



## St Brigid's Marrickville

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia

Est 1886. Under the Pastoral Care of the Passionists since 1887

392 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville 2204

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After hours emergency: 0401 772 139

### Parish Team:

Fr Giltus Mathias CP	Fr Joseph Sy Ho Doan CP
Fr James Nguyen Van Cong CP	Sr Elenita Flores CP
Sr Rosana Estoque CP	James Yeo - Safeguarding Officer
Mona El-Khoury	Pongia Fenukitau
Elena (Len) Di Perna	Jenny Ryan-Cook

### One Family, Alive in Christ

We stand at the Crossroads of life for many people.

## CHRISTMAS - Year C

25th December, 2024

*St Brigid's Parish Marrickville, acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional owners of the land on which it is built, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation.*

### Pastoral Ministry Contacts

#### Adult Sacraments:

Sr. Rosana

#### Bereavement Ministry:

Sr Elenita & Michael

Schiano

#### CCD in State Schools:

Sr Elenita

#### Children's Sacraments:

Sr Elenita

#### Ecumenical & Interfaith:

Jim Yeo

#### Family Group:

Adrienne & Jonathan

Harverson

#### Justice & Peace Network:

Peter Jennings

#### Liturgy C'tee:

Sr Rosana

#### Maintenance C'tee:

Michael Daher & Pongia

Fenukitau

#### Men's Club:

Arthur Kassis, John Skinner

& Mick Ward

#### Ministry of Care:

Sr Rosana

#### Music Director:

Frank Mafi

#### Safeguarding Officer:

Jim Yeo

#### Seniors' Group:

John Freeman & Richard

Gonsalves

#### Youth & Young Beacons

Jenny Ryan-Cook &

Lina Elias



## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Dear Parish Community,

As we approach the close of this year, I find myself marvelling at how quickly time has passed. It seems only yesterday that we were welcoming a new year filled with hopes and plans, and yet here we are, reflecting on all that has unfolded. The swiftness with which this year has come to an end is a reminder of the preciousness of time and the countless blessings we have experienced along the way. This year has been an incredible journey for our parish community, one filled with moments of grace, joy, and growth. I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared and express my heartfelt gratitude for the many ways you have brought life and love to our parish. Truly, our parish thrives because of YOU, the faithful and dedicated people who give so generously of your time, talent, and heart. To all those who serve in our parish ministries, thank you for your dedication and love. Just to mention a few, my apologies if I missed any:

**Music Ministry:** *You are the voices that lift our prayers to the heavens, turning each liturgy into a symphony of praise. Your melodies and harmonies stir our hearts and remind us of the beauty of worship. Thank you for bringing life, joy, and the sound of hope into our celebrations.*

**Pastoral Council, Finance Committee, Maintenance Committee:** *You are the stewards of our parish, offering leadership, wisdom, and hard work to ensure our community grows in faith and remains strong. Your unseen efforts keep our church vibrant, welcoming and well-cared for.*

**Liturgy Committee:** *Thank you for your unwavering dedication to ensuring that our liturgies are prayerful, meaningful, and reflective of God's love. Your careful planning and preparation help us to fully immerse ourselves in the sacred mysteries, enriching our worship and strengthening our faith. Thank you for your tireless efforts, creativity, and faithfulness. You help to make our liturgical celebrations truly beautiful and life-giving, drawing us closer to God and to one another.*

**Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** *You are messengers of the Word and stewards of the sacred table. With reverence and care, you proclaim God's truth and share the Bread of Life, helping us*

*encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament. Your ministry strengthens our communion with God and one another.*

**Collectors and Counters:** *You serve quietly and faithfully, ensuring that the gifts offered by the community are received with care and counted with integrity. Your dedication behind the scenes reflects the trust and commitment of a parish that thrives through generosity.*

**Altar Servers and Acolytes:** *You bring grace and reverence to the altar, serving with dignity and devotion. Like the disciples, you assist in the sacred mysteries, helping the community focus on the presence of Christ among us. Thank you for your steadfast service.*

**Altar Linen:** *This often unseen yet essential ministry reflects your deep love for the Eucharist and our worship space. Your work, done with such care, is a true gift to our parish and a reflection of humble service to God. A sincere thank you for your quiet and faithful service in caring for the altar linens.*

**Altar Decoration:** *With creativity and care, you transform our worship spaces into places of beauty and reflection. Through flowers, colours, and adornments, you remind us that the beauty of creation reflects the glory of our Creator.*

**Catechists and Sacramental Preparation Leaders:** *You are the sowers of faith, patiently nurturing the hearts of our children and families. With wisdom and love, you guide them along their sacramental journeys, helping them experience God's presence in their lives. Your work is a sacred gift that bears fruit for generations to come.*

**Little Church (Children's Liturgy):** *You are the shepherds of our little ones, breaking open the Word of God in ways they can understand and embrace. Through stories, activities, and joy-filled teaching, you lead them closer to Jesus with hearts full of wonder and faith. Because of your efforts, our little church is getting bigger and bigger.*

**Justice and Peace Committee:** *You are the voice of Christ's call for justice, mercy, and compassion. Through your advocacy and actions, you remind us that faith must be lived in service to the poor, the oppressed, and the vulnerable. Thank you for inspiring us to be instruments of peace in our world.*

**Bereavement Team:** *Your ministry is a profound expression of compassion, offering comfort and hope to those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Thank you for walking alongside families in their time of sorrow, listening with care, and providing the support they need during such difficult moments. Your work reflects the tenderness of God's mercy, showing grieving families that they are not alone and that their loved ones are held in prayer and care. Thank you for your sensitivity, kindness, and dedication to this important ministry. You bring light into moments of darkness, and your service is deeply appreciated.*

**Ministry of Care:** *You are the hands and feet of Christ, bringing comfort, care, and companionship to those in need. Through your presence and kindness, you remind the lonely, the sick, and the forgotten that they are deeply loved and never alone.*

**Prayer Groups and the Daily Rosary Groups:** *Thank you for being the spiritual heartbeat of our parish. Your faithful dedication to prayer uplifts our community, bringing comfort, hope, and strength to those in need. Your unwavering commitment to praying each day inspires us all to draw closer to Christ through Mary's intercession. To all other prayer groups, your gatherings foster faith and unity, reminding us of the power of prayer in our lives. Your devotion is a true gift to our parish, and we are deeply grateful.*

**Hospitality:** *your invaluable service in organising and providing refreshments during our parish's special occasions. Whether it be a celebration, feast, sacramental milestone, or community gathering, you have quietly worked behind the scenes to ensure that everyone feels welcome and cared for. Your dedication to creating a warm and inviting atmosphere is truly a gift. Through the simple yet meaningful act of sharing food and drink, you foster connection, joy, and fellowship among us.*

**RCIA Team:** *You Walk alongside those seeking to join our faith, guiding them with patience and joy. Your ministry reflects the open arms of our Church, welcoming new hearts into the family of God and journeying with them as they embrace a life of faith.*

**Youth Leaders:** *You are the dreamers and doers of our parish, lighting the path for others with your energy, creativity, and vision. Your leadership inspires the young and old alike, reminding us that the Church's future is vibrant and full of hope.*

**Media Ministry:** *Thank you to all who assist with livestreaming our Masses. Your dedication ensures that many can join in worship and stay connected to our parish community, especially those who are homebound or unable to attend in person. Your service is a vital ministry that brings the message of faith, hope, and love into countless homes, and we deeply appreciate your time, effort, and technical skills in making this possible.*

**Crib Team:** *Thank you for your dedicated time, creativity, and care in preparing our two beautiful Nativity cribs. Your efforts have brought to life the story of Christ's birth in a way that touches hearts, young and old. Seeing the joy and wonder in the eyes of the children as they gaze upon them is a gift in itself, and it speaks to the love and detail you poured into this work. Thank you for creating spaces of reflection, beauty, and awe that help us enter more fully into the spirit of Christmas. Your dedication brings joy to our parish and reminds us all of the simplicity, humility, and hope of that first Christmas night.*

**Synod Group:** *I wish to acknowledge Synod Group's tireless dedication and generous service to our parish. Week after week, they prepare and sell food to raise funds that sustain and support our church community. Their hard work, creativity, and joyful spirit are a true reflection of selfless love and commitment. Thank you for the countless hours you dedicate to cooking, serving, and organising—all done with such kindness, warmth, and generosity. Your work is a labour of love, and it is deeply appreciated by all of us.*

**Cultural Ministry:** *I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for coming together to form this vital new ministry in our parish. Your efforts to celebrate and honour the diverse cultures within our community are truly a gift. By fostering inclusion, understanding, and joy through cultural events, prayer, and fellowship, you remind us that we are one family in Christ, enriched by the beauty of our differences. Your work is already bearing fruit, and I look forward to seeing how this ministry continues to strengthen the bonds of unity and faith in our parish. Thank you for your vision, energy, and generosity in serving our community in such a meaningful way.*

**Gift shop:** *I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Judy for your dedication and care in managing our parish gift shop. Your hard work ensures that it remains a welcoming space where parishioners can find items to enrich their faith and deepen their connection to God. Your attention to detail, warm presence, and commitment are truly appreciated. Through your efforts, you help bring faith-filled resources and moments of joy to our community. Thank you for your generosity and service.*

**Various Ethnic Communities:** *You are the vibrant heartbeats of our parish, each of you contributing to the beautiful mosaic of our shared faith. Through your cultures, traditions, and prayers, you bring the warmth of home and the wisdom of generations into our spiritual family. Your songs, stories, and cuisines remind us that the Church is a universal embrace—a symphony of many voices harmonising in praise of God. You show us that diversity is not just celebrated; it is essential to the richness of our faith. Together, we are one body united in love, hope, and the joy of the Gospel.*

**Our School Communities:** *I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the staff of **St Brigid Primary School and Casimir College** for their extraordinary dedication to nurturing the faith, education, and well-being of our students. Your tireless efforts to teach, guide, and inspire the young people in our care reflect the heart of Christ's mission of love and service. To the teachers, administrative staff, and leadership teams, thank you for the countless hours you spend shaping minds, encouraging creativity, and fostering faith in our children and young people. Your commitment goes beyond academics, touching their hearts and helping them grow as compassionate, faithful, and resilient individuals. As the school year comes to a close, I wish all the staff, students, and families a wonderful and refreshing summer*

*break. May this holiday season be a time to rest, recharge, and create cherished memories with loved ones.*

**St. Vincent de Paul:** *Thank you for embodying the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul by bringing Christ's love and mercy to the most vulnerable in our community. Your commitment to serving those in need—through your outreach, provision of essential goods, and personal care—reminds us of Christ's call to serve the poor with humility and compassion. Your dedication to this mission of love reflects the heart of our faith, showing that charity is not just about giving but about recognizing the dignity and worth of every person. Through your work, you bring hope to those who are struggling and remind them that they are not forgotten.*

**Passionist Community (Priests and Brothers):** *I want to express my heartfelt thanks to my brothers in the **Passionist Community** for their prayerful presence and generous ministry. You serve with humility, compassion, and deep faith. Your presence and prayers provide the foundation of our life together, leading us closer to Christ with love and dedication. I also want to express my appreciation to Frs Kevin, Lex, and Tiernan for their extraordinary generosity each week.*

Not to miss the **Passionist Companions, Family Groups, Seniors Club, and Men's Club** for the wisdom, fellowship, and support to one another. Through your faith and care, you remind us that community is a place of belonging where no one walks alone. For stepping up each time when there is a need and always being available.

**Parish Team:** *I am also filled with immense gratitude for each of you and the extraordinary work you do for our parish community. Your dedication often carried out quietly and behind the scenes, forms the foundation of everything we achieve together as a parish family.*

*To **Srs. Rosana and Elenita**, your nurturing presence and unwavering commitment to pastoral care bring comfort and hope to so many in our parish. Your work is a beacon of God's tenderness and mercy. To **Elena, Mona, Jenny, Jim and Pongia**, you are the heartbeat of our daily parish life. You ensure that every detail is cared for with excellence and love. From coordinating events to managing the day-to-day operations, your dedication keeps our parish running smoothly and thriving as a community of faith. You are the tireless hearts behind our daily parish life. Your service and kindness keep our community thriving, reminding us that the work of the Church is a labour of love.*

*If I may add a very special note of thanks to **Frs. Cong and Doan**, your presence in our parish as newly ordained priests has been an extraordinary blessing and a source of great vitality. You have brought renewed energy, enthusiasm, and joy to our community, uplifting us with your fresh perspectives and deep devotion to Christ. It has been a privilege to witness the ways in which you have grown in confidence, faith, and leadership during your time here. From your heartfelt homilies to your care for the sacraments, you have embraced your ministry with humility, courage, and a profound love for God's people. Your willingness to listen, learn, and serve has made you not only shepherds to our community but also true companions on the journey of faith. For me personally, your presence has been a tremendous support—like wings that lighten the load and give strength to soar. Your tireless efforts, whether seen or unseen, have been a gift to me and to all who call this parish home. Through your kindness, compassion, and quiet dedication, you reflect the very heart of Christ's love and mercy. Thank you for saying "yes" to this sacred calling and for walking alongside us with such grace and joy. As you continue to grow in your priesthood, may you always know how deeply appreciated and loved you are by this community and by your brother Passionist.*

*If I have overlooked anyone, please know that your efforts have not gone unnoticed in God's eyes. You are an essential part of this parish, and I am truly grateful for all that you do. Together, we continue to build a community rooted in love, service, and faith.*

***A heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and to every member of our parish family. Your dedication, generosity, and faithfulness make our community vibrant and welcoming.***

As I reflect on the year that has passed, I'm reminded of how richly blessed we have been. This year has gifted us with countless moments of grace—events that brought us closer in prayer, fellowship, and celebration. From sacramental milestones to cultural gatherings, from quiet acts of pastoral care to vibrant community celebrations, every moment has been a testament to the love of Christ alive in our midst.

As we now turn our hearts toward Christmas and the New Year, may the light of Christ, born in

Bethlehem, fill your hearts with peace, joy, and hope. Let us step into the coming year with renewed faith, trusting in the love that binds us together as one family in Christ.

The parish office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holidays until the **9th of January**. (This will be the last newsletter for the year; the next one will be when the office reopens). I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to relax, recharge, and enjoy the beauty of summer. May this holiday season be a special time with family and friends—creating cherished memories, embarking on meaningful trips, and embracing the gift of rest. Please stay safe and look out for one another.

I pray for God’s abundant blessings to surround you and your loved ones during this holy season. May your Christmas be filled with warmth, love, and the joy of the Savior’s birth, and may the New Year bring new opportunities, renewed strength, and countless reasons to give thanks.

With heartfelt thanks for all we have shared and every blessing for the journey ahead,  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Thought for the week.**

Christmas is a time when the world seems to pause and reflect on the gift of a child—the Christ Child, born into simplicity yet heralded by angels as the Savior of the world. There is something profoundly transformative about a child, for every child carries with them the promise of hope, the spark of innocence, and the potential for joy that can renew even the weariest of hearts.

The joy a child brings is unfiltered, uncalculated, and pure. Their laughter can fill a room with light, their curiosity reminds us of the beauty in small things, and their trust can soften even the most hardened heart. As we gaze at the Nativity this Christmas, we are reminded that Jesus, too, came into the world as a child. Vulnerable, dependent, and unassuming, He revealed the profound truth that God often works through the smallest, humblest, and most unexpected ways.

In the Christ Child, we find not only salvation but also an invitation: to reclaim the joy and simplicity of seeing the world through a child's eyes. Imagine if we embraced wonder instead of cynicism, curiosity instead of indifference, and trust instead of fear. How might our world be transformed if we approached one another with the same openness and love that children so freely give?

This Christmas, let us reflect on the children in our own lives—their joy, their energy, and their ability to remind us what truly matters. Let us also honour the Christ Child by welcoming Him into our hearts with the same simplicity and faith with which He entered the world.

May this season of Christmas not only celebrate the gift of a child born in Bethlehem but also inspire us to cherish the gift of every child and the joy they bring to our lives. In doing so, we glimpse the very essence of God’s love—a love that entered the world as a child and continues to transform it, one heart at a time.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

May the light of Christ brighten your homes and hearts, filling them with peace, love, and joy throughout this blessed season and into the coming year.



Fr. Giltus CP

**Christmas Vigil - 6pm**

Lectors	Ministers	Altar servers
Com: Margaret H	Michael H	Tony H
1st: Elizabeth	Jim Y	Vinh
	Leila W	Laura P
	Fr. Doan	Dennis M
	Fr. Cong	
	Other Priests	

Baby Jesus: Frank’s Grandson



**Christmas Midnight Mass - 11.30pm**

Lectors	Ministers	Altar servers
Com: Mary L	Dennis M	Adrian B
1st: Arthur	Priests	Xavier R
2nd: Jan R	Jim	Dennis M

Baby Jesus : Baby William

Prayers of Intercession :

English: Paul C,	Vietnamese: Thu
Arabic: Salam ,	Tongan: Kelilia
Filipino: Joana,	Portuguese: Lino
Spanish:	Italian: Tony C

**Christmas Day - 8am**

Lectors	Ministers	Altar servers
Com: Joseph F	John S	Dennis M
1st: Joanna V	Vihn	Vihn
2nd: Stephen O	Margaret T	

**Christmas Day @ 10:30 am**

Lectors	Ministers	Altar servers
Com: Mely S	John M	Albert N
1st: Joanne M	Lina E	Anthony N
	Charlie E	Kids
		Tony H

# St. Brigid's Community Day

*Celebrating Our Uniqueness*

St. Brigid's Parish,  
one family, many cultures,  
alive in Christ

**Sunday**

16th February 2025

Started with Mass at 10:30 am

**Followed by:** *Family time*



*Celebrating  
Cultures*

**FACE  
PAINTING**

*Music*

*Entertainment*

**KID ACTIVITIES**

**MAGIC**



# ST. BRIGID'S PARISH

## *Christmas Mass Times*



CHRISTMAS EVE  
TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER



- 5:30PM: CAROLS
- 6:00PM: MASS WITH PAGEANT
- 11:30PM: CAROLS
- 12:00PM: MIDNIGHT MASS



CHRISTMAS DAY  
WEDNESDAY 25TH DECEMBER

- 8:00AM: MASS
  - 10:30AM: MASS WITH PAGEANT
- 



BOXING DAY  
26TH DECEMBER  
9:00AM: MASS



**Mass Texts: Christmas**

First Reading: Is 52:7-10  
All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

Response: Ps 97:1-6:  
All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading: Heb 1:1-6  
On our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

Gospel Acclamation:  
Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 1:1-18  
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.



**PARISH CALENDAR 2024**

25th Wed 8.00am Christmas Day  
10.30am Mass with Pageant (livestreamed)  
26th Thur 9.00am Mass - Boxing Day Public Holiday

**JANUARY**

1st Wed 9.00am Mass - New Year's Day Public Holiday Mass  
9th Thur 9.30am Parish Office opens  
19th Sun 12.00pm St Nino Mass  
2.00pm Seniors Group  
27th Mon 9.00am Australia Day - Public Holiday Mass

**FEBRUARY**

16th Sun 10.30am Community Day

**Liturgical Timetable**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY:** Mass at 6:45am followed by Exposition and Rosary. Adoration and Benediction at 8.45am followed by Mass at 9.00am and Rosary.

**SATURDAY:** Mass at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary. Reconciliation: 4.30pm. Mass: 5.00pm (Livestreamed) and 6.30pm (Vietnamese).

**SUNDAY:** Mass at 8.00am | 10.30am (bilingual) | 4.00pm (Vietnamese) | 6.00pm.

**Ministry of Care & Support to Aged and Infirm**

Communion is taken to sick residents in Nursing Homes & in their homes on a weekly basis, either by Ministers of Care or family members. Blessing for the Ministers will be given after Mass.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is offered after 9.00am Mass on the first Friday of each month.

DAILY MORNING MASSES		
Date	Lay Min	Reader
Mon 6:45	Vinh N	Jim Y
9:00	Mary T	Liz
Tue 6:45	Albert N	Viet
9:00	Mary T	Viet
Wed 6:45	Albert N	Paul C
9:00	Liz	Buddy
Thu 6:45	Paul C	Michael P
9:00	Thom Thao	Joanna
Fri 6:45	Vinh N	Patricia
9:00	Tony C	Leila W
Sat 8:00	Jim	Judy

**WEEKLY ROSTER**

	Lectors/Commentators		Communion Ministers		Acolytes / Altar Servers	Collector In-charge
	28/29 Dec	4/5 Jan	28/29 Dec	4/5 Jan	This weekend	
Saturday 5:00pm	Michael H Margaret H Ofa T	Elizabeth B Thu H Michael P	Elizabeth B Gabrielle B Paul C Michael H	Carole P Michael P Thu H Leila W	Vinh N. Sophia N. Eidan S	Jim Y. Michael P.
Sunday 8:00am	Com: Geoffrey L 1st: Esther G 2nd: Joseph F	Com: Margaret T 1st: Joseph F 2nd: Joseph V	Joanna V Mary L Dennis M	Mary L Stephen O Dennis M	Dennis M. Luca G Antonella G	Peter H. Maria M.
Sunday 10:30am	Frank C Bernadette S Italian	Trang L Dana T Italian	Albert N Giuseppe S Tony C	John M Aiden K Tony H Angie C	Albert N Anthony N	Tony C. Giuseppe S
Sunday 6:00pm	Kevin B Arthur K Josh F	Laura P Rex H Charlene E	Rex H Lina E Lenore D	Arthur K Alexis H Lenore D	Tony H. Charlene E. Celina E. Alexis H.	Arthur K. Jackie K



**Safeguarding Office:**

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 [safeguardinginquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardinginquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or 9390 5810. You may also speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to