



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



Acting Parish Priest:

Fr Erick Niyiragira CP (erick@stbrigid.org.au)

Sr Elena Daton CP (elena@stbrigid.org.au)

Sr Elenita Flores CP (elenita@stbrigid.org.au),

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

John Nguyen (Youth Minister) youthministry@stbrigid.org.au

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

We stand at the Crossroads of life for Many People

Third Sunday of Advent : Year B 16/17 December 2017

ADVENT 3

Isaiah says: "my soul rejoices in my God". Paul writes "(God) will not fail you." John preaches: "He's already among you, the Light of the World." All three agents of God want to give us hope.

A cynic might say hope doesn't help. "Its nice to feel hopeful, the grumpy cynic might say, "but its too thin. You can't buy anything with hope. It only means you don't already have what you want."

On the contrary! Hope is so important that it can even mean the difference between life and death. Someone you love is seriously ill. She's so sick that she has gone to hospital. The doctors say she will come through, if only her attitude was positive ie if only she would want and hope to live. Every time you visit her, she turns her face away and say: "Go away. Leave me alone! I'm finished! I can feel it in my bones!"

We too need hope for our world and hope for our own lives. Think of the thousands of homeless people in our cities, of the prisoners of conscience in filthy jails, of the babies born to alcoholic and addicted parents, of the depressed and desperate people seriously thinking of taking their own lives. Think of the difficulties of your own family around your dining table.

Think of the suffering millions around the world—the drought and food shortages; fanaticism; wars and civil unrest; bushfires; HIV/AIDS; malaria; cancer; corruption. Think especially of the present sufferings of people in the Philippines where the President is randomly killing suspected drug users and dealers.

In such difficult situations do we just feel sad and sorry? Do we come to the conclusion that there is now way out? Not if we take the Word of God se-

riously.

We believe, we hope, we pray that God is among us, the Light of the World. We go on praying that everything will work out in the long run! We do whatever we can to bring about the better world that Jesus came among us to promote. Where no one lives in poverty, no one is hungry, the sick are nursed back to health, wealth is distributed, every one has a roof over their head, where people fell and relieve the pain of their sisters and brothers, where education and jobs are available to all.

This is a world where the love of God makes a difference, that tender and transforming love of God which changes people and situations, changes them for the better and changes them for the benefit of all, not just the fortunate few.!

In these last days of Advent then, you and I might both think of what we can do and what we will do for needy people this Christmas, both here and overseas. We will also be on guard about giving lots of present, and especially costly presents, which nobody really wants and nobody really needs.

Lets us ask ourselves, in short, how can we, like John the Baptist before us, be a witness to the light that is Jesus Christ, the Light of the World?

bgleesoncp@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE: CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR

The Parish Office will be CLOSED from Friday afternoon, 22 December 2017.

It will re-open on Thursday 4 January 2018.

During this time, the EMERGENCY only contact number will be 0448 251 016.

Calendar

DECEMBER 2017

16/17 Advent 3 Year B
Vinnies' Christmas Appeal
16 Community Christmas
Carols: 6-9.00pm
17 Baptisms: 12 noon
18 9am Mass + Reconciliations
20 9am Mass + Reconciliations
22 9am Mass + Reconciliations

23/24 Advent 4 Year B
Vigil: 5pm Saturday
Sunday Masses at
7.30am; 9.00am and
10.30am

CHRISTMAS MASSES

24 CHRISTMAS EVE:
Mass at 6.00pm (incl
Pageant)
Reconciliations: 5-6.00pm
9.00pm
Midnight
(Carols 11.30pm)
Reconciliation: 10.30-11.30pm

25 CHRISTMAS DAY:
Mass at 9.00am (incl
Pageant)
10.30am
**(NO 7.30am OR
6.00pm MASSES)**

26 BOXING DAY
Mass at 9.00am only

MANAGING CHRISTMAS AFTER BEREAVEMENT

Some Suggestions:

- Do something special in memory of the person who has died
- Light a special candle to burn during the day or during the Christmas meal.
- Make or buy a special decoration to hang on the tree in memory.
- Make a toast to the person, share anecdotes. Don't be afraid to laugh as you remember the good times.
- Play a special song or music.
- Write a letter or card to the person, don't be concerned if you want to talk out loud to them....do it.
- Some bereaved parents buy a small gift for the age their child would be had they lived, and put it under the tree at one of the charity, church or supermarket trees.
- Some people like to visit the graveside or a special location to sit and remember.
- Plan your time so that you are under a little stress as possible. Plan your "escape" if you need to, don't over commit. Rehearse a simple explanation why you may not attend a function.
- Ask for assistance with preparations including going shopping.
- You may need to change the routine and usual way you do things.
- Let your family and friends know you need to take things slowly and that you mean to take each day as it comes.
- Share the memories with someone else— the photos and the stories.
- Seek professional help if needed.
- Do something special for yourself—treat yourself to a massage, indulge in a favourite food, buy yourself a present.
- Ensure some quiet time—if you want, you can simply sit with your memories and your grief. Grief is the flip side of love.

Adapted from full article:

<https://catholiccemeteries.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/BN8-Christmas-Bereavement.pdf>

For urgent help or information call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Beyondblue on 1300 22 46 36.

For further information, please contact Bereavement Support on (02) 9646 6908 OR Email: bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au OR visit www.catholiccemeteries.com.au

Information Directory

CatholicCare Family Help Line

1300 1300 52

St Brigid's Primary School 9558
6926

Casimir Catholic College

9558 2888

Catholic Church

Marriage Tribunal

9390 5120

Baptisms

Preparation: 1st Sundays 10am

Presentation: 2nd Sunday Masses at
either 9am OR 10.30am Mass

Baptisms: 3rd & 4th Sundays at 12
noon

Marriages

Preferably 6 months notice

Contact: Parish Secretary

8577 5670

Pastoral Ministry Contacts:

Adult Sacraments Sr Elena

Care of Sick & Aged Sr Elena

CCD in State Schools Sue King

Children's Sacraments Sr Elenita

Cultural Committee Chair

George Harb

Ecumenical & Interfaith Co-chairs

John McGrath ,

Pat Bowthorpe FMM

Family Groups Contact

Adrienne and John Harverson

Acting Finance C'tee Chair

Mary Leask

Justice & Peace Network Chair

Peter Jennings

Liturgical Ministries Fr Erick

Sr Elena

Men's Club Co-chairs: Arthur Kas-
sis, John Skinner, Mick Ward

Pastoral Council Co-chairs Paige

Bullen, Peter Jennings

Youth & Young Adults:

John Nguyen



Vinnies Christmas Appeal



THIS CHRISTMAS, YOU CAN HELP WISHES COME TRUE

Please donate to our
parish appeal 16-17 Dec

Envelopes available at main door

We Remember

Recently Deceased: .

Anniversaries: Joseph Lahoud; Concetta Pirrello; Youssef & Nazha Ghosen; Anna Hoang Thi Thoan; Teddy Edwards; Sigrid Piedad; Han-neh El-Lakiss; Teresa Jennings; Br Rupert FMS; Dominico Nguyen Van An; Francisco Caires; Netty Too; Maria Nguyen Thi Thao.

For our Sick: Fr Tim CP; Fr Jim CP; Clare Fuller; Mario Volpato; Van Nam Ta; Edna Taylor.

Parish Collections

Counters: This week

(18/12): Jim/Lalo/Maree

Counters: Next Week

(27/12): Jim/Lalo/Maree

9/10 December

1st (Passionists): \$ 2,050

2nd (Parish): \$ 4,550

Cash & Envelopes: \$ 3,343

Credit Cards: \$ 1,207

2/3 December

1st (Passionists): \$ 1,970

2nd (Parish): \$ 5,362

Mass Texts: Advent 3 Year B

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

Response: My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessal. 5: 16-24

Gospel: John 1: 6-8. 19-28

Intercessions Response:

Lord, graciously hear us

Mass Texts: Advent 4 Year B

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16

Response: I will sing forever of your love,
O Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16: 25-27

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. The symbolism of the wreath IS BEAUTIFUL. It is made of evergreens, signifying continuous life. The circle of the wreath which has no beginning or end symbolises the eternity of God and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, seed pods used to decorate the wreath also symbolise life and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Part of the tradition is that each week represents one thousand years—the four thousand years from Adam and Eve to the birth of our Saviour. The gradual lighting of the candles, combined with liturgical colour of the candles (purple/blue is the penitential colour during Lent and Advent; rose is a liturgical colour for the 3rd Sunday) help to symbolize not only our expectation and hope in our Saviour's First Coming, but also in his Second Coming as Judge at the end of the world.

The First Candle represents the Old Testament prophets who foretold Christ's coming—it is the candle of **HOPE**.

The Second Candle represents John the Baptist, who pointed to Jesus as the "Lamb of God" - this is the candle of **PEACE**.

The Third Candle is for Mary who prepared herself and presented Jesus to the world—this is the candle of **JOY**.

The Fourth Candle represents us, who are now called to prepare ourselves to be prophets and witnesses—it is the candle of **LOVE**.

A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the centre of the wreath signifying Christ; this is lit on Christmas Day. These candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

THANK YOU!!!!

To every one who so willingly assisted our young visitors from interstate in Sydney recently for the Catholic Youth Festival—those who provided accommodation, helped prepare and serve meals, and generally made them feel welcome. Your generosity, support and interest is very much appreciated.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN 2018

St Brigid's has a Catholic Scripture programme running at the four public schools in Marrickville—Marrickville, Marrickville West, Ferncourt and Wilkins. This is a way to ensure that your children have further education in their Catholic faith and how Jesus is an important part of their lives. If you are interested, please ask the school to enrol your child/children in these weekly classes.

Further information: contact Sue, our Catechist Co-Ordinator on 0448 808 204.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CARE

Available at a number of inner west sites including Marrickville West and Wilkins Public Schools. Further information: sue.rose@task-kids.com.au ; www.task-kids.com.au, or phone 1300 827 500.

Lectors/Commentators

Communion Ministers

Altar Servers

	16/17 December	23/24 December	16/17 December	23/24 December	16/17 December	23/24 December
5 pm Sat	Karen Whitby Robert Whitby Kelelia Apikotoa	Gabrielle Bietola Paul Cloran	Liz Buchel Margaret Dos Santos Michael Schiano	Mary Leask Maria Fuller Paul Hurst Shelley Hopper	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi	Leon Tupola Gary Tupola Walsh Mafi
7.30 am Sun	Elizabeth Delaney SGS Maree Doyle Marg Barrett	Pat O'Reilly Carolan Ibbotson	Maria Mansour Margaret Barrett Mary Enriken Susie Houssarini	Maree Doyle Margaret Kelly Janice Schubach Theresa James	Michael Dillon	Michael Dillon
9 am Sun	Christina Day Joseph Tupou Peter Jennings		Sue King George Harb Francis Seufale Jose Hartany Jessica Hartany	Kath Walton Pedro Moreira Diane Moreira Peter Jennings Christina Day Judith Flett		
10.30 am Sun	Maria Barlow Italian Reader George Harb	Mely Siasat Italian Reader	Terry Reyes Lope Reyes Maria Necesito Maria Barlow	George Harb Bernadette Yammine Maria Barlow	Geoffrey Lean Aldrick De Vera Alfred De Vera	Albert Naticchia Anthony Naticchia
6 pm Sun	Jacquei Hicks Michael McGrath	CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Separate list	Pei-Pei Coa Arthur Kassis Jackie Kassis Tony Hayek Noeleen Fernandez Jim Boggs	CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Separate list	Tony Hayek	CHRISTMAS PAGEANT