



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 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

Third Sunday of Lent - First Scrutiny YEAR C
20th 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,

On this Sunday of Lent, and the next two, we will be celebrating a special prayer and anointing for the seven people who will be baptised on Easter Saturday Evening. For years now, and especially and intensively for the last year, the catechumens, as they are called, have been listening to the invitation of Jesus growing stronger and stronger in their lives. Now, with Easter just a few weeks away, they are almost ready to give themselves heart and soul to Christ, to follow after him, to take up their cross and walk after him. They have come to know they can never be truly themselves, never be truly at home with who they are unless Christ has made his home in them, and they have made their home in him.

So, on these final three Sundays, they are asked to really examine their hearts for anything that still holds them back from that total self gift. And they know how much they will need the strength and grace of Christ to be faithful to all they want to do and be. The little ceremony, after the homily is called "The Scrutiny" - they will be scrutinising their hearts and lives, examining their motives, being as honest as they can be about what they can do, and what they can't do without Jesus.

We will then pray what is called a "Prayer of Exorcism". A pretty strange, off-putting name perhaps, reminding us of the devil being expelled and demons driven out. But this exorcism is about 'letting go', - our young candidates letting go of whatever may be holding them back, whatever they want to keep holding onto but which they know gets in the way of following Jesus.

Finally, we will anoint the catechumens with the Oil of Catechumens. In the very early Church, this was the oil used to rub down the athletes before a com-

petition, to massage the gladiators before the big contest in the Colosseum. Now it is a symbol of the strengthening grace of Christ, helping the newly baptised do what, by themselves, they aren't strong enough to do.

This week, we are asked to join our catechumens, our candidates, as we do our own Lenten inventory of what is holding us back from our following of Christ. We are asked to examine, scrutinise, our own lives for what we are selfishly holding onto, refusing to give up, afraid to change, determined to keep. Perhaps we already know the traps and deceits we fall for or that we use to feel 'ok' about ourselves, or to get others to feel 'ok' about us

So this scrutiny and prayer is for us. In the gospel today, Jesus meets a pagan woman, coming with her jug to get water to carry home. Jesus has a long conversation with her, he sees her thirst and promises that he, Jesus, can be living water welling up within. The woman is convinced that, in Jesus, she has found the one who can satisfy everything she is thirsting for. And so, we are told, leaving her jug, she rushes home to share the good news with her village. She leaves the jug because she doesn't need it any more. She has found Living Water

So we are asked, what are the 'jugs' we've relied on. What are the supports, crutches, we have relied on to make us feel secure, or loveable, or worthwhile? And are we strong enough to let them go to allow Christ to be our life?

Fr. Tom.



DECIDING FOR LIFE:

Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42

Decisions! Decisions! Decisions! Life is full of them. Many are not particularly important. Many are routine. But sometimes we sense a need deep inside us to make a decision that is different. One that is going to change our lives so much that life will never be the same again! We decide, e.g., to take our problem to a counsellor. We join a support group for help with an addiction. We accept an offer of friendship. We join a club. We meet someone special and fall in love. We answer an advertisement for a job that will take us interstate or overseas. We leave a higher paying job for one with more meaning or one in which we can be more helpful to others. We quit hanging out with friends whose standards and values are dragging us down. We sense a call from God to work for others as a church worker or a social worker.

The change we need or want requires us to leave a lot behind, leave our comfort zones and alter our lifestyles. But the promise of better days ahead impels us to take this brand-new direction in our journey of life.

We see this happening today with 'the woman at the well' who seemingly by chance, comes across Jesus resting at Jacob's well in Samaria. It happens like this: - It is mid-day. Jesus is thirsty. He is thirsting for water, but even more he is thirsty for a meaningful connection with this woman, generally considered by other Jews an alien and outsider. The story-teller does not give her a name because she represents every one of us. Her conversation with Jesus includes symbols and word-plays. Eventually he breaks through her sarcasm and her other defences and touches the guilty secrets of her life. After five husbands already, her current live-in lover is not her husband at all!

His focus on her past life is not to hurt her but to expand her vision and offer her hope. She grasps that in the unexpected friendship this stranger is now offering her, something new and wonderful is happening. She understands that even in her messed-up life, God is getting involved and reaching out to her. So much so, that she cannot but ask herself: 'Who is this man who is so different from all the others I've known? Why is he so different? Why is he so respectful? Why is he so attentive? Why is he so kind and caring? Is he perhaps greater than our father, Jacob? Could he possibly be a prophet with a message from God? Could he even be the Messiah, the Saviour, that God has promised us?'

She is now the one who is thirsty. She is thirsting, she is longing, she is craving, to get to know him better. As they continue their conversation, she

finds that Jesus is satisfying not only her thirst to know him better, but also her longing and determination to get a life, a brand-new life, a better life than ever before.

It's his interest in her, his words, his gestures, his whole attitude, together with the time and space he is giving her that's making all the difference. He is as purifying, refreshing and invigorating to her as a stream of running water. She is sensing something of the truth spoken by St Paul in our Second Reading today: '... the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit ... given to us'. She is sensing that Jesus loves her, and that God in Jesus loves her. At long last she has come to realize one thing for sure. Life will never be the same again because she, with her dignity restored by her encounter with Jesus her Saviour, will never be the same again.

This is all so true that she decides that she cannot keep Jesus to herself. She feels compelled to bring others to him too. So, we find her running back to her village and shouting at the top of her voice to anyone and everyone who will listen, the good news about him. She blurts out: 'He just told me everything I've ever done.' Touched by her excitement and enthusiasm, the villagers beg Jesus to stay with them. He ends up staying two whole days. His words and presence make such a deep impression that they end up saying to the woman: 'Now we no longer believe because of what you have told us; we have heard him for ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Our story of 'the woman at the well' asks us to remember today all the ways we have experienced the presence of Jesus to us, and all the ways we have experienced his love for us. It asks us to consider how humble, kind, sensitive, understanding and forgiving he has been with us. It asks us in return to extend the firm hand of friendship and the over-flowing waters of mercy, compassion, acceptance, kindness and forgiveness, to all the people who come into our lives day after day. Family, friends, workmates, strangers, customers, clients, patients, students, anybody and everybody!

This touching story of the goodness and kindness of Jesus goes with the words of our Responsorial Psalm today, 'if today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts'. So much so that we too will want to go to Jesus our Saviour in our Holy Communion with him today, and beg him to stay with us. To stay with us and be for ourselves and others that very same living, refreshing, life-giving water that he was to one truly blessed woman, known for evermore as 'the woman at the well'!

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!



Thoughts for Lent

*Fast from hurtful words and speak kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
Fast from anger and be filled with patience
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
Fast from worries and have trust in God
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
Fast from pressures and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy
Fast from grudges and be reconciled
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*

Pope Francis

Casimir Catholic College - Marrickville

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Please pray for our sisters and brother who have been accepted to receive The Sacrament of Initiation this Easter Vigil.



Parish Collection 13/3/2022

First Collection \$1,535.00

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 \$1,430.00

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - 2022

Sacrament of Reconciliation Sessions

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

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

Death Anniversaries: Joseph Nguyen Van Bac, Joseph Tien Van Dinh, Phillip Joy Galvez, Josephine Farah, Monica Sanmocte, John Ascik, Maria Le Thi Thanh, Celerina Claro, Anthony Nguyen, Nabiha Kayrouz, Thelma Mary Hogan, Brata Widjaja

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

Other Intentions: Lillian Cipolla, Wendy Lamb



The Catholic Weekly

- The chilling of our charities: Soaring prices bite
- Aussies dig deep for Ukraine: Caritas appeal \$1.5m - and rising
- Life after death? The new book telling amazing stories

Mass Texts: Third Sunday Of Lent (Liturgy of the First Scrutiny) 20/3/22

First Reading: Ex 17:3-7

Response: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second: Rom 5:1-2. 5-8

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Jn 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42

Parish Calendar 2022

March

- 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

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
	19/20 March	26/27 March	19/20 March	26-27 March	19/20 March	26 /27 March	
Sat 5:00 pm	Jim Yeo Gabrielle B.	Paul Cloran Liz Buchel	Michael D Shelley H. Ofa Tupola William M.	Michael D. Michael S. Leila walsh Carole Price	Michael D.	Michael D.	Jim Yeo Michael P.
Sun 8:00 am	Margaret T. Mary Leask	Libby Debby Peter J.	Dennis M. Francis Seufale Peter J. Vinh Nguyen	Dennis M. Thu Hoang Vinh Nguyen Patricia T.	Dennis M.	Dennis M	Peter H. Maria M. Francis S.
Sun 10:30 am	Angie C. Albert S. Frank Cowell	Tanya H. Italian John Mc.	Albert N. Anthony N. Tony C. Giuseppe S.	Albert N. Anthony N. Jenny O. Jose H.	Albert N. Anthony N	Albert N. Anthony N.	Tony C. Giuseppe S.
Sun 6:00 pm	Libby Debby Patricia T.	Young Adults	Tony Hayek Adrienne H. Kristen R. Arthur Kassis	Tony Hayek Young Adults	Tony H. Amelia P Charlene E Alexis H.	Tony Hyek Amelia P Charlene E. Alexis H.	Arthur K. Jackie K.