

CHRISTMAS MASS AND RECONCILIATION TIMES

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Monday December 18th—7.30am-8.00am

Tuesday December 19th—7.30am –8.00am

Wednesday December 20th—6.20pm—7.00pm

MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve— 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Christmas Day—Midnight and 8.30am

ST JOHN'S CHURCH BEECHMONT

Christmas Day Mass—11.00am

NEW YEARS DAY—ST BRIGID'S NERANG—9.00am

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.

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.

ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIAL DETAILS as at 12h December 2017

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 767.45 - For Clergy Support

2ND COLLECTION: \$ 1,227.35 - 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 of your divine rewards.
Fr Isidore



We here at St Brigid's Catholic Parish Nerang as part of the Archdiocese of Brisbane MUST ABIDE BY AND ADHERE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRIVACY ACT & THE AUSTRALIAN PRIVACY PRINCIPLES. The Privacy Act impacts upon us all today and if you wish to peruse the Compliance Requirements and the Privacy Act, please go to the Archdiocesan Website www.bne.catholic.net.au. The Policy is on our website

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

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 .

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION POLICY

...for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Mark 10:14

The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded from harm by all.

This will be achieved through the development of respectful relationships and a commitment to safety embracing appropriate boundaries, behaviours and practices, in accordance with the Archdiocesan Code of Ethical Behaviour and adherence to legislative imperatives of the State. The full policy is available to read on the Archdiocese website—brisbanecatholic.org.au

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B—17TH 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

As we know, today, being the third Sunday of Advent, is also known as 'Gaudete Sunday' meaning 'Rejoicing Sunday'. In the Responsorial Psalm of today, we are called to join Mary, the pregnant mother of Jesus, to say, "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour." For even in our nothingness, in our apparent insignificance, God still looks on our lowliness, as he did for Mary and works marvels for us.

Very near to us is Jesus Christ, the Emmanuel: God in our midst. In today's gospel, John the Baptist says: 'there stands among you – **unknown to you** – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' John is telling us of the 'hidden-presence' of God. I do not know if what St Peter says should apply to us here: "Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and **rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy**, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." The joy of Christmas, I think, should hinge on the fact that we are receiving the outcome of our faith, the salvation of souls.

Isaiah, in the first reading says on our behalf: "I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity." At baptism, this is exactly what the Lord does to each and every one of us. He made us sons and daughters after the likeness of his only son Jesus Christ. He gave us his spirit, the spirit of his son that we may be His witnesses (see John 15:26). And like Jesus, we can say: "The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord." (see first reading; also Lk 4:18) This will be joyful news to the beneficiaries and consequently to us.

The most important thing is to know our God given mission. Each of us has been commissioned with a mission to guide our vision on our transition to eternity. Once we know why God placed us here, we will be able to see how we can accomplish it. Our mission locates us in the overall plan of God. We become key players in His salvation plan, witnessing to his victory over all evil: sickness, sin and death. We should, like John the Baptist, be witnesses to speak for the Light, **so that everyone might believe in Him through us**. God has commissioned us with this mission and this mission spells out our goal, our vision.

John the Baptist located himself in the plan of God. If we, individually and as a community, are asked, as John was in today's gospel, 'who are you?' 'Are you ... this?' 'Are you ... that?' 'Why do you ... do what you do?' What answer could we give to those who ask us. John "not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ. ... I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'" (See today's Gospel). Do we know who we are in relation to Christ especially at this Christmas? Do we realise what our God-assigned mission is during our stay here on earth, especially this coming Christmas?

The philosopher, Socrates is quoted as having said that 'an unexamined life is not worth living'. Each of us should ask ourselves 'what is my place and role in God's overall plan of salvation accomplished in Christ but yet to be accomplished in all peoples?' I believe that each and every one of us can find our commission and mission spelt out in the eternal word of God, mirrored in a sense, in the lives and experiences of the Saints. We are all witnesses for Christ. We should spread this good and joyful news of God's presence among human beings.

But we cannot pass on this joy unless we are joyful ourselves. Last Sunday's first reading calls us 'joyful messengers of Zion.' Hence, St Paul in the second reading says: "Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil." That is how to go about it. So, I say 'Be happy, for the Lord is near. Don't worry'

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



Third Sunday of Advent - Year B Sunday, 17 Dec 2017

FIRST READING *Is 61:1-2. 10-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of Integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10*

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. (R)

SECOND READING *1 Thes 5:16-24*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Jn 1:6-8. 19-28*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS

I WISH TO THANK, ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH, ALL THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED THIS WEEKEND TO COME AND GET OUR CHURCH READY FOR CHRISTMAS. BE ASSURED OF YOUR REWARDS. YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYERS. REMAIN BLESSED.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

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 :

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.



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.

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.