



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
PO Box 237, Marrickville NSW 1475

8577 5670 www.stbrigid.org.au parish@stbrigid.org.au
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

ASCENSION of the LORD - 17th 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 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,

This weekend, we celebrate the feast of the Ascension. On the Feast of the Ascension, we might be tempted to imagine Jesus simply going away: rising into heaven, leaving the disciples behind, and leaving the Church to manage on its own. But the Ascension is not the feast of Jesus' absence. It is the feast of a new kind of presence.

The Ascension marks the beginning of the time of the Church. The disciples are no longer just followers listening to Jesus on the road. They are now sent. They are given a mission: to teach, to preach, to baptise, and to bring others into the life of Christ. In that sense, the Church begins to take visible shape. Baptism becomes the door into this community, just as marriage is the beginning of a family life. The Church is now a real human community, made up of ordinary people, with responsibilities, structures, weaknesses, and a mission.

But there is another beautiful picture of the Church in St Paul's letter to the Ephesians. There, the Church is not first seen as an organisation, but as the Body of Christ. Christ is the Head, raised in glory, and we are his members, still here on earth, still growing, still struggling, still being shaped into his likeness. This image reminds us that the Church is not merely a building, a system, a roster, or an institution. At its heart, the Church is a living body, joined to Christ, called to become "one body and one spirit" with him. So, which is the real Church? The visible community with ministries, sacraments, leadership, and responsibilities? Or the spiritual Body of Christ, wounded but holy, longing for glory? The answer is both.

Vatican II reminds us that the visible Church and the spiritual Church are not two separate realities. They belong together. The Church is human and divine, earthly and heavenly, structured and mysterious. And that is not always easy to hold together. In our time, many people carry disappointment, pain, and even anger because of the failures and scandals within the Church. We do not dismiss that hurt. The Church, as a human community, has often been battered, broken, and in need of deep conversion. But the Ascension tells us something deeply consoling: Christ has not abandoned his Church.



St Augustine put it beautifully: just as Jesus did not abandon heaven when he came among us, he does not abandon us when he returns to heaven. He is raised above the heavens, yet he remains close to us, sharing the anguish of his Body, the Church. Christ is not distant from our wounds. He carries them. He is not ashamed to be joined to a wounded people.

That is why the Ascension is a feast of hope. Jesus goes to the Father, not to escape the world, but to draw the world into God. He entrusts the mission to us, fragile as we are. He asks us to be his presence in our homes, our parish, our schools, our workplaces, and our broken world. The Church is not perfect because we are not perfect. But Christ is faithful. And as long as he remains the Head, the Body still has life, purpose, and hope.

Church Renovation Update: Two Weeks In

It has now been two weeks since we began the renovation work inside our church, and I'm pleased to share that the project is progressing well and remains on schedule. The first week was largely devoted to preparation. This was a significant task in itself. The pews and brass items were carefully moved, and the many sacred and valuable features of the church were protected. The statues, shrines, organ, tabernacle area, screens, sanctuary furnishings and other delicate items were wrapped and covered to prevent dust, paint, or accidental damage during the work.

For those who saw the church in those first days, it was almost unrecognisable. The pews had been removed, the floor was exposed, and the sanctuary, statues, shrines, and sacred furnishings were carefully covered and wrapped for protection. Without the familiar rows of pews, the church suddenly felt wide, open, and strangely bare, almost like a large empty hall. One of our team members, whose name shall remain safely protected, remarked that with the crosses visible on the floor, it looked a little like a cemetery (I think I've found a favourite place to rest). There was humour in that comment, but also a surprising truth. With the pews moved away, the symbols etched into the floor could be seen more clearly, and they reminded us of something deep in the history and identity of our church.

St Brigid's Church was built not simply as a gathering place, but as a shrine to the Passion. The signs of Christ's suffering, sacrifice, and saving love have always been part of the language of this sacred building. Usually, they are partly hidden beneath the ordinary life of the church, under pews, footsteps, school Masses, Sunday worship, weddings, funerals, and the quiet prayers of generations. But for a brief moment, with everything stripped back, those Passion symbols became more visible again. The bare floor, marked with crosses, seemed to speak of the faith on which this church was built: that life comes through sacrifice, hope rises from suffering, and resurrection always follows the cross.

So, yes, it was a strange sight. It was unsettling to see our beloved church so empty, covered, and exposed. Yet it was also deeply moving and hopeful. It reminded us that renovation is not only about paint, repairs, scaffolding, and machinery. It is also about honouring the history, faith, and prayer carried within these walls. This much-loved place is being cared for, renewed, and prepared to continue its mission for many more years to come.

As the work has moved into the second week, the church has taken on an even more dramatic appearance. At the moment, it looks less like a parish church and more like a major production site. The nave is filled with protective coverings, machines, scaffolding, lifts, equipment, and workers moving carefully through the space. The sanctuary and side areas have been sealed and protected with large plastic sheets, and even the organ pipes and surrounding fittings have been covered with great care. Seeing the church in this state gives us a real appreciation of the scale of the work taking place.

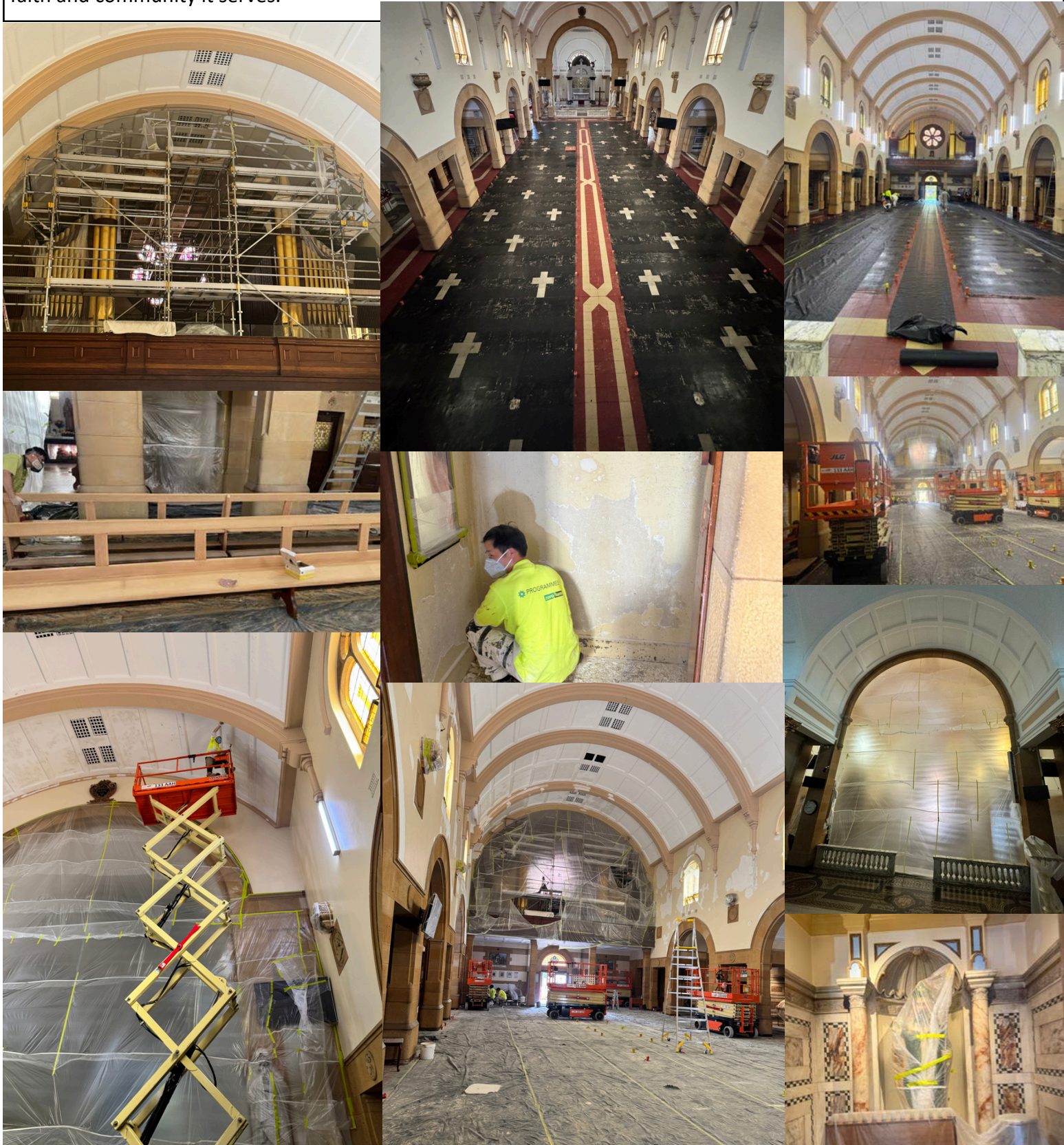
One of the important tasks completed so far has been the removal of peeling and damaged paint. As often happens in older buildings, once the surface layers were removed, other issues became visible. Quite a number of cracks were discovered in the walls and ceiling areas. These are now being carefully repaired before painting continues. This is an important part of the process. Rather than simply painting over the surface, the team is taking the time to attend to the underlying damage so that the final result will be stronger, cleaner, and more lasting.

The painting work has now commenced in the second week. This is being done with care, especially given the height of the church, the arches, the ceiling panels, and the many detailed architectural features. The maintenance committee is monitoring the progress closely, working alongside the contractors to ensure that the work is carried out properly and respectfully. I'm grateful for their attention, time, and commitment.

While the church may currently look covered, dusty, and full of equipment, there is something deeply encouraging about seeing this work underway. Every covered statue, every wrapped column, every scaffold and machine is part of a larger effort to preserve the beauty and dignity of our church for the years ahead. This is not just maintenance; it is an act of care for a sacred home that has held the prayers, tears, celebrations, farewells, baptisms, weddings, school Masses, and Sunday gatherings of generations.

I'm very grateful for your patience and understanding during this period of disruption. I know that moving Masses and parish life into temporary spaces requires adjustment, but the spirit of the community has been generous and encouraging. The church building may be closed for renovation, but the life of the parish continues.

I will continue to provide updates as the work progresses. Please keep the renovation project, the workers, the maintenance, the fundraising, the finance committees, the volunteers and our parish community in your prayers. May this time of renewal deepen our gratitude for the gift of our church and strengthen our commitment to the faith and community it serves.



My Holiday (Fr Doan CP)

After Easter Sunday, I went home for my annual holiday. I brought a significant amount of chocolates and candies for my parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunties, and my nieces and nephews. In my village, when people hear that someone is coming back from Australia, the first thing they think about is chocolate. So I tried to bring as much as possible to share with everyone. When the Passionist Fathers saw my suitcase, they thought maybe I was selling chocolates in Vietnam to support my holiday expenses.

After nearly 9 hours flying from Sydney to Sài Gòn, and then another flight from Sài Gòn to Vinh, I finally arrived at my village, Quỳnh Thanh. My village is a small village in the middle of Việt Nam. The population is around 17,000 people, and everyone is Catholic.

People in my village mostly do farming, grow rice, go fishing, and catch birds. There is a funny saying in my village: "No bird can fly across the sky of Quỳnh Thanh." Because if they fly there, they will be caught.

Now I will talk a little about my family. My parents have 9 children (I am the fourth). I have a very big family. But now my parents live by themselves because everyone works or studies in different places.

I went home during the summer time in Việt Nam. The weather was very hot. The heat in Vietnam, especially in my hometown, is really terrible. We sweat all day and feel very tired because of the heat.

My real life during the holiday was very simple: from my bedroom to the kitchen, from the kitchen to the living room, then back to my bedroom again.

When I come home, I do not need to be a grown-up person anymore.

Everything becomes: "Mum, where are my clothes?" "Mum, where is the water?" "Mum, what are we eating today?" "Mum, what time is Mass?" "Mum, where is the TV remote?" "Mum, where is Dad?" "Mum... Mum... Mum..."

Really, when we stay close to our parents, we become children again. We feel peaceful, safe, and relaxed.

When I went back home, my mum also complained that I was too lazy to go to Mass. In my village, Mass is very early. Mass starts at 4am, so the church bell rings around 3:30am. In Australia, I often wake up at 6:30am.

I told my mum: "Please don't wake me up for Mass. Let me sleep more because I am on holiday."

Then my mum said: "Young priest but lazy!" Lord, please forgive me. But honestly, at 4am I am afraid I may fall asleep in the sanctuary.

However, I could not be lazy all the time. The time I went home was also the special Annual Eucharistic Adoration Week in my parish. Morning Mass, evening adoration, and prayers during the whole day. The church was always full of people coming in and out to pray and adore the Blessed Sacrament.

The parish priest also asked me to hear confessions every evening. Because of that, I heard many stories, much sadness, and many difficulties that people in my hometown are facing now.

One month at home gave me many happy memories with my parents, brothers, sisters, and my nephews and nieces. Seeing my parents happy, joyful, and living peacefully made me feel peaceful too.

For one month, I only ate, slept, visited people, went to the beach, and spoke only Vietnamese. I did not think too much. Now that I'm back to parish work, I realize I have forgotten a lot of English. And I am so lazy now.

Okay... time to start again.



NOMINATIONS FOR THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Nominations are now open for the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). The PPC is an important part of parish life. It assists the parish priest in listening to the needs of the community, discerning pastoral priorities, encouraging participation, and helping the parish remain faithful to its mission of worship, service, outreach, and community building.

Please take a moment to check the brochure at the back of the church for the criteria and nomination details. We invite parishioners to prayerfully consider whether they, or someone they know, may be called to serve the parish in this way.

Your voice, gifts, and commitment can help our parish continue to grow as a welcoming, faith-filled, and mission-focused community. (Membership Criteria and Nomination forms are available at the back of the hall and on parish website) Send the form to pp@stbrigid.org.au

PRELUDE CONCERT AND TALK TO WELCOME THE COURCELLE ORGAN TO ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Sunday, May 24th 2-3 pm
St Joseph's Catholic Church,
Cnr Bedford St and Station St,
Newtown, 2042

Organist: Pastor De Lasala OAM
Guest of Honour: Pamela Kay Ward OAM
Tickets: \$50

Parishioners/Students/Organ Society members: \$25
Children (under 16): \$15

All funds raised are donated to the organ installation cost. Come and support this worthy cause.

Please bring a plate for a light supper post-concert. There will be a photo opportunity with our esteemed musician/organist and the guest of honour.

ATTENTION

As the maintenance works are underway, 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 (Monday -Saturday) 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 (Vigil and Sunday).**

COME TO THE TABLE.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: SESSION 3 RESURRECTION

Join us for the third evening of our Adult Faith Formation series on **Monday, 18 May at 7:00 pm in the School Hall, presented by John McGrath.**

This Session will commence by noting that the Gospels depict the life of Jesus through the lens of his resurrection. We will explore what we 'resurrection people' believe about the Eucharist and how it sends us on mission to embrace all peoples, especially the poor.

All are warmly welcome.

16 MAY — 19 JULY
SYDNEY

THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
CEILING IS COMING
TO SYDNEY.

SISTINE CHAPEL
REVELATIONS
AN IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION



SISTINECHAPELSYDNEY.COM.AU



Sistine Chapel: Revelations Immersive Exhibition is a ticketed event open to the general public created with the express permission of the Vatican Museums.

LOCATION | ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL FORECOURT SYDNEY



ST BRIGID'S
MARRICKVILLE

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.

LITURGY CORNER: SYMBOLS IN THE LITURGY

In the liturgy, symbols are never “mere symbols.” They are part of the deep language of faith, a language that speaks not only to the mind, but also to the heart, the body, the memory, and the soul. Human beings are symbolic by nature. We communicate who we are through words, gestures, actions, gifts, silence, and presence. A handshake, a tear, a candle lit in prayer, a meal shared at the table, these simple things often carry more meaning than many words. In the same way, the Church’s liturgy uses visible and ordinary things to open us to invisible and extraordinary grace.

Bread, wine, water, oil, light, fire, music, colour, silence, movement, the altar, the ambo, the priest’s chair, sacred vessels, vestments, candles, and the church building itself all speak beyond themselves. They are not decorations or empty customs. They draw us into the mystery of God’s presence among us. In the Eucharist especially, the ordinary gifts of bread and wine are taken up into the saving action of Christ. Through the words and actions Jesus gave us, taking, blessing, breaking, and giving, the risen Lord continues to give himself to his people. When we become more attentive to the symbols of the Mass, we begin to participate more deeply. We no longer see the liturgy as something simply performed in front of us, but as a sacred action into which we are drawn. Symbols help us recognise that God comes to us through the humble, the visible, and the familiar, and transforms them into signs of divine life. The Mass, then, becomes not just something we attend, but something that shapes us, nourishes us, and sends us out as the Body of Christ.



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.

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

A young member (female) of our parish community is currently looking for suitable accommodation in the local area. If you know of a room, granny flat, shared accommodation, or rental opportunity available nearby, please contact the Parish Office. Any assistance or leads would be greatly appreciated. Contact: parish@stbrigid.org.au

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

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



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Recently Deceased:

Jacqueline Simpson

Anniversary of Death for: Francis Dunlea, Leslie Mole, Felicia Mandile, Gion Nguyen Duy Mao, Joseph O'Brien, Kathleen Fountain, Ann Marie Forkin, Nadia Isgro, Santo D'Arrigo, Alan William James, Ilias Oesman, Clare Flanagan, Rita Therese Nicholas, Anna Mat Thi Nguyen, Franciscis Kurniawan, Dr Anton Arulanandam.

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, Llyan McAusland, Margaret Barrett, 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, Joseph Bianchini, Joseph Farah, Josephine Farah, Wendy Lamb.



Enrol Now



02 9558 2888



casimirmarrickville.syd.catholic.edu.au

MASS TEXTS: The ASCENSION of the LORD

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven.

Response: Psalm

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mt 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

PARISH CALENDAR FOR MAY 2026

Sun 17	2pm	Senior's Group
Mon 18	7pm	1st Holy Communion prep & adult faith formation session in School
Tue 19	7pm	Liturgy Meeting
Wed 20	7pm	RCIA (final Session)
Sun 24		Pentacost
	7pm	Youth

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
		16-17 May	23-24 May	16-17 May	23-24 May	16-17 May	
Saturday 5pm (Vigil)	C L1 L2	Paul C Elizabeth B Micheal P	Michael H Chihn Q Jim Y	Vinh N Carole P Leila W Thu H	Vinh N Gabrielle B Kalelia F George K	Vinh N Ben, Augustine	Jim Y. Michael P.
Sunday 8am	C L1 L2	Emma K Estehr G John S	Heather K Joanna V Stephen O	Stephen O Marget K Dennis M	Joanna V John S Rebecca B	Dennis M. Luca G Antonella G Aidan S	Peter H. Maria M.
Sunday 10:30am	C L1 L2	Susan K Robert G Italian	Aiden K PeterJ Italian	Anthony N Jenny O Susan K Tony H	Anthony N John M Tony C Diana P	Albert N Anthony N Josh K	Tony C Julian P
Sunday 6pm	C L1 L2	Rania R Laura P Charlene E	Landon O Charisse E Kevin B	Kevin B Charlene E Alexis H	Arthur K Rex H 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.