



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

PO Box 237, Marrickville NSW 1475

Tel: 8577 5670 Email: parish@stbrigid.org.au

Web: www.stbrigid.org.au Facebook: St Brigid's Marrickville

Parish Team:

Fr Tom McDonough CP	Fr Dominic Samamba CP
Fr Thomas Thanh CP	Sr Elena Daton CP
Deacon 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

First Sunday of Lent - YEAR C
6th March 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

Dear Friends in the Parish Family,

How quickly our reality changes this past week, with the incredible human toll of the continuing flooding on our Eastern urban and rural areas. Heart-breaking scenes of people losing everything they possess, - homes, livelihoods, their sense of safety and security and so much more. And in Ukraine, the equally heart-rending and heart-breaking horror of destruction and violence. Lives, cities, families, all gutted and destroyed; the world held to ransom; hope turned hollow.

People have lost so much of what makes their lives make sense. Everything that made up their lives is a huge heap of rubbish out on the street. They have had to throw away so much more than their photo album of memories onto that heap. Lives changed irrevocably, our present a struggle to survive, the future perhaps so uncertain as to be unimaginable. But the trauma touches us all, not just "them". We find we can't turn off the news on TV and go and have dinner. It's all too raw and too real.

So where do we find hope? What do we have left? Perhaps in the only things we have left in our shared humanity and dependence on each other - our ability to be there for each other - sometimes in person, more often emotionally, mindfully, prayerfully. What do we have left - each other and Jesus Crucified, the God who weeps with us and for us as we weep with and for others.

These times unleash a very real spiritual energy that enables resilience.

We also see such a surge of compassion, kindness, sacrifice, determination, generosity and selflessness - both on the ground and in our hearts. All this helps us realise that while a shallow optimism may have died, it is hope that helps us endure. Hope is so much more real, gutsy, and takes real courage.

Our task because of the humanity we share, the vocation we have through our oneness with Jesus in his Death and resurrection is to channel the anger and sorrow of Jesus, - that what should not be, must not be. To channel the determination and compassion of Jesus - that what should be, will be! We must be the hope that so many can't find at the moment - we must be their hope.

Some of you may have seen an image from the floods of a man in a kayak towing an elderly woman to safety, as she, in the water clung on to the back of the kayak. We have all seen men in Kyiv carrying the body of the injured, or slain, to safety. That is our job, our vocation and our mission. We must cling on to those beautiful words of Julian of Norwich, the great English mystic who lived through three pandemics that killed 50% of the population. Yet she could say, not with cheap optimism but with courageous and hard-won hope - "All will be well, all will be well, all manner of things will be well".

Fr. Tom.

*Faith * Hope * Love*

RESISTING TEMPTATION

Deut 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

Economic sanctions to repel Russia, the threat of rising interest rates, more taxes and less welfare, huge amounts of foreign debt putting a strain on health and education budgets, have been much talked about lately. All this money talk, understandable as it is, may leave us wondering: 'Is that all there is? Is it just money that makes the world go round? Whatever happened to human relationships and human-interest stories? Are our only values economic ones?' Thank God we still have the living memory of Jesus, and the stories of his teaching and example, to remind us that there's much more to life than money!

Today we remember how Jesus understood and obeyed God's greatest commandment: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.' 'With all your heart' - i.e., with total determination! 'With all your soul' - i.e., loving and serving God our whole life long! 'With all your strength' - i.e., putting all our possessions, qualities, and gifts, at God's disposal for the service of others!

The love of Jesus for God and God's people was total and uncompromising. But this does not mean that it was any easier for him than it is for us. Like us, he had to struggle to choose between God and self. The tension and agony of it all are spelled out for us today in Luke's dramatic story of his temptations in the desert. There he spent forty days working out the meaning of his life, trying to discover just what God wanted him to do with his life, and how to best bring people to God. In the process, he came face to face with certain alternatives, which he came to judge as subtle temptations.

First, the tempter suggests to Jesus, extremely hungry after forty days of fasting: 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf of bread.' In other words, use your power and influence, not for others but for your own satisfaction, comfort, and convenience. But even though Jesus is desperate for something to eat, he does not dally with this desire, not even for a moment. Instead, he seeks a different kind of nourishment, by relying on God's clear message: 'One does not live on bread alone.'

The next temptation that comes to Jesus is even more subtle and appealing. This is to use his intelligence and charisma to gather around him the rich and powerful from every nation and become a great political leader. It's a temptation to fame and fortune and empire-building. This attraction is the very opposite of what God has said in Scripture about his chosen servant. God means his Messiah to be a humble servant, a suffering

servant, someone who sacrifices in love his young life for others. Jesus remembers this, realizes this, and takes it to heart. So, he blitzes the suggestion with yet another clear and definite command of God in Scripture: 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

The third temptation of Jesus (according to Luke) is to go to the very top of the temple in Jerusalem and take a flying leap from there.

A stunt like this will surely attract a horde of followers, and prove to Jesus personally whether God cares about him or not. The very thought of it is fascinating. Jesus, however, promptly puts that idea completely out of his mind as he remembers and relishes God's word: 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' His replies are more remarkable if we remember that Jesus is feeling very weak, fragile, and vulnerable.

For forty days, he has eaten nothing. And yet his fidelity and love towards God do not waver for a moment. What's his secret? it's his reliance on God's word in the Scriptures. He just keeps nourishing his mind, heart, attitudes, and behaviour, by remembering and taking to heart what God has said.

What his three temptations have in common is the pull of selfishness. We too are often tempted to selfishness in one way or another. We may be tempted by pride, anger, lust, gluttony, envy, laziness, etc. Like Jesus, we must turn to God, his Father and ours, for guidance and strength to remain faithful. We must rely especially on receiving the power of Jesus our Saviour in both the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist.

So, our Church encourages us to read, think about, and pray the scriptures every day of Lent. Whatever booklets or other aids we choose to take God's word to heart, may we make it a time for correcting our faults and raising our minds to God. May we spend it coming face-to-face with God in his all-powerful word! Just like Jesus did!

bgleesoncp@gmail.com

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.

Fr. Giltus will lead the reflection.

Morning tea is provided.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Parish Collection 6/3/2022

First Collection \$1,575.00

First collection supports the Passionist community, all the priests, sisters and brothers who are part of the St. Brigid's community and whose ministry nourishes our lives. A portion of this collection is passed to the Archdiocese, to support the ministry of the Arch Bishop, and support priests in remote areas across Australia and those who are in ill-health or who have retired.

Second Collection \$509.00

The Second collection, which includes our Planned Giving program, is for the Parish. It supports the maintenance and growth of our parish's mission, including the administration costs in running the parish. This collection goes towards our building maintenance costs, including insurance, gas, electricity, and cleaning and rubbish removal.

Thank you for supporting St Brigid's Parish

Carmelite Retreat Program 2022

Day Retreats

April 2 - Jesus Encounters "The Adulteress" John 8:1-11

May 7 - Learning with St Teresa How to Enjoy Prayer

June 4 - Who Am I Interiorly

July 2 - Being Still in the Presence of God

Weekend Retreats

March 11-13 - The Gift of Joy! A Retreat in the Spirit of Taizé

March 18 - 20 - "Embracing Multi-Dimensional Thinking"

April 8-10 - Rediscovering the Christian Meaning of Love in a Secular Society

Please call for more information
Mount Carmel Retreat Centre. 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville
Ph: 8795 3400 or 0435 857 690

Catholic School Guide

Please help your self to a Catholic School Guide, a handy reference for those interested in a Catholic education for your child

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

St Brigid's values your generous contributions that enable us to continue our ministry, and supports the maintenance of our wonderful church.

Please consider joining our Planned Giving program. The program enables you to receive a 30% tax deduction in relation to your contributions, and gives the Parish the benefit of some certainty as to cash-flows and the management of our expenses.

If this is of interest, please contact Len Di Perna in the Parish Office on 8577 5670.

Ignite Summer Camp

9 - 12 April 2022



Summer Camp is for those who will be in Grades 7-12 in 2022. Run by a team of experienced and emerging Catholic youth leaders, who will accompany the young people through a journey where they discover more about themselves, more about Jesus and His hope for their lives. Huge outdoor games, swimming, amazing rallies, dance parties, and 200 new friends

Get in quick, limited tickets remaining!

<https://igniteyouth.com/summercamp>

Fr Jacques Philippe to Address the Archdiocese of Sydney | Live Online | Wednesday 23 March 2022 | 7 – 8:30pm
Fr Jacques Philippe, author, international speaker and spiritual director, will address the faithful of Sydney on the topic, 'Can we make disciples? Evangelising with the Holy Spirit.' This third event in the *Reclaiming Evangelisation* series will explore the relationship between prayer, reliance on the Holy Spirit and living as disciples within our parishes. Please register at www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events. Inq: parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - 2022

Sacrament of Reconciliation Sessions

Sunday 6th March @ 9.00am - Second Session

Sunday 13th March @ 9.00am - Third Session

Sunday 20th March @ 9.00am - Fourth Session

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 31st March @ 7.00pm

Sacrament of Confirmation - Information Night

Wednesday 27th July @ 7.00pm

Sacrament of Confirmation

Sunday 18th September @ 2pm

Mass Texts: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

5/3/22

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Response: Be with me Lord in my distress

Second: Romans 10:8-13

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, But on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Gospel: Luke 4:1-1



PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion starts there appeal this weekend. Envelopes can be found in the church if you can support this appeal.

The theme for this year's Project Compassion is 'For All Future Generations'. It comes from the biblical story of Noah's Ark. When the flood waters subsided, a rainbow appeared in the sky and the dove returned with an olive branch indicating a new beginning. God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations' (Genesis 9:12).

The Catholic Weekly only \$2.00

- Stand by Ukraine
- Work in Wokeness: Discrimination Bill blocked
- Mark Shea: Your big Lenten opportunity
- Second class Catholics: It's official in NSW
- Movie review: *Abraham Lincoln*
- Why words matter: Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

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 Safeguarding enquiries @ sydneycatholic.org or 9390 5810. You may also 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.

Parish Calendar 2022

March

- 6th Sun Rite of Election at St Mary's Cathedral
- 7th Mon Bereavement Meeting - 6:30pm
- 8th Tue 9:30 am Lenten Reflection at Shrublands Hall
- Liturgy Meeting (Easter Triduum) - 7pm
- 15th Tue Good Friday Procession Group Meeting - 7pm
- 20th Sun Senior's Group - 2pm
- 22nd Tue Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - 7pm

April

- 4th Mon Bereavement Meeting - 6:30pm
- 10th Sun Palm Sunday
- 14th Thur 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 Thur 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

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 .

Recently Deceased:

Death Anniversaries: Bishop Paul Doc Van Nguyen, Eric Whitby, Rodney Bayliss, Sid Fitzalan, Marie Naoum, Herbert John Britter, Kathleen Wenham, George Calleja, Artemia Spong, Mar Walsh, Joan Jackson, Judith Ann Bevan, Maria De Garcia, Simon Doueihy, Ken Thorne, Patricia O'Brien, Melita Grech, Resham Barkat

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