

Cared for by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Parish Priest: Fr Phillip Hicks msc
Secretary: Caroline Doherty
Pastoral Associate: Joanne Smyth
Safe Guarding Officer: Sharon Waller

Phone: 9315 7562
Website: www.stbrigidscoogee.org.au
Email: stbparish_coogee@yahoo.com.au
philhicksmc@gmail.com

St Brigid's Primary School
Principal - Diane Cowan
160 Coogee Bay Rd Coogee NSW 2034
Phone: 9665 5771 **Fax:** 9665 1326

Today's Readings



2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16 God's promise
Romans 16:25-27 Glory to God
Luke 1:26-38 You will bear a son

Fourth Sunday of
Advent
Year B
19th / 20th
December, 2020

In a nutshell

King David wishes to build a house for the Lord, but God's way is different.

In God's time, Mary is chosen to be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah, who will be given the throne of his ancestor David.

We, too, can be part of God's kingdom, if we say with Mary: 'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be as you have said.'



Although Mary was conceived and lived without sin, as a fully human member of the Body of Christ, she experienced human emotions and difficulties. Before she assents to Gabriel's proclamation that she will become the mother to God's own son, Mary is said to be "troubled" and questions how this even can possibly come to be. Gabriel's responds, "Do not be afraid... For nothing will be impossible for God." As disciples of Christ and spiritual children of Mary, we are called to take these words to heart in our own lives.

Being faithful to God's call will very likely lead us to places of discomfort, hardship and even fear. In his book *Ave Maria*, Pope Francis writes, "If a young man of today, a young woman of today, hears a special call from the Lord and is not afraid, that means something is missing. However, when along with enthusiasm for that call there is also the experience of fear, then we can move forward, because God calls us to great things."

In the words of Gabriel we see a pattern for God's action and invitation in human lives. God desires to bring us to a fullness of life beyond our wildest imaginings. To become his collaborators, like Mary, we must both believe in the God of possibilities and be willing to face our fears. Today, as we ponder the message spoken to a young Jewish woman more than two thousand years ago, we might ask, In our own lives of faith do we dare respond to God's invitation by echoing Mary's word of courage and trust, "Be it done to me according to your word"?

Living Liturgy, 2021

Entrance antiphon: Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

Response to the psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Readers Saturday Vigil December Sr Jan O'Neil (Coordinator) Chelsea Albert Sunday 7.00 am December: Peter Frost (Coordinator) Gerry Walker, Charlie Robinson Sunday 9.30 am December 20th Adele Cornale (Coordinator) Diane Karas, Sharron Critchley Church Cleaners Paula O'Connor and other volunteers. Money Counters—Parish Office December 20th: Group 1 December 27th: Group 2 January 3rd: Group 3 January 10th: Group 4		Ministers of Communion Vigil 5pm December Sr. Gabriel (Coordinator) Michael Zador & others Sunday 7.00 am December Peter Frost (Coordinator) Gary Keating Sunday 9.30 am December: Adele Cornale (Coordinator) Pilar Ovelar, Phil Docherty. Sunday 6pm Andrew Poidevin Paula O'Connor. Sacristy & Altar Pilar Ovelar & Carol Miller Altar Flowers Nobuko Konda & Margaret Betros Piety Stall (5pm Vigil Mass) Carol Miller	
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Mass Offerings:	<i>Your prayers are requested for the following:</i>
Recently Deceased:	Lauren Julian, Michael Flynn (Co. Tipperary) , Marcus Manning, Margaret Carr, Paulette Joseph, Maureen Kerridge.
Other Deceased:	Muriel and Bill Knight, Toni Barry, John Vonwiller.
Anniversary:	Yolande Miller, Jacinta Bowler Kordner, Russell Byrne
Sick:	John Cavanagh, Janet Neenan, Goretti McMonagle Anna Zabourek, Hayley Connery (<i>Ireland</i>), Rob Williams, June Ferguson, Fay Wilcox, Chris Simpson, Alex Campbell, Paula Hudson, Anne Stirling, Neil Thornton, Marian Moreno, Tony Cruikshank, Diane Gordon, Chris Schneider, Therese Warfield, Paul Evans, Owen O'Conner, Margaret Mary Foody, Trish Shadwick, Michelle Thornton, Justin Wood, Joan Edwards, Judy Chock, Fay Mather.

Where does Jesse Tree come from?

A circular icon depicting the Virgin Mary in a blue robe, holding the Christ Child. The background of the icon is yellow with radiating lines, suggesting a halo or light.

Symbol: Virgin Mary
Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” Jesse was the father of David, Israel’s greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse’s family tree. Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus.

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 Weekday Masses	Sundays after the 9.30 am Family Mass (NOT during Covid19) Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9.30 am
Reconciliation	20 Minutes before Saturday Vigil Mass
Sacrament of Anointing	During 9.30am Mass, 2nd Thursday of each Month
Baptisms	By appointment, on the first and third Sundays of each month, <i>after 9.30am Family Mass.</i>
Marriages	Saturdays , by appointment, arranged at least six months in advance.
Parish Office:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9am to 3pm. Phone 9315 7562. (For pastoral emergencies, contact Fr Phil 0420 329 731)

St Brigid's This Week & Beyond

Seasonal Hospitality - Many of our regular parishioners will be away at Christmas and the expectation of more guests, we are asking if you can assist with hospitality at the door of our church. Due to restrictions people can only attend if they have booked in for Mass. Parishioners and visitors will need to present a ticket and sign in before each Christmas Mass. We warmly welcome as many helpers for our six Masses. If you are attending any of these Masses and can help please contact the parish office. Also please reach out to others and invite them to celebrate Christmas within our beautiful community.

Sunday 10th January 2021 there will be a special Mass at St Brigid's at 11am—to honour the centenary of the death of **Eileen O'Connor**. This Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher. **If any parishioners would like to attend—it is essential to contact the Parish Office, to receive an official invitation. We can still take limited bookings.** Participation is by invitation only.

The parish will also have our own celebration for Eileen O'Connor on July 4th - 9.30am Mass, celebrated by Bishop Terry Brady.

Forever Johnno will hold their annual 'Presents for sick kids'— if you would like to donate please drop into The Coogee Bay Hotel this Sunday 13th December 1.30pm-4pm.

For those who attended the wonderful evening of Carols and Scripture presented by Sydney Youth Orchestra and Australian opera singers at St Brigid's—the complete audio / visual should be on our parish website on Monday for downloading. **Fr Phil**

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve (Thursday) at 5PM (booked out) 7PM & 9PM

Christmas Day (Friday) AT 7AM & 9.30AM

Also, Bishop Terry Brady will celebrate Mass for our Irish Community at 11am on Christmas Morning.

(Please register for Christmas Masses through the parish website)

www.stbrigidscoogee.org.au

Post—Christmas & January Holiday Mass Times

Weekend Masses: 5pm Vigil, 7am and 9.30am (NO 6pm Mass)

Weekday Masses: Tuesdays & Thursdays only 9.30am. Also New Year's Day.

Normal Mass program resumes on Monday 18th January.

Many Australian families will be spending this Christmas in poverty

Many people are facing hardship for the first time and have suddenly found themselves frightened about how they will keep a roof over their head and put food on the table let alone celebrate on Christmas Day.

Vinnies is taking pressure off families who are at breaking point by providing food hampers, emotional support, and help with essentials.

Donation envelopes are available in the parish office if you would like to contribute

Christmas cards are still on sale this weekend at all Masses.
We appreciate your support,

Gerry Walker





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A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sex Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime 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 (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to 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.

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