



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.



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8 February 2026 – 5th 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.

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.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

DONATIONS & PAYMENTS
GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED
VIA OUR WEBSITE:
stbrigid.org.au/donations/

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

It is good to be back. Thank you sincerely for your prayers and support. This holiday was different, not dramatically so on the surface, yet profoundly so in ways that quietly shaped every moment. It was my first holiday without Mum. I had long known that one day I would return home and miss seeing someone I had seen the previous year, including her. But there is a vast difference between anticipating absence and actually living inside it.



There is a realisation that slowly unfolds in grief: home is built of people, but sometimes home becomes a person. And when that person is gone, everything familiar remains, yet everything feels altered. The house still stands. The roads still lead to the same places. The routines continue. But presence, that unseen thread that quietly held everything together, is no longer there. You begin to understand that love does not disappear with death, but it changes shape. It becomes memory, silence, longing, and gratitude all at once.

I landed early morning on the 31st of December, and my older sister came to pick me up. For as long as I can remember, Mum had always insisted on sending food to the airport. This time, there was none. My sister wanted to continue the tradition, but I gently asked her not to. Some gestures carry a sacredness because they belong to one particular heart. Trying to recreate them sometimes only reminds us of their irreplaceable origin, not sure how long I can convince my sister not to.

Later that very day, as a family, we began the New Year with a twelve-hour drive to one of Mum's favourite pilgrimage places, the shrine of Our Lady of Velankanni. In the days that followed, we visited several churches she loved and frequented. Those journeys became more than visits; they became acts of remembrance. Stories surfaced easily. Laughter returned unexpectedly. At times, silence spoke more honestly than words. Walking through places she prayed in felt like tracing the quiet footprints of her faith. It was strangely comforting to realise that love leaves imprints that even death cannot erase.

For the first time in many years, I was home during the South Indian winter, which, truthfully, felt more like an enthusiastic summer. This meant that the time I could spend with my nephews and nieces was limited because school and university were in session. Yet grace found its way in through small windows of time. They were home for New Year's break on my arrival for the first 5 days and later had a five-day break for a regional festival, which allowed us to plan a five-day road trip together, our usual holiday tradition (nephews couldn't make it).

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

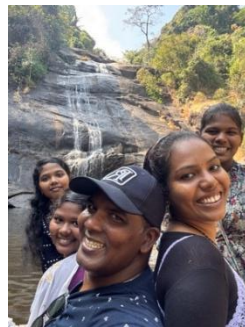
9558 6926

Casimir High School

9558 2888

That trip became one of the most life-giving parts of the holiday. My nieces, with their natural creativity and deep love for dance, persuaded me to participate in making a few reels. Some of you may have witnessed those dancing attempts. I can only say with confidence that pastoral ministry does not adequately prepare one for choreography! Thankfully, my nieces are not on social media, which allows me to remain the sole record holder of family embarrassment.

The days were filled with adventure hikes, long conversations late into the night, restful afternoons by the pool, generous meals, excessive sugar, and the occasional and unsuccessful attempt to balance school assignments with holiday freedom.



One day on the trip, my nieces decided we would stay at the resort, no going out; they would cook all meals themselves, and enjoy a quiet day together. With great confidence, they promised breakfast at 9:00 am and asked me very seriously what time I wished to be served. I waited... patiently... prayerfully... until the first chef emerged from her bedroom at 11:45 am. At that point, I recognised the day's culinary timeline would require divine intervention. By then, I exercised strong pastoral leadership and ordered takeaway.

In their enthusiasm, their confidence, and even in their disorganised hospitality, those days, I saw something beautiful. I realised how quickly my nieces have grown. Their conversations have shifted from cartoons and school gossip to life choices, social realities, relationships, dreams, and anxieties about the world, and hopes they carry quietly within themselves. That they are no longer children. They are becoming thoughtful, compassionate, strong young women. Watching that transition filled me with profound pride and an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the privilege of witnessing their becoming.

With Mum's absence, another unexpected dimension of family life has surfaced, the affectionate yet competitive love of siblings deciding who claims my time, presence, and accommodation. It has become a delicate diplomatic exercise, filled with humour, negotiation, and sincere affection. It is, in truth, a beautiful problem to have. It reminds me that love multiplies even as it rearranges itself after loss. Though I must admit I am not entirely confident about my survival strategy for future holidays!

This holiday taught me again that grief does not simply mean missing someone; grief is also the slow learning of how to carry them differently. Death does not end relationships; it transforms them. Love continues, not in visible conversations or shared meals, but in memories that guide decisions, in values that shape our choices, and in quiet moments when we instinctively seek the wisdom of those who formed us.

I return deeply grateful; grateful to my family, grateful for the gift of memory, grateful for the grace hidden within both laughter and tears. I am especially grateful to the parish team who carried responsibilities so generously during my absence, to the Passionist community for their unwavering support, and to all of you for your prayers and encouragement.

Life continues to teach us that presence is fragile, time is precious, and love is the only thing that truly endures. We do not move on from those we love; we move forward carrying them in ways that shape who we are becoming.



As we step into this new year, I do so with quiet hope, trusting that God continues to walk with us through presence and absence, through life and death, through endings that mysteriously become new beginnings.

May God continue to bless us, sustain us, and gently hold us all in God's faithful love.

PARISH DAY 2026

Next Sunday, we will come together to celebrate Parish Day as we honour the Feast of St Brigid, a beautiful reminder of faith, hospitality, and community, values that truly reflect who we are as a parish family. The day will begin with Mass at 10.30 am, followed by food, cultural entertainment, and time to simply enjoy one another's company. Our parish is blessed with such a rich multicultural spirit, and Parish Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate that diversity and the joy it brings to our community. There will also be plenty of fun for families and children, with activities and a joyful atmosphere for all ages to enjoy. Please come along, bring your family, invite a friend, and soak in the joy, laughter, and togetherness of the day. Your presence is what makes our parish home.

Looking forward to celebrating with you all.

LITURGY CORNER

The **Sign of Peace** at Mass is more than a simple greeting. It is a sacred moment that prepares our hearts to receive Holy Communion. Before approaching the altar, we are reminded that receiving Christ calls us to live in reconciliation, unity, and love with one another. This gesture reflects Jesus' teaching that true worship is connected to our relationships with others. The Eucharist unites us not only with Christ but also with each other as one community of faith. When we offer peace, we express our willingness to let go of division and to become instruments of Christ's peace in our families, parish, and daily lives.

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PROCESS

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

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The second session of Adult Faith Formation will be at 7pm on Monday 02-03-26 in the School Hall. Everyone welcome! Robert will be presenting Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te: ('I Have Loved You')* To All Christians, On Love for the Poor, issued on 04-10-25, the Feast of Francis of Assisi. Pope Leo affirms that in the call to recognize Christ 'in the poor and the suffering, we see revealed the very heart of Christ, his deepest feelings and choices, which every saint seeks to imitate.'

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Recently Deceased: Giuseppe Trovato.

Anniversary of Death for: John Mahony, Gloria Randazzo, Linda El Tabar, Leonard James Etham Macaig, Teresa Favorito Mazzeo, Patricia Murray, Conatta Schembri, Maria Lieu Thi Mai, Donald Harkness, Marianna Tesoriero, Thomas Patrick Mahony, Rory Hughes,

Those Carrying Severe Illness: James Misi, Michael Chrissimos, 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, Phillip Mithen, Catherine Vella, Angela Augerinos, Colin Constantinou, Lilyan McAusland, George Baraket, Richard Hudson, Agnes Sonju Wong.

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

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Is 58:7-10

Your light will shine like the dawn.

Response: Ps 111:4-9

A light rises in the darkness for the upright

Second Reading: 1 Cor 2:1-5

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel: 5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

PARISH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Mon 9	St Frances of Rome	
	7pm	Adult Faith Formn. meet in PC
Wed 11	World Day of the Sick	
	7pm	Sbfd Practice with Fr Doan in Annexe
	7pm	RCIA
Fri 13	Commemoration of the Passion	
Sat 14	Sts Cyril & Methodius	
Sun 15	Intern'l Day to Combat Islamophobia	
	St Brigid's Parish Community Feast Day <i>There will be no 6pm Mass on this day</i>	
Mon 16	7pm	Russian Orthodox sacred Choral Music
Tue 17	7pm	First Reconciliation Parent Information Night
Wed 18	Ash Wednesday Mass times: 6.45am, 9am, 7pm	
Fri 20	Day of Prayer and Penance for Victims of Abuse & Violence	
Sat 21	Intn'l Mother Language Day	
Sun 22	Chair of St Peter	
	2pm	Seniors Group meet in PC
	7pm	Parish Youth Group in Hall
Mon 23	7pm	Adult Faith Formation for first Reconciliation parents in Primary School. Session 1

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
		7 / 8 Feb	14 / 15 Feb	31 Jan / 1 Feb	14 / 15 Feb	This weekend	
Saturday 5pm (Vigil)	C L1 L2	Aloysia D Michael H Jim Y	Gabrielle B Jan R Thu T	Vinh N Paul C Ofa T Michael P	Vin N Kelelia F Carole P Leila W	Vinh N Belatchew	Jim Y. Michael P.
Sunday 8am	C L1 L2	Libby D Esther G Joseph F	Stephen O John S Joanna V	John S Rebecca B Mary L	Margaret K Dennis M Joseph F	Dennis M. Luca G Antonella G Aidan S	Peter H. Maria M.
Sunday 10:30am	C L1 L2	Susan K Angie C Italian	Sue King Casimir College St Brigid's Primary School	Anthony N Peter J Joanne M Frank C	Anthony N Bernadette S Jenny O John M	Albert N Anthony N Josh K	Tony C Julian P
Sunday 6pm	C L1 L2	Landon O Charisse E Rex H	Charisse E Kevin B Landon O	Kevin B Charlene E Alexis H	Rex H Lenore D Charlie E	Tony H, Janna Charlene E Celina E Alexis H.	Arthur K Jackie K