



ST BRIGID'S, MARRICKVILLE

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia
Est 1886. Under the Pastoral Care of the Passionists since 1887.



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.

OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING

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 at safeguardingenquiries@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.

18 January 2026 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

MASS TIMES

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.

CONTACT US

392 Marrickville Rd
MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204

PO BOX 237
MARRICKVILLE NSW 1475

PH: 8577 5670
EM: parish@stbrigid.org.au
WEB: stbrigid.org.au
EMERGENCY: 0401 772 139



DONATIONS & PAYMENTS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

VIA OUR WEBSITE:
stbrigid.org.au/donations/

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors,

A GOLDEN JUBILEE OF FAITHFUL PRESENCE: FR JOACHIM REGO CP



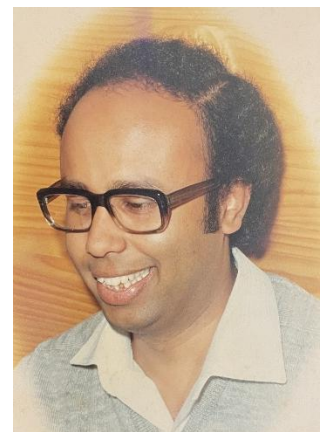
Many of us know the beautiful story of how Fr Joachim's journey with the Passionists began long before he ever wore our habit.

In 1969, George and Celina Rego arrived in Sydney from Burma with their four children, Joachim the eldest, still a teenager. They arrived with little more than a few suitcases and the address of a possible job. George left his family sitting on those suitcases and disappeared into the city, returning later that afternoon with both work and a place to stay. The next day they brought their children to St Brigid's and met Fr Linus, the Parish Priest. He enrolled the children straightaway in St Brigid's and De La Salle, found uniforms for them, and welcomed them with a generosity the family never forgot. George and Celina recognised all of this as the grace and blessing of God, and from that day began their deep love and loyalty to the Passionists.



In many ways, that first migrant journey already contained the pattern of Joachim's whole life. A family leaving what is familiar, trusting Providence, carrying little but hope, stepping into the unknown, and discovering that God goes ahead of us, this has been Joachim's story again and again. From Burma to Australia, from St Brigid's to the novitiate, from Australia to India, from India to Papua New Guinea, and eventually to the service of the whole

Congregation in Rome, Italy, his life has been a quiet pilgrimage. Like so many migrants, he has learned to live lightly, to belong everywhere and nowhere, to call many places "home," and to trust that God will always provide the next step. His religious life has been, at heart, a lifelong journey of faith, availability, and gentle courage.



PARISH TEAM

Fr Giltus Mathias CP,

Parish Priest

Fr Joachim Rego CP,

Assistant Priest

Fr Doan Sy Ho CP,

Assistant Priest

Fr James Cong CP,

Assistant Priest

Sr Elenita Flores CP,

Sacramental Process

Sr Rosana Estoque CP,

Liturgy Coordinator

Elena Di Perna,

Bookkeeper

Paola Yevenes,

Parish Secretary

Jenny Ryan-Cook,

Youth Ministry

Pongia Fenukitau,

Groundskeeper

Jim Yeo,

Safeguarding Officer

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are by

appointment only.

For more information, please contact the Parish Office or email us at parish@stbrigid.org.au

Ministry of Care & Support to the Aged and Infirm:

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.

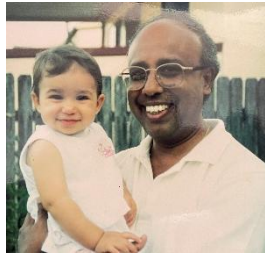
OUR SCHOOLS

St Brigid's Primary School

9558 6926

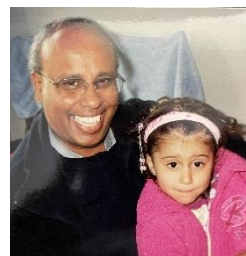
Casimir High School

9558 2888



Joachim's vocation unfolded quietly and faithfully. He joined the juniorate at St Ives, then the novitiate at St Paul's, Glen Osmond, with Fr Colman as Novice Master. Seven were professed together and went on to Holy Cross for their studies. They called themselves, with typical youthful humour, "The Magnificent Seven." At ordination, only four were ordained, Joachim, Greg Light, Chris Monaghan and Paul Traynor, but they were indeed magnificent in their own ways.

Joachim was never the loudest or the flashiest. Some excelled effortlessly; Joachim excelled through disciplined hard work and focus. He never shared the Okker passion for sport. His passion was more refined, music, composing, playing. On workdays, he much preferred the library to the garden, and a piano to a shovel.



Even after an Aussie high school and only a short time in Australia, Joachim managed our humour, our banter, and even our occasionally questionable language with grace and good spirit. He was sometimes the gentle target of affectionate jokes, but he carried it all with quiet dignity. While some of his classmates went through their "acting out" phases, Joachim was always simply himself: polite, respectful, thoughtful, cooperative, and with a delightful sense of humour. He was never in trouble and never caused trouble.

After studies, he served as a deacon in St Joseph's Parish, Hobart, where he is still remembered fondly. He was ordained here in St Brigid's and celebrated his first Mass in this church that had welcomed his family so many years before. In 1985–86, Joachim was asked to work in the newly established mission in India, now the Vice-Province of St Thomas. Because of visa restrictions it was a short stay, but it was especially meaningful given his parents' Goan heritage.

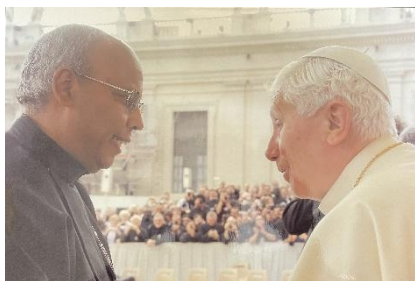


Soon after, he was asked to go to Papua New Guinea. He arrived in Vanimo, spent a month learning Tok Pisin, and was then sent to a remote mission station. When he arrived, he was met by village elders and two Sisters of St Joseph. A mission with no electricity, no running water, no sanitation, and certainly no piano or organ. The village became his community, because otherwise the only person he would see for months was the pilot who dropped supplies. It is hard to imagine the quiet courage that took. Two years became eighteen. Over those years Joachim walked through the bush to visit villages, formed young Passionists, became Novice Master and Formator, and established the novitiate at Mambadu. He was elected Regional Vicar and also President of the PNG Conference of Religious Superiors. He helped open a House of Prayer in Wewak. Even there, music never left him: he composed the anthem for the National Catholic Assembly, "We Are Church."

Through his leadership in the region, Joachim became more widely known and was appointed to the Preparatory Committee for the General Chapter. In 2005 he returned to Australia to spend time with his family - those wonderful Sunday night dinners at the Regos, which became part of the life of St Brigid's and a home for many Passionists, Carmelites and friends. He took a sabbatical in the USA and returned again to composing; his hymns are now sung in many of our parishes and communities.

In 2007 he was elected Provincial of the Holy Spirit Province and re-elected in 2011, years that were anything but easy, with declining vocations, aging communities, and increasing demands. Then, in 2012, he was elected General Superior of the Congregation.

He exercised that office in exactly the way we have come to know him: with gentleness, humility, warmth, and genuine brotherhood. He led without ego, without self-importance, and never took himself too seriously. He remained close to us, his brothers in Holy Spirit Province, and was deeply loved across the Congregation. COVID meant he could not return for his father's death, one of the many quiet sacrifices he has made for the sake of the Congregation.



He returned to Australia at the end of his term as superior General in 2023, and it is our joy that he is once again living among us here at St Brigid's, present, available, simple, and quietly generous, just as he has always been.

When we look back over these fifty years, we see not a career but a pilgrimage: a man who has kept walking, kept trusting, kept saying yes, like his family once did with a few suitcases, and like so many migrants still do today. His life reminds us that faith is not about arriving; it is about being willing to go where God sends us, again and again. Today, as we celebrate 50 years of his religious profession, we give thanks not only for what Fr Joachim has done, but for who he is: a man of



prayer, a gentle leader, a faithful brother, a humble servant of the Church, and a true Passionist.

Thank you, Fr. Joachim, for your witness, your goodness, and your presence among us. We wish you good health, peace, and God's richest blessings in the years ahead. And we are especially grateful that, even after carrying the weight of the whole Congregation, you are now here with us at St Brigid's, simply, quietly, and faithfully, as you always have been.

Ad Multos annos!

- *Giltus CP* (Thanks to Fr Tom for providing the information for this tribute)

Reflection for the Second Sunday, Ordinary Time, Year A

JESUS CHRIST - THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

We have just celebrated the great mystery of Christmas - the mystery of Light shining in the darkness. The liturgy of the Christmas season does not merely recall a historical event; it proclaims a fundamental truth of our faith: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. His coming is like a sudden dawn breaking into the night, illuminating those who walk in confusion and sin, revealing the Truth, and leading humanity toward salvation. The Feast of the Epiphany deepens this message by declaring that this Light is not meant for one people alone, but for all nations.

This biblical imagery of light and darkness makes me remember one of the most famous philosophical images in Western thought: **Plato's Allegory of the Cave**. Plato describes human beings as prisoners chained inside a dark cave. They have spent their lives facing a wall, seeing only shadows projected by objects passing in front

of a fire behind them. Having never seen anything else, they mistake these shadows for reality itself. When one prisoner is freed and led outside the cave, he encounters the light of the sun. At first, the brightness of the sun is overwhelming, and he struggles to see clearly. But slowly, his eyes adjust, and he begins to perceive the world as it truly is, understanding the source of light and the reality beyond the shadows. Yet when he returns to the cave to share his discovery, the other prisoners resist and reject his account, unwilling to leave the familiar darkness they have always known.

I guess this allegory offers a powerful way to reflect on today's readings. The first reading from the prophet Isaiah, often called the *Song of the Servant of the Lord*, is understood by Christians as a prophecy of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Through this Servant, God reveals His glory and declares: *"I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."* Jesus later takes these words upon Himself, proclaiming: *"I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness."* He does not merely offer moral guidance; He reveals reality itself as God intends it to be.

If Plato's cave represents a world of illusion, partial truths, and distorted perceptions, then Christ is the Light who enters the cave of human history. He does not remain outside, shining from a distance, but He steps into our darkness. Through His teaching, compassion, and self-giving love, He opens our eyes - eyes not only of the body, but of the mind and the heart. He reveals who God is and restores our vision so that we may recognise Him as the Son of God, and recognise one another as brothers and sisters in God's family.

In the Gospel of John, he tells us the story of the man born blind, which illustrates this truth profoundly. Jesus restores his physical sight, but even more importantly, He leads him to spiritual sight - to faith. The miracle points beyond itself: Christ is the Light who enables us to see the Truth. To believe in Him is to dare to step out of the "cave" of fear, prejudice, and false securities, and to confess that Jesus is the Messiah - the One sent by the Father.

Then Jesus does something even more radical. He turns to His disciples and says: *"You are the light of*

the world." This means that to follow Him is not only to walk in the light, but to become light. As Saint John writes: *"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another."* Light creates communion; it heals division and purifies what is broken.

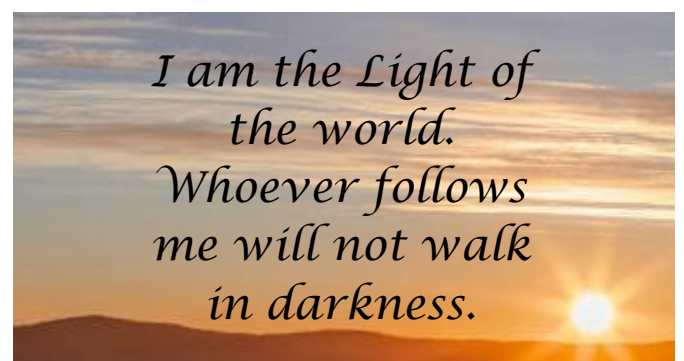
John the Baptist stands before us as a model of this vocation. He is not the Light, but a witness to the Light. Like the freed prisoner returning to the cave, John the Baptist bears testimony and witness to what has been revealed to him. He says, *"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the Chosen One of God."* His testimony is not theoretical, but lived and ultimately sealed by his martyrdom.

This mission continues in the Church today. The Second Vatican Council famously described the Church as *"Light of the Nations"*. But the Church shines only insofar as her members live according to the light they have received. Wherever there is a Christian, there should be light: the light of compassion, reconciliation, mercy, love, etc... It is a quiet light, often unnoticed, yet capable of transforming the darkest places of human life.

Saint Paul, in the second reading, reminds the Corinthians and each of us that we are called to be a holy people, united with all who call upon the name of Jesus Christ, in every place. Christian light is never private or exclusive; it is always universal, always outward-looking.

So, Jesus Christ is the Light who enlightens the world. Our task is to open our hearts to that Light—even when it challenges us, exposes our shadows, and calls us to leave behind the comfort of familiar darkness. Only then can we truly become witnesses of the Light in our daily lives.

Amen.



FEAST OF THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY - SANTO NIÑO (HOLY CHILD JESUS)

SANTO NIÑO: A DEVOTION CHERISHED BY THE FILIPINO PEOPLE



The devotion to the Santo Niño, the Holy Child Jesus, holds a special place in the hearts of the Filipino people. This beloved devotion traces its origins to 1521, when the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan arrived in the Philippines

and presented an image of the Holy Child Jesus to the Queen of Cebu. Accompanied by missionaries, Magellan's arrival marked the beginning of Christianity in the Philippines, firmly linking the Santo Niño with the birth of the nation's Christian faith.

In 2021, the Philippines celebrated its Quincentennial Commemoration of Christianity, marking 500 years since this pivotal event. Over the centuries, devotion to the Santo Niño has grown into a profound symbol of faith, hope, and resilience, especially in times of trial.

Today, the revered image of the Santo Niño is enshrined in the Basilica Minore del Santo Niño in Cebu, where it stands at the heart of the vibrant Sinulog Festival, drawing millions of pilgrims and devotees each year. Recognising the deep significance of this devotion, the Holy See has granted the Church in the Philippines the special privilege of celebrating the Feast of the Santo Niño on the Third Sunday of January, even though this date normally falls within Ordinary Time. As such, the Feast of the Santo Niño is celebrated as a proper solemnity in the Philippines.

As a parish family, we joyfully congratulate and give thanks for our Filipino brothers and sisters, whose devotion to the Santo Niño continues to enrich the life, faith, and witness not only of their own community, but also of our parish and beyond.

Happy Feast of the Santo Niño!

CELEBRATING OUR PARISH FEAST DAY - 15TH FEBRUARY 2026



As our Parish Feast Day approaches on **15th February 2026**, St Brigid's Parish warmly invites everyone to come together for a joyful celebration of faith, community, and belonging. The day will begin with the celebration of the **Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am**, followed by a festive gathering as we celebrate together as a parish family. This feast day is not only a time to honour our patron saint, St Brigid - known for her deep faith, generous hospitality, compassion for the poor, and commitment to unity - but also an opportunity to celebrate who we are as a parish family.

Our parish community is beautifully diverse, bringing together people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds. In the spirit of St Brigid, this celebration reminds us that diversity is not something that divides us, but a gift that enriches our parish life and strengthens our witness in Marrickville, particularly and beyond.

The day promises deep fellowship and great **fun for everyone!** Enjoy delicious food, exciting games for children and adults, lively singing, and joyful dancing. It's a wonderful opportunity to relax,

connect with fellow parishioners, and share in the happiness of being part of our vibrant parish family.

As February draws near, we encourage parishioners, families, and friends to mark their calendars and prepare to gather in prayer, worship, and fellowship, giving thanks for our shared faith and renewing our commitment to walk together as one parish family.

SACRED UNION RETURNS: A JOURNEY FOR YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES

We are happy to announce that “**Sacred Union**” - our parish gathering for young married couples - will start again on **8th February 2026**. This is a wonderful opportunity for couples to grow together in faith, strengthen their relationship, and connect with other couples in our parish community. Through prayer, discussion, and fellowship, participants will deepen their understanding of God’s plan for marriage and build lasting friendships within our parish family. Whether you are newly married or a few years into your journey together, **Sacred Union** is a place to nourish your love and faith as a couple. Come join us and start the year with inspiration, encouragement, and connection.



SACRED UNION
For Young Married Couples

Family Outing to
Our Lady of
Mercy,
Penrose Park



Date: Sunday, 8th February 2026
Time: Arrive 11:30 am for 12 pm Mass
BYO: Picnic Lunch, Drinks, Rug, &/or Chairs,
Outdoor Activities

RSVP
Monday 2nd February
via [link](#) or QR code



SACRED CHORAL MUSIC CONCERT

A SACRED CHORAL CONCERT

Praise Ye the Name of the Lord

SYDNEY RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHAMBER CHOIR



MONDAY
16 FEBRUARY, 7PM

Directed by
Andrei Laptev

PRESENTED BY

Saint Brigid's Catholic Church

392 MARRICKVILLE RD
MARRICKVILLE, NSW



BOOK YOUR TICKETS
[trybooking.com/1519131](https://www.trybooking.com/1519131)



Parishioners who would like to attend this event are invited to register using a 15% discount code: **StBrigidParish26**.

Please click on the following link to book:
<https://www.trybooking.com/1519131>

SENIORS GROUP

The Seniors Group meets every third Sunday of the month. Our next meeting is at 2pm on Sunday 15 February in Shrublands 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 on a Sunday.

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROCESS

Parents, if you feel you are ready to support your child in their sacramental process, you are invited to apply for them to receive their first Sacrament of Reconciliation (from Year 3 onwards), their first Sacrament of Holy Communion (from Year 4 onwards) and/or their Sacrament of Confirmation (from Year 6 onwards).

For more information, please email Sr Elenita at elenita@stbrigid.org.au.

The Parents' Information Evening for the first sacrament of Reconciliation will be at 7pm Tuesday 17 February in Shrublands Hall.

CATECHIST SUNDAY - 1 FEBRUARY 2026

All parish Catechists are invited to attend the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 1 February for this Commissioning at this special occasion.

HELP US BUILD A LEGACY

As many of you know, the church floor needs repair. The current tiles were installed in the 1950s and are now worn and a potentially safety hazard. Replacing the floor tiles will require a period of works between **May and July 2026**, during which the *church building* will be closed, but parish life will continue. Weekday and weekend Masses will be celebrated in an alternative space. In addition, urgent repairs are required to the roof of **Shrublands Hall**, which will also be covered by this fundraising campaign.

Our total fundraising target is \$650,000.

Buy a Tile

Re-tiling the floor will require approximately **12,000 new tiles**, in varying quantities of black, ivory, red, and yellow. These tiles are named after saints whose spirituality has been integral to St Brigid's heritage (the Carmelite Nuns, Passionists, Good Sams, and De La Salle).

Each tile has a set donation value, and supporters are invited to contribute by funding the purchase of tiles.

Donations of **\$5,000 or more** will be acknowledged appropriately.

How can I donate?

You can access the dedicated fundraising website at <https://app.galabid.com/stbrigidlegacy/items>

or by scanning the QR code below. **All donations are 30% tax deductible.** If you prefer to donate by cash or cheque, donation envelopes are available at the church doors. For alternative arrangements, please contact the Parish Office.

Thank you in advance for your generosity, prayers, and support.



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Recently Deceased: Retnabai Mathias, Louta Mafi, Joseph Bugeja, Jose Ferreira, Rachel Zeehe.

Anniversary of Death for: Grace Wan, Caroline Yousiph, Sr Maureen Keogh OSU, Robert Driscoll, Leif Ahlin, Chong Leong Mou, Gioan Baotixita, Nguyen Van Hung, Ilario Inzitari, Thomas Joseph O'Connor,

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

Other intentions: Hernan Restrepo, Anna Ivec, Joseph Bianchini, Wendy Lamb, Josephine Farah, Joseph Farah, Jose Ferreira, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, Caceres family, Gustavo Bardana, Georgette Daher.

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Is 49:3, 5-6

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Response: Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10

Here I am Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading: 1 Cor 1:1-3

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 1:29-34

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

PARISH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2026

Wed 21	St Agnes	
	7pm	RCIA in PC room
Thu 22	10.30am	Funeral of TL Joseph Bugeja
Sat 24	St Francis de Sales	
Sun 25	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A	
Mon 26	Australia Day	
	As this is a Public Holiday, the regular 6.45am Mass will not be celebrated, and the Parish Office will be closed on this day	
Tue 27	Sts Timothy & Titus	
	7pm	PPC meeting in PC room
Wed 28	St Thomas Aquinas	
	7pm	RCIA in PC room
Fri 30	7pm	Men's Club
Sat 31	St John Bosco	
Sun 1 Feb	Catechist Sunday	

WEEKDAY MASSES	Time	Lay Minister	Lector
Monday	6.45am	Vinh N	Jim Y
	9am	Mary T	Liz
Tuesday	6.45am	Albert N	Viet
	9am	Mary T	Viet
Wednesday	6.45am	Albert N	Paul C
	9am	Liz	Buddy
Thursday	6.45am	Paul C	Michael P
	9am	Thom Thao	Joanna
Friday	6.45am	Vinh N	Patricia
	9am	Tony C	Leila W
Saturday	8am	Jim	Judy

WEEKEND MASSES	Commentators (C) & Lectors (L1 & L2)			Communion Ministers		Acolytes / Altar Servers	Collector In-charge
		24 / 25 January	31 Jan / 1 Feb	24 / 25 January	31 Jan / 1 Feb	This weekend	
Saturday 5pm (Vigil)	C L1 L2	Michael H Leila W Chihn Q	Vinh N Thu H Carole P Kelelia F	Paul C Aloysia S Micahel P	Vinh N Leila W Michael H Elizabeth B	Vinh N Belatchew	Jim Y. Michael P.
Sunday 8am	C L1 L2	Mary L Marco G Joseph F	Joanna V Stephen O Margaret K	John S Libby D Stephen O	Dennis M Joseph F Joanna V	Dennis M. Luca G Antonella G Aidan S	Peter H. Maria M.
Sunday 10:30am	C L1 L2	Joanne M Robert G Italian	Anthony N John M Tony C Diana P	Mely S Peter J Italian	Anthony N Angie C Albert N Bernadette Y	Albert N Anthony N Josh K	Tony C Julian P
Sunday 6pm	C L1 L2	Kevin B Charlie E Lenore D	Arthur K Rex H Lina E	Laura P Kevin B Charlene E	Lenore D Charlie E Arthur K	Tony H, Janna Charlene E Celina E Alexis H.	Arthur K Jackie K