



St Brigid's Marrickville

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia

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

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Parish Team:

Fr Tom McDonough CP
Fr Thomas Thanh CP
Dcn Rev. Christopher Roehrig
Sr Elenita Flores CP
Elena (Len) Di Perna

Fr Dominic Samamba CP
Sr Elena Daton CP
James Yeo
Pongia Fenukitau
Jenny Solo

One Family, Alive in Christ

We stand at the Crossroads of life for many people

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Second Scrutiny YEAR C
27th 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,

Another week has passed, and the world's concern for the immense suffering of the people of Ukraine continues. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has called on us all to join in a prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, consecrating and entrusting to her care the peoples of Ukraine and Russia.

Pope Francis made this Act of Consecration on Friday March 25, the feast of the Annunciation - the Archangel Gabriel's asking Mary to bring forth the Saviour of the world. On Friday, in our Pieta Chapel, dedicated to the Mother of Sorrows, we also made this act of consecration.

However at the end of each mass this 4th Sunday of Lent, we will again, in the chapel, pray an act of consecration to the Immaculate Mother. Fr Gary Perritt CP on his blog called the Passionist Charism also shared this beautiful prayer used by Pope Francis.

Pope Francis, General Audience, 16 March 2022 –

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in the midst of suffering from this war in Ukraine, let us say a prayer together, asking the Lord for forgiveness and for peace. We will recite a prayer written by Archbishop Domenico Battaglia of Naples, Italy:

Forgive us for war, O Lord. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners! Lord

Jesus, born in the shadows of bombs falling on Kyiv, have mercy on us! Lord Jesus, who died in a mother's arms in a bunker in Kharkiv, have mercy on us! Lord Jesus, a 20-year-old sent to the frontlines, have mercy on us! Lord Jesus, who still behold armed hands in the shadow of your Cross, have mercy on us!

Forgive us, O Lord. Forgive us, if we are not satisfied with the nails with which we crucified Your hands, as we continue to slate our thirst with the blood of those mauled by weapons. Forgive us, if these hands which You created to tend have been transformed into instruments of death. Forgive us, O Lord, if we continue to kill our brother. Forgive us, if we continue like Cain to pick up the stones of our fields to kill Abel. Forgive us, if we continue to justify cruelty with our labours, if we legitimise the brutality of our actions with our pain. Forgive us for war, O Lord. Forgive us for war, O Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, we implore You! Hold fast the hand of Cain! Illumine our consciences. May our will not be done. Abandon us not to our own actions! Stop us, O Lord, stop us! And when you have held back the hand of Cain, care also for him. He is our brother. O Lord, put a halt to the violence! Stop us, O Lord! Amen

Fr. Tom.



THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

Joshua 5:9-12; Romans 5:17-21;
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Day after day, Jesus on earth shows pastoral care for all sorts of people. But he shows a special affection for poor unfortunate persons, and even for extortionists (Zacchaeus, e.g.), and prostitutes. His enemies sneer: 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them' (Lk 15:2).

The warmth and generosity of his human caring and welcome show that in the eyes of God they are not 'rejects,' 'outcasts,' 'losers,' and 'no-hopers.' On the contrary, God wants to put them back together again. So, in and through Jesus, those labelled 'the lost' come to meet the God of the lost. In their defence, Jesus speaks his famous parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son.

The story of the lost son has been called 'the greatest short story in the world.' It's not really the parable of a prodigal, i.e., of a spendthrift, as it's usually called, but the parable of an incredibly generous father of two sons (see v.11), who in different ways have both lost their way in life.

The parable tells us a great deal about Jesus himself. His own way of acting is the starting point of the story. He's explaining why he 'welcomes sinners and eats with them' (v.2). They are the lost ones, the ones that he is taking home to God. For Jesus, all persons who have strayed from God are not truly themselves. So, as he thinks about his failures and mistakes, the lost son comes to understand that he will be happy again, only in the home and company of his father. Meanwhile, his father is aching for him to return, and as soon as he catches a glimpse of his son trudging along the road, the father starts running to meet him, hug him, and take him home (v.20).

When they reach the house, the father cuts short the son's prepared speech. There's no reprimand, not even a small dose of 'I told you so ...' There's no payback, no penance, no punishment, and no recriminations. Instead, the father is so glad to have his son back home with him again that he gives him the robe of honour, the ring of authority, and the sandals of a son.

The Pharisees, to whom Jesus was telling this story, would have been shocked to the core at

how Jesus was keeping company with people who were not only 'outsiders', contact with whom would bring defilement. In a sadistic way, they were looking forward to the destruction rather than the saving of those whom they so readily and self-righteously called 'sinners.'

At the sound of music and dancing, the eldest son comes in from the fields. His father goes out to him and pleads with him to come to the party (v.38). The eldest son believes that he has done everything right, and has spent his whole life slaving away on the family farm. His attitude to his wayward brother is one of utter contempt. He even calls the prodigal 'your son,' not 'my brother.'

In the details of his story, Jesus is saying that our God is not a mean book-keeping God at all, but a warm, gracious, and generous Father who never stops loving, simply because he never stops wanting to save. No matter how often we may turn our backs on God and go away to do our selfish sinful things, God, as in the story, comes running to hug us and take us back. There God treats us not as our mistakes and sins deserve, but with tenderness, compassion, and forgiveness. In the Eucharist, God even throws a party and lavishes on us God's 'welcome home' gifts – Jesus Christ himself in his body and blood.

In conclusion, let me share with you a variation of the story Jesus told. Once there were two priests in the same diocese. One of them drank too much, he was often late for appointments, the parish was deep in debt, and his bookwork was a mess. Yet the people loved him. The other priest was a very capable and careful manager. He was meticulous and exact in everything. His book-keeping was impeccable and he always treated everyone according to all the rules and regulations of the diocese. His parish had no debt but owned substantial investments. Yet his people didn't think much of him or warm to him at all.

That seems unfair. It begs the question: 'What did the first priest have going for him that the other one lacked?' In the light of the story Jesus told, let's try to figure that one out for ourselves!

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SOME PHOTOS OF THE RENOVATED PLACE OF THE SISTERS



Lounge room



New Carpet



The Kitchen



The Laundry

A special thanks to Michael Daher who generously renovated the Sisters place. Thanks also to Wynn Construction Group staff, and to those who have helped in so many ways.

The Sisters are very grateful for all your generosity. They are now able to move back to their place.

**St. Brigid's Young
Beacons**
Parents and Families



You are invited to join us for a very important activity...



When: Saturday 2nd April, Mass at 5.00pm immediately followed by food and activities after Mass. We need to make small palm and wooden crosses to share with our community on Palm Sunday.

Where: St Brigid's Church and afterwards in the Shrublands Hall

Activities include Prayer, a meal to share (food similar to Passover meal), small wooden and palm cross making session, Altar server refresher and organizing of the Easter serving roster. Mums, Dads and families are all welcome!

RSVP: christopher@stbrigid.org.au

Parish Collection 20/3/2022

First Collection \$1,370.00 - Passionist Community

Second Collection \$3,696.00 - St Brigid's Parish

Thank you for your support

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide bill

The debate on euthanasia and assisted suicide has resumed in NSW Parliament. A petition against this Bill can be signed by using the QR code. Please pray that this Bill will not be passed, and that the dignity of every individual will be upheld.



St Brigid's Catholic Primary School

OPEN DAY + School Tours

Monday 28 March, Tuesday 29 March
Thursday 31 March
9am - 10am

Saturday 2 April 10am - 2pm

stbmarrickville.catholic.edu.au



Recently Deceased: Frank Kos, Mary Salerno

Death Anniversaries: Moura Pirangi, Miguel Santiago, Antoine El Halabi, Michael Carney, Angel Chafic, George Jabbour, Francis Earl Guilfoyle, Ellen Alice Dawson, Pacita Sabitsana, Peter Hoang Binh

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

Other Intentions: Wendy Lamb, Maria Vui Thi Bui, Joseph Sau Van Dinh, Joseph Tien Duc Dinh, Peace in the world



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

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Mass Texts: Fourth Sunday Of Lent
(Liturgy of the Second Scrutiny) 27/3/22

First Reading: 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second: Eph 5:8-14

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Jn 9:1-41

Parish Calendar 2022

April

- 1st Fri English Stations of the Cross
- 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

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 3 and Lent 4 - Year C

	Lectors/ Commentators		Communion Ministers		Acolytes / Altar Servers		Collector In-charge
	26/27 March	2/3 April	26/27 March	2/3 April	26 /27 April	2/3 April	
Sat 5:00 pm	Paul Cloran Liz Buchel	Michael Price Leila Walsh	Michael D. Michael S. Leila Walsh Carole Price	Michael D. Kelelia A. Jim Yeo Liz Buchel	Michael D.	Michael D.	Jim Yeo Michael P.
Sun 8:00 am	Libby Debby Peter J.	Sabina A. Isabel A.	Dennis M. Thu Hoang Vinh Nguyen Patricia T.	Dennis M Francis S. Vinh Nguyen Margaret T.	Dennis M.	Dennis M	Peter H. Maria M.
Sun 10:30 am	Tanya H. Diana P John McGrath	Bernadette Y. A. Sciavo Angie C.	Albert N. Anthony N. Jenny O. Jose H.	Albert N. Anthony N Joanne Mc. Gabrielle B.	Albert N. Anthony N	Albert N. Anthony N.	Tony C. Giuseppe S.
Sun 6:00 pm	Young Adults	Diana Perin Sam Perin Kristen R.	Tony Hayek Young Adults	Tony Hayek Michael Ward Arthur Kassis Jackie Kassis	Tony H. Amelia P Charlene E Alexis H.	Tony Hyek Amelia P Charlene E. Alexis H.	Arthur K. Jackie K.