



# 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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**Administrator:** Fr Erick Niyiragira CP ([pp@stbrigid.org.au](mailto:pp@stbrigid.org.au))

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

## TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B 26th September 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

### BELIEVERS TOGETHER

Famous Hollywood star of the 1940s, Greta Garbo, is famous for saying "I want to be alone." But it is only natural and human to often want to be with other people. Many of us join clubs—sporting or social—just to get together. Maybe a political party. Maybe a church group, such as the Passionist Family Groups. Some of us may belong to several groups at once.

We join because we want to meet other people, join in the activities of the group or work for the goals of the group. This widens our horizons and makes us feel wanted, accepted or respected. Life in a group however, can become a problem if the group becomes exclusive, if its members snipe at or about others, and if they become either fearful or contemptuous of persons outside the group.

In the gospel today, the apostles are feeling very threatened by a man outside their group who is successfully casting out demons in the name of Jesus. Perhaps they are afraid Jesus will invite him to replace them. But like a selfish child who has many toys but won't share them, they seek to stop the man in his tracks. But Jesus is more generous. He tells them to let the outsider be: "You must not stop him," he says, "anyone who is not against us is for us."

Some of us were brought up to believe that ours is the one and only true Church. The Second Vatican Council did not push that line. While it did assert that our Catholic Church is directly descended from Jesus Christ & the apostles, and while it did assert that our Catholic Church has all the means of salvation—ways of being at right with God—it recognized that Christians in other denominations can be real and genuine followers of Jesus. Just like Catholics! Vatican II recognised that through baptism, non-Catholic Christians too are joined to the person of Jesus, are forever in heaven. Just like Catholics.!

So, even though we have our differences, some of them quite serious, Vatican II called non-Catholic Christians 'brothers and sisters', not outsiders, and certainly

not impostors or heretics. Their churches also bring the grace of God—the presence and love of God—to their members. Like the Catholic Church, they too are expressions of the Christian church as a whole.

So, while we rightly take pride in all the many good features of our Catholic community, we also recognize and affirm all the good people and all the good deeds that exist in the Anglican, Uniting, Baptist and Lutheran forms of the one Church of Jesus Christ, just to name a few. We do this even as we also pray that we and they will in time become more united in faith, hope and love than we already are.

Another great truth proclaimed by Second Vatican Council, one that also leads to tolerance, dialogue and co-operation, is that the Spirit of God—the Holy Spirit—influences the minds, hearts and lives of person in other great world religions eg Islam. There are people in other world faiths living near us wherever we are. Some, like us, believe in one true God. So, we must meet them, accept and affirm them, as good people too and as children of God., children of the one Creator who through our human parents has made us all. Like us, they too keep striving to know and live that truth which the Spirit of God keeps making known in our various communities. As Jesus said so well, 'the wind (of the Spirit) blows where it pleases' (John 3:8)

I offer two examples:

Moslem Dr Jamal has made a drive-in clinic in the front yard of his Sydney home, and has so far administered 35,000 Covid vaccinations.

The Sikh Community of Victoria has been serving many thousands of free meals to poorer persons and health workers.

*So, for the continuation of the presence and influence of the Spirit of God among all our communities of faith, let us keep giving praise and thanks to God—their Lord, their King—and ours!*

Rev Dr Brian Gleeson CP  
[bgleesoncp@gmail.com](mailto:bgleesoncp@gmail.com)

**LEADING TO THE FEAST  
OF ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS,  
ON SUNDAY, 17 OCTOBER  
(Parish Celebration)**

**Weekly Schedules of sharing on the lives  
of a Passionist Saints.**

**It will be posted on our Parish Facebook  
Page on Monday Morning.**

**THE PASSIONIST SAINTS WALKING IN  
THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL OF THE  
CROSS**

**Introductory: Fr. Joachim Rego to watch**

**Week one: St. Gemma Galgani to watch**

**Week two: Bled. Isidore De Loor to watch**

**Week three: St Dominic and all cp missionaries**

**Week four: St Gabrielle and all cp young saints**

**Week five: St Paul of the Cross**

**CHARITABLE WORKS APPEAL  
2021-2022**

Owing to to the COVID 19 lockdown, the first  
appeal for the current financial year has been post-  
poned until **THIS SUNDAY  
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 des-  
pairing. Now, more than ever, our community  
needs the Gospel message of love and its fruits in  
its ministries of mercy.

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

**PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS  
2020/2021**

As the Parish remains in lockdown tax de-  
ductible 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  
24 SEPTEMBER 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.**

**No further wedding bookings for 2022  
will 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 Valerian Rego**



Divine providence led this much-loved parishioner to the doors of St. Brigid's.

“But it is your providence, O' Father, that steers its course, because you have given it a path in the sea, and a safe way through the waves” Wisdom 14:3

Valerian's parents provided the family with a real witness to the meaning of Divine Providence. Valerian and his family migrated from Burma to Australia at a time when the White Australia Policy was only just dismantled. The family of four young children did not know a single soul when they arrived – they did not even know where they were going to sleep upon arrival!

Valerian describes how God's Grace brought the family into contact with people and opportunities and how his parents graciously accepted the help that was offered to them. He reflects on the depth of prayer of his parents that lead to miracles of 'just bumping into strangers' – who would become life-long friends and colleagues – these were the 'God moments' that formed the family's deep love of God. Valerian credits his parents with nurturing in him a compassionate heart. In all these interactions – the face of God was revealed.

Valerian and his family have given much to St. Brigid's Parish. Valerian was a founding member of the Gift of Bread, he explains, “This grew out of our very real sense of the meaning of Eucharist and how what we celebrate within the walls of the church can be shared with those without.”

Another gift that Valerian (as organist) and his daughters, Naomi and Natasha (as violinists), have shared is in the music ministry, “I know it helps people pray and also brings them joy, serenity and calm” and his son Xavier serves as an acolyte during Masses. Valerian and his wife Jan have also been instrumental in the Family Group ministry.

Valerian reflects that he has much to thank God for. He rises 4:15am and sits in the dining room in darkness (with a little light from the kitchen, and some soft music). He spends about an hour in quiet contemplation, reading the daily Scripture, saying his morning prayers, and mainly just giving thanks for God's blessings. He also spends the time driving to work reciting some prayers and this gives him a sense of connection with God and the 'Band of Angels' – those that have died, like his family and friends.

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

**World Day of Migrants  
and Refugees 2021  
26 September.  
TOWARDS AN EVER WIDER "WE"**

"Our 'we'" says Pope Francis, "both in the wider world and within the Church, is crumbling and cracking due to myopic and aggressive forms of nationalism and radical individualism," and, "the highest price is being paid by those who most easily become viewed as others: foreigners, migrants, the marginalized, those living on the existential peripheries."

**Catholics worldwide are called upon to remember those displaced by conflict and persecution.**

**EVERY SATURDAY, AT 9:00 AM**

**Join by : Via Zoom**

**Live via: Facebook**

Please join us in praying the Holy Rosary



*Archdiocese of Sydney*

**ONLINE HOLY HOUR**  
**For the needs of Sydney Catholics**

**Thursday 30 September 2021**  
**7.00-8.00pm**  
**(Feast Day of St Therese)**

**Registration essential**

**[www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/ciples](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/ciples)**



**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:** Joan Mary Savino, Giovanna Cipolla; Marguerite Taylor.

**Anniversaries :** Luth Cortezano; Kathleen Brown; Ada D' Esclen; Margaret den Bakker; Asteria Billedo.

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