



St Brigid's, Marrickville

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia.

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

One Family, Alive in Christ. We stand at the Crossroads of life for many people.

392 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville 2204

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After hours emergency: 0401 772 139

PARISH TEAM

Fr Giltus Mathias CP

Fr Joachim Rego CP

Fr Joseph Sy Ho Doan CP

Fr Van Cong Nguyen CP

Sr Elenita Flores CP

Sr Rosana Estoque CP

Elena (Len) Di Perna

Jim Yeo - Safeguarding Officer

Paola Yevenes

Jenny Ryan-Cook

Pongia Fenukitau

Fifth Sunday of Lent - 22 March 2026

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.

PASTORAL MINISTRY CONTACTS

Adult Fatih Formation

Mary Leask

Adult Sacraments

Sr Rosana

Altar Society

Fr Doan Sy Ho CP

Bereavement Ministry

Sr Elenita & Michael

Schiano

CCD in State Schools

Sr Elenita

Children's Sacraments

Sr Elenita

Family Group

Adrienne & Jonathan

Harverson

Justice & Peace Network

Peter Jennings

Liturgy Committee

Patricia Thomas

Maintenance

Committee

Michael Daher & Pongia

Fenukitau

Men's Club

Arthur Kassis, John

Skinner & Mick Ward

Ministry of Care

Sr Rosana

Passionist Companions

Margaret Turner

Sacred Union

Fr Giltus CP

Safeguarding Officer

Jim Yeo

Seniors' Group

John Freeman & Peggy

Blackall

Youth Group

Jenny Ryan-Cook

Dearest Parishioners and Friends,

As we move into the Fifth Week of Lent, the Gospel leads us into a story of grief, love, and restoration. The theme for us is **"Drop the Stones": Mercy in a Cancel Culture.**

In the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45), Jesus does much more than perform a miracle. He enters the pain of a grieving family, weeps with those who mourn, calls the dead back to life, and says, *"Unbind him, and let him go."*

It is not a story of condemnation. It is a story of mercy. It is not about burying someone in their worst moment. It is about bringing them back into life. That matters deeply in our world today. We live in a time that can be quick to shame, label, and dismiss. Online, people can be torn apart in moments. In families, old hurts can harden into resentment. In communities, even necessary accountability can sometimes lose its mercy. We can become skilled at throwing stones, even if those stones are words, silence, gossip, sarcasm, or cold judgment.

The Gospel speaks directly into that harshness. Lazarus is in the tomb, wrapped and bound. It is an image not only of death, but of everything that can keep a person buried: guilt, shame, failure, bitterness, fear, or the judgment of others. And Jesus stands before that tomb not with anger, but with tears. Jesus weeps. Before he calls Lazarus out, he shares in the sorrow. The heart of God is not cold toward human weakness. It is moved by it.

Then comes the powerful command: *"Lazarus, come out!"* And when Lazarus emerges, Jesus says, *"Unbind him, and let him go."* Restoration is not complete until the bindings are removed. In the same way, mercy is not only about forgiveness. It is also about freedom. Freedom from labels, from the past, from shame, and from the stones people keep carrying against us.

This deeply reflects the spirit of St Francis of Assisi. Francis did not delight in condemning sinners. He wept over them. He saw wounded people not as lost causes, but as brothers and sisters still loved by God. He believed that no one is permanently buried, no one is beyond mercy, and no one is beyond being called back to life.

This Sunday, we will place a basket of stones and an empty basket in the sanctuary. The stones speak of the judgments we carry so easily: grudges, harsh words, labels, resentments, and quick condemnations. The empty basket speaks of what mercy looks like when those stones are dropped. It is a sign that our hands do not need to remain full of accusation. In Christ, we are invited to let go.

Many people around us are carrying invisible bindings. Someone may be trapped in shame over a past mistake. A family member may still be living under the weight of an old hurt. A young person may be crushed by online humiliation. A parishioner may-



appear fine on the outside while inwardly feeling buried. The Gospel invites us not to stand outside their tomb holding stones, but to stand with Christ and help unbind them.

Perhaps this week we might ask ourselves: What stones am I still holding? Whom have I buried in my mind with anger or judgment? Where is Christ asking me not to condemn, but to restore? Sometimes mercy begins in simple ways: refusing to repeat a cutting story, softening a harsh opinion, making the first move toward reconciliation, listening before judging, allowing another person room to grow.

Lazarus came out of the tomb because love called him by name. That is the heart of this Gospel. Christ does not come to keep count of our ruins. He comes to call us out of them. He comes to unbind. He comes to restore. And perhaps that is one of the most urgent Lenten invitations of all: to become people who drop the stones, make room for mercy, and help one another step out of the tombs of shame and judgment.

Because where mercy is given, dignity begins to breathe again. And when the stones are finally dropped, resurrection has already begun.

First Reconciliation

With joy and prayer, we keep in mind the 68 children from our parish who will receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation this Thursday. This is a beautiful and important step in their journey of faith, as they come to know in a deeper way the mercy, love, and gentle forgiveness of God. We assure the children and their families of our prayers and best wishes as they prepare for this special moment. May this sacrament bring them peace, confidence, and the joy of knowing that God's love is always greater than our weakness. I like to extend a sincere thanks to our sacramental preparation team and to St Brigid's Primary School for their care, time, and dedication in preparing the children so thoughtfully for this important occasion. May God bless them all for their generous ministry.

A Heartfelt Thank You

We extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to our adult faith formation team for the four Adult Faith Formation sessions held over the past few weeks. Each session was thoughtfully planned, relevant to our lives and faith, and very well attended. It was heartening to see such good participation and genuine engagement from those who came along. These gatherings continue to enrich our parish community, helping us grow deeper in understanding, reflection, and faith. Thank you to all who organised, prepared, and contributed to these sessions, and to everyone who participated so openly and faithfully. May the fruits of these gatherings continue to strengthen our community.

A prayer space

Acknowledging all that the world and we carry in our hearts and lives at this time, we will be setting aside a special prayer space in the Pietà Chapel, dedicated to praying for peace. Peace is something our world deeply longs for, but it is also something many people seek quietly in their own lives. So many carry different kinds of grief and burdens, physical, social, moral, political, and even spiritual. There are worries we speak about openly, and others we hold silently within ourselves. At times, the weight of life, the pain of the world, and the struggles close to home can leave us restless, heavy-hearted, and searching for stillness.

This prayer space is being offered as a gentle and sacred place to pause, to breathe, to pray, and simply to be still in the presence of God. Before Our Lady of Sorrows, and beside the magnificent image of the Pietà, all are welcome to come and lay down their burdens, their prayers, their grief, and their hopes.

It will be a place to unwind in prayer, to seek comfort, and to entrust ourselves and our world to the compassionate heart of Mary, who knows sorrow and who stands with all who suffer.

As part of this prayerful offering, there will also be a special hour of **Adoration on all weekdays from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.**

All are warmly invited to come, even if only for a few quiet moments. May this sacred space become a place of peace, healing, and hope for our parish community, for the world and for all who enter.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

As we prepare our hearts for Lent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation offers us a grace-filled opportunity to pause, reflect, and return to the mercy of God. It is a sacred moment to lay down our burdens, seek healing, and begin this holy season renewed in heart and spirit. Apart from the regular schedule, Reconciliation will also be available at the following times:

Sunday 29th from 3.30 pm

**Holy Thursday after the Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday after the Stations of the Cross at 10.00 am**

All are warmly invited to make use of these opportunities as part of their Lenten preparation.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice for Triduum Services will meet at 7pm in the Church and Hall every Thursday until Holy Week.

PIETY STORE

Baptism candles and stoles available. Also a large variety of religious goods – rosaries, statues, cards and gifts for sale.

CASIMIR CATHOLIC COLLEGE MARRICKVILLE

SENIOR SCHOOL ENROLLING NOW

Academic Year Year 11 2027

- ✓ General & Extension Courses
- ✓ VET Courses
- ✓ Thursday Master Classes
- ✓ Holiday Workshops
- ✓ Co-curricular Program
- ✓ Pastoral Care Program
- ✓ Homework Club
- ✓ Social Justice Initiatives
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CASIMIR CATHOLIC COLLEGE MARRICKVILLE

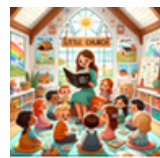
JUNIOR SCHOOL ENROLLING NOW

Academic Year 2027 Years 8 - 10

Our College Offers:

- ✓ Newman Extension Classes
- ✓ Gifted Education Program
- ✓ Literacy & Numeracy Classes
- ✓ External Music Tuition
- ✓ Amadeus Lessons
- ✓ Representative Sport Teams
- ✓ After School Homework Club
- ✓ Extra Curricular Activities
- ✓ Pastoral Care Program
- ✓ Social Justice Initiatives

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ST BRIGID'S LITTLE CHURCH

Little Church is the Children's Liturgy of the Word, when the Gospel is explained to the children and there are activities that allow them to engage a better understanding of the message of the Gospel. Please contact the parish office or see Sr Elenita if you can help for 30 minutes.

Passiontide CAROLS

MARCH 26 6PM

ST JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC CHAPEL
150 CITY ROAD - DARLINGTON

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC SOCIETY

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

Palm Sunday Service

Saturday

- 4:45 pm: start at Calvary Shrine

Sunday

- 8:00 am
- 10:15 am: start at Calvary Shrine
- 6:00 pm

ST. BRIGID'S PARISH MARRICKVILLE

BUY A TILE. LEAVE A LEGACY.

Contribute to the restoration of St Brigid's - the heart of Marrickville.

HOW IT WORKS

- Select your tile
- Purchase your tile
- Be apart of our story

\$650,000 GOAL 12,000 TILES

SCAN ME

galahid.com/stbrigidlegacy

2026 Holy Week Schedule

02 APRIL - HOLY THURSDAY

- 5.00 PM: VIETNAMESE MASS
- 7.00 PM: MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

VIGIL SCHEDULES AND ASSIGNED GROUPS

- 9.00 - 9.30PM: COMMON SILENCE
- 9.30 - 10.00PM: TONGAN COMMUNITY
- 10.00 - 10.30PM: ITALIAN COMMUNITY
- 10.30 - 11.00PM: RELIGIOUS SISTERS AND BROTHERS
- 11.00 - 11.30PM: SILENCE/YOUTH GROUP
- 11.30 - 12.00AM: VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY
- 12.00 - 12.30AM: LEBANESE COMMUNITY

03 APRIL - GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.00AM: STATIONS OF THE CROSS
- 11.30AM: VIETNAMESE SERVICE
- 3.00PM: CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION
- 6.30PM: HOLY ROSARY
- 7.00PM: GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION (MULTILINGUAL)

04 APRIL - HOLY SATURDAY

- 7.00PM: EASTER VIGIL

05 APRIL - EASTER SUNDAY

- 8.00AM & 10.30AM: EASTER SUNDAY MASS

NOTE:

- NO EVENING MASS ON EASTER SUNDAY
- EASTER MONDAY: 9:00 AM ONLY

St. Brigid's Parish

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Recently Deceased: Edward Thomas, Giuseppe Castrogiovanni, Hind (Helen) Eid, Margaret O'Malley, Maria souza Dias, Maria Valenzisi, Raffaele Sanfedele, Terence Williams.

Anniversary of Death for: Eduardo Franco, John Cunnien, Joseph Obeid, Maria Amelia Azevedo, David Roger James, Maria Nhan Thi Vu, Rose Borham, Lafomai Togia Lafo, Glen Trethowan, Irene De Sousa, Jose Carlos Caetano, Senitila Uhi, Gertrude Jennings, Joseph Nguyen Van Bac, Joseph Tien Van Dinh, Phillip Joy Galvez, Josephine Farah, Monica Sanmocte, John Asciak, Mario Perin

Those Carrying Severe Illness: Agnes Sonju Wong, Amalene & Gerard George, Angela Augerinos, Antonios Gebrael, Belinda Camacho, Bev Harrington, Catherine Vella, Colin Constantinou, Damia Roumie, Damien Luck, Eileen McClement, Elizabeth Pizzuto, Fr Christopher Mithen CP, George Baraket, George Clavigo, Georgette Khoury, Georgia Hadis, Huyen Nguyen, James Misi, John Love, Laurice Sassine, Leonardo, Lidia Obeid, Lilyan McAusland, Lina Massi, Margaret Barry, Maria Caccamo, Mary Angela Thomas, Michael Chrissimos, Michael Natoloczny, Paul Murphy, Pauline Zerbo, Penelope Lincoln, Peter Martin, Phillip Mithen, Richard Hudson, Rosie Pazman, Rudi Presern, Sofi, Tim Jude Thomas, Tina Schino.

Other Intentions: Andrea Emilia Bernabey, Anna Ivec, Caceres family, Georgette Daher, Gustavo Bardana, Hernan Restrepo, Joseph Bianchini, Joseph Farah, Josephine Farah, Maria Esther Van De Pol (nee Errichiello), Rosalba Gil, Wendy Lamb, Ethan Seng

MASS TEXTS: 5th SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live

Response: Psalm 129(130)

The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you

Second Reading: Romans 4:13,16-18,22

Abraham hoped, and he believed

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will never die.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel: John 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life

PARISH CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2026

Tue 24	7pm	Vietnamese Reconciliation
	7pm	Lenten Reflection in PC
Wed 25	7pm	RCIA in PC
	7.30pm	Italian Choir Practice
Thu 26	7pm	Triduum Choir practice
	7pm	First Reconciliation
Fri 27	7pm	Stations of the Cross
Sun 29	Palm Sunday (Vigil Starts @4.45pm)	
	7pm	Youth in Hall

LITURGICAL TIMETABLE

MONDAY - FRIDAY: Mass at 6:45am followed by Exposition and Rosary, then Adoration and Benediction at 8.45am, followed by Mass at 9am and Rosary.

SATURDAY: Mass at 8am followed by Holy Rosary. Sacrament of Reconciliation at 4.15pm. Mass at 5pm (Livestreamed) and 6.30pm (Vietnamese).

SUNDAY: Mass at 8am | 10.30am (bilingual) | 4pm (Vietnamese) | 6pm.

MINISTRY OF CARE & SUPPORT TO THE AGED AND INFIRMED:

Communion is taken to sick residents in Nursing Homes and in their homes on a weekly basis, either by Ministers of Care or family members. Please contact the Parish Office to organise Communion to be taken to those who are home-bound.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is offered after 6.45am and 9am Mass on the first Friday of each month.

DAILY MORNING MASSES

Date	Lay Min	Reader
Mon 6.45	Vinh N	Jim Y
9.00	Mary T	Liz
Tue 6.45	Albert N	Viet
9.00	Mary T	Viet
Wed 6.45	Albert N	Paul C
9.00	Liz	Buddy
Thu 6.45	Paul C	Michael P
9.00	Thom Thao	Joanna
Fri 6.45	Vinh N	Patricia
9.00	Tony C	Leila W
Sat 8.00	Jim	Judy

WEEKLY ROSTER

MASS TIMES	Commentators (C) & Lectors (L1 & L2)	Communion Ministers		Acolytes / Altar Servers	Collector In-charge		
		21/ 22 Mar	28/ 29 Mar	21/ 22 Mar	28/ 29 Mar	This weekend	
Saturday 5pm (Vigil)	C L1 L2	Lina M Michael P Kelelia F	Laura N Jim Y Chihn Q	Vinh N Paul C Ofa T Thu H	Vinh N Michael P Gabrielle P Carole P	Vinh N Belatchew	Jim Y. Michael P.
Sunday 8am	C L1 L2	Stephen O Marco G Joanna V	Mary L John S Esther G	John S Mary L Margaret K	Dennis M Joanna V Marco G	Dennis M. Luca G Antonella G Aidan S	Peter H. Maria M.
Sunday 10:30am	C L1 L2	Melly S Joanne M Italian	Diana P Dana T Italian	Anthony N Tony C Diana P John M	Anthony N Tony H Angie C Albert N	Albert N Anthony N Josh K	Tony C Julian P
Sunday 6pm	C L1 L2	Kevin B Charisse E Rex H	Laura P Arthur K Oscar P	Lenore D Charlene E Charlie E	Lina E Kevin B Charlene E	Tony H, Janna H Charlene E Celina E Alexis H	Arthur K Jackie K

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 and Ministerial Integrity Office on safeguardingenquires@sydneycatholic.org or 9390 5810. You may also speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.