



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

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Facebook: [St Brigid's Marrickville](https://www.facebook.com/StBrigidMarrickville)

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

24th Sunday – Year A 12/13 September 2020 CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY

GOSPEL REFLECTION

FORGIVING OVER AND OVER AGAIN:

September 11 will be the 19th anniversary of the wickedness which led to the destruction of the twin towers in New York and the destruction of thousands of lives and families. It all seems simply unforgivable. So much so that it may be almost impossible to accept what Jesus says in his message today, about the need to forgive others completely, and to do so any number of times.

It doesn't help that we find ourselves living in a society which is often hell-bent on revenge, for the hurt and harm which human beings inflict upon one another. But pay-back was not the attitude of Jesus, and it has not been the attitude of his genuine followers, such as Martin Luther King. He courageously led the movement for human and civil rights for his people, but for all his efforts, he ended up being murdered in cold blood. Yet he used to say: 'Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude.' In fact, it's a healthy attitude as well. For nursing anger and resentment are dangerous for our health, and in some instances even fatal.

Nicholas is a dedicated young man who runs a faith renewal program for men in prison. Those who take part are regularly 'bagged' by the other prisoners. On one occasion a man was bashed on his way back to his cell, simply for being part of what his assailant called 'that Christian thing'. Yet he refused to reveal to the warden the name of his assailant, even when the warden threatened to get his sentence extended. Why did he refuse to do in his enemy? His answer in his own words was: 'I wanted to forgive another human being just like God has forgiven me.' When the one who had bashed him heard about this, he was so deeply affected by his victim's answer, that a few months later he himself signed up for faith renewal and experienced the power for himself of 'that Christian thing'.

What happened to both prisoners is an extension of the story which Jesus told, about being ready

to forgive as readily and as generously as God forgives us, which is to say, over and over and over again.

In the days of Peter and Jesus, the Jewish rabbis taught that the duty to forgive had been fulfilled if one forgave an offender three times. Peter must have thought he was being extra generous if he forgave seven times. But Jesus teaches that for members of his community there's to be no limit to their forgiveness. This teaching of Jesus makes him stand out from all other teachers. So does the way he followed this up, by forgiving his unrepentant executioners as he hung dying upon the cross.

Quite a bit is being written today on the question of reconciliation. Until recently we have thought the process begins with the offender repenting of the offence and then asking for forgiveness. Those who have done serious research in the matter disagree. They have learnt that the process must begin with the one offended offering forgiveness, and that this willingness to forgive transforms the one offering forgiveness. From being a victim, he/she becomes a survivor. They have also learned that such generosity may touch the heart of the offender so much that the offender ceases to be an enemy and becomes a friend.

We all know how hard it can be to forgive someone who has offended us, because our dignity and self-esteem have been wounded and our feelings have been hurt, perhaps very deeply. When we are hurt, our unredeemed instinct is to lash out and inflict pain in return. We want to even the score. Many people would not blame us for feeling like this. In fact, some would even encourage us to retaliate and take revenge. But revenge and pay-back are the tough ways of the world, but not the peace-making ways of Jesus. Once again, his disciples follow a less-travelled road.

Today Jesus gives us another example of how Christians must give to others what God has given to them. Nothing anyone owes us can compare with what we owe to God.

If God has been so generous in forgiving us, we surely can and must be, generous in forgiving others.

Of course, the process of becoming a forgiving person takes time. For some of us it may take a lifetime. Only little by little are our anger and fury, our bitterness and resentment reduced, and our desire to strike back and even perhaps to throttle the offender diminished. In fact, it is only through time and through the grace of God, i.e. through the influence of the Holy Spirit, that we can let go of our hurts.

Sad to say, one man who cannot let go of his anger is Phil Cleary, former champion Coburg footballer, and more recently a TV sports commentator, with his own distinct and engaging style. We learn in a magazine article called 'Maintaining the Rage', that he cannot let go of his anger towards the man who murdered his sister and towards the justice system. His feelings are very understandable, because of the huge pain of his loss and grief for the sister he loved so dearly, and our hearts go out to him. His feelings are understandable even though the murderer has since died. But on the other hand, it's clear that unless and until Phil can come to accept his loss and let go of his anger, he will never have any sense of closure, and never enjoy the peace of mind he so desperately craves.

His story tells me that if we become obsessed with our rage, anger, resentment, frustration, and desire for revenge, our obsession will tend to destroy us. On the other hand, it is only when we begin to forgive, that we will start to be healed. So, for the grace for ourselves to forgive others who have hurt and offended us, and for the grace for Phil Cleary and others like him, to start to recover from the terrible things that have happened to them, let us pray sincerely and often to the Lord, who is Forgiveness Itself!

bgleesoncp@gmail.com

BOOKINGS for ALL 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

4.00pm (Vietnamese)

Sunday - 6.00 pm

Parish Collection: 6/9/2020

1st (Passionists): \$775.00

2nd (Parish): \$3,328

Cash/Envs: \$2,270

Credit Cards: \$1,058

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

Please note:

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:

People are strongly exhorted to wear face 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.

CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY **12/13 September 2020**

This week the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has been celebrating National Child Protection Week for the fifth year in a row, culminating with CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY this weekend. This day acknowledges the immense damage caused to children, and it makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for people, especially children and other people at risk. This week has provided 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>

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.

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility!

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, Michael Moreira,
Recipient of the Archbishop’s Award 2020**

Baptism Dates—2020
**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

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.

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

- ♦ Tyson Martin (Casimir)
- ♦ Paige Anastopoulos (Casimir)
- ♦ Katy Carolan
- ♦ Giovanna Cipolla
- ♦ Linda Daton
- ♦ Basile Karamoschosto
- ♦ Sheila Kettle
- ♦ 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

Joachim Ta; Joseph Hoang;
Eva Amaral; James Macartney;
Charles Hockey; Claude Opack;
Raymond Cloran; Charles Formosa;
Audrey Pember; Delia Edwards;
Maria Joo Lan Tan; Kieren Basic
Erminia Stramandinoli; ;
Kenneth Suter; John Baptist Nguyen;
Monica Nguyen; Eileen Blackall;
Hend El-Daher; William Warrello;
Badani Semramy; Kelvin Sullivan;
Peggy Barrett; Leslie Hogan;
Anna Matthews; Gregory Hill;
Jeremiah Mahony; Carmela De Bono;
Marie Harkness; Maria Vo;
Catherine O'Connor; Maria Nguyen;
Helen Roach; Letizia Tesoriero;
Douglas Ferguson; Pavlovic Jacob;
Jose Da Costa; Kathleen Parry;
David Schembri