

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A 19 Feb 2017

**FIRST READING** Lv 19:1-2. 17-18

*A reading from the book of Leviticus*

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: ‘Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: “Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

“You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.”’

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

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| 1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,<br>all my being, bless his holy name.<br>My soul, give thanks to the Lord<br>and never forget all his blessings. (R.)              | 3. The Lord is compassion and love,<br>slow to anger and rich in mercy.<br>He does not treat us according to our sins<br>nor repay us according to our faults. (R) |
| 2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,<br>who heals every one of your ills,<br>who redeems your life from the grave,<br>who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.) | 4. As far as the east is from the west<br>so far does he remove our sins.<br>As a father has compassion on his sons,<br>the Lord has pity on those who fear him. ® |

**SECOND READING** 1 Cor 3:16-23

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

**GOSPEL** Mt 5:38-48

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

‘You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.’

We remember all those who have gone before us to rest in the loving embrace of Jesus. We also remember their families - may they be comforted and supported in their loss by this Community of Faith. :

**We pray for the recently deceased: Penelope Maria Allan**

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

**Rose Camilleri**

**We pray for those who are sick or in hospital:** Christine De Barro, Maureen and Paul Hurney ,Patricia Smith, Patrick Mackey, and Richard McGuire

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

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 19TH FEBRUARY 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  
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WEB PAGE: [www.stbrigidsparishnerang.org.au](http://www.stbrigidsparishnerang.org.au)

**PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:**

**Fr Isidore Enyinnaya Parish Priest Email: [enyinnayai@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:enyinnayai@bne.catholic.net.au)**  
**Parish Secretary: Lenette Evans Email: [nerang@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:nerang@bne.catholic.net.au)**

**Reflection 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

Dear people of God

As I was going through the readings of today, my mind was flooded with thoughts of moments, through my nineteen years of priestly ministry, I had to resolve issues between those who had been hurt deeply and those who had hurt them,— issues between husband(s) and wife(s), parent(s) and child(ren), brother(s) and sister(s) and other types of relationships. I have had occasions where I was faced with resolving this issue within myself, where people had hurt me too. The only solution to such problems, the only encouragement to forgive and keep loving those who hurt us, is to take God at His words – to do it because He said we should do it – despite our feelings and desires. For it is not wisdom, in the ordinary sense of the word, not to offer the wicked person, at least, a defensive resistance. I see no human wisdom in turning the other cheek when we are hit on the other, to offer your cloak as well to someone who tries to snatch away your tunic from you, to go two miles willingly, when under oppression and suppression, we are ordered to go one mile, even more, to love and pray for our enemies. But these seemingly foolish actions in the sight of worldly people, are what we are commanded, by Jesus in the today's Gospel, to have as habits – ways of life.

St Paul, in the second reading says: “Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. .... So there is nothing to boast about in anything human” Yes, the human person, each of us, has nothing to boast about. Jesus said in St John's Gospel: “It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you that do not believe.” (John 6:63-64a).

To practise the love of neighbour to the point of loving our enemies and praying for their good – not praying that they be repaid evil for evil nor be punished for their evil deeds – is really a difficult life style. But it is made easy if we allow the word of God in all its richness to find a home in our hearts, homes and communities, (see Col 3:16). All our fighting back, offensive self-defence, avoidance techniques, are all our way of proving that we are worth something. However, we are worth nothing but what the Spirit-Word has made us and to the extent we have allowed Him. Not doing those things might seem to make us appear weaklings. But it shouldn't. God wants us to stand boldly in condemning and ending evil rather than giving in or condoning it. In today's first reading, God says: “You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. **You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself.** You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.”

Jesus said, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31-32). If the Word lives in us, then it will be seen that we, as individuals and as Church, {domestic (the family), the local, and the universal Church}, are the temples of the Holy Spirit. We have to realise that we are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives within us, and therefore, we are sacred – holy (see 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading).

Since we were created in God's image and likeness, and through baptism, have become his adopted children and members of Christ's body, with His Spirit living among us as in a temple, God demands that we live as sacred temples. In today's first reading, He says: “Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.” And in the Gospel, Jesus enjoins us: “You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” The word ‘holy’ {‘qodesh’ (‘qadosh’) in O.T. Hebrew or ‘hagios’ in N.T. Greek} means separate, set apart or sacred. From what Jesus said in today's gospel, it could mean ‘distinguished, excellent, outstanding, exceptionally good, exemplary, etc. St Paul advises us saying: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,** so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

**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](http://www.sb.qld.edu.au)

DAVID SEWELL  
Principal

## MASS AND PRAYER TIMES AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

### Week Day Mass

Monday to Friday 7am

Saturday 9am

### Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday 8.30 am

### Rosary

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7.30am

Saturday 8.30am

Divine Mercy Prayer Wednesday 7.30am

Adoration with Benediction Thursdays 7-8pm

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 10.30am

Next Mass at St John's Sunday 12th March 10.30am



G'day mate!!

I came across this interesting passage from the booklet titled Francis of Assisi: CTS Great Saints Series written by Jannifer Moorcroft, (2009 p.37.)

### Holiness of Francis

Francis once chanted a very special Office (prayers of the Church) with Brother Leo. He told Leo to chant: "Brother Francis, you have committed so many sins during your life in the world that you undoubtedly deserve hell." Brother Leo sang: "And you now do so much good that you will certainly go to heaven."

Francis told him he had to repeat what he had said, not make up words of his own, and continued: "Brother Francis, the sins you are guilty of against the Lord of Heaven and Earth are so great that you deserve to be damned through all eternity." Brother Leo sang: "And you will make, thanks to God, such progress in virtue that you will deserve to be blessed through all eternity." Annoyed, Francis told him that by holy obedience he must repeat his words exactly, and continued: "Miserable Francis, tremble for not having found grace in the Lord's sight, for you have gravely offended the God of all good and the Father of all consolation – and you must respond that it is perfectly true that I am unworthy of pardon"

"Very well", replied Brother Leo, "I will then respond that God whose goodness is still greater than our sins will assuredly pardon you." Francis then asked him why he did not respond as he was told, and Brother Leo replied "My father, God is my witness, that I try to repeat your words, but Our Lord Himself puts other words into my mouth"

## SCHOOL OF THE WORD

Come and pray with the Word of God Topic: **THE PARABLES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Every last Saturday of the month—10 am to 12 pm at St Brigid's Parish  
Conducted by the Verbum Dei Missionaries. Contact: Ph (07) 3495 7105 Mobile 0410 802 810 / 0424 777 232 Email: [vdmfbris@gmail.com](mailto:vdmfbris@gmail.com) Next Meeting 25th February 2017



## BAPTISM PRAYERS

We ask pray for Lucy Hope Maria Vezic who is being baptised this weekend. We pray That she will grow in grace and wisdom and abound with the love of God, all her life's journey. We pray for her parents, family and godparents.



## FEAST DAY THIS WEEK

February 22nd is the Feast of The Chair of St Peter The Apostle

## Celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes

St Stephen's Cathedral Elizabeth Street Brisbane City on Saturday 25th February 2017.  
10.30am Rosary Bouquet  
11.30am Mass Celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge



## ST BRIGID'S PARISH OFFICE NEWS

The installation of Rev. Fr Isidore Chidi Enyinnaya as the Parish Priest of St Brigid's Catholic Parish Nerang will be on Saturday 25th March 2017 during the 9.00am Mass celebrated by The Archbishop the Most Rev Mark Coleridge. All our parishioners are encouraged to attend.

We will be having a morning Tea in the Parish Centre following the Mass. We are requesting all those who can help with the food and preparations for the day or wish to be involved in any way to please speak to Fr Isidore direct, call the office during office hours or contact Maria Page on 0413 586 899 after 6.00pm or speak to Sally Alker.

On Saturday 18th March at 10.00am there will be a working bee in and around the Church in preparation for the celebration on the 25th March. Please also call Maria if you can help in any way.

We are also requesting flowers to decorate the Church for the installation ceremony on the 25th. If you have access to any flowers and would like to help in this way please bring them to the church on Friday 24th or call the office.

The next parents preparation meeting for Baptisms of infants within the month of April will be held on Sunday 19th March at 10.00am. All parents who wish to have their children baptised are advised to attend.

Thank you to all those who sponsored the recent improvements to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and the Church, the plaques have now been installed.

There will be a Mass on Sunday morning the 19th February at 11.00am to celebrate a Baptism.

In preparation for Ash Wednesday 1st March, would everyone please return their palms from last Easter to be made into the ashes. Please bring your palms next weekend or drop them off at the office during the week.

This is another request for all those who have keys to any of the Parish Buildings to please call the office to verify the number on the key in your possession. Thanks to the people who have already called with the verification. This is important as to change the locks is a very expensive undertaking which can be avoided with your cooperation.

We congratulate Fr Tim Harris on his appointment as Bishop of Townsville Diocese. We rejoice with him and pray for his successful episcopal ministry in the Diocese of Townsville

## ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIAL DETAILS as at Tuesday 14th February 2017

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 745.30 - For Clergy Support

2ND COLLECTION: \$ 1,269.95 - For Parish expenses

such as administration, and maintenance of all our buildings and properties.

The Parish Loans currently stand at \$ 15,896.76

I sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. Fr Isidore



## 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.



## ST BRIGID'S CRAFT GROUP

The craft group meet every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am. In the Parish Centre Please come along and bring your craft projects and join the ladies and enjoy morning tea. Everyone welcome. Donations of wool would be gratefully appreciated. For further information please contact the Parish Office.



**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](http://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