



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

Third Sunday of Lent - 8 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

Safeguarding Officer

Jim Yeo

Seniors' Group

John Freeman & Peggy Blackall

Youth Group

Jenny Ryan-Cook

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

As we enter the Third Week of Lent, the Gospel leads us to a very human and very revealing moment by a well in Samaria. The theme for us is *"The Leper Moment: crossing Divides."* The story of the Woman at the Well (John 4:5–42) is not just about thirst and water. It is about barriers quietly falling apart. In a few simple sentences, Jesus crosses boundaries that most people of his time would never have dared to cross. The divisions were real and deeply rooted. Jews and Samaritans avoided each other for centuries because of historical conflict and religious differences. Men rarely spoke publicly with women they did not know. And this particular woman carried the weight of moral suspicion within her own community. Yet Jesus sits at the well and simply begins a conversation. Just a request: "Give me a drink."

Sometimes the most powerful change begins with something that simple.

Our world today is not so different. The divisions may have different names, but they are just as real. Political opinions divide families. Cultural identities create suspicion. Social media amplifies disagreements until people who once shared meals now avoid conversations. Entire groups are labelled and judged before a single word is spoken. The fear of "the other" grows quietly. We become comfortable within circles that think like us, vote like us, speak like us, and believe like us. Polarisation has become one of the defining features of our time.

Even in ordinary life we notice it. Neighbours live side by side without truly knowing one another. In workplaces where conversations are carefully avoided to prevent disagreement. In families where difficult topics are quietly buried at the dinner table. The instinct to protect ourselves from difference often becomes stronger than the desire to understand one another. The Gospel challenges that instinct.

Jesus does not begin with correction; he begins with connection. He does not start with her past; he begins with her thirst. In doing so, he restores something deeper than reputation. He restores dignity. The woman who came alone to avoid others becomes the one who runs back to the town saying, "Come and see." The person once avoided becomes the first missionary to her people.

This movement from distance to encounter echoes a powerful moment in the life of Francis of Assisi. Francis often spoke of his own "leper moment." Before his conversion, the sight of lepers filled him with fear. But one day he dismounted from his horse,



approached a leper, and embraced him. What once felt bitter suddenly became sweet. That embrace changed his life. Years later, Francis crossed another divide. During the Crusades, when hostility between Christians and Muslims was fierce, he crossed battle lines to meet the Sultan. Instead of confrontation, there was conversation. Instead of suspicion, there was respect. Francis did not end the conflict, but he showed that another way was possible.

This Sunday, we will place a rough stone in the sanctuary with a white cloth gently draped over part of it. The stone represents hardness, the divisions we build between ourselves and others. The cloth represents dignity and compassion, the gentle covering that restores humanity where judgment once stood. The stone remains, because divisions in the world are real. But the cloth reminds us that compassion can soften what once felt immovable.

Every one of us encounters “stone moments” in life. Moments when misunderstanding, prejudice, or hurt harden our hearts. But the Gospel invites us toward “leper moments,” those surprising moments when we choose to step beyond fear and meet another person with openness.

Often, it begins in small ways: listening to someone we once judged too quickly, offering kindness to someone who feels excluded, choosing curiosity over suspicion. The woman at the well begins the day alone and unnoticed. By the end of the story, she becomes a bridge between communities. Jesus did not erase her past. He revealed her worth. That is often how grace works. It does not deny the divisions of the world, but it refuses to let them define our future.

This week, perhaps we pay attention to the “wells” in our own lives, those ordinary places where conversations happen: the kitchen table, the workplace corridor, the parish gathering, the school gate. They may seem simple, but they can become sacred spaces of encounter.

Because when compassion drapes itself over the hard stones of our world, something unexpected begins to happen. The stranger becomes a neighbour. The outsider becomes a messenger. And the place of division becomes the well where living water is shared.

MINISTERS IN-SERVICE

To all Acolytes, Lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: You are invited to our **In-Service Session on Saturday 14 March 2026**. The session will be held in Shrubland Hall, beginning at 9:30am and concluding at 1:30pm. This is a valuable opportunity for formation, renewal, and strengthening our shared ministry. Please don't miss this special occasion.

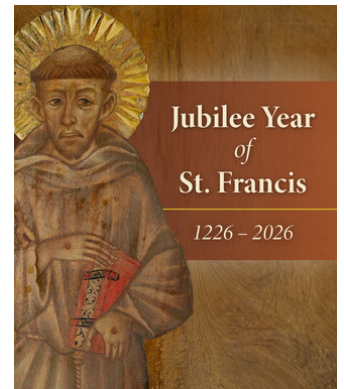


RCIA

This weekend, our parish will celebrate the First Scrutiny with those preparing to enter more deeply into the life of the Church. It is a special moment in the RCIA journey, a time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual strengthening as they continue their preparation for the Easter Sacraments. We invite the parish community to keep our **Elect and Candidates** in your prayers: **Alex Lim, Joshua Milligan, Lasma Laurencia, Lucy Park, Martina Malek, Michael Gurung, Keith Petersen, and Lola Manzi**. As they take this important step in their faith journey, may they feel the support, encouragement, and prayerful accompaniment of our whole parish community. Let us continue to walk with them as they draw closer to Easter and the joy of new life in Christ.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Last Monday, Dr Robert Gascoigne guided us through the heart of Pope Leo's *Dilexi Te*, helping us appreciate more deeply the life of our Holy Father and the influences that shaped his concern for the poor. His reflection reminded us that poverty is not always simple or visible; it can be complex, and sometimes even sustained by social structures around us. The evening left many of us reflecting on our own role and responsibility as Catholics in responding to the needs of the poor. This week, on Monday, 9th March at 7 pm in St Brigid's School Hall, our series continues. In this Special Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo is calling us to build an unarmed and disarming peace in the midst of a fractured world. Fr Kevin Dance and Sr Vivienne Goldstein will help us to explore simple ways to respond. Come along and bring your friends.



CHOIR PRACTICE

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

PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising appeal - one of the largest in the country.



This Lent, you're invited to join thousands across the country as we stand together in hope and take action for a more just world.

Your support through Project Compassion helps transform lives - bringing clean water, education, healthcare and opportunities to communities facing poverty and injustice.

LENT 2026

@ ST. BRIGID'S PARISH MARRICKVILLE

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Monday 23rd February
Monday 2nd March
Monday 9th March
Monday 16th March

7:00 PM @ The Primary School Hall

LENTEN REFLECTION NIGHTS

Tuesday 17th February
Tuesday 24th February
Tuesday 3rd March
Tuesday 10th March
Tuesday 17th March
Tuesday 24th March



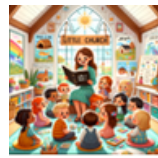
7:00 PM @ The Parish Office

STATION OF THE CROSS

Friday 20th February
Friday 27th February
Friday 6th March
Friday 13th March
Friday 20th March
Friday 27th March

All Are Welcome

7:00 PM @ The St. Brigid's Church



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.

PIETY STORE

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

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



galabid.com/stbrigidlegacy

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Recently Deceased: Edward Thomas, Margaret O'Malley, Raffaele Sanfedele, Terence Williams.

Anniversary of Death for: Jose Louis Freitas, Antonio Coelho, Herdert John Britter, Marie Naoum, Kathleen Wenham, George Calleja, Artemia Spong, Mar Walsh, Joan Jackson, Judith Ann Bevan, Maria Josefina Vitteri De Garcia, Simon Doueihy, Ken Thorne, Patricia O'Brien, Melita Grech, Mrs Resham Barkat, Raymond Chaina, Giuseppe Consalvi.

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, Helen Eid, Huyen Nguyen, James Misi, John Love, Laurice Sassine, Leonardo, Sofi, Maria Caccamo, Lidia Obeid, Lilyan McAusland, Lina Massi, Margaret Barry, Mary Angela Thomas, Michael Chrissimos, Michael Natoloczny, Paul Murphy, Pauline Zerbo, Penelope Lincoln, Peter Martin, Phillip Mithen, Richard Hudson, Rosie Pazman, Rudi Presern, 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), Wendy Lamb.



Little Sisters of the Poor

*"Take courage,
I have overcome the world"*

(John 16:33)

A retreat for young Catholic women
seeking discernment guided by
Fr. Joachim Rego, Passionist



When:

Friday 20th (5:00pm) to Sunday 22nd March 2026
(2:00pm)



Where:

Little Sisters of the Poor
Mount St Joseph's Home
70 Market Street, Randwick NSW 2031



Who:

Catholic single women aged 18-35



Cost:

By donation

For more information & to register, contact:

Sr Velonika

vocations.syd@lsp.org.au | 0434 622 930

Registration essential

MASS TEXTS: 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Ex 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

Response: Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Jn 4:5-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

PARISH CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2026

Mon 9	7pm	First Reconciliation Session 3 in School Hall
	7pm	Adult Faith Formation in School Hall
Tue 10	7pm	Lenten Reflection in PC
Wed 11	7pm	RCIA
Thu 12	7pm	Triduum Choir practice
Fri 13	7pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat 14	9.30am	Ministers in-service in Hall
Sun 15	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
	2pm	Seniors Group in PC

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		
		7 / 8 Mar	14 / 15 Mar	This weekend			
Saturday 5pm (Vigil)	C L1 L2	Michael H Kelelia F Ofa T	Jan R Paul C Leila W	Vinh N Gabrielle B Carole P Leila W	Vinh N Michael H Kelelia F Elizabeth B	Vinh N Belatchew	Jim Y. Michael P.
Sunday 8am	C L1 L2	John S Joanna V Esther G	Mary L Joseph F John S	Mary L Stephen O Joseph F	Joanna V Rebecca B Stephen L	Dennis M. Luca G Antonella G Aidan S	Peter H. Maria M.
Sunday 10:30am	C L1 L2	Dana P Diana P Italian	Susan K Mely S Italian	Anthony N Albert N Peter J Joanne M	Anthony N Frank C Bernadette S Jenny O	Albert N Anthony N Josh K	Tony C Julian P
Sunday 6pm	C L1 L2	Oscar P Lenore D Laura P	Lenore D Charlie E Charlene E	Charlie E Rex H Kevin B	Arthur K Alexis H Rex H	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.