



St Brigid's Marrickville

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia

One Family, Alive in Christ

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

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We stand at the Crossroads of life for many people

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B 3rd October 2021

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

TOGETHER FOR LIFE

When you and I were babies, we needed others to survive. When we grow old and frail, we will again need others to survive. But here's a secret! In between, we need others too.

God says to us in our First Reading about the relationship between man and woman: "It is not good that the man should be alone." Surely God means being *permanently* alone. Sometimes it is necessary and valuable to be alone and content with one's own company, but this can be for the time being only. We are social beings, and we need others to be fulfilled. To feel this need is not a sign of sickness but of health.

On the other hand, insanity has been defined as a condition in which people can no longer connect with others. Isolation is a very painful condition. It causes people to turn in on themselves. Sometimes it leads to violence and addictions; then fear, shame, and guilt lead people to stay in their isolation. Persons who commit suicide often have slipped into total isolation.

A recent survey of the elderly in America asked who was closest to them, two out of three said it was their pet. How sad is that? In today's story, God first gives animals and birds to the man. But Adam is unable to find among them a truly suitable companion. God then gives a woman to the man. As soon as he lays eyes on her, Adam recognizes her as his life partner—made of flesh and blood too, sharing the same human dignity, truly his companion and equal.

In marriage, God has answered the human need for friendship, companionship, closeness, intimacy and warmth. To some extent, such needs may also be met by belonging to other types of community—eg a community of religious women or men.

When people get married, they bring to it not only their strengths but also their weaknesses. Getting married is entering into a learning situation, a school of love, but one where the partners can sometimes be slow learners. But when a couple allows God to become a big part of their partnership, the bond can last a lifetime.

The things that weaken a marriage bond—lack of respect, poor communication, selfishness, jealousy, anger, violence, bullying—and above all, infidelity! On the other hand, respect, affection, honesty, generosity, patience, kindness, and fidelity strengthen the marriage bond.

Like a garden, a relationship has to be worked on. Do not be afraid to seek help. The relationship between a couple is so important that it should be put far ahead of a career, material gain and financial success.

"What God has united," Jesus says, "let no one separate." This makes much sense both for the lifelong personal needs of the couple and for the lifelong needs of their children.

Togetherness for life remains the ideal both for Jesus and his followers. But our Church has to face the fact that many marriages break down, and some of the victims deeply long for a new life-partner and a new start. But this raises a question for our community:

Does our sharing in the compassion, caring and kindness of Jesus point to the possibility of reaching some truly creative pastoral solutions?

**There are no easy answers.
Let's think, pray, and talk about it. A lot!**

Rev Dr Brian Gleeson CP
bgleesoncp@gmail.com



Join the Plenary Tracker daily Zoom every night from Sunday October 3 to October 10 at 7.30 AEDT with exclusive news, insights, and panel discussions hosted by respected former ABC presenter Genevieve Jacobs AM.

Registering for Plenary Tracker is FREE. Simply fill in your details here to receive the one web link that allows you to join.

Other Plenary Resources can be found on this link.

CHARITABLE WORKS APPEAL 2021-2022

Owing to to the COVID 19 lockdown, the first appeal for the current financial year was postponed until **26 September 2021**. 100 years ago when the world was struggling with the Spanish Flu, Christians offered their aid and resources to house and heal the sick. Sadly, COVID 19 has harmed millions and left many more feeling isolated, abandoned, lonely and despairing. Now, more than ever, our community needs the Gospel message of love and its fruits in its ministries of mercy.

If you wish to donate and have not done so yet

Donations are 100% tax deductible
For further information,
click here:

PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS 2020/2021

As the Parish remains in lockdown tax deductible receipts may be obtained if needed by e-mailing your details to parishadmin@stbrigid.org.au

BAPTISMS 2021 at St Brigid's

Please Note: Baptisms for, September & October 2021 have been CANCELLED.

No further Baptisms will be scheduled for the rest of this year OR 2022 until further notice.

COVID—19 UPDATE (as at 3 OCTOBER 2021 NSW Health Directives)

WEDDING BOOKINGS at St Brigid's

As a result of the number of weddings needing to be postponed owing to COVID 19 regulations at this time,

NO ADDITIONAL WEDDINGS will be possible in 2021.

New wedding bookings for 2022 will not be accepted until further notice.

The only bookings which may be made are for FUNERALS
(maximum 10 mourners ONLY)

**ST BRIGID'S PARISH -CHURCH and PARISH OFFICE—
REMAIN IN LOCK DOWN**

Please make ALL bookings/ communications via E-MAIL :
parish@stbrigid.org.au

For the safety of all, please do not attend the Office in person

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 Office on 9390 5810 or sydney-catholic.org . You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support .

Did you know?



Parishioner Justin Perestrelo

Young parishioner works to keep NSW COVID safe.

Pope Francis describes nurses as “guardians and preservers of life” who never cease to offer “courage, hope and trust” as they administer necessary treatment.

Justin Perestrelo joined the St. Brigid’s community in 2014 when he started high school at Casimir. He was the School Captain in 2019. He shares his thoughts about St Brigid’s, “It is the broad sense of community - always reaching out to give a helping hand. A very welcoming community.”

After graduating from school, Justin started studying Nursing at UTS and has continued his studies mostly through online learning due to COVID19 restrictions.

Justin started working as an Assistant in Nursing towards the end of 2020. His shifts were spent as a COVID19 marshal, assisting people with check in when entering the hospital. This work presented some challenges because some people did not want to check in or wear a mask so Justin needed to explain the risks of bringing COVID into the hospital. However, Justin’s patient and polite nature helped him to navigate these difficulties with care and kindness. Recently Justin became a Covid vaccination worker with NSW Health, working at the Olympic Park Vaccination Hub with the dedicated team of healthcare workers vaccinating the people of NSW.

Justin loves to talk to people, “you get to meet so many people every day - you can talk to them and learn about their lives, their ups and downs. It helps me to put my own life into perspective and it reminds me how lucky I am to have the life that I do.”

“I find great privilege in caring for people. I treat every patient I come across in the same way that I would want my loved ones to be treated. This mentality ensures that every patient I see gets treated with dignity and respect that they deserve.”

This is a St. Brigid’s Outreach initiative and if you have an interesting story that you would like to share, please send the story for review and publishing to parish@stbrigid.org.au

SPIRITUALITY ON THE SOFA (SOS)
(Spirituality in the Pub)

6 October 2021, 7.30pm

"#re-imagining Faith Communities"

Speakers: Melinda Seed; Charles Burford;
Anne Benjamin

Launch ZOOM and use

Meeting ID: 863 4831 7712

Passcode: 149311

Further information: Marea on 0414 873 910
OR mareaonovan@gmail.com

Donations welcome:

Commonwealth Bank: Catalyst for Renewal Inc
BSB: 062 182 ACC: 1002 442

EVERY SATURDAY, AT 9:00 AM

Join by : Via Zoom

Live via: Facebook

Please join
us in
praying the
Holy
Rosary



CONGRATULATIONS and
THANK YOU!

Paulian Association/ PALMS Australia

on 10th October 2021 celebrating 65 years of mission activities to foster

justice and inclusion,
including Project Compassion (1966).

Most enduring, and central is the **PALMS** program which has recruited, prepared and supported Australians in global mission since 1961, including **Australia's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paul Kelly**, who went as a doctor to Malawi (1991-1991).

They share their skills in seeking sustainable solutions to poverty through health, education and other programs, whose primary beneficiaries are those with the least opportunities. As Pope Francis reminds us.. "If there are poor people.. who seek assistance, let us draw close to them... they can be teachers who show us how essential it is to live simply."

People of all ages are able to participate—**retirees** who bring maturity and wisdom of their life experience are especially welcome overseas.

If you are interested in finding out more about being prepared for a 2022 placement, OR in helping financially with PALMS work, please visit
palms.org.au; OR
email palms@palms.org.au OR
phone Christine on 9560 5333

FIRST AND SECOND COLLECTIONS

We have had a number of queries from parishioners asking how to continue to donate during lock down. For those of you able to contribute.

To donate

Or simply scan



Recently deceased:

Anniversaries : Patricia Guilfoyle; Angela Quinlan; Leo Taylor; Louis Schembri; Claude Scollard; Nguyet Thi Nguyen; Rosa Errichiello; Alma Carney; Fr Raffaele Tresca CP; Maria Rosa Costa.

Carrying Severe Illness: Maria Guilfoyle; Renato Di Perna; Teresa Mazzeo; Ellen Forrester; Celine Steel ; Nayara Faith Penitani; Sebastian George Turchi.