



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.*

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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 EASTER - 3rd May 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 Faith 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

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,

In the first reading for the 5th Sunday of Easter, we encounter one of the most honest moments in the early Church, found in Acts 6:1–7. The Christian community was growing. The preaching was powerful. The apostles were full of courage.

The name of Jesus was spreading. But right in the middle of this spiritual growth, a complaint

arose: some widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food.

It is striking to notice that the first serious organisational problem in the Church was not about buildings, titles, music, or even theology. It was about poor widows being overlooked.

This speaks to us something very important about the heart of Christianity. Religion is not meant to lift us above the suffering of the world; it is meant to draw us closer to it with compassion. True faith does not make us blind to the person at the edge of the community. It opens our eyes wider. At its heart, religion is meant to care for the poor, the widows, and the orphans, those who have no safety net, no strong voice, and no powerful defender.

In the Bible, the poor, the widow, and the orphan are often named together. They represent those whom society most easily forgets: people without protection, security, or influence. In ancient society, a widow could easily disappear into poverty and loneliness. An orphan could be forgotten completely. The poor could be treated as a problem rather than as people. Not that much has changed. So when Scripture says that God cares for them, it is saying something very clear: God stands closest to those whom the world pushes furthest aside.

Acts 6 shows us that the early Church understood this. The apostles did not dismiss the complaint as a small administrative issue. They did not say, "We are too busy preaching." They recognised that feeding the neglected was part of the Gospel itself. Prayer and service were not enemies. The Word of God and the distribution of food belonged together.

It is easy to speak beautifully about God. It is harder to notice who has been left out of the meal. It is easy to pray with folded hands. It is harder to stretch those hands towards someone who feels forgotten. It is easy to build a religious community around those who are already comfortable. It is much more Christian to build a community where the poor, the widows, and the orphans are seen first. Perhaps that is why Acts tells us that once the community responded, "the word of God continued to spread."



The Gospel grew not only because sermons were preached, but because widows were fed. The Church became credible because love became practical. This is a challenge for every parish, including our own. Who are the poor, the widows, and the orphans among us today? They may be the elderly person living alone. The young family under financial pressure. The migrant who feels invisible. The grieving person who smiles at Mass but goes home to silence. The young person who does not know where they belong. The sick, the anxious, the unemployed, the isolated, and the spiritually tired. The purpose of our coming together each time is not to create a comfortable holy club. It is to form a people whose hearts beat with the heart of God. And the heart of God is always turned towards the poor and the forgotten.

Acts 6 reminds us that a parish is healthiest not when everything runs smoothly, but when no one is quietly neglected. Committees, ministries, rosters, meetings, liturgies, and plans all have their place. But their deeper purpose is this: to help us become a community where the Gospel reaches the table, the doorway, the hospital room, the lonely home, and the wounded heart.

The Church was born not only in the breaking of bread at the altar, but also in the sharing of bread with the hungry. I still remember my Eucharist professor saying to us, as young men aspiring to the priesthood: "If you cannot see the direct connection between the altar and the street, then your priesthood will miss its very purpose." The altar and the street must never be separated.

The measure of our faith is not only how beautifully we worship, but how tenderly we notice. Because in the end, God is not impressed by a faith that looks holy but leaves people hungry. God is glorified by a faith that sees, serves, feeds, listens, and loves. A religion that forgets the poor, the widows, and the orphans forgets its own soul. A Church that notices them becomes the living memory of Christ. Jesus Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Thank you, holy community, for the many quiet and generous ways you already live this faith among us: visiting the lonely, caring for the sick, supporting those under pressure, welcoming the stranger, preparing food, serving in ministries, offering time, prayer, kindness, giving a hand when needed and practical help. Much of this goodness is never announced, never applauded, and often never seen by many, but it is seen by God.

Thank you for your effort to help our parish become a place where faith is not only spoken, but lived. Your generosity reminds us that the Gospel is still alive when the forgotten are noticed, the poor are cared for, and love becomes practical.

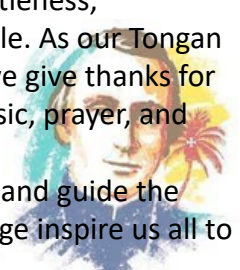


HAPPY FEAST OF ST PETER CHANEL

This weekend, we warmly join our Tongan community in celebrating the feast of St Peter Chanel, the first martyr of Oceania and a saint deeply loved across the Pacific. St Peter Chanel gave his life as a missionary with courage, humility, and deep faith, planting the seeds of the Gospel through patience, kindness, and self-giving love.

His witness reminds us that faith grows not only through words but through lives lived with gentleness, perseverance, and love for God's people. As our Tongan community honours this great saint, we give thanks for the richness of their faith, culture, music, prayer, and joyful presence in our parish.

May St Peter Chanel continue to bless and guide the Tongan community, and may his courage inspire us all to live the Gospel with generous hearts.



WELCOME BACK

A warm welcome back to Fr Doan, who will return this week after his annual holidays. We hope his time away was restful, refreshing, and filled with good moments of peace, family, and renewal. We are grateful to have him back among us at St Brigid's, and we look forward to his presence, ministry, humour, and prayerful service in the life of our parish community once again. **Welcome back, Fr Doan!**

PROVINCIAL VISITATION

A warm welcome to **Fr Chris Monaghan CP**, who will be with us from 5th to 7th May for an official Provincial Visitation. In religious life, a Provincial Visitation is a formal pastoral visit made on behalf of the Province. It is an opportunity to meet with the Passionist community and parish, listen to their life and ministry, offer encouragement, and reflect together on how the congregation's mission is being lived out. Fr Chris is the First Consultor of the Holy Spirit Province, assisting Fr Denis Travers, the Provincial, in the leadership and care of our Passionist communities. We are grateful for his presence among us and wish him a fruitful and blessed visit.

COME TO THE TABLE. **SESSION 1 (04/05/2026)**

Our first session invites us to return, with gratitude and wonder, to the memory of our own First Holy Communion and to reflect on the rich meaning of the word Communion. Fr Kevin and Sr Vivienne will help us explore the significance of communion and the fundamental importance of deepening our relationship not only with God, but also with one another. We will also hear from a young person who will share how the grace of preparing for and receiving Communion has helped him continue to grow in faith. All are warmly invited to come along for an evening of reflection, conversation, and faith-sharing at 7 pm in the primary school hall.



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.

LITURGY CORNER:

FINAL BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

The final blessing and dismissal are not simply the "ending" of Mass; they are the moment we are sent. Having listened to God's Word and been nourished by the Eucharist, we receive God's blessing to carry Christ's presence into the world. The words "Go forth, the Mass is ended" remind us that worship becomes mission. We do not leave the church as spectators who have attended something holy, but as disciples who have been strengthened to live something holy. The Eucharist we receive must become the love we share, the mercy we offer, and the hope we bring into our homes, workplaces, schools, and communities. The Mass ends, but the mission begins.

ATTENTION

As planned, the maintenance works will commence on the 4th of May 2026. These works are expected to continue through the coming months, during which the church will remain closed, but Parish life, prayer, and the celebration of the sacraments will continue. **During the renovation period, the PARISH HALL will serve as the space for weekday Masses and as a prayer space throughout the week, with the tabernacle set up for quiet prayer and reflection. The PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL will serve as the space for weekend Masses.**

PIETY STORE

DUE TO THE RENOVATIONS TO THE CHURCH, THIS WEEKEND, MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GET GOODS FROM ST BRIGID'S PIETY STORE FOR SOME TIME.



YOU ARE INVITED
COME TO
The Table

A JOURNEY INTO
COMMUNION

Exploring the **Eucharist** and our call to be people in **communion with God** and **with each other.**

Each week a **different perspective** will be explored.

Participants will be encouraged to engage with a range of **Scripture, prayer, papal statements**

as well as exploring communion in **real world experience.**

FOUR MONDAY EVENINGS

**4TH MAY | 11TH MAY
18TH MAY | 25TH MAY**

**TIME
7:00 PM**

**LOCATION
SCHOOL HALL**

Everyone is very welcome!
COME AND BE A PART OF THESE EVENINGS.

TOGETHER IN FAITH.
TOGETHER IN COMMUNION.

Deepen your faith.
Build community. Live communion.



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**

stbrigid.com/astbrigidlegacy

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Recently Deceased: Quirino Goncalves, Cathy MacGuinness, Charles Mills, Jessy Gibbenons

Anniversary of Death for: Fahed Taouk, Melissa Jane Thomas, Sadie Taouk.

Those Carrying Severe Illness: Agnes Sonju Wong, Alfred Schiavo, Amalene & Gerard George, Antonios Gebrael, Belinda Camacho, Catherine Vella, Colin Constantinou, Damia Roumie, Damien Luck, Elizabeth Pizzuto, George Baraket, Georgina Kaldis, Huyen Nguyen, Jennifer Alam, John Love, Laurice Sassine, Leonardo, Lidia Obeid, Lilyan McAusland, Margaret Barry, Mary Angela Thomas, Michael Chrissimos, Michael Natoloczny, Pauline Zerbo, Paul Murphy, Penelope Lincoln, Peter Martin, Richard Hudson, Rosie Pazman, Rudi Presern, Sofi, Tim Jude Thomas, Tina Schino, Wendy Joukhador.

Other Intentions: Leila Walsh, Maria Antonia Valenzisi, Joseph Bianchini, Joseph Farah, Josephine Farah, Wendy Lamb.

MASS TEXTS: 5th SUNDAY of Easter

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

They elected seven men full of the Holy Spirit

Response: Psalm

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

Christ is the living stone, chosen by God and precious to him

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 14:1-12

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life

PARISH CALENDAR FOR MAY 2026

| | | |
|--------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Sat 02 | 5pm | St Peter Chanel |
| Sun 03 | 6pm | Last Mass in Church before renovation |
| Mon 04 | 7pm | 1st Holy Communion prep in School |
| | | Adult faith formation session School |
| Tue 05 | 11am | Wilandra NH Mass |
| Wed 06 | 10.30 AM | Denroma BH Mass |
| | 7 pm | RCIA |
| Sun 10 | | Mother's Day (mass @ School 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 9.00 | Vinh N Mary T | Jim Y Liz |
| Tue 6.45 9.00 | Albert N Mary T | Viet Viet |
| Wed 6.45 9.00 | Albert N Liz | Paul C Buddy |
| Thu 6.45 9.00 | Paul C Thom Thao | Michael P Joanna |
| Fri 6.45 9.00 | Vinh N Tony C | Patricia Leila W |
| Sat 8.00 | Jim | Judy |

WEEKLY ROSTER

| MASS TIMES | Commentators (C) & Lectors (L1 & L2) | | Communion Ministers | | Acolytes / Altar Servers | Collector In-charge | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------|
| | | 02-03 May | 09-10 May | 02-03 May | 09-10 May | 25-26 April | |
| Saturday 5pm (Vigil) | C L1 L2 | Tongan Community | Jan R Leila W Thu T | Vinh N Carole P Kalelia F Paul C | Vinh N Gabrielle B Michael H Ofa T | Vinh N Ben, Augustine | Jim Y. Michael P. |
| Sunday 8am | C L1 L2 | Stephen O Joanna V Jason G | Jason G Marco G Libby D | Margaret K Dennis M Joanna V | John S Rebecca B Mary L | Dennis M. Luca G Antonella G Aidan S | Peter H. Maria M. |
| Sunday 10:30am | C L1 L2 | Joanne M Julian P Italian | Melly S John M Italian | Anthony N Albert N Bernadette Y Peter J | Anthony N Joanne M Frank C Bernadette S | Albert N Anthony N Josh K | Tony C Julian P |
| Sunday 6pm | C L1 L2 | Joanne M Julian P Italian | Joyce O Lenore D Rex H | Arthur K Alexis H Rex H | Lenore D Charlie E Lina 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.