



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

Administrator: Fr Erick Niyiragira CP (pp@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)

Fr Dominic Samamba CP (dominic@stbrigid.org.au)

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

Jenny Solo (youthministry@stbrigid.org.au)

Jim Yeo (safeguardingofficer@stbrigid.org.au)

Ms Elena Di Perna (parishbookkeeper@stbrigid.org.au)

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

We stand at the Crossroads of life for many people

23rd Sunday – Year A 5/6 September 2020 Father's Day

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

at ST BRIGID'S

Saturday - 5.00pm (Vigil)

7.00pm (Vietnamese)

Sunday - 8.00 am

Sunday - 10.30 am

4.00pm (Vietnamese)

Sunday - 6.00 pm

Please also note that,

in accordance with the latest government regulations, the **MAXIMUM** number able to attend any Mass at St. Brigid's is now **100 persons**.

The Chancery of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has advised parishes of the following recommendations by NSW Health:

It is now **strongly recommended** that people wear masks when they are in crowded places and social distancing is not easy to maintain. NSW Health states examples such as public transport and **places of worship**.

BOOKINGS for ALL Masses remain ESSENTIAL

Web Page: —

—<http://www.stbrigid.org.au>

Register online on

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/st-brigid-catholic-church-marrickville->

Follow our Facebook page: —

—**St Brigid's Marrickville**

OR

phone the Parish Office on **8577 5670** between 9.30am - 4.00pm, Monday—Friday .

WEEKDAY MASSES at ST. BRIGID'S

MONDAY - 9:00 am

TUESDAY - 6.45 am

WEDNESDAY - 9:00 am

THURSDAY - 6.45am

FRIDAY - 9:00 am

+++++

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Receipts for 2019-2020 are available from the Parish Office.

NEW Sets of Envelopes for 2020-2021 are available at the main doors of the Church.

GOSPEL REFLECTION
DEALING WITH AN OFFENDER:
23RD SUNDAY A

Life in a family or other community, is sometimes a bit of heaven on earth, but not always. As French philosopher, John-Paul Sartre, once put it, "hell is other people!" Certainly, unless we cut ourselves off from other people and go to live alone on a desert island, being alive means having to deal with other people, and the distinct possibility of differences, disagreements, tension, frustration, anger, bullying, exchange of heated words, insults, slurs, payback, and even worse. It's well-known by now, that during the restrictions of the Covid-19 lockdown, there has been a big increase in domestic violence, resulting in home-visits from the police, and escapes, especially by mothers and children, to the safety of refuges run by kind people, such as Good Samaritan Sister Michelle Reid and Team at "The Inn", Preston, Victoria. Today, speaking through Matthew, Jesus instructs Christians how to sort out their differences and develop togetherness. Like Jesus himself, they must act with understanding, compassion and forgiveness, and with a determination to be fully reconciled and completely at peace with others.

This leads to the questions: What do you and I do when somebody hurts or offends us? Do we just ignore the offender, keep our hurt to ourselves, yet keep brooding over our wounds? Or do we take out our anger by moaning and groaning to others? In short, do we do anything but, speak to the person who has been bugging us, and towards sorting it out, say just how we are feeling?

In our gospel today, Matthew draws on the attitudes, example and teachings of Jesus, to put to his community a three-step process for forgiveness, reconciliation and harmony.

At first just two people are involved: "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and have it out with him/her alone." Notice that it is the one offended who must take the initiative. At this stage, there are no third parties. The aim is to tell the truth in love, rather than humiliate the other. It is hoped, then, that the two at loggerheads will speak in a calm and matter-of-fact way, about how each has experienced the other.

But this first step towards peace doesn't always work. That's not the end of the matter. So, if Step One fails, Step Two is to get support for a second approach to the offender. The conversation is to include just one or two more persons, who can act as unbiased witnesses, and help to settle the matter before it goes viral and public.

The instructions of Jesus continue. If one or the other is stubborn and still refuses to admit that he/she has done anything wrong, the process moves to another level: 'If he/she refuses to listen [so far], then tell the local church [community]'. Here Jesus gives the whole community the power to settle the matter. If the community establishes that the offender is now truly sorry, it makes peace between the parties. If not, it may discipline the offender, even to the point of excluding the offend-

er from the group, at least for a time. This is because such people have shown that their unloving attitudes and behaviour are simply unchristian, and they don't really belong. It's understood all along that the decision of the community is actually the decision of Christ, present in person, and living and acting within his community.

All this is so different from "my lawyer will talk to your lawyer" kind of thing. We're living in a society which emphasizes "three strikes and you're out" and even "zero tolerance", i.e. "one strike and you're out". But that's not the full picture. Here is one instance of reconciliation and peace, at work in a courtroom. It comes from The New York Times (and relayed by courtesy of Fr Jude Siciliano OP, in his publication Preacher Exchange I).

Ryan, aged nineteen, was charged with tossing a turkey through a car windshield. He nearly killed the driver, Victoria, aged forty-four. She suffered severe injuries which required many hours of surgery to rebuild the bones of her shattered face. Ryan pleaded guilty in court. In the adjournment he came face to face with his victim for the first time. He said he was truly sorry and begged her to forgive him. She did just that. She cradled his head as he sobbed. She stroked his face and patted his back. "It's O.K., it's O.K.," she said over and over again, "I just want you to make your life the best it can be."

When the case resumed, Victoria took her forgiveness further. She saved Ryan from twenty-five years in gaol, by insisting that the prosecutor offer him a plea bargain instead - six months in gaol and five years probation.

Surely, her forgiveness could hardly have been more generous and more genuine than that! Surely too her forgiveness bears out the truth of what St Paul says in our Second Reading today: "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour."

Then too, there is the powerful example of St Maria Goretti. In 1901 her poor family was sharing a farm house with the Serenelli family, near Nettuno Italy. On July 5th, Allesandro Serenelli made sexual advances to her, while she was sitting on the back step of the house and mending his shirt. She kept resisting and yelling, "No, it's a sin. God does not want it." Angry at her resistance, he then stabbed her fourteen times. Maria kept expressing her forgiveness for him, and saying that she wanted him to be in heaven with her. His death sentence was commuted to 30 years in prison. For the first 3 years there he was uncommunicative and unrepentant. But after a pastoral visit from Bishop Giovanni Blandini, he changed. He wrote a "thank-you" note to the bishop, and told him of a dream "in which Maria gave him lilies". On release from prison, he visited Maria's mother, Assunta, and begged her forgiveness. She forgave him, and the next day they went to Mass together and received Holy Communion side by side. Allesandro was at St Peter's in Rome for her canonization as a saint in 1950.

bgleesoncp@gmail.com

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL 2020

Please hand in your contribution TODAY if you did not do so last weekend. This is for our annual Mission Appeal which had to be postponed from last May owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please give generously in the special envelopes provided.

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2020 5/6 to 12/13 September

This week the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is celebrating National Child Protection Week for the fifth year in a row. This week provides us with the opportunity to reflect on how we can improve the ways we care for and protect the Children and Young People in our community. The Safeguarding Office has developed two new resource buttons—Children's Resources and Young People's Resources—on the Safeguarding website that provides age appropriate resources: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection>

A video message by Archbishop Anthony Fisher, raising awareness about Child Protection Week is also available: <https://vimeo.com/453188134/039662a887>

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

From the Government through to our parishioners, we all have a responsibility to contribute to a culture of safety and care— everything done to create a safe space begins and ends with the knowledge that God's love is for all people (John 3:16). The primary advocate and leader of safeguarding is Jesus himself

HOLY LAND COLLECTION Sunday 13 September 2020

This is the appeal which is normally held on Good Friday each year. Owing to the closure of churches last Easter as a result of COVID 19, Pope Francis has moved the date for this year's appeal 13 September, to coincide with the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross** on 14 September.

This appeal promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy land, assisting minority local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. With the huge drop in income due to travel restrictions preventing pilgrims, and the closure of all shrines, this Collection is more needed than ever.

**Please give as generously
as you are able.**

CONGRATULATIONS!

To our **Confirmation Candidates** who this weekend receive the third step of Christian Initiation for our children, in which they say YES to the call to be active disciples of Jesus in our world. They will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Terence Brady DD this Sunday:

Alana Polesel	Allister McDonald
Amelia Da Costa	Audrey Marczan
Boateng Owusu	Chloe Certoma-Speer
Ciaran Kelly	Daniel Bessa
Hailey Teixeira	Holly Jane McCabe
Jarred Jerone Alcausin	Joshua Dyster
Joshua Poonan	Leon Alexander Favis
Lola Marie McCabe	Lucas Polesel
Lucian Tesoriero	Mia Gloria Randazzo
Robert Thompson	Sofia Amelia Bacon
Tyler Dylan Potts	William John Britton.

***May the Lord continue to bless
our candidates together with
their families and sponsors
as they respond to his call
to serve his people .***

Baptism Dates—2020

**20 and 27 September; 25 October; 15 and 22 November; 20 December 2020
at 12.30pm.**

1st Sunday—Preparation for parents and godparents.

2nd Sunday—Welcoming Mass

If you wish to make a booking, please e-mail the Parish Office on : parish@stbrigid.org.au including your choice of date AND postal address.

Please Note: Baptism is a communal sacrament at St Brigid's with up to FIVE (5) children baptised at each session.

In accordance with COVID-19 Regulations, the MAXIMUM number of guests per family will be 20, including parents, siblings and godparents

2021 Wedding Bookings

St Brigid's is now accepting SATURDAY Wedding Bookings for next year. Please send your enquiry via E-MAIL to: parish@stbrigid.org.au. Include couple's names, addresses, phone numbers, choice of date and time, and name of priest who has agreed to officiate at your wedding. Please keep in mind that, in accordance with COVID 19 Regulations and until further notice a MAXIMUM of 100 people is permitted at any service in St Brigid's Church .

Welcome Back—Piety Store

September will be busy at St Brigid's as we are resuming Baptisms and Weddings and also celebrating Confirmation 2020. We are delighted that Judy has generously agreed to re-open the Piety Store this month—who knows what treasures she has in stock!

“Tap and Go” Donation Machines

For your convenience, there are two donation stands, one on either side of the pillars as you walk into the church.

One is marked for St Brigid's Parish and the other is marked for the Passionists.

Please check before you donate that you are donating to the correct entity.

At this stage the donation amount is set at \$15.00 per tap

Information Directory

St Brigid's Primary School
9558 6926

Casimir Catholic College
9558 2888

Pastoral Ministry Contacts:

Adult Sacraments:	Sr. Elena
Bereavement Ministry:	Sr. Elenita
Care of Sick & Aged:	Fr. Dominic
CCD in State Schools:	Sr. Elenita
Children's Sacraments:	Sr. Elenita
Sunday Children's Liturgy:	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 Officer:	Jim Yeo
--------------------------------------	---------

Pastoral Council Co-chairs :	Peter Jennings, Arthur Kassis
------------------------------	----------------------------------

Youth Ministry:	Jenny Solo Oliver Bautista
-----------------	-------------------------------

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Recently deceased

- ♦ Jack Danzey
- ♦ Herculano Catari
- ♦ Viviana Tintaya
- ♦ Lionel Elmore (brother of Fr Jim)
- ♦ Malcolm Keys (brother of Fr Lex)
- ♦ Alexia (older sister of Dc Tony Simbel CP)
- ♦ Bob Bain
- ♦ Calogero Ciravolo
- ♦ Victims from Beirut blast

For the Sick

- ♦ Giovanna Cipolla
- ♦ Linda Daton
- ♦ Basile Karamoschosto
- ♦ Lena Buck
- ♦ Sheila Kettle
- ♦ Maria Fuller
- ♦ Helen Eid
- ♦ Elizabeth Yashadhana
- ♦ Mary Harb
- ♦ Winifreda Jauco
- ♦ Peter Ling
- ♦ Geoffrey Leask
- ♦ Ken & Maureen Mc Rae
- ♦ And all those infected with Corona-Virus

Death Anniversaries

Maria Bui Thi Dang; Bill Barrett; Phero Pham Cong Dai; Irene Whitby; Katheleen Zamudio; Nell Lane; Crispulo Latagan; Sr Mary Donellan RSM; Maria Rosa Mandile; Antony Le Van Thach; Gerard Farrugia; Vui Thi Bui; Giuseppe Simone; Joseph Shakour; Joseph Obeid; Carlos Caringal.

From the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you—or anyone you know—have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on Safeguarding enquiries @sydneycatholic.org OR 9390 5810. You may want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.