



## 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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**Administrator:** Fr Erick Niyiragira CP ([pp@stbrigid.org.au](mailto:pp@stbrigid.org.au))

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Jim Yeo ([safeguardingofficer@stbrigid.org.au](mailto:safeguardingofficer@stbrigid.org.au))

Ms Elena Di Perna ([parishbookkeeper@stbrigid.org.au](mailto:parishbookkeeper@stbrigid.org.au))

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

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

**27th Sunday –Year A 03/04 October 2020**

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

MURDER, MAYHEM, AND MERCY: 27TH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME A

Lest we forget!

Thanks to the mass media, in 1999 the world became aware as never before, of the people of East Timor, Australia's nearest neighbour. Many people cheered at the good news that 78.5% of the East Timorese had voted for their independence from Indonesia, whose armies had invaded and annexed their territory in 1975. Their hopes were shared across the world, that at long last they would be free to decide their own future, to choose their own leaders, and to govern themselves.

Within days, however, hopes for the world's newest nation turned sour. A local minority, made up mainly of murderous militias, armed to the teeth by the occupying Indonesian army, would not accept the people's vote. They therefore turned against the majority of their fellow-citizens with a ferocity equal to anything that has ever been perpetrated against innocent people anywhere. In Dili, the capital, and in other cities and towns throughout the territory, the combined enemy maimed and murdered thousands of pro-independence supporters, drove thousands of others from their homes, and forced thousands more to leave their own country as refugees. Once the people were gone from their homes, the enemy systematically looted and plundered the people's possessions, before finally burning their houses, their shops, and many of their public buildings to the ground.

What the world witnessed, thanks to the extensive news coverage, was nothing less than the implementation of a 'scorched earth' policy. It was all as horrific as the sending of so many Jewish people to the gas chambers during World War II, the mysterious disappearances of hundreds of citizens in Argentina and Chile during the military dictatorships there, and the more recent campaigns of so-called 'ethnic cleansing' in Bosnia and Kosovo.

It has been as totally baffling and as totally unexpected that in our own time, human beings could treat one another with such hatred and violence. As baffling and as unexpected as what the enemies of Jesus did to him, when God sent Jesus to his own people, to show and tell them just how much God loves them, and to show and tell them just how much God expects of them in return. God expected their leaders, most of all, to yield a harvest of ripe grapes, but it was sour grapes (vinegar) only, that they produced. So, as we have heard in the gospel today:

Finally, [God] sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

In East Timor, known also as Timor-Leste, the torture, the suffering, and the crucifixion of Jesus happened all over again. Night after night, television screens displayed scenes of undiminished horror, and left viewers wondering: Is there any hope for these poor broken people? Does anyone care?' Perhaps some even wondered: 'Does God care?'

It was just then, when all was seemingly lost, and after both the humanitarian agencies of the International Committee of the Red Cross and that of the United Nations were thrown out of the country, that the world became aware of two marvellous initiatives and developments. In the midst of the carnage and destruction all around, the first powerful ray of hope was from the leaders of the Church. Priests, nuns, and other church workers, constantly supported the people, 98% Catholic, in their quest for human rights, democracy, and self-determination. (Church support and protection for freedom and justice, in fact, went back to the days when Timor-Leste had been a colony of Portugal). This time, for that love and loyalty towards their people, many church persons paid the ultimate price. They too were expelled from their homes. They too were mutilated. They too were murdered. They too saw their own houses, and the church buildings of their people, ransacked, robbed, and burnt to cinders. But the great expectations which God had of them during that darkest period of their history, were not disappointed. Put to the test, they have yielded an abundant harvest for God and for God's people.

The second powerful ray of hope, one which arrived later, was the preparation and deployment of the Interfet (the International Force for East Timor), led by Australian troops. At enormous personal risk, this Interfet force went in to protect the surviving East Timorese from further murder and mayhem, and to prepare for the re-building of their country almost from zero. Viewers became amazed at the integrity, the decency, the humanity, the generosity and the restraint of the troops, who, under mandate of the United Nations, entered East Timor not as aggressors but as peace-keepers and Good Samaritans, indeed as agents of divine mercy and compassion.

Finally, Timor-Leste's struggle for independence was firmly established on May 20, 2002. Further good news is that bit by bit its relationship with its former enemy has been steadily improving. Today the relationship is quite peaceful and harmonious, and Indonesia is Timor-Leste's main trading partner, and regularly contributes to its development.

For all the achievements and signs of hope just outlined in commemoration, would you please join me in praising and thanking God during the rest of our shared prayer today? And would you also please join me in praying that God will continue to bless and protect its government, its peace-keeping forces, its Church leaders and workers, and the people of God entrusted to their care? Will you, please?

[bgleesoncp@gmail.com](mailto:bgleesoncp@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto: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 .

## BOOKINGS for ALL Sunday Masses at St Brigid's are ESSENTIAL

**Web Page:**

<http://www.stbrigid.org.au>

**Follow our Facebook page:**

**- St Brigid's Marrickville**

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

## WEEKEND MASS TIMES at ST BRIGID'S

**Saturday - 5:00pm (Vigil)**  
**(Reconciliation from 4.30pm)**  
**- 7:00pm (Vietnamese)**

**Sunday - 8.00am**  
**Sunday - 10.30 am**  
**Sunday - 4.00pm**  
**(Vietnamese)**

**Sunday - 6.00 pm**

## 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**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place from 8.30am to 8.50am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday**

## **PARISH FINANCES and COVID-19**

The effects of COVID-19 continue to mean reduced income for our parish **from donations** and for the period **April-August 2020** our income received of \$58, 639 was **less than half** of the income for the same period last year (\$122,024). With many of our expenses remaining the same, including maintenance costs, this means **continued financial stress on the Parish's finances**. Any financial support from parishioners is always gratefully received

### **PARISH COLLECTION: 27/9/2020**

**1st (Passionists): \$755.00**

**2nd (Parish): \$2,225.15**

Cash/Envs: \$1,192.00

Credit Cards: \$ 1,033.00

### **"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**

### **Baptism Dates—2020**

**15 November at 1.30pm &  
20 December 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](mailto: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.



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN  
INITIATION OF ADULTS  
at St. Brigid's**

**Are you seeking a deeper meaning in life  
and a personal relationship with Jesus?**

**Come and see us**

**on Wednesday, 28 October  
at 7:30 PM at the Parish Office.**

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NSW ROSALIE RENDU FORUM 2020**

#### **"REIMAGINING THE FUTURE"**

**Can we create more equitable communities  
Post-Pandemic?**

**Thursday 15 October 2020, 6.00-7.30pm**

**Host: *Geraldine Doogue***

**Panellists: *Kirsty Robertson, CEO, CARITAS Aust*  
*Nicki Hutley, Partner, Deloitte*  
*Jody Broun, CEO, Aboriginal Housing***

#### **ONLINE event: Bookings ESSENTIAL**

Register by Monday 12 October at:  
<https://rosalie-rendu-2020.eventbrite.com.au>

### **SAINT MARY MACKILLOP**

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop we invite you to order your free copy of Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer. The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to **"take fresh courage"** as Mary did so often.

These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

Visit : [www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book) or

call us on 02 8912 2777

## Piety Store

The piety store will be open every 2nd Sunday of the month. Judy will be available by appointment. If you wish to buy religious items, please contact the Parish office for appointment. Now available: large statues of the Sacred Heart

## HOLY FATHER'S APPEAL

**THIS WEEKEND, 03-04 October, there will be a leaving collection in all Masses to support the activity of Pope Francis as Pastor of the Universal Church.**

**This appeal replaces the annual Holy Father's Appeal in June which had to be postponed owing to COVID-19.**

**Any support you might provide is greatly appreciated. Envelopes will be available . This appeal replaces the**

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## PRAYER INTENTIONS

### Recently deceased:

**Eliawati Hadiwardojo,  
Camilla Barone, Jack Danzey,  
Caterina Papaiani,  
Salvatore Silvestro,  
Maria Lurdes de Gois**

### For the Sick

**Tyson Martin (Casimir),  
Paige Anastopoulos (Casimir),  
Katy Carolan, Giovanna Cipolla  
Helen Eid, Mary Harb,  
Elizabeth Yashadhana,  
Geoffrey Leask,  
Ken & Maureen Mc Rae ,  
And all those infected with Corona-  
Virus**

### Death Anniversaries:

**Leo Taylor; Louis Schembri;  
Claude Scollard; Nguyet Thi Nguyen;  
Rosa Errichiello; Alma Carney;  
Fr Raffaele Tresca CP;  
Maria Rosa Costa;  
Francis Kim Teck Ng.**

## 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 and Jonathan 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

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## 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.