

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



7th Sunday of the Year (Yr C) 23/24 February 2019

LIVING THE GOLDEN RULE

We are followers of Jesus. He has set the bar for our behaviour as high as can be (Luke 6:27-38). Love your enemies, he insists. Do good to those who hate you. Pray for those who treat you badly. Don't hit back. Don't condemn. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. This is the Golden Rule. Be merciful, forgiving, compassionate, generous and kind.

Do we take him seriously? Jesus himself did just what he said. He practised what he preached. He welcomed and forgave the woman who had a bad name in the town (Lk 7:47-49). He healed the ear of one of those arresting him (Lk 22:51). On the cross he prayed that his executioners might be forgiven (Lk 23:14). He taught us to pray for forgiveness for our own sins, and to be ready to forgive any wrongs done to us (Lk 11:4). In short, Jesus repaid evil with goodness.

Centuries before Jesus, one of his ancestors David had shown similar generosity of heart towards his jealous rival, King Saul (as we learn in our First Reading today). Despite the fact that Saul was out to kill him, David refused to harm the king, for Saul had been chosen by God to lead the people, and so David left Saul's fate to God. All through history other people have practised that kind of mercy, goodness and generosity:

At the end of the Second World War, when the Nazi death camp of Ravensbruck was liberated, a prayer on a scrap of dirty paper was found next to the body of a dead child. This is what it said:

O Lord, remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will. But do not remember all the suffering they have inflicted upon us; remember the fruits we brought, thanks to this suffering, our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, the courage, the generosity, the greatness of heart which has grown out of this; and when they come to judgment, let all the faults which we have borne be their forgiveness. AMEN.

A religious sister was raising money for the poor in an anti-Catholic part of America. After her talk a mild-looking old man walked up to her. Expecting a donation she held out her hand. He spat on it. She coolly wiped her hand, held it out again, and said to him, 'OK, that's for me. Now, what do you have for Christ's poor?' In 1989

in San Salvador, six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter, were murdered. On All Saints' Day, their families and friends gathered in church to mourn their losses with prayer. They painted the names of the victims on cards, surrounded the names with flowers, and placed the cards on the altar. One prayer-card was without flowers. But it read: 'For our enemies.' Later, a man spoke up in defence of that card: 'Because we are Christians, we believe that our enemies should be on the altar too. Even though they kill us, they are still our brothers.' On May 13th, 1981, Mehmet Ali Agca, intending to kill, shot and wounded Pope John Paul II in St Peter's Square. After his recovery the pope went to the prison to forgive his assailant. In the Philippines, a young woman called Maria went to work in a home for homeless boys. She was asked to interview three out of the forty boys there. After one hour she came back to her supervisor, looking flushed and distressed. The first boy she interviewed, she said, could not be reunited with his father as his father was in prison for murder. The supervisor explained that several boys were on the streets because their parents were in prison and not to let it upset her too much. 'Yes,' replied Maria. 'But I have just discovered that the man his father murdered was my own father.' After they both recovered a bit from that shocking news, the supervisor said. 'Well, perhaps you might like to drop that boy from your case-load or relocate to another facility?' But Maria stood her ground. 'I am a social-worker,' she said, 'and I am also a Christian. It's not this boy's fault that his father killed my father. I think I would like to help him as much as I can.' But why would Jesus teach and expect such goodness and mercy? He says simply: 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate (v.36).' It's a matter of the imitation of God, of acting like God, a matter of 'like Father, like child!' So no matter what another does to us, we must seek nothing in return but their good. Yet loving is not the same as liking. Liking is about how we feel, and we don't have control over our feelings. But we do have control over how we act. So, says Jesus, do no evil, do no harm, even to those who deserve it. Love like God. Replace their darkness with your light. To love like that, however, does not come easy. It involves going against very basic

instincts—the desire to get even, and the fear of being taken advantage of. But with God's grace to help us, while its not easy, its still possible. In fact, its in our own interest to love like that. People who hate are in great pain and great need. In their book "How to Forgive Your Ex-Husband", Marcia Hootman and Patt Perkins highlight the enormous energy and money some women waste trying to get even with their ex-husbands, and how they hurt themselves far more by their anger than by what they got from their former spouses.

The secret to success in living better this particularly challenging teaching of Jesus is surely prayer, and so let us conclude this reflection by saying: *'Good & kind God, only with the help of your grace can we love as you love. Give us the strength to overcome anger with love, ugliness with beauty, and evil with good. We make this through Jesus, our Leader and our Lord. AMEN'*. bgleesoncp@gmail.com

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH!!!

This Sunday, after the 6.00pm Mass, join us in Shrubland Hall for the LAUNCH of our three new

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

Junior Youth—Years 7-9

Gathering: 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month

Senior Youth—Years 10-12

Gathering :2nd Sunday of each month

Adult Youth—18-25 years

Gathering: 4th Sunday of each month

If unable to attend but would like to join in, please e-mail your details: name, age, e-mail address and phone to:
parish @stbrigid.org.au

Help Wanted

. No longer wanted musical instruments in good condition (*string, wind or percussion*) and children's books (5-12 years) to help grow a small library in BARO, PNG still needed. **If you can help, please bring the goods to the Parish Office no later than the end of NEXT WEEK.** 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 **THIS** 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 NEXT 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.

The Season of Lent 2019

ASH WEDNESDAY— 6 March

Masses: 6.45am; 9.00am; 5.00pm (Vietnamese) and 7.00pm (English)

LENTEN PROGRAMME

Every Friday in the Church at 7.30pm commencing 8 March

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

Healing Mass

Friday 1 March 2019 at St Joseph's Enfield. Rosary and Reconciliation from 7pm Mass at 8pm with Fr George Sigamony. Enquiries: 0412 115 961.

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 (25/2): Jim's Team

Counters: Next Week (4/3): Lea's Team

17/2/19

1st (Passionists): \$ 1,910

2nd (Parish): \$ 4,001

Cash & Envelopes: \$ 2,705

Credit Cards: \$ 1,296

10/2/19

1st (Passionists) : \$ 1,990

2nd (Parish): \$ 4,112

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 ***THIS 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.

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: Margaret Togher; Vincenzino Ruberto.

Anniversaries: Peter Peokol; Bartolomeo De Bono; Rev Dominic Trung Duc Nguyen; James Raby; Maree Blanchard; Alfredo Errichiello; Bishop Joseph Thong Duy Vu; Froctoso Kilat.

Carrying Severe Illness: John Lizzio; Lena Buck; Mary Harb; Winifreda Jauco; Maria Tropea.

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

Mass Texts: Sunday 8 (Yr C)

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27: 4-7

Response: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord, and sing of your love for us.

Second Reading: 1 Corin 15:54-58

Gospel: Luke 6 : 39-45

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.

Calendar

February 2019

23-24 7th Sunday of the Year

Plenary Council 2020 Discussion: at ALL Masses

24 Baptisms : 12 noon

Seniors' Meeting: 2.00pm

Launch of new Youth Groups in Hall after 6pm Mass

Young Adults in Annexe: 7-9pm

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

Jnr Youth Gp in Hall: 7-9.00pm

4 Catholic Schools Week begins

6 ASH WEDNESDAY

8 First Communion Reflection Day: Hall

8 Lenten Programme in Church: 7.30pm

9-10 First Sunday of Lent

First Communion at 5pm Vigil Mass and 10.30am Mass

Snr Youth GP in Hall: 7-9pm

15 Lenten Programme in Church: 7.30pm

16-17 Second Sunday of Lent

First Communion at 5pm Vigil Mass and 10.30am Mass

Baptisms : 12 noon

Jnr Youth Gp in Hall: 7-9.00pm

22 Lenten Programme in Church: 7.30pm

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

Sunday Mass Ministries: Sunday 7 and Sunday 8 Year C

	Lectors/Commentators		Communion Ministers		Altar Servers	
	23/24 February	2/3 March	23/24 February	2/3 March	23/24 February	2/3 March
5 pm Sat	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
7.30am Sun	Pat O'Reilly Carolann Ibbotson	Janice Schubach Marg Barrett	Margaret Kelly Janice Schubach Theresa James	Susie Houssarini Maria Mansour Janice Schubach	Michael Dillon	Michael Dillon
9 am Sun	Joseph Tupou Peter Jennings	Sue King Bec Wong	Kath Walton Pedro Moreira Diane Moreira Judith Flett	Frank Cowell Jennie Oesman Justin Hartany Joanne McGrath John McGrath	Thomas Georges Gia Mihas Amelia Da Costa Luke Nguyen	Thomas Georges Gia Mihas Amelia Da Costa Luke Nguyen
10.30 am Sun	Mely Siasat Italian Reader Kate Johnston	Bernadette Yammine Italian Reader Catherine Vagnozzi	Kate Johnston George Harb Mely Siasat + 2 Italian	Angie Chiapoco Elvie Chiapoco George Harb + 2 Italian	Geoffrey Lean Aldrick De Vera Alfred De Vera	Albert Naticchia Anthony Naticchi
6 pm Sun	Youth	Arthur Kassis Robert Gascoigne	Youth	Anthony Kassis Alex Kassis Lea Paladino	Tony Hayek	Tony Hayek