



# Bridie

St Brigid's Parish Community, Coogee  
Cared for by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart



**Parish Priest:** Fr Thoi Tran msc  
**Secretary:** Caroline Doherty  
**Sacramental Co-ord:** Inez Augustine  
**Safe Guarding Officer:** Sharon Waller

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



**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**Time Year A**  
**18th/19th March 2023**

## Nutshell

Today's gospel passage reminds us that blindness may not be only a physical disability.

Exposure to excessive information can dull our perception of the things that really matter.

The blind man acknowledges that Jesus is from God, yet knowledgeable people are sceptical and disbelieving. Jesus can open the eyes of our minds and hearts if we believe in him and live our lives in the truth.

## Readings for this weekend

*1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13* God gives Samuel a special insight to choose Jesse's son David  
*Ephesians 5:8-14* God has brought us out of darkness so we can live in the light of the Lord  
*John 9:1-41* A blind man is healed and, in the face of opposition, comes to faith by seeing Jesus his saviour

## Reflection

There are many occasions when we ask the question why, and can't find the answer for which we are looking. Why did we miss out on a job? Why did someone we love get cancer? Why can't we find a place to live that we can afford? Why do some days seem so difficult?

It is good to sit with our confusion and even grief. It is good to share it with the Lord who loves us so tenderly. But sometimes we have to step aside from the question why did this happen? It may be better to start with, where can I go from here? What small steps will enable me to face the future in a positive spirit?

Today's readings touch upon these issues. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters a person who was born blind. The bystanders want to know why this happened. They think it must be because either he or his parents did something wrong. They are looking backwards. Jesus prefers to look forward. He says 'he was born blind so that the works of God may be displayed in him.' In other words, his blindness presents opportunities for growth, not a pretext for blame. The letter to the Ephesians similarly reminds us that we are on a journey from darkness to light. The whole of Lent could be described in those words. The letter says 'try to discover what the Lord wants of you.' It asks us in terms of possibilities! The same thing happens when Samuel anoints David. It doesn't matter that David is a young shepherd. He has a big future, as anyone familiar with the Bible well knows.

This week Project Compassion shares with us the story of Thu, who lives in Vietnam. At the age of 12, Thu's life was thrown into chaos when he trod on a landmine from the Vietnam War. Surely, he must have asked why he was among the unlucky ones. He might have asked the same thing again when his wife suffered a stroke. But Thu joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, supported by Caritas Australia through our local partners, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development. As with so many others, your generosity enabled Thu and his family to build a brighter future. Thank you for helping in this wonderful work of transformation.

*Michael McGirr*

**Entrance antiphon:** Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts.

**Response to the psalm:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**Gospel acclamation:** Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

## WISH TO DONATE ONLINE

We are pleased to offer the option for Parishioners or visitors to donate online through our website. Scan this QR code to donate. Please call the parish office with any questions.

**Tel: 9315 7562**



### Readers

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Saturday Vigil 5pm March</b> | Sr Jan O'Neill (Coordinator)<br>Sr Jan O'Neill Chelsea Albert |
| <b>Sunday 7.00 am</b>           | Peter Frost (Coordinator)                                     |
| <b>Sunday 9.30am</b>            | George and Nick Annas<br>Mark Woolford Terese Compton         |
| <b>Sunday 6pm</b>               | Paula O'Connor (Coordinator)                                  |

### Church Cleaners

Paula O'Connor, Margaret & John Betros

### Money Counters

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>March 19th :</b> Group 3 | <b>March 26th :</b> Group 1 |
| <b>April 2nd:</b> Group 2   | <b>April 9th:</b> Group 4   |

### Ministers of Communion

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Saturday Vigil 5pm March</b> | Sr Gabriel (Coordinator),<br>Sr Jan O'Neill   |
| <b>Sunday 7.00 am March</b>     | Peter Frost (Coordinator),<br>Peter Frost     |
| <b>Sunday 9.30 am March</b>     | Adele Cornale (Coordinator),<br>Adele Cornale |
| <b>Sunday 6pm</b>               | Paula O'Connor (Coordinator)                  |

### Sacristy & Altar

Pilar Ovelar & Carol Miller

### Altar Flowers

Pilar Ovelar, Carol Miller & Margaret Betros

### Piety Stall

(5pm Vigil Mass) Carol Miller

### Confirmation

Sacrament of Confirmation  
Wednesday 28 June 2023

### Morning Tea

Morning tea today after  
9.30am Mass. Thank you to  
Sharron & Di for hosting this  
week.



## Mass Intentions —your prayers are requested for the following:

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Recently Deceased</b> | Rita Herbert (Reading,UK) Michael O'Connell, Yvonne Chamberlain  |
| <b>Anniversaries</b>     | Maureen O'Connor,Ruth and Henry Ferguson   |
| <b>Deceased</b>          | James Kelleher, Muriel and Bill Knight, Toni Barry, Bill Jack, Alma Saidey, Carmel & Jack Olde.                              |
| <b>Sick</b>              | Anne Eves and Sharyn Eves, Maroun Ghorra, Fr Phil (undergoing treatment)<br>Geoff Wall, Catherine Sharpley and June Ferguson |

## St Brigid's Parish Information

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Mass Times</b>             | Saturday Vigil 5.00 pm, Sunday 7.00 am, 9.30am and 6pm   |
| <b>Morning Tea</b>            | Thursday at 10am and Sundays after the 9.30am Family Mass.   |
| <b>Weekday Masses</b>         | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – 9.30 am  |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>         | 20 Minutes before Saturday Vigil Mass  |
| <b>Sacrament of Anointing</b> | During 9.30am Mass, First Friday of every month.   |
| <b>Baptisms</b>               | By appointment, on the first and third Sundays of each month, <i>after</i> 9.30am Family Mass.                   |
| <b>Marriages</b>              | Saturdays, by appointment, arranged at least six months in advance   |
| <b>Parish Office:</b>         | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 9am to 3pm.<br>Phone 9315 7562. In case of emergency Fr Thoi 0403 140 510 |

## *St Brigid's This Week and Beyond*

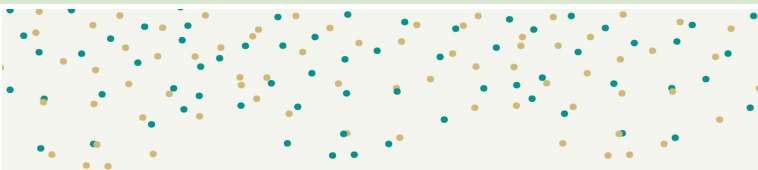
Dear Parishioners,

Tuesday 21st March - Due to our parish day trip to Mary MacKillop Chapel there will be no 9.30am Mass.

**Baptisms** - This weekend we welcome the following children into our parish community, Tobias Kai and Nathaniel Jet Schneider children of Nicholas and Keh-Lee and Bennet Gary, Hamish Michael and Alexander Paul children of Michael and Jaimie Sweeney. God Bless these children and their families.

**Easter Choir** - You are invited to join the choir for Easter. Rehearsal will be held on Thursday's at 7pm in the church. Please call Angie/George 0405 420 159.

*Fr Thoi and the parish team*



### *PLEASE JOIN US*

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION MASS  
TO HONOR 50 YEARS  
OF ORDINATION AND 8 YEARS OF  
MINISTRY AT ST BRIGID'S

**FR PHILLIP HICKS MSC**

Sunday 21 May | 9.30am

Celebration Mass followed by refreshments  
in the parish hall

RSVP to the parish office for catering  
9315 7562

### **RCIA PROGRAM**

The parish is offering a programme commencing in May to run for twelve weeks, for those considering becoming Catholics. It is also open to anyone simply interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith. For example, you may know someone who is married or in a relationship with a Catholic and who would like to know and understand more about what being a Catholic means.

If you know of anyone who would like to participate, please invite them, the programme is open to everyone.

Date of commencement: May 2nd Time: 7pm to 8.30pm every Tuesday Duration: 12 weeks.

For further information, please contact the Parish Office 93157562, or Therese (0425375280) or Paul (0425375279) who will be convening the program.

### **Tuesday 9th May - Volunteer at Thread Together - Banksmeadow**

We would like to invite members of our Parish and School Community to a morning volunteering at Thread Together 9am - 12.30pm.

[www.threadtogether.org](http://www.threadtogether.org)

This is a great community opportunity and if you would like to join us please call the parish office.

### **Sacrament Dates 2023** (Contact Inez at [sacramentcoogee@gmail.com](mailto:sacramentcoogee@gmail.com) with any enquiries)

- **Celebration of Reconciliation** - Wed 29th March 5pm or 7pm.
- **Confirmation** - online registration 24th Apr - 14th May. Parent info session and commitment mass Sat 20th May at 4pm and Confirmation Mass Wed 28th June.
- **First Eucharist** - online registration 17th July - 1st Aug. Parent info session and commitment mass Sat 5th Aug at 4pm. First Eucharist Mass Sun 10th Sep 11am or 1pm.



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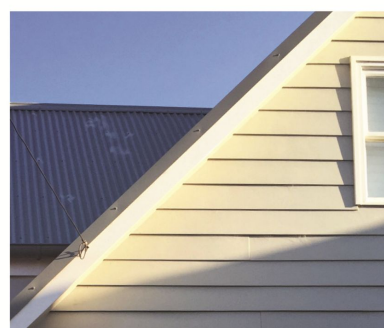
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## A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

**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](mailto: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.**