



# 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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## Parish Team:

Fr Tom McDonough CP	Fr Dominic Samamba CP
Fr Thomas Thanh CP	Sr Elena Daton CP
Dcn Rev. Christopher Roehrig	James Yeo
Sr Elenita Flores CP	Pongia Fenukitau
Elena (Len) Di Perna	Jenny Solo

**One Family, Alive in Christ**

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

## Fifth Sunday of Lent - Third Scrutiny YEAR C 3rd April 2022

*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*

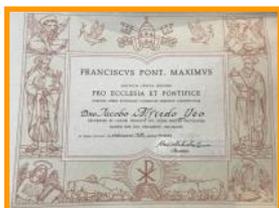
### Fr Tom writes

*Dear Friends in the Parish Family,*

On Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, our parishioner, Jim Yeo is receiving a special Papal Award called the Cross for Church and Pope – Croce Pro ecclesia e Pontifice. This is a special award given to laywomen and men for exception service to the Church. Previous recipients from our parish, Maureen Power, (aka "Miss Maureen") who spent a lifetime in evangelisation and catechetics for the children and adult converts of the Parish; Mr Bill Wenham – also a lifetime working with St Vincent de Paul Society for the poor; and Connie Cloran, another lifetime of music and choir.



Jim's mission and ministry has also been a lifetime of service and support for the Church and parish, beginning as an altar boy and continuing through various parishes, but now decades of generosity and service to the Blessed Sacrament Church, Haymarket, Sydney, and our own parish.



Jim has won multiple awards from the local council for our gardens, led the ecumenical engagement with the Minsters Fraternal, and leads the local government Interfaith Round Table. He is the Professional Standards Officer

for the parish, a Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, member of several Parish Council committees. He counts the mass collection each week. He has made himself available for any jobs that may crop up unexpectedly. His good humour, kindness and thoughtfulness is much appreciated. He has always been a tremendous support for the Parish team, more so especially during COVID.

This recognition by the Archdiocese, and through the Archdiocese by the Pope, is a fitting acknowledgement of Jim's lifetime of service and commitment to the Church and its mission.

Congratulations also to the 65 young boys and girls who made their 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation on Thursday night. The children with their parents have been preparing for 6 weeks, under the guidance of the Sacramental Team – Sr Elenita, Fr. Dominic, Deacon Chris and his wife Kristen and Arthur and Jackie Kassis. The children were beautifully prepared by their families and the Team.

Congratulations to the children, and a huge 'Thank You' to the parents and the Sacramental Team. Many thanks also to Frs. Ron, Lex, Kevin, Thomas Thanh, Domenic, and Erick who sensitively prayed

Another Congratulations to our catechist who were recognized for their service

Rita Machaalani - Cardinal Freeman Award for 25 years service  
Mary Cail - Apostolic Blessing for 20 years service  
Franklyn Cowell - Accreditation certificate

**Fr. Tom.**

## MEETING THE MERCIFUL JESUS:

Isaiah 43:16-21; Phil. 3:8-14; John 8:1-11

The story is told of a young French soldier who deserted Napoleon's army. Within a couple of hours, he was captured by his own troops. The penalty for desertion was death. The mother of the young soldier went to plead with Napoleon to spare the life of her son. Napoleon heard her out but pointed out that because of the serious nature of his crime her son did not deserve mercy. 'I know he doesn't deserve mercy,' the mother answered. 'It wouldn't be mercy if he deserved it.' She was right. Mercy is not justice. It's pure gift, grace, and graciousness, in imitation of God.

We hear in our gospel today a story about the mercy of Jesus. It illustrates his teaching: 'Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven' (Lk 6:6-37). A married woman has been found in bed with another man. At once she is treated like dirt. First, she is thrown out of her house. Then there is talk of hitting her with the full force of the Law, death by stoning (Lev 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:23-24). Next, she is hustled to some Pharisees, the defenders of the Law. They decide to hustle her to Jesus. For if they can get away with it, they will try to hurt Jesus as well as the woman: 'Master,' they say pompously, 'this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and in the Law, Moses has ordered us to stone women of this kind. What have you to say?'

They present Jesus with a dilemma. On the one hand, if he defends her, they will accuse him of contempt for the Law of Moses. If, on the other hand, he condemns her, that's the end of his reputation for mercy and leniency towards sinners. His enemies have placed him in a seemingly 'no-win' situation.

Jesus admits that she has sinned, but he does not condemn her, for he has come to seek and save the lost. He does so in a stunning way. While admitting that the woman has indeed sinned, he also knows that in different ways her accusers are sinners too. So, he answers with this challenge: 'Let the one among you who is guiltless be the first to throw a stone at her.' His brilliant reply rules out any condemnation of the woman, even by the most zealous follower of the Law. For who would dare to claim: 'I am totally sinless, I am completely blameless, and so I'm entitled to throw stones?'

His enemies are forced by the words of Jesus to drop the stones from their hands and to slink off one by one. So the poor sinner is left alone with the Sinless One. St Augustine comments: 'There

they were together, great misery, on the one hand, and, great mercy, on the other.'

As for the woman, she is not abandoned to her fate. Jesus is more concerned for her future than her past. His concern is to show her how much God loves her in her predicament. So he invites her to put the past behind her and make a brand new start. 'Neither do I condemn you,' says Jesus, 'go away and from this moment sin no more.'

These are liberating words, liberating words indeed, words which not only set the woman free from the harshness and hard-heartedness of her accusers, but also from her own feelings of shame, guilt, self-loathing, and despair! The promise of God in the First Reading has come true: 'No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed.' And so, if we too have sinned but repented, we have before God no evil past any longer. Having come back to God will all our hearts, we are new men and new women in a new world, and can therefore praise God in the words of today's psalm: 'The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.'

This true story challenges our tendency to divide the people around us into them and us, and into good ones and bad ones. We might suppose that the good ones are those we belong to, and the bad ones are those they belong to. But that line is a lie. No one is perfect. In different ways, we are all sinners. So, a wise saying has it: 'There's bad in the best of us and good in the worst of us. So, it makes no sense for any of us, to talk about the rest of us.'

So, 'what we need to heap up in our own hearts and in our church is compassion that heals, not stones that hurt' (Sr. Verna Holyhead). As part of the process of our conversion in Lent, then, we might ask ourselves today: Do we want to be like Jesus or like the religious leaders of his time? More specifically, if we are ready to accept the understanding and forgiveness of God for ourselves, must we not be ready to understand and forgive others? Don't we just need to drop our grudges once and for all, let bygones be bygones, and move on?

In preparing for Holy Communion today we will be saying to God our Father, 'forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.' And in the Sign of Peace, we will be exchanging the sign of a loving heart, which includes the desire and intention to forgive. May we say what we mean and mean what we say!

bgleesoncp@gmail.com

### Casimir Catholic College - Marrickville

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Year 7 - 12 Co-education Environment



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### PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM

During the season of Lent, on Tuesdays a 9:00am Mass has been added in our Parish Mass times, to be followed by a Lenten reflection at Shrublands Hall. Morning tea is provided.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

### St Brigid's Catholic Primary School

#### OPEN DAY + School Tours

Saturday 2 April 10am - 2pm

stbmarrickville.catholic.edu.au



### CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Please join us for a special Prayer Service for Ukraine on **Friday 8 April at 5pm** at Rookwood Catholic Cemetery. Fr Simon from the Ukrainian Catholic community will conduct a 20 minute celebration of the living service. There will be a Ukrainian singer performing and Fr Simon will provide a short update on the Ukraine.

If you would like to attend, please  
RSVP [marketing@catholiccemeteries.com.au](mailto:marketing@catholiccemeteries.com.au)

## Holy Week @ St Brigid's

### Holy Thursday

**7pm  
Mass of the  
Lord's Supper**

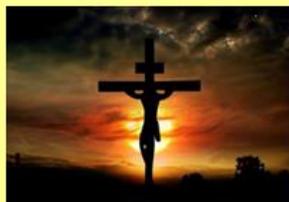


### Good Friday

**10am Stations  
of the Cross**

**3pm Liturgy  
of the Passion**

**7pm Good  
Friday  
Procession**



### Holy Saturday

**7pm  
Easter Vigil  
Mass**



### Easter Sunday

**Mass at  
8:00am  
And  
10.30am**



### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (11-13 April) 9:00 – 9:30 am**

**Good Friday (15 April) after the 10am Stations of the Cross**

**Recently Deceased:** John Jino John Bosco, Maria Sgro, Rosita Espinosa

**Death Anniversaries:** Vicente le Trung Van, Michael Apikotoa, Katarzyna LaKoma, Kathleen Turner, Rev Joseph Tu Ngoc Nguyen, Juan Jovino, Denis Braybrook, Wadad Harb, Arockia Swamy, Marie McGrath

**Carrying Severe Illness:** Mely Siasat; Renato Di Perna; George Turchi; Kevin Boyce; Peter Hatchinson; Anne Lowe; Josephine (Deacon Christopher's mother); Falakiko Sevelo Kama; Adelia Candi; Joseph Chiana; Margaret Kelley; Elizabeth Pizzuto; John Thomas, James Misingo

**Other Intentions:** Mufide Rende & family, Josephine & Simon Gittany, Wendy Lamb, Peace in the world, John George



**Stations of the cross** in English every Friday during Lent season at 4:00 pm in the church.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**Mass Texts: Fifth Sunday Of Lent**  
**(Liturgy of the Third Scrutiny) 3/04/22**

**First Reading:** Ez 37:12-14

**Response:** With the Lord there is mercy

**Second:** Rom 8:8-11

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel:** Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

**Parish Calendar 2022**

April

- 4th Mon Bereavement Meeting - 6:30pm
- 8th Fri English Stations of the Cross
- 10th Sun Palm Sunday
- 14th Thu Holy Thursday
- 15th Fri Good Friday
- 17th Sun Easter Sunday
- 26th Tue Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - 7pm



**May**

- 2nd Mon Bereavement Meeting 6:30pm
- 3rd Tue Outreach Main Group Meeting 7pm
- 5th Thu Parish Finance Committee Meeting 7pm
- 6th Fri Anointing of Sick - 9.00am
- Men Club - 7.30pm
- 8th Sun Charitable Works Fund Collection
- Mother's Day
- 15th Sun Senior's Group - 2pm

**Liturgical Timetable**

**Mon - Wed - Fri:** Adoration and Benediction at 8.45am followed by **Mass at 9.00am.** Followed by Rosary  
**Tues (during lent only)** **Mass at 6:45 and 9:00 am (followed by Lenten reflection at Shrublands hall)**  
**Thurs:** Mass at 6.45am followed by Rosary  
**Saturday:** **Mass at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary**  
**Saturday:** Reconciliation: 4.30pm. Mass: 5.00pm (Live-streamed) & 6.30 pm (Vietnamese)  
**Sunday:** **Mass at 8.00am; 10.30am (bilingual); 4.30pm (Viet); and 6pm.**

**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.

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

**Sunday Mass Liturgical Ministries: Sunday Lent 5 and Palm Sunday- Year C**

	Lectors/Commentators		Communion Ministers		Acolytes / Altar Servers		Collector In-charge
	2/3 April	9/10 April	2/3 April	9/10 April	2/3 April	9/10 April	
Sat 5:00pm	Michael Price Leila Walsh	Liz Buchel M. Sciano	M. Dillon Kelelia A. Jim Yeo Liz Buchel	M. Dillon Carole Price Paul Cloran Ofa Tupola	M. Dillon	M. Dillon	Jim Yeo Michael P.
Sun 8:00am	Sabina A. Isabel A.	P. Jennings Mary Leask	D. Maher F. Seufale Vinh Nguyen M. Turner	D. Maher Vinh Nguyen M. Turner F. Seufale	D. Maher	D. Maher	Peter H. Maria M.
Sun 10:30am	Bernadette Y. A. Sciavo Angie C.	John McGrath Italian Diana Perin	Albert N. Anthony N Joanne Mc. Gabrielle B.	Albert N. Anthony N. Tony Cipolla G. Sciamana	Albert N. Anthony N.	Albert N. Anthony N.	Tony C. Giuseppe S.
Sun 6:00pm	Libby Denny Kristen R.	Arthur Kassis Maria Fuller	Tony Hayek Michael Ward Arthur Kassis Jackie Kassis	Tony Hayek K. Roehrig	Tony Hyek Amelia P Charlene E. Alexis H.	Tony Hyek Charlene E. Alexis H.	Arthur K. Jackie K.