



Bridie

St. Brigid's Parish Community, Coogee



Cared for by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

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at a glance 

Today's Readings

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 For the whole of his life. Samuel shall be lent to the Lord
1 John 3:1-2,21-24 He calls you his children and that is what you are
Luke 2:41-52 His parents found him in the temple sitting among the learned men, listening to them



The Holy Family
Year C
29th/30th
December 2018

In a nutshell

Mary, Joseph and Jesus go to Jerusalem for the Passover festival.

Jesus has reached adolescence, and is awakening to and maturing in his religious experience.

Perhaps it is reassuring for parents of teenagers to know that Jesus caused anxiety to Mary and Joseph.

He was truly human and they did not understand him! Yet he returned and lived under their authority.

“ They found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions.”

In today's Gospel, Mary and Joseph are frantically looking for Jesus, who seems to have disappeared. They have been to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover but on their return journey they notice that he is no longer with them. They discover him in the Temple talking to the elders, asking them questions and listening to them. Naturally his parents are relieved. Jesus doesn't really understand why they should have been worried. It might seem a strange activity to have stayed in the Temple with a group of much older people talking about matters of religion and faith but, at twelve, Jesus is in that limited place in life when young people begin to emerge from being a child and start to move towards adulthood. It is a stage in life when the deeper questions of life are significant. Who am I? Who made me? Who am I meant to be? In staying behind, Jesus has given himself the space to ponder on these questions and seek the wisdom of those who can help him to explore them, guide him and allow him to grow more deeply in his relationship with God.

At the heart of spirituality is this desire within the human person to satisfy a longing. For many people, material possessions have lost their capacity to meet that need. People are more interested in having experiences. Helicopter trips, afternoon cream teas, even a walking trip with an alpaca are just some of the many experiences on offer, often given in place of a material gift. Common to all these experiences is that they involve sharing time with other people. They provide people with memories which can last for ever and they enable relationships to deepen.

Christian spirituality takes a different form. At its heart lies a process of spiritual formation which enables Christians to live an authentic and fulfilled life in the present world. As people of faith we are constantly being called into a deeper relationship with god. We respond to this by modelling our lives on Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us. It sounds easy but, when we are engaged in busy and complex lives, it can be challenging to give it the time and commitment it requires. What today's gospel shows us it that we do not need to do this alone. Jesus sought the help of the elders, but where do we go? Going to Mass is on of the most obvious places where we encounter God. When we gather on a Sunday and listen to the word of God, we can support one another in our desire to respond.

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Raise your voices

Entrance antiphon: The shepherds hastened to Bethlehem, where they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Response to the psalm: How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

<p>Readers</p> <p>Saturday Vigil December 29th: Janet Neenan (Coordinator) Anne-Marie Snelling</p> <p>Sunday 7.00 am December 30th: Peter Frost (Coordinator) Carol Miller</p> <p>Sunday 9.30 am December 30th: Adele Cornale (Coordinator) Adele Cornale</p> <p>Church Cleaners December: Paula O'Connor (and other volunteers)</p> <p>Money Counters—Parish Office December 30th: Group 2 January 6th: Group 3 January 13th: Group 4 January 30th: Group 1</p> <p>Gardeners Susan & Kevin Bradley</p>	<p>Ministers of the Eucharist</p> <p>Saturday Vigil December 29th Sr. Gabriel (Coordinator) Sr. Gabriel & Others</p> <p>Sunday 7.00 am December: Peter Frost (Coordinator) Charlie Robinson, Peter Frost, Gary Keating.</p> <p>Sunday 9.30 am December : Paula Hudson (Coordinator) Paula Hudson, Adele Cornale.</p> <p>Sunday 6.00 pm December: Andrew Poidevin (Coordinator) Paula O'Connor, Andrew Poidevin, Denise Haylen.</p> <p>Sacristy & Altar Carol Miller and Pilar Ovelar</p> <p>Altar Flowers Nobuko Konda & Margaret Betros</p>
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<p>Offertory Gifts— Sat 5.00 pm Vigil Mass December 29th: Volunteers Please</p>	<p>Offertory Gifts— Sun 7.00 am Mass December 30th: Pam & John McCarthy</p>
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<p>Mass Offerings: <i>Your prayers are requested for the following:</i></p> <p>Recently Deceased: Joan Martin, Sr Mona Sackley Margaret Mary McGinn, Rose Newland, Patricia Wake, Dorothy Donnellan, Mark Stewart, Greta Silvers.</p> <p>Other Deceased: O'Neil and O'Dea Families, Toni Bailey, Sherry Jackson, Paul Hudson, Negus & Ferguson Families, Bill Swanbury, Sergio Ovelar, Molly & George Green, Fitzpatrick Family, Cath & Ray Sprod, Kit and Bill Saunders.</p> <p>Anniversaries:</p> <p>Sick: Paul Sweeney, Anne Wright, Bill Clements, Paul Evans Brian & Anne Barlow, Sandra Sadlier, Elizabeth Khoury, Alex Campbell, Justin Wood, Todd Hudson, Steve Elias, Esteban Ovelar, Maximilian Naum, Geoffrey Karpin, Fr John Rate msc, Paul Miller, Chris Schneider.</p>
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<i>Leadership Roles at St Brigid's Parish Coogee</i>	
Parish Priest	Fr Phillip Hicks msc
Parish Safeguarding Support Officer	Sharon Waller
Parish Office Manager	Caroline Doherty
Parish Pastoral Associate	Anne-Marie Snelling
Parish Council Chairperson	Rodney Coorey (Deputy-Chairperson—Sharron Critchley)
Parish Finance Committee Chairman	Michael Zador

St Brigid's Parish Information	
Mass Times	Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm, Sunday 7.00 am, 9.30 am and 6.00 pm
Morning Tea	Most Sundays after the 9.30 am Mass
Weekday Masses	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9.30 am
Reconciliation	20 Minutes before Saturday Vigil Mass
Sacrament of Anointing	During 9.30 Mass, 2nd Thursday of each Month
Baptisms	By appointment, usually on the first and third Sundays of the month
Marriages	By appointment, arranged at least six months in advance
Parish Office during January:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am to 3pm (phone 9315 7562). (Fr Phil—pastoral emergencies 0420 329 731)

Continued from page 1

Our parish community can hopefully play an important role in helping people of all ages to grow in their knowledge and love of God. In addition we may want to foster our human and spiritual development even further.

We can do this in a variety of ways. For some it may lead to taking an academic route of study to learn more about Jesus or the Church. For others a prayerful avenue, perhaps by going on a retreat, may be more attractive or appropriate.

Seeking the help of a spiritual guide can also help us to reflect upon and see where and how God is acting within our daily lives. We want to understand this because at the heart of us all lies a fundamental need, a thirst, a longing to be in tune with what really matters. The journey to determine how this thirst can be quenched will be different for each of us, but faith tells just that ultimately it is only God who can meet our deepest longing.

The Living Word, 2018

New Year Reflections

At this time of the year, we look back and we look forward. We are thankful for 2018 - much wonderful love received (and challenges). As we make our "new year resolutions", we invite our ever loving God into our lives. We can experience the "Joy of the Gospel" (Pope Francis), if we are open to it. Thus we can bring that joy to so many others whom we will encounter in 2019 and beyond. Each of us can be a tangible blessing to all we meet.

Fr Phil



Wedding Celebrations at St Brigid's next Saturday 4th January

Sarah Noone & Michael Finlay: we wish them both well and a

lifetime of happiness

Do you need help connecting with professional care services?

Christmas can be a difficult time for families. CatholicCareline helps Sydneysiders navigate the maze of social services and makes referrals to counsellors, therapists and case managers across Sydney.

Call CatholicCareline on 13 18 19.

Parish Office Opening Hours over Christmas Period

The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 24th December and will reopen Monday 7th January 2019.

Office will open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday only during January.

*** Week Day Masses during January—Monday, Tuesday and Thursday only. There will be no Friday Mass until the end of January.**

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us.

We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you.

Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on Ph 02 9390 5812.

The Archdiocese policy on safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults: these are public documents available on www.sydneycatholic.org.

St Brigid's Parish Coogee Safeguarding Officer is Sharon Waller.



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Dr Aodhan Docherty
 BMedSci(SYD), BDent(Hons)(SYD)

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