

Please Note: We welcome our visitors and ask all to respect the local practice of receiving the Lord's Body and Blood: the Body of Christ is received on the hand or the tongue and the Blood of Christ is received by drinking from the Chalice (cup). We kindly ask you to refrain from intinction (dipping the consecrated Bread into the consecrated Wine) even if this is your parish's custom.

REQUEST FOR MORE PEOPLE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE LITURGY

We urgently need more people to do some of the Liturgical functions at the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday morning Mass. Anyone who is interested in becoming involved in any capacity in the Parish, as:- Sacristan, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, or in any other ministry, please call the Parish Office or speak to **me directly**. Full training will be provided by Fr Isidore, and no one will be asked to participate until they are comfortable and ready for the Ministry.

VINNIES FOOD HAMPER AND TOY APPEAL

Commencing 1st week of Advent until 17th December, scrolls will be placed at the entrance of the church. Please take a few scrolls—food items and gifts for children. Blue baskets will be left at the front doors of the church for you to place these items. **New items only please and do not wrap.** Place 2nd hand items in Vinnies bins in the car park.



CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE

There will be a Christmas preparation working bee at St Brigid's Church on Saturday 16th December following the Novena. The church will be decorated for Christmas on this day as well. We would appreciate as many parishioners as possible come to this working bee. Please mark this in your calendar and bring your cleaning equipment and gardening gear. Anyone who will be attending please contact Maria on 0413 586 899 so that we know the numbers for the day.

CHRISTMAS HOSPITALITY

Following the 6.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve, there will be supper served in the Parish Centre. We are asking Parishioners to please bring a plate of food to this function. All Parishioners are welcome to attend. On Christmas Day following the 8.30am Mass morning tea will be served outside the church. To coordinate the catering for both these functions would anyone who is intending to bring food please call Maria on 0413 586 899, or Philomine on 0419 642 035 for Christmas Eve and Sally on 55749515 for Christmas Day.

RITE OF ELECTION 2018

The Rite of Election for 2018 in the Archdiocese of Brisbane will be celebrated in the Cathedral of St Stephen on the First Sunday of Lent, 18th February at 3.0pm. Anyone wishing to become a Catholic should call the office on Tuesday or Thursday to pick up an Enrolment Form. All forms for 2018 should be completed and returned to the office by the end of December 2017.

PARISH CALENDAR 2018

We call on Parishioners who would like to contribute to the planning of the 2018 Parish Event/Calendar to please contact Fr Isidore or the Parish office so that we can include these events in the 2018 Parish liturgy and Events Calendar.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next parents' preparation meeting for Baptisms of infants will be held **Sunday 17th December at 10.00am**. All parents who wish to have their children baptised in the next few months are encouraged to attend.

ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIAL DETAILS as at 5th December 2017

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 641.30 - For Clergy Support
2ND COLLECTION: \$ 1,085.80 - For Parish expenses such as administration, and maintenance of all our buildings and properties.



I sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. Be assured of our prayers and your divine rewards.
 Fr Isidore

IN EMERGENCIES or HOSPITAL CALLS

For University & Allamanda Hospital - Southport Parish on 5510 2222
For Robina Hospital - Burleigh Heads Parish on 5576 6466
For Pindara Hospital - Surfers Paradise Parish on 5572 5433
For John Flynn Hospital -Coolangatta-Tugun Parish on 5598 2165

ST VINCENT DE PAUL NERANG



CONFERENCE MEETINGS held in St Brigid's Parish Centre at 6.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. All Welcome.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B—10TH DECEMBER 2017



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
 39-49 McLAREN ROAD, NERANG
 POSTAL: PO Box 196 NERANG, QLD 4211
 OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Thursday – 9.00am to 3.30pm
 PHONE: (07) 5596 2632 FAX: (07) 5596 3669
 WEB PAGE: www.stbrigidsparishnerang.org.au

PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

Parish Priest: Fr Isidore Enyinnaya Phone: 0451 140 471 Email: pp.nerang@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Secretary: Lenette Evans Email: nerang@bne.catholic.net.au

Dear People of God

On this second Sunday of Advent (year B), the first part of the Gospel (St Mark's) reads: **“The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: ‘Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,’”** The good news of Jesus Christ, for St Mark, begins with this prophetic message from Isaiah (see also the First Reading). Yes! It is Good news when hearts and communities - whether religious or secular - are prepared, ready for and open to the entrance of Jesus, the Word-made-flesh.

Placing the word ‘look’ before delivering his prophetic message, St Mark (quoting Isaiah) draws attention to the importance of this divine message. From that message of Isaiah, which, as already said, forms the beginning of the good news, we heard God promising to send a messenger with a mission and a message to a people. So, let's reflect on the Messenger, the Message, the Mission and the Masses. And we, both as individuals and as a community, are going to play these dual roles of giving and receiving that message at the same time.

The first line of the prophetic message says: ‘Look, I am going to send my messenger before you,’ God sent this messenger who, for St Mark, was John the Baptist. This messenger of God was a voice that cries in the wilderness. He was a forerunner of Jesus. St Mark says he ‘appeared in the wilderness,’ And ‘wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey.’ That was the price he had to pay as a prophet, a simple prophet. He was fortified with the sacrifices and the discipline of a prophet. He did not care about who or what others were, or what they thought or said about him. He wasn't like the rest and never wanted to be like the rest in their lifestyle. He did not claim to be the Lord, neither did he claim to be the people. He knew he was just a messenger from God to the people and from the people to God. Hence, he offered himself to God and did not conform to their standard.

St Paul says: **‘because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.’**

Not comfortable with the world around him, he separated himself a bit from the world and lived in the wilderness. And what happened? ‘All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him’ **Are we not prophets, messengers of the Most High God?** Sure! We are. How many make their way to us, seeking the face of God? John's base was the wilderness, which in biblical terms is a place to seek the face of God; and in a sense, the Church in our time. And in this Church, each of us is that voice that cries out. But, how strong, how spiritually attractive and convincing is that voice?

Not only was John a voice in the wilderness, but he also had a powerful message, though offensive to some, but all were drawn to it. He was armed with a divine message of preparation for the coming of the Lord. For us, a message to welcome, in grand style, Jesus at Christmas. A message beginning with the preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. A message of reconciliation between God and human beings. That is our message and our mission, each of us one to another

Playing a dual role, like I said earlier, we are the joyful messengers to Zion and we are the Masses, the people of Zion. As we shout without fear, and with a loud and impactful voice, the message: **‘PREPARE’ ‘Here is your God ... coming with power’** (see first Reading), let us listen to that message also. It should be a message of consolation to many.

Having heard this message, let us make straight every highway to and from the human hearts and God; every valley filled in, every mountain and hill laid low, every cliff made a plain, and the ridges, a valley; ‘then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it’

‘So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace’ (Second reading). Remain blessed.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

CHURCHES

St Brigid's Church
39-49 McLaren Rd
Nerang Q 4211

St John's Church
Windabout Rd
Beechmont Q
4211

SCHOOL

St Brigid's
Primary
McLaren Road
Nerang Q 4211
Phone: 5596 4188

WEB PAGE:
www.sb.qld.edu.au

DAVID SEWELL
Principal

MASS AND PRAYER TIMES AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

Week Day Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7.00 am
Wednesday 5.45 pm
Saturday 9.00 am

Mass for the Sick with Anointing is on the First Saturday of each 9.00am

The next Anointing Mass will be 3rd February 2018

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm
Sunday 8.30 am

Rosary

Monday, Tuesday, Friday at 7.30 am, Wednesday at 5.00pm,
Saturday at 8.30am. And Sunday at 8.00am

Divine Mercy Prayer Thursday 7.30am

Adoration Holy Hour with Benediction: Thursday 6-7pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday 9.30 am

Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church Saturday 5.15pm – 5.45pm
Sunday 8.00am - 8.15am

St John's Windabout Road, Beechmont

2nd Sunday of each month

Next Mass at St John's Sunday 14th January 10.30 am



HOME VISITS TO THE SICK AND AGED

Fr Isidore is happy and available to visit sick or aged parishioners in their homes. If you are housebound and would like a visit, or you know someone who is, please call the office or his mobile number to arrange for a visit. Let us all show concern and care for the sick, the needy and the aged.

We remember all those who have gone before us to rest in the loving embrace of Jesus

We pray for the recently deceased : Therese Nicol Camp

We pray for the dearly departed whose anniversaries occur at this time:

We also remember their families—may they be comforted and supported in their loss by
This Community of Faith.

We pray for those who are sick or in hospital: Jasmine Fay Parada, Maureen and Paul Hume, Patricia Smith, Patrick Mackey, Valda Silvy, Joan Gordon, Patricia Solomon, Amanda Gordon Shelly Ryan and Jim Gardiner

Our prayers are also offered for those who are elderly and in Nursing homes.



Invitation to Musicians and Singers

If you would like to be part of our Advent and Christmas celebrations here at St Brigid's, you are welcome to our upcoming rehearsals—each Sunday after Mass. For evening rehearsal times, please contact Maryanne on 0467 067 556.

ANNUAL PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Last weekend we took up the annual Peter's Pence Collection. The Peter's Pence Collection gives Catholics in Australia an opportunity to join in communion with the Catholic faithful throughout the world in support of the charitable works of the Holy See. The amount of \$335.90 was donated to this worthy cause. Thank you for your generosity.

Second Sunday of Advent - Year B

Sunday, 10 Dec 2017

FIRST READING *Is 40:1-5, 9-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8*

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R)

SECOND READING *2 Pt 3:8-14*

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Lk 3:4, 6*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Mk 1:1-8*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'