

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)

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

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

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

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

We stand at the Crossroads of life for many people



Fifth Sunday of Lent (Yr C) 6/7 April 2019

MEETING THE MERCIFUL JESUS

The story is told of a young French soldier who deserted Napoleon's army. Within a couple of hours he was caught by his own troops. The penalty for desertion was death. The mother of the young soldier heard what was happening and went to plead with Napoleon to spare the life of her son. Napoleon heard her out but pointed out that because of the serious nature of his crime her son did not deserve mercy. 'I know he doesn't deserve mercy,' the mother answered. 'It wouldn't be mercy if he deserved it.' She was right. Mercy is not justice. It's pure gift, grace and graciousness, in imitation of God.

We hear in our gospel today a story about the mercy of Jesus. It illustrates his teaching: 'Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven' (Lk 6:6-37). A married woman has been found in bed with another man. At once she is treated like dirt. First, she is thrown out of her house. Then there is talk of hitting her with the full force of the Law, death by stoning (Lev 20:10; Deut 22:23-24). Next she is hustled to some Pharisees, the defenders of the Law. They decide to hustle her to Jesus. For if they can get away with it, they will try to hurt Jesus as well as the woman: 'Master,' they say pompously, 'this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and in the Law Moses has ordered us to stone women of this kind. What have you to say?'

They present Jesus with a dilemma. On the one hand, if he defends her they will accuse him of contempt for the Law of Moses. If, on the other hand, he condemns her, that's the end of his reputation for mercy and leniency towards sinners. His enemies have placed him in a seemingly 'no-win' situation.

Jesus admits that she has sinned, but he does not condemn her, for he has come to seek and save the lost. He does so in a stunning way. While admitting that the woman has indeed sinned, he also

knows that in different ways her accusers are sinners too. So he answers with this challenge: 'Let the one among you who is guiltless be the first to throw a stone at her.' His brilliant reply rules out any condemnation of the woman, even by the most zealous follower of the Law. For who would dare to claim: 'I am totally sinless, I am completely blameless, and so I'm entitled to throw stones?'

His enemies are forced by the words of Jesus to drop the stones from their hands and to slink off one by one. So the poor sinner is left alone with the Sinless one. St Augustine comments: 'There they were together, great misery, on the one hand, and, great mercy, on the other.'

As for the woman, she is not abandoned to her fate. Jesus is more concerned for her future than her past. His concern is to show her how much God loves her in her predicament. So he invites her to put the past behind her and make a brand new start. 'Neither do I condemn you,' says Jesus, 'go away and from this moment sin no more.'

These are liberating words, liberating words indeed, words which not only set the woman free from the harshness and hard-heartedness of her accusers, but also from her own feelings of shame, guilt, self-loathing and despair! The promise of God in the First Reading has come true: 'No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed.' And so, if we too have sinned but repented, we have before God no evil past any longer. Having come back to God will all our hearts, we are new men and new women in a new world, and can therefore praise God in the words of today's psalm: 'The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.'

This true story challenges our tendency to divide the people around us into them and us, and into good ones and bad ones. We might suppose that the good ones are those we belong to, and the bad ones are those they belong to. But that line is a lie. No one

perfect. In different ways we are all sinners. So a wise saying has it: "There's bad in the best of us, and good in the worst of us. So it makes no sense for any of us, to talk about the rest of us."

So, "what we need heap up in our own hearts and in our church is compassion that heals, not stones that hurt" (Verna Holhead SGS). As part of the process of our conversion in Lent, then, we might ask ourselves today: Do we want to be like Jesus or the religious leaders of his time? More specifically, if we are ready to accept the understanding and forgiveness of God ourselves, must we not be ready to understand and forgive others? Don't we just need to drop our grudges against others once and for all, let bygones be bygones, and move on?

In preparing for Holy Communion today we will be saying to God our Father, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." And in the Sign of Peace we will be exchanging the sign of a loving heart, which includes the desire and intention to forgive.

May we say what we mean and mean what we say!
bgleesoncp@gmail.com

PROJECT COMPASSION 2019 **"GIVE LENT 100%"**

The actions of Jesus in the Gospel today point to a liberating kindness where there is a suspension of the old ways of judgement at the hands of power. The kindness and generosity of CARITAS donors in Australia have contributed to a liberation from fear and exploitation of the poor & vulnerable in many countries. Let us continue the work of God's liberating kindness and lifegiving compassion.

"We pray for our sisters and brothers around the world experiencing extreme poverty & injustice. May our continued support bring about better health care to nurture life and well-being."

Please be sure to add to your Project Compassion boxes in the coming week and support CARITAS in its work —putting your compassion into action!

Piety Store

Large collection of Rosary beads, wall rosaries, finger and bracelet rosaries now available. Also, a variety of Communion, Confirmation, Baptism, Birthday and Holy cards.

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.



We are looking for NEW SINGERS at
Sunday 10.30am Mass
For further information, please pop upstairs before
or after Mass and see Mary or Terry

ST BRIGID'S LENTEN PROGRAMME

Final session of our Lenten programme
NEXT Friday evening, 12th April,
in the Church at 7.30pm:
The Passion

Passionist Discernment Retreat

"The Passion of Jesus is the greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love." St Paul of the Cross

For young men aged 18-35 years at Holy Cross Centre, Templestowe, VIC on 12-14 April 2019.

As a guest of the Passionist Community, you only need provide transport to & from the Centre.
Contact: Luke Bulley CP: 0411 108 868 OR imbulley@icloud.com

Book Launch & Conversation: Clinton Fernandes & Bernard Collaery. "Island off the Coast of Asia" by Clinton Fernandes.

Presented by Timor Sea Justice Forum on Saturday 13 April –3.00-5.00pm, at Monte Sant'Angelo Mercy College, O'Regan Arts Theatre, 128 Miller St Nth Sydney
FREE. Registration: susan.connelly@sosj.org.au

Easter Retreat—Sunday 14th April

***"Cross to Life"* A one day silent retreat, 9am-4.00pm at The Centre, 14 Francis St, Randwick. Cost: \$50.00 includes meals. Contact verbumdeisydney@gmail.com**

"Say Yes to Refugees!" Palm Sunday Walk

Meet at Belmore Park, 191 Hay Street, Haymarket at 2.00pm. Details: info@capsa.org.au

For Your Diary.....

ANZAC Eve Mass

24 April 2019 at 5.30pm at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Celebrant: Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP. Wreath laying by Governor of NSW; Flag Party Army Band.

Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College

OPEN DAY— Tuesday 7 May 2019, at 17 Comer St, Burwood—4.00 -7.30pm— a co-educational Catholic Secondary College for Years 11 & 12. Each student undertakes study that leads to an HSC with a focus on practical, industry-based learning.
Website: <https://scevc.nsw.edu.au/>

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
Ecumenical & Interfaith Jim Yeo
Family Groups Contact: Adrienne Harverson
Finance C'tee : Hamish Flett
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: Jenny Solo

Parish Collections

Counters: This week (8/4): Jim/Lalo/Maree

Counters: Next Week (15/4): Jim/ Maree/Lalo

31/3/19
1st (Passionists): \$ 1,650

2nd (Parish): \$ 4,138

Cash & Envelopes: \$ 2,892

Credit Cards: \$ 1,246

24/3/19

1st (Passionists) : \$ 2,170

2nd (Parish): \$ 5,159

Parish Administrator's Blog

I have been meaning to write to you once a month. I have much to share with you. It is special to begin during this time of Lent.

I wonder how your goal of Lent has been going? Two weeks ago I was in the home of a parishioner who said "This Lent I am giving up sweets". One of the children said "I've given up video games because that's what I like doing." Giving up is good for us because it helps us to be more grateful for what we have. I also think it can help change some of the behaviours we don't like about ourselves.

Let me share one of the things I've given up for Lent. I couldn't give up running, so I gave up *responding to a complaint right away*. Now you know my secret—yes, I get a lot of complaints. Most of these are good criticisms or suggestions about the Parish. You may be one that has written to me recently - I thank you as St Brigid's is your spiritual home and everyone should have a say in their home. My aim will always be to do the best I can including handling complaints with an open heart. But sometimes before Lent I failed to respond as appropriately as I wanted. This is partly because I responded too soon. Giving myself time to think and pray, as well as get advice from more experienced people like Fr Tom CP has helped me respond more appropriately—at least, that's what my heart tells me.

I don't want you to think that all I get is complaints—I also get a lot of compliments about how things are going well at St Brigid's. I thank you for your wonderful way of making St Brigid's the warm, welcoming home it is.

I hope you have a wonderful Easter. May the Resurrected Lord fill the hearts of your home with the Light of Joy. Thank you for your continuous prayers for me, my religious brothers, and the sisters. We need them.

"The Passion of Christ is the Greatest and Most Overwhelming Act of God's Love" St Paul of the Cross

With Peace
Erick CP

We Remember

Recently Deceased: Maria Elias; Antoine El Halabi; Katie Robinson.

Anniversaries: Juan Jovino; Denis Braybrook; Wadad Harb; Arockia Swamy; Melita Schembri; Grace Raby; Francesco Cappadona; Sarah Marshall; Yvonne Togia Lafo;

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

Mass Texts: Lent 5 (Yr C)

First Reading: Isaiah 43: 16-21

Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us—indeed we were glad!

Second Reading: Philipp 3:8-14

Gospel: John : 1-11

Intercessions Response: Lord, graciously hear us

Mass Texts: Passion Sunday (Yr C)

First Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7

Response: My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

Second Reading: Philipp 2: 6-11

Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56

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.

ST BRIGID'S YOUTH

APRIL GATHERINGS

Junior Youth—Years 7-9
THIS Sunday April 7 after 6.00pm
Mass in Shrubland Hall

Senior Youth—Years 10-12
NEXT Sunday April 14 after 6.00pm
Mass in Shrubland Hall

Young Adults—18-35 years
Sunday 28 April after 6.00pm Mass
in Shrubland Hall

ALL WELCOME!!!

Bring a friend—See you there !

Calendar

April 2019

6-7 Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 6 Men's Club: Hall 7.00pm**
7 Mass (incl Third Scrutiny): 10.30am
Jnr Youth in Hall: 7-9pm
8 Holy Thursday practice: 7.30pm
9 Good Friday practice: 7.30pm
10 RCIA practice: 7.30pm
11 Choir practice: 7.00pm
12 Italian Stations of the Cross: 4.00pm
Vietnamese Stations of the Cross: 5.30pm
Lenten Programme in Church: 7.30pm

13-14 Passion (Palm) Sunday

- 13 RCIA Reflection : 9.00am—Noon in church**
14 Snr Youth in Hall after 6pm Mass
15 Easter Vigil Practice: 7.30pm
16 Reconciliation: 9.45-10.00am
17 Reconciliation: 9.45-10.00am
Vietnamese Stations of the Cross: 6.00pm
Choir practice: 8.00pm

18 HOLY THURSDAY

NO morning mass

Vietnamese Mass of the Lord's Supper: 5pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7pm followed by
Adoration until 12.30am
9-10.00pm Reconciliation

19 GOOD FRIDAY

NO morning mass

Stations of the Cross: 10.00am
Vietnamese Liturgy: 11.30am
Solemn Commemoration of the Passion: 3pm
Reconciliation
Good Friday Procession: 7.00pm +
Reconciliation

20 EASTER SATURDAY

No morning mass

Vietnamese Easter Vigil: 12 noon
Easter Vigil Mass: 7.00pm + supper in Hall
(please bring a plate of finger food to share)

Sunday Mass Ministries: Lent 5 Year C and Passion Sunday Year C

	Lectors/Commentators		Communion Ministers		Altar Servers	
	6/7 April	13/14 April	6/7 April	13/14 April	6/7 April	13/14 April
5 pm Sat	Mary Leak Michael Price Leila Walsh	Separate list	Carole Price Michael Price Carmel Cloran Paul Cloran	Separate list	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi
7.30am Sun	Janice Schubach Marg Barrett	Separate list	Maria Mansour Margaret Kelly	Separate list	Michael Dillon	Michael Dillon
9 am Sun	Sue King Bec Wong	Separate list	Frank Cowell Jenny Oesman Justin Hartany Joanne McGrath John McGrath	Separate list	Thomas Georges Gia Mihas Amelia Da Costa Luke Nguyen	Thomas Georges Gia Mihas Amelia Da Costa Luke Nguyen
10.30 am Sun	Bernadette Yammine Italian Reader Catherine Vagnozzi	Separate list	Angie Chiapoco Elvie Chiapoco George Harb	Separate list	Geoffrey Lean Aldrick De Vera Alfred De Vera	Albert Naticchia Anthony Naticchia
6 pm Sun	Arthur Kassis Robert Gascoigne	Separate list	Anthony Kassis Alex Kassis Lea Paladino	Separate list	Tony Hayek	Tony Hayek