



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

First Sunday of Lent - 22 February 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 Parishioners and Friends,

This year for Lent, we embrace the overarching theme: **“Walking the Way of St Francis of Assisi in a Restless World.”** It is not simply a beautiful phrase. It is deeply significant for us at this moment in history. Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed 2026 as a special **Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi**, running from 10 January, 2026, to 10 January, 2027. This year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis (1226–2026). Eight centuries later, the Church is invited to pause, remember, and rediscover the radical simplicity, courage, and freedom of this extraordinary saint.

So, our Lenten theme is not accidental. It flows naturally from the wider journey of the Church. As we move toward this Jubilee Year of St Francis, we begin by walking his path, not in nostalgia, but in relevance.

Because we too live in a restless world. It is fast. It is noisy. It is anxious. It constantly measures worth by productivity, success, followers, possessions, influence, and control. Into that restlessness, we deliberately choose to walk with St Francis, a man who stepped away from wealth, status, and false security, and discovered something far greater: freedom in God.

St Francis lived in a restless society, too. Yet instead of being swallowed by it, he allowed God to rebuild him from within. When he heard the words, “Rebuild my Church,” he first repaired broken stones. Later, he realised God was speaking about something deeper, rebuilding hearts.

That is why the sacred space we have created this Lent speaks so powerfully. The half-built curved wall reminds us that the Church, and our own lives, are still under construction. We are unfinished. Becoming. Growing. The dry branch standing at the centre may appear lifeless, yet it stands upright, waiting. It whispers hope: what seems barren can still bloom. God is not finished with us.

Over the course of the Lenten season, we will focus on a specific theme related to the life of St Francis and reflect on its relevance to our context. For the first week of Lent, the theme is **“Begin Again, Freedom from False Security.”**

The Gospel for this Sunday is Jesus in the desert. In the wilderness, Jesus faces three temptations. Beneath each temptation lies the same issue: security. Turn stones into bread: secure your needs.



Throw yourself down: secure your identity. Bow down: secure your power. They sound ancient, but they are painfully modern. Consumerism tells us we are what we own. Status anxiety tells us we are what others think of us. Fear of losing control tells us everything depends on us. We accumulate. We compare. We manage. We cling. Yet in the desert, Jesus refuses false security. He chooses trust. He chooses dependence on the Father. And again, St Francis stands beside us. When he removed his rich garments in the public square and handed them back to his father, he was not staging a dramatic protest. He was stepping into freedom. He was saying, "My security is not in possessions, reputation, or control. My security is in God."

This week, during the liturgy, you will notice two simple symbols, a cloak and a mirror, brought forth to be placed at the sacred space. The cloak represents renunciation. It asks quietly: What am I clinging to for security? What defines my worth? What am I afraid to lose?

The mirror is more confronting. Lent is not about examining others. It is about examining ourselves. The mirror asks: Where has consumerism shaped my heart? Where do I seek approval more than truth? Where does fear quietly govern my decisions?

"Begin again" does not mean we have failed. It means we are willing to be honest. God did not lead Jesus into the desert to defeat Him, but to reveal what truly sustained Him. The Spirit leads us there too, not to shame us, but to free us.

As we walk the Jubilee Year marking 800 years since St Francis' death, perhaps the most fitting tribute is not celebration alone, but imitation. Not admiration from a distance, but courage in our own lives.

In a restless world that tells us to secure everything, Lent invites us to loosen our grip. In a culture that tells us to prove ourselves, the desert invites us to trust. In a society obsessed with control, Jesus shows us surrender. The unfinished wall reminds us: we are still being rebuilt. The dry branch reminds us: life can emerge from what seems lifeless. The cloak invites us to let go. The mirror invites us to look within.

And perhaps this first week of Lent is simply about this quiet courage: to step into the desert with Jesus, to walk with St Francis, to release false security, and to begin again.

LENT 2026 @ ST BRIGID PARISH

Lent is not simply a season we observe; it is a journey we walk together. As a parish community, St Brigid's offers you spaces to pause, reflect, pray, and grow during these forty days. Whether through our **Adult Faith Formation sessions (Monday nights at 7 pm in Primary school hall)**, the **weekly Lenten Reflection Nights (Tuesday nights at 7 pm in the parish office)**, or the **Stations of the Cross (Friday Nights at 7 pm in the Church)**, there are opportunities for every heart to

reconnect with God and with one another. In a world that rarely slows down, Lent invites us to be intentional, to make room for silence, for learning, for repentance, for hope. These gatherings are not programs to attend, but moments of grace to experience. Come and deepen your faith. Come and bring your questions. Come and walk with your parish community. Come as you are. May this Lenten season be a time of renewal for our parish, strengthening our families, healing our hearts, and drawing us closer to Christ. All are truly welcome.

OUR ELECT - EASTER 2026

With great joy, we share that eight of our sisters and brothers, catechumens and candidates, will be received into the Church this coming Easter.

Over many months, they have listened to the Word, asked honest questions, shared their stories, and walked faithfully with our RCIA team and parish community. What began as curiosity or longing has now become commitment and trust in Christ and His Church.

This weekend marks a significant milestone in their journey. At the Cathedral, they will take part in the Rite of Election, a sacred moment when the Church formally recognises their desire and readiness to enter fully into the life of faith. It is called "Election" because it reminds us that before we choose God, God has first chosen us.

As they now enter the final phase of preparation, known as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, we ask you to hold them close in your prayers. These coming weeks are not simply about learning more, but about deepening conversion of heart.

May they feel supported by our parish family. May they experience peace and courage. May the Holy Spirit strengthen them as they prepare to receive the Sacraments at Easter.

Let us remember, their journey renews our own. Please keep our eight elect especially in your prayers this week.

A HEARTFELT NOTE OF GRATITUDE

What a beautiful day of grace it was for our parish! Irrespective of the weather, we had a truly stunning parish day. The clouds may have hovered, the ground may have been a little damp, but nothing could dampen the spirit, joy, and unity that filled our community. The warmth of our people far outshone any uncertainty in the sky.





To the cultural Ministry team: thank you. Your planning, countless emails, phone calls, meetings, setting up, packing down, and attention to the smallest details did not go unnoticed. What people saw was a seamless, joyful celebration. What I saw was dedication, sacrifice, and deep love for our parish.

To our Liturgy Team: thank you for grounding the entire day in prayer and reverence. You reminded us that before the food, the music, and the festivities, we gather first at the altar. Your preparation helped us begin the day centred on Christ.



To our Parish Choir: thank you for lifting our hearts through song. Your music added beauty, depth, and joy to our celebration. You helped us pray twice.

To all our volunteers: you are the heartbeat of St Brigid's.

A special word of appreciation to the different ethnic communities, Tongan, Filipino, Lebanese, Italian, Vietnamese, Burmese, Colombian, and South American, who performed with such pride and generosity. Your cultural dances, music, and presence reminded us that our parish is a living mosaic of nations, languages, and stories, yet one family in Christ. Thank you to those who cooked, prepared, and served food so generously. Through your hands, hospitality became ministry. Thank you to all who donated food, money, resources or service.

A sweet thank you to Mr & Mrs Freeze for the refreshing natural sorbet, a small but delightful touch that brought smiles to many faces, young and old alike!

To our Parish Youth, your energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to serve give us hope for the future. You bring life wherever you go.



To Sacred Union, thank you for standing in support, helping wherever needed, especially by shouldering children's activities and showing that young families are deeply woven into the fabric of our parish life. To both our schools for their presence, participation and energy they brought to the day.



To Little Church, thank you for ensuring our youngest members felt included, joyful, and, most importantly, entertained. The Church grows strong when children feel at home.

And finally, to every single person who stayed, participated, and travelled from near and far to be part of the day, thank you. Your presence mattered. Community is not built by organisers alone; it is built by people who show up, who linger, who share a meal, who watch the performances, who laugh together. You made the day what it was.



Events like these do not just "happen." They are built by hearts that care. They are sustained by people who give, not because they have to, but because they love this community. Thank you for reminding us that St Brigid's is not simply a place we attend... it is a family we belong to.

With deep gratitude and pride.
Fr Giltus





**St. Brigid's
Parish
Community
Feast Day
2026**



LITURGY CORNER

LENT

Lent is the Church's sacred season of preparation for Easter, rooted in the significance of 40 in the scripture. Historically, Lent emerged in the early Church as a period of intense preparation for catechumens who would be baptised at the Easter Vigil. Gradually, it became a season for the entire Christian community to undertake renewal and reconciliation. Theologically, it is a time of conversion, a return to God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It calls us to repentance, renews our baptismal identity, and draws us more deeply into the mystery of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The liturgy during Lent reflects this spirit of simplicity and penitence. The colour violet signifies repentance and preparation. The Gloria and Alleluia are omitted, creating a more restrained and reflective tone. Music is simpler, floral decorations are minimal, and the focus is placed on Scripture, prayer, and the call to conversion. In all these ways, Lent invites us to slow down, reflect deeply, and journey together toward the joy of Easter.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Our Parish Adult Faith Formation Team warmly invites you to the opening session of our 4-part formation series, beginning on **Monday, 23rd February at 7 pm** in the Primary School Hall. The theme for our first session is: *Reconciliation – Sacrament of Grace and Peace*. We are honoured that our guest speaker for this session will be Bridget Sakr, mother of 11-year-old Veronique Sakr, who tragically died alongside her three cousins when a car mounted the kerb in Oatlands. In the face of heartbreaking loss, Bridget's witness of faith and forgiveness moved our nation. Her story speaks profoundly to the heart of reconciliation, not simply as a ritual, but as a grace-filled encounter that brings peace where there is pain, healing where there is hurt, and hope where there seems to be none. This session will help us reflect more deeply on Reconciliation as God's gift of mercy, a place where burdens are lifted, relationships are restored, and hearts are made new. All are warmly invited. Come and join us for what promises to be a powerful and grace-filled evening.

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.

Kindly RSVP by 1 March.

For confirmation or enquiries, please contact the Parish Office or speak with any member of the Parish Team.



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.

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. The parish Adult Faith Formation team will lead the reflections for parents at all sessions.

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: Maria Aalete Da Silva Coelho, Carlito Sanmocte, Retnabai Mathias.

Anniversary of Death for: Francisco Guevara, Bartolomeo DeBono, Maria Kieu Thi Bui, Austin Lowe, James Raby, Maree Blanchard, Alice El Tabar, .

Those Carrying Severe Illness: James Misi, Michael Chrissimos, Peter Martin, Belinda Camacho, Bev Harrington, Lina Massi, Margaret Barry, Rosie Pazman, Tim Jude Thomas, 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, Pauline Zerbo.

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

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

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



All Are Welcome

200 LIVINGSTONE ROAD,
MARRICKVILLE, 2204



Open Day Invitation 2026

Newman Selective Symposium

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY | 3.00PM TO 7.00PM

Principal Address at 4.30pm

Applications are available at casimirmarrickville.syd.catholic.edu.au
or contact our enrolment registrar on 02 9558 2888

MASS TEXTS: 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7
Creation of our first parents, and sin.

Response: Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17
Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading: Rom 5:12-19
Where sin increased, there grace abounded
all the more.

Gospel Acclamation:
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word
that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Mt 4:1-11
Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

PARISH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Mon 23	7pm	First Reconciliation Session 1 in School Hall
	7pm	Adult Faith Formation in School Hall
Tue 24	7pm	Lenten Reflection in PC
Wed 25	7pm	RCIA
Fri 27	St Gabriel Possenti CP	
	7pm	Stations of the Cross
Sun 1 March	10am	Baptism preparation in Hall
	10.30am	Presentation of Candidates for first Reconciliation

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
		21 / 22 Feb	28 Feb / 1 Mar	This weekend	
Saturday 5pm (Vigil)	C L1 L2 Elizabeth B Michael H Lina M	Aloysia S Paul C Laura N	Vinh N Gabrielle B Thu T Ofa T	Vinh N Michael H Michael P Thu H	Vinh N Belatchew Jim Y. Michael P.
Sunday 8am	C L1 L2 Joseph F Libby D Marco G	Mary L Stephen O Libby D	Stephen O Joanna V John S	Rebecca B Margaret K Dennis M	Dennis M. Luca G Antonella G Aidan S Peter H. Maria M.
Sunday 10:30am	C L1 L2 Aiden K Bernadette S Italian	Bernadette S Albert N Italian	Anthony N Tony C Diana P Susan K	Anthony N Tony H Angie C Bernadette Y	Albert N Anthony N Josh K Tony C Julian P
Sunday 6pm	C L1 L2 Arthur K Charlene E Charlie E	Charlie E Rex H Oscar P	Lina E Kevin B Charlene E	Arthur K Alexis 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.