

# 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

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

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

***We stand at the Crossroads of life for many people***



## Fourth Sunday of Lent (Yr C) 30/31 March 2019

### THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

On all his days on earth Jesus shows pastoral care for all sorts of people. But he shows a special affection for poor unfortunate persons, and even for extortionists and prostitutes. His opponents sneer: 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them' (Lk 15:2).

The warmth and generosity of his human caring and welcome show that in the eyes of God they are not 'rejects', 'outcasts', 'losers' and 'no-hopers'. On the contrary, God wants to put them back together again. So in and through Jesus, those labelled the 'lost' come to meet the God of the lost. It's for their sake and in their defence, that Jesus speaks his famous parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son.

The story of the lost son, the most famous just shared, has been called 'the greatest short story in the world'. It's not really the parable of a prodigal, i.e. of a spendthrift, as it's usually called, but the parable of an incredibly generous father of two sons (see v.11), who in different ways have both lost their way in life.

The parable tells us a great deal about Jesus himself. His own way of acting is the starting-point of the story. He's explaining why he 'welcomes sinners and eats with them' (v.2). They're the lost ones, the ones he's bringing home to God. For Jesus, all persons who have strayed from God are not truly themselves. So, in the midst of his failures and mistakes the lost son comes to understand that he will be happy again only in the company and home of his father. Meanwhile his father is longing for him to return, and as soon as he catches a glimpse of his son returning, he starts running along the road to embrace him and bring him home (v.20).

When they reach the house, the father cuts short the son's prepared speech. There's no reprimand, not even a small dose of 'I told you so ...'

There's no pay-back, no penance, no punishment and no recriminations. Instead the father is so glad to have his son back with him again that he gives him the robe of honour, the ring of authority, and the sandals of a son.

The Pharisees, to whom Jesus was telling this story, would have been shocked to the core at how Jesus was keeping company with people who were not only outsiders but 'sinners', contact with whom would bring defilement. In a sadistic way they were looking forward not to the saving but to the destruction of those whom they so easily and so self-righteously labelled 'sinners'.

At the sound of music and dancing the eldest son comes in from the fields. His father goes out to him and pleads with him to come to the party (v.38). This eldest son believes he has done everything 'right', and has spent his whole life slaving away on the family farm. His attitude to his wayward brother is one of utter contempt. He even calls the prodigal not 'my brother' but 'your son'.

In the details of his story, Jesus is saying that our God is not a mean book-keeping God at all, but a warm, gracious and generous Father who never stops loving, simply because he never stops wanting to save. No matter how often we may turn our backs on God and go away to do our own selfish thing, God, as in the story, waits patiently for us to come to our senses and return home. The moment we begin to admit that our selfishness has brought us only frustration and misery, shame, guilt, and self-loathing, God comes running to hug us and take us back. There he treats us not as our mistakes and sins deserve, but with tenderness and compassion. In the Eucharist he even throws a party and lavishes 'welcome home' gifts upon us – Christ himself in his body and blood.

In conclusion, let me share with you a variation on the story Jesus told. Once there were two priests in the same diocese. One of them drank too much, he

was often late for appointments, the parish was deep in debt and his bookwork was a mess. Yet the people loved him. The other priest was a very capable and careful manager. He was meticulous and exact in everything. His book-keeping was impeccable and he always treated everyone according to the rules and regulations of the diocese. His parish had no debt. In fact, it owned substantial investments. Yet his people did not think much of him or warm to him at all.

That's amazing. It seems unfair. It begs the question: "What did the first priest have going for him that the second one lacked?"

*Let's try to figure that one out for ourselves!*

*[bgleeson\\_cp@gmail.com](mailto:bgleeson_cp@gmail.com)*

### PROJECT COMPASSION 2019

#### "GIVE LENT 100%"

**Project Compassion provides us with the practical opportunity to recognise the body of Christ in those experiencing poverty or illness and to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities.**

*"Hope requires that we spin a few dreams for ourselves that are possible, doable and desirable"*

*Joan Chittister OSB*

**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!**

### "Call to Action"

St Brigid's is a diverse community of people who have originated from many different countries. As Christians we have shared values and a belief in a fair and just society and opportunity for all to grow and develop. Over the past several years St Brigid's has built a partnership with Newtown Asylum Seekers Centre to provide community to people seeking refuge.

**At ALL Masses THIS weekend**, we will be making a food collection for the Centre. Could you help by donating one of the following:

*tinned food; spices; rice; cooking oil; soaps; or tooth brushes?*

**Collection boxes will be at the doors of the church.**

*Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity.  
Together we act in the spirit of the Good Samaritan  
to be a good neighbour to those in need.*

#### 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.*



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*We are looking for NEW SINGERS  
Sunday 10.30am Mass*

*If you enjoy singing at Mass, why don't you come along and join us! For further information, please pop upstairs before or after Mass and see Mary or Terry*

### ST BRIGID'S LENTEN PROGRAMME

*Friday evenings in the Church at 7.30pm*

#### "TRUST"

*5th April : The Condemnation*

*12th April: The Passion*

#### Healing Mass

Friday 5 April 2019 at St Joseph's Enfield commencing with Rosary from 7.00pm. Celebrant: Bishop Richard Umbers DD. Enquiries: 0412 115 961.

#### Praying with St John of the Cross

April 6, 2019—10am-4.00pm at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre.. Cost: \$30.00 (bring own lunch). Pick ups from Minto station at 9.30am and 10.00am. Enquiries: 02 8795 3400 OR [www.carmeliteretreats.com.au](http://www.carmeliteretreats.com.au)

#### "Say Yes to Refugees!" Palm Sunday Walk

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

#### Open Day—Southern Cross Vocational College

At 17 Comer St, Burwood on **Tuesday 7 May 2019, 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. [www.sccv.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sccv.nsw.edu.au)

### ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NOW ENROLLING for 2020

Contact 9558 6926 OR

[info@stbmarrickville.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stbmarrickville.catholic.edu.au)  
for an enrolment package!

## 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:** 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:** Oliver Bautista

### Parish Collections

**Counters: This week (1/4): Jim's Team**  
**Counters: Next Week (8/4): Jim/ Maree/Lalo**

#### 24/3/19

**1st (Passionists): \$ 2,170**  
**2nd (Parish): \$ 5, 159**  
Cash & Envelopes: \$ 3,913  
Credit Cards: \$ 1,246

#### 17/3/19

**1st (Passionists) : \$ 1,995**  
**2nd (Parish): \$ 4,330**

## ATTENTION ALL YOUTH!!!

### ST BRIGID'S PARISH YOUTH GROUPS 2019

### APRIL GATHERINGS

#### Junior Youth—Years 7-9

**Sunday 7 April in Shrubland Hall after  
the 6.00pm Mass**

#### Senior Youth—Years 10-12

**Sunday 14th April in Shrubland Hall after  
6.00pm Mass**

#### Young Adults

**Sunday 28th April in Shrubland Hall after  
6.00pm Youth Mass**

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

**ALL WELCOME!**

### We Remember

**Recently Deceased:** Antonio Miguel; My Anh Lam; Fr Jose Vairros

**Anniversaries:** Angel, Chafic & George Jabbour; Francis Guilfoyle; Ellen Dawson; Peter Hoang Binh; Pocita Sabitsana; Vicente Le Trung Van; Michael Apikotoa; Katarzyna Lakoma; Kathleen Turner.

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

### Mass Texts: Lent 4 (Yr C)

**First Reading:** Joshua 5: 9-12  
**Response:** Taste and see the Lord is good.  
**Second Reading:** 2 Corin 5:17-21  
**Gospel:** Luke 15: 1-3; 11-32  
**Intercessions Response:** Lord, graciously hear us

### 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

### 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 10.30am Italian mass on 1st Fridays. Also available on request and recommended before attending hospital for major surgery.

## Passionist Discernment Retreat

Where: Holy Cross Centre,  
Templestowe, Victoria

When: 12-14 April 2019

Who: young men between the ages  
of 18-35 years

Cost: As a guest of the  
Passionist Community,  
you only need to provide transport  
to and from the Holy Cross Centre

Contact: Luke Bulley CP:  
0411 108 868  
OR  
lmbulley@icloud.com

*“The Passion of Jesus is the greatest and  
most overwhelming work of God’s love.”*

*St Paul of the Cross*

## Calendar

### March 2019

#### 30-31 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass (incl Second Scrutiny): 10.30am

### April 2019

#### **2 Parish Pastoral Council**

**5 Italian Mass: Parish Centre at 10.30am**

**Tongan Youth in Hall: 7.00pm**

**Lenten Programme in Church: 7.30pm**

#### 6-7 Fifth Sunday of Lent

**6 Tongan Gardening: 7-10.00am**

**Tongan Meeting in Annexe: 6.30pm**

**Men’s Club: Hall 7.00pm**

**7 Mass (incl Third Scrutiny): 10.30am**

**Jnr Youth in Hall: 7-9pm**

**10 Casimir Stations of the Cross: 11.15am**

**RCIA practice: 7.30pm**

**12 Italian Stations of the Cross: 4.00pm**

**Vietnamese Stations of the Cross: 5.30pm**

**Lenten Programme in Church: 7.30pm**

#### 13-14 Passion Sunday

**13 RCIA Reflection : 9.00am—Noon in church**

**14 Snr Youth in Hall after 6pm Mass**

### HOLY WEEK BEGINS

**15 Easter Vigil Practice: 7.30pm**

**16 Good Friday Practice: 7.30pm**

**17 Vietnamese Stations of the Cross from: 6pm  
(in church if wet)**

### **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**

### **19 GOOD FRIDAY**

**NO morning mass**

**Stations of the Cross: 10.00am**

**Vietnamese Liturgy: 11.30am**

**Solemn Commemoration of the Passion: 3pm**

## Sunday Mass Ministries: Lent 4 Year C and Lent 5 Year C

	Lectors/Commentators	Communion Ministers	Altar Servers			
	30/31 March	6/7 April	30/31 March	6/7 April	30/31 March	6/7 April
<b>5 pm Sat</b>	Please Volunteer	Mary Leak Michael Price Leila Walsh	Please Volunteer	Carole Price Michael Price Carmel Cloran Paul Cloran	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi
<b>7.30am Sun</b>	Please Volunteer	Janice Schubach Marg Barrett	Please Volunteer	Maria Mansour Margaret Kelly	Michael Dillon	Michael Dillon
<b>9 am Sun</b>	Please Volunteer	Sue King Bec Wong	Please Volunteer	Frank Cowell Jenny 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
<b>10.30 am Sun</b>	Please Volunteer	Bernadette Yammine Italian Reader Catherine Vagnozzi	Please Volunteer	Angie Chiapoco Elvie Chiapoco George Harb	Albert Naticchia Anthony Naticchia	Geoffrey Lean Aldrick De Vera Alfred De Vera
<b>6 pm Sun</b>	Please Volunteer	Arthur Kassis Robert Gascoigne	Please Volunteer	Anthony Kassis Alex Kassis Lea Paladino	Tony Hayek	Tony Hayek