



## 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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Tel: 8577 5670

Parish Office Email: [parish@stbrigid.org.au](mailto:parish@stbrigid.org.au)

Web: [www.stbrigid.org.au](http://www.stbrigid.org.au) Facebook: St Brigid's Marrickville

### Parish Team:

Fr Erick Niyiragira CP

Deacon Christopher Roehrig

Sr Elenita Flores CP

Jenny Solo

Elena Di Perna

Fr Dominic Samamba CP

Sr Elena Daton CP

James Yeo

Pongia Fenukitau

Juliana Ta

One Family, Alive in Christ

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

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

16 January 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*

### **THE WEDDING AT CANA: 2ND SUNDAY C** *Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11*

Children are still learning nursery rhymes like Baa Baa Black Sheep, Humpty Dumpty, Ring a Ring of Roses, Oranges and Lemons, and Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary. But what they originally meant is different from what they seem to mean today. They were symbols and code language for what people were there and then experiencing. So too St John's story of Jesus changing water into wine at a wedding, is brim-full of symbolic meanings that go beyond the bare facts. Its overall meaning is summed up in the last sentence of the story: 'This was the first of the signs given by Jesus ... He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him' (v.11). Having been shown as Son of God and Saviour of the world to the wise men at Bethlehem, and to his own people at his baptism, now on this third occasion, his greatness is displayed to his first followers, right there at Cana in Galilee.

In telling the story, we need to include John's first four words of introduction: 'ON THE THIRD DAY, there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee.' In the Bible big things, great things happen on the third day, and above all the resurrection of Jesus. At the beginning of his gospel, then, John is anticipating its climax.

John's next words 'THERE WAS A WEDDING' stir up rich associations. In both Judaism and early Christianity, a wedding was a rich metaphor to speak of the love-match, the union between God and the people of Israel (our First Reading stressed today). The words highlight the union between God and an individual, and the union between Jesus and the Church community as his bride. To this day religious Sisters wear a silver ring to show their spiritual marriage to Jesus their bridegroom - the biggest love of their lives.

Moreover, in the community life of peasants at the time of Jesus, weddings were an exciting break, a reprieve from what has been labelled 'the terrible every day.' Life

was tough for peasants, and their daily diet was basic and meagre. It seldom included meat or poultry, which required killing one of their few animals. But a wedding worked like magic. It brought some rest for a whole week from hard relentless labour, and enjoyment of abundant amounts of food and drink, along with music and dancing. These associations help us identify the point John is implying. The whole activity of Jesus is a wedding, a wedding at which the wine never runs out, and at which the best wine is kept till last. Moreover, wherever Jesus goes, including so often to meals, the joy breaks out. He's experienced as the source of 'good news' - the good news of God's lavish, gracious, and everlasting love. His presence, then, is a cause of joy. On this occasion, the production by Jesus of so much new wine (no less than 120 gallons) of outstanding quality represents the abundance of God's gifts, which the prophets promised would accompany the arrival of the Messiah, the Saviour (cf. Amos 9:13; Hosea 2:24; Joel 3:18; Is 25:6).

It's significant too, that at this manifestation of his glory and greatness, 'the mother of Jesus was there' (v.1.), just as she will be there again at the cross (Jn 19:25). In John's understanding, Jesus is glorified on that cross, and the marriage of God and God's people is revived. In both places, on both occasions, Mary is the new Eve, the woman described in the Book of Genesis as 'the mother of all that that live' (3:20). Here at Cana, when 'the wine provided for the wedding was all finished' (v.3) she feels a mother's compassion for the embarrassed bride and groom. Even when her son is slow to act, Mary's strong faith and trust do not waver that he can and will fix things. So, she says quietly to the waiters: 'Do whatever he tells you' (v.5).

In telling us his story of the wedding at Cana in Galilee, what's the main point that John our storyteller is making? I suggest that if and when we accept the invitation of Jesus to let him become our friend, our best friend who is always at our side, our life changes. It's like water being turned into wine. Without Jesus life tends to be dull,

stale, flat, and insipid – never fulfilled. But lived with Jesus, life becomes colourful, sparkling, and exciting, and even an exhilarating adventure. That's what St Paul keeps experiencing, even in situations of difficulty, opposition, and struggle. 'The life I now live in the flesh,' he insists, 'I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me' (Gal 2:20).

Australian Jesuit theologian, Gerald O'Collins, has written about friendship with Jesus in a particularly eloquent and appealing way. Let his words round out our reflection today! The truth is that we all have hungry hearts. We want to escape from all that is deadly, and find a life that is fuller and more satisfying. My faith and my personal experience tell me where to look. Look for Jesus.

Welcome Jesus and you will be welcoming someone who gives us real life, the fullness of life. He is the Life-giver, the supreme Life-giver. ... If we open our arms to Jesus and let him into our little world, we will live life, the only life that truly fills our hearts and will continue forever. Modern advertising can offer products that provide passing relief for our hungry hearts, and make life for a time a little bit sweeter and richer. But those products can never fully satisfy our hungry hearts. Only Jesus can do that. ...Real life does not come by taking it for ourselves, but by receiving it from Jesus and sharing it with others. Only Jesus is the supreme Life-giver, the utterly satisfying Life-giver, who offers us life, now and forever. So, live life! Welcome Jesus! (Jesus:

A Portrait, p.75).

Rev. Dr. Brian Gleeson CP  
bgleesoncp@gmail.com



Dear St. Brigid's Friends,

Welcome to 2022!

This year I offer a very warm welcome to each and everyone of you at our St Brigid's Parish.

I hope you have had some time to rest and relax during the Christmas Season. I am aware that some of you have had to isolate and therefore were not able to gather with families and friends. Please know that you have all been in my prayers during this difficult time.

On a bright note, there are some exciting things to look forward to this year. During lockdown, the St Brigid's Parish Team and volunteers have been working hard to consider how to better our services for you, so that these services will become an enduring part of the fabric of our Community. The last few years have given us so much to celebrate and to be grateful for, and we have truly become *One Family Alive In Christ for each other, and for so many others - during both happy and sad times.*

This year we hope to continue to acknowledge and celebrate our Parish life. We hope to also, with your help and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, make some improvements, given that the world is changing and our needs are changing along with it. Things cannot simply stay the same. The Holy Spirit beckons us to grow and change to adapt to the needs of our Community and the world around us.

I am extremely grateful for all of your love and support. The faith, love and humble service of our Parish family, has been consistently demonstrated throughout the challenges of 2021, and this was particularly evident during the joyful Christmas Season celebrations. Pope Francis states, *"The world tells us to seek success, power and money. God tells us to seek humility, service and love". This sentiment is reflected through your ongoing involvement in making our Parish a more loving and inclusive community. This never goes unnoticed and is always very much appreciated.*

The Parish Team and I, as well as all our volunteers, look forward to serving you this year. We request that you pray for us so that this service will be carried out with much humility, joy and love.

Happy New Year everyone.

With Peace

Erick.



## Parish Office Notices

The Parish Team will be having an **OFFSITE INSERVICE on Friday, 21 January**

The Parish Office will be closed  
In-case of emergency such as sick call, please call 0446 065 774

Thank you for your understanding.



Senior's Group Meeting  
will be held this Sunday at 2pm  
in the Parish Centre

### **St Brigid's Ministry of Outreach**

*St Brigid's is blessed with many ministries that support our Catholic life and mission.*

*Fr Erick CP established a committee to consider the way in which our ministries reach out in mission in and beyond the parish. This is part of the Archdiocese of Sydney's mission plan Go Make Disciples, and the call to*

*renewal of mission of the 300th anniversary of the Passionists. In 2021 this Outreach Ministry Committee reflected on our many ministries. At each Mass on the Feast of St Brigid (5-6 February) we will acknowledge and celebrate our many ministries, both those who serve us within the parish and especially those involved in missionary outreach.*



## PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

FIRST COLLECTION (Passionists)  
SECOND COLLECTION (Parish)

If you would like to join our Planned Giving system and support our parish on a regular basis and also receive a 30% tax deduction please contact the parish office

[parish@stbrigid.org.au](mailto:parish@stbrigid.org.au)

Please scan the QR code to be directed to our donations



### **Latest Covid Update: as of 27 December 2021**

As you would be aware, as of 27 December 2021 the government has once again updated the COVID-related regulations for places of worship.

For the sake of clarity:

- ◆ Churches are open to all people regardless of vaccination status.
- ◆ There is no density limit for churches.
- ◆ Wearing Face Mask is mandatory
- ◆ All members of the congregation are permitted to sing.
- ◆ QR Codes & our check-in procedures, are to continue.

### **Weddings and Funerals**

Anyone can now attend a wedding or funeral, regardless of vaccination status, and there is no longer a number or density limit.

**Wearing Face Mask is Mandatory.**

### **UPDATE FROM NSW Health**

**Positive rapid antigen test results must be reported.**

### **Mass Texts: Second Sunday 16/1/22**

**First Reading:** Is 62:1-5

**Response:** Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

**Second Reading:** 1 Cor 12:4-11

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! God has called us with the Gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia

**Gospel:** Jn 2:1-11

### **Mass Texts: Third Sunday 23/1/22**

**First Reading:** Neh 8:2-6. 8-10

**Response:** Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

**Second:** 1 Cor 12:12-30

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Lk 1:1-4. 4:14-21

## Information Directory

### St Brigid's Primary School

9558 6926

### Casimir Catholic College

9558 2888

### Baptisms

**Preparation:** 1st Sundays 10am-11.30am

**Presentation:** 2nd Weekend of Baptism month  
at Parish Masses

**Baptisms: 3rd & 4th Sundays at 12.30pm**

### Marriages

Saturday: 10am—3.00pm

Preferably 6 months notice

Contact: Parish Office 8577 5670

### Pastoral Ministry Contacts:

**Adult Sacraments:** Sr Elena  
**Bereavement Ministry:** Sr Elenita/Michael Schiano  
**CCD in State Schools** Sr Elenita  
**Children's Sacraments** Sr Elenita  
**Ecumenical & Interfaith** Jim Yeo  
**Family Groups Contact:** Adrienne/Jonathan Harverson  
**Finance C'tee :** Adrienne Harverson  
**Justice & Peace Network** Peter Jennings  
**Liturgy C'tee** Mary Leask, Sr Elena  
**Maintenance C'tee:** Michael Daher/Pongia Fenukitau  
**Media Ministry:** Sr Elena/Pedro Moreira  
**Men's Club:** Arthur Kassis; John Skinner, Mick Ward  
**Ministry of Care:** Fr Dominic CP  
**Outreach Ministry:** Dcn Christopher/Pauline Roach  
**Parish Safeguarding Support:** Jim Yeo  
**Pastoral Council Co-chairs** Peter Jennings, Arthur Kassis  
**Seniors' Group:** John Freeman/Richard Gonsalves  
**Women's Spirituality Group:** Paige Bullen/Pauline Roach  
**Young Adults:** Katrina Fuller/Maria Fuller  
**Youth Ministry:** Jenny Solo (on leave)

## Parish Calendar

### January 2022

16 Senior's Group Meeting 2pm  
17 Liturgy Meeting—St Brigid and Lent  
Preparation 7pm  
21 Parish Office Staff Offsite Inservice Day  
25 Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 7pm

### February

1 Feast of St Brigid  
Vietnamese New Year Mass 6pm  
Outreach Main Group Meeting 7pm  
3 Parish Finance Committee Meeting 7pm  
4 Men's Club 7:30pm  
5 & 6 St Brigid's Feast Day  
20 Senior's Group Meeting 2pm  
22 Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

### March

1 Outreach Main Group Meeting 7pm  
2 Ash Wednesday 9am  
4 Men's Club 7:30pm  
6 Rite of Election at St Mary's Cathedral  
2pm  
7 Bereavement Meeting 6:30pm  
8 Liturgy Meeting—Easter Triduum 7pm  
13 Pipe Organ Celebration 10:30am Mass  
15 Liturgy Meeting—Good Friday Procession  
7pm  
20 Senior's Group Meeting 2pm  
22 Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 7pm

### April

4 Bereavement Meeting 6:30pm  
10 Palm Sunday  
14 Holy Thursday  
15 Good Friday  
17 Easter Sunday  
26 Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 7pm

## Liturgical Timetable

**Mon - Wed - Fri:** Adoration and Benediction at 8.45am followed by **Mass at 9.00am.**  
**Tues and 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.

**Recently Deceased:** Basile Karamoschos; Patricia Turner Mitchell; Angela Di Donato; Colman (Brian) O'Neill; Maria Eliza Correia Fernandes, Betty Firkin

**Death Anniversaries:** Paul Schembri; Therese Sippel; Paul Lowe; Mary Ellen Bell; Grace Wan; Caroline Yousiph; Sr Maureen Keogh Osu; Robert Driscoll; Leif Ahlin; Chong Loong Mou; Gioan Baotixita Nguyen Van Hung; Ilario Inzitari; Thomas Joseph O'Connor; Jose Simoes

**Carrying Severe Illness:** Mely Siasat; Renato Di Perna; George Turchi; Kevin Boyce; Peter Hatchinson, Josephine (Deacon Christopher's mother)

**Other Intentions:** For Coswendas Family, Alfonso Javier and family, Arteché Family(Ines, Leon Alfred, Sonia, Leon Miguel, Emilia)