019

9/10 March AND 16/17 March 2019
Remaining preparation classes on
Wednesday 20 and 27 February
at 7.00pm in Shrubland Hall

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

7.30-9.30pm Wednesday evenings 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.

Lenten Retreats

Eremos—"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

Verbum Dei—"Cross Over to the Other Side"

Sunday 3 March: 9.30am-4.00pm at The Centre, 14 Francis St, Randwick. Cost: \$50.00 includes meals. All ages welcome. Enquiries : 9341 5848 OR verbumdeisydney@gmail.com.

Praying With The Doctors: St John of the Cross, St Teresa of Avila & St Therese of Lisieux

March 26-27 at Varroville. Cost \$135.

Gain an understanding of these Carmelite mystics with Fr Aloysius Rego OCD & Mr Geoff Stumbles.

Enquiries: 8795 3400

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 Kassis; John Skinner, Mick Ward

Parish Safeguarding Support:

Sue King

Pastoral Council Co-chairs

Peter Jennings, Arthur Kassis.

Youth Ministry:

Oliver Bautista

Parish Collections

Counters: This week (18/2): Jim/Maree/Lalo

Counters: Next Week (25/2): Jim's Team

10/2/19

1st (Passionists): \$ 1,990

2nd (Parish): \$ 4,112

Cash & Envelopes: \$ 3,816

Credit Cards: \$ 1,296

3/2/19

1st (Passionists): \$ 2,210

2nd (Parish): \$ 4,277

Plenary Council 2020

The Plenary Council will meet in 2020 to discuss the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. In the meantime, the Church is consulting with its parishioners and the wider Catholic community. YOUR voice is important & the Council is calling on all Catholics to contribute to shaping the future of the Church. There are THREE essential questions we are being asked to consider:

1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
2. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?
3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith, or the Church, you would like to share?

During Mass NEXT weekend there will be time allocated for reflection, dialogue and submission of responses in relation to these questions.

You will be provided with a form on which to write your responses.

Please give some consideration to these questions ahead of next week's Mass.

The form is available at the end of today's Mass should you wish to take the form home, complete it during the week and return it next week.

Alternatively, you may wish to provide an online submission at plenarycouncil.org.au in the section 'Have your Say, submit online'

In advance, thank you for your participation, and more importantly, contribution to developing the agenda for the Plenary Council in 2020.

We Remember

Recently Deceased: Annunziata Errichiello; Nella Mastroianni; James Bleasel.

Anniversaries: Jaime Camacho; Tran Thi Anh; Tran Dien; Peter Nguyen Phuong Duy; Lorna Entriiken; Mary Breen; Maree Parry; John Fountain; Helen Chakty; Guise Tam Huu Nguyen; Francisco Filipe; Rev Dominic; Dominic Trung Duc Nguyen; Francisco Guevara.

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

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

Mass Texts: Sunday 7 (Yr C)

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2.7-9.12-13.22-23

Response: The Lord is compassion and love.

Second Reading: 1 Corin 15:45-49

Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38

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.

The Passionist Community of
St Brigid's, Marrickville
invites you to the

ORDINATION to the DIACONATE

of our Brother

TONY O'CONNOR SIMBEL CP

by Bishop
Richard Umbers

Saturday 2nd March 2019
at 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Followed by refreshments in
Shrubland Hall

*Please bring a plate to share as we
celebrate this joyous occasion!*

Calendar

February 2019

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 7.00pm
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
9-10 First Sunday of Lent
First Communions at 5pm Vigil Mass and
10.30am Mass
Youth Group in Hall 7-9pm
15 Lenten Programme in Church: 7pm
16-17 Second Sunday of Lent
First Communions at 5pm Vigil Mass and
10.30am Mass
Baptisms : 12 noon

Sunday Mass Ministries: Sunday 6 and Sunday 7 Year C

	Lectors/Commentators		Communion Ministers		Altar Servers	
	16/17 February	23/24 February	16/17 February	23/24 February	16/17 February	23/24 February
5 pm Sat	Karen Whitby Robert Whitby Mary Leask	Gabrielle Bietola Paul Cloran Kelelia Apikotoa	Liz Buchel M. Dos Santos Leila Walsh Michael Schiano	Mary Leask Maria Fuller Paul Hurst Shelley Hopper	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi
7.30am Sun	Carolan Ibbotson Marg Barrett	Pat O'Reilly Carolan Ibbotson	Maria Mansour Marg Barrett	Margaret Kelly Janice Schubach Theresa James	Michael Dillon	Michael Dillon
9 am Sun	Joseph Tupou Peter Jennings	St Brigid's Year 5	Sue King George Harb' Jose Hartany Jessica Hartany	Kath Walton Pedro Moreira Diane Moreira Judith Flett + teachers	Thomas Georges Gia Mihas Amelia Da Costa Luke Nguyen	Thomas Georges Gia Mihas Amelia Da Costa Luke Nguyen
10.30 am Sun	Maria Barlow Italian Reader George Harb	Mely Siasat Italian Reader Kate Johnston	Geoffrey Lean Terry Reyes Lope Reyes Maria Barlow	Kate Johnston George Harb Mely Siasat + 2 Italian	Albert Naticchia Anthony Naticchi	Geoffrey Lean Aldrick De Vera Alfred De Vera
6 pm Sun	Maria Fuller John Skinner	Youth	Arthur Kassis Jackie Kassis Tony Hayek Therese Skinner	Youth	Tony Hayek	Tony Hayek