



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
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PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

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My dear sisters and brothers

In today's gospel passage, Jesus in answer to the Pharisees who tried to disconcert him, summarized the commandments of the Old Testament together with the teachings of the prophets of old in the one two-sided commandment of Love. 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

I do not think anyone has ever taught, practised and popularised real love as Jesus Christ did. It could be that traces of such teaching may be found in some ancient religions or philosophies, but nowhere has it been more persuasive, more decisive, more impressive, more expressive, practicable and more widespread than in Christian religion and philosophy. Jesus Christ is our Master in the teaching and practice of love. Yes, He is the Master - even the Pharisees, despite their feelings of superiority, acknowledged in today's Gospel, that He is the Master. Not only did He teach it and lived it, but he left it as a command to His followers to follow His example. He says:

'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love..... This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.' (John 15:9-14). **Jesus wanted LOVE to be a distinguishing character of His followers.** He commands: *'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'* (John 13:34-35).

The distinguishing marks of Jesus' teachings on love is the selfless, non-retractable, unconditional and all-inclusive nature of His type of love. It transcends every limitation and obstacle to reach out to all. It breaks every barrier of consanguinity, culture, tribe, ethnicity, language colour, race, status, class, religion, qualifications and political affiliations. It is a command to go the extra mile, to surmount all obstacles, to keep loving even when it hurts and kills. We should stand ready to lay down our lives for those we love. This is a hard teaching, the Jews of His time would say, who can accept it. (see John 6:60). But for Jesus, a good disciple of His must teach and practise it in obedience to His command.

Jesus kind of love upholds justice but avoids revenge and payback of evil. This kind of love is like a coin with two sides of 'JUSTICE' and 'MERCY'. Justice expects and brings out the best of the loved one, while mercy repairs the worst and completes what is lacking in the loved one. It is justice to love only those who love you, but mercy to love everyone, even your enemies; it is justice to defend yourself against those who slap you but mercy to turn the other cheek if you have already received the slapping; justice to cover yourself properly but mercy to give even your singlet to the one who demands your jacket.

Jesus, in St Matthew's gospel asked: 'if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.' (Matt. 5:46-48, see also Luke 6:32-36). Today's first reading presents an aspect of God's perfection: His love and regard for the poor, the orphans, widows and the defenceless. He demands that they be treated justly and with compassion. He will hear their cry and see justice done to them should they entreat Him, for He is a God who is full of pity (see first reading).

Justice could be distributive or retributive. Distributive Justice deals with being fair in defending one's rights or those of others. Distributive justice makes us defend and care for the orphans, the widows, the poor and the defenceless. On the other hand, Retributive Justice deals with fairness in punishing the wrong. Love does not rejoice at wrong doing (1 Cor. 13:6). But love makes mercy a necessary part of justice. Justice without compassion or empathy is evil. Punishment therefore, should not turn into revenge or profiteering. It demands righting the wrong - the wrong doer seen as in a pitiable condition.

Our faith should be seen in our preaching and practice of love as we become an example to the whole world as the Thesalonian church of St Paul's time was throughout Macedonia and Achaia. (see Second Reading). Remain blessed.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE HOLY SOULS

November has traditionally been known as the month Catholics remember their deceased loved ones; members of the family, relatives, friends and the souls in Purgatory, in prayers especially at Masses. We are opening the Book of Remembrance this year. The envelopes are at the entrance to the Church. Please print the name/s clearly on the back of the envelopes and place the envelopes on any collection plate during Mass. The names will be included in our Book of Remembrance for this year and Masses offered for the repose of the souls of the dead and the well being of the living. Any envelope received after the 24th October will not be included in this year's Book of Remembrance though the Mass will still be offered for the repose of the soul of the dead.



Our parish will host the Catholic Mission Appeal on November 11-12

There are two commandments at the heart of the Christian faith: love God, love our neighbour. "The whole and the prophets depend on these two commandments," Jesus tells the Pharisee in today's gospel. When Catholic Mission conducts its appeal on the weekend of 11-12 November, it is a chance to extend love to our less fortunate neighbours, and further afield, by contributing both prayerfully and financially. In doing this, not only do you help transform the lives of the people of Vietnam and another 160 countries around the world, but you also demonstrate your love for God. For God is in each of the villagers of Vietnam and in the hands, feet and heart of each missionary, like Sr Mary. Thank you, in anticipation, for showing your embrace of both commandments.

FUND RAISING EVENT FOR RATNAPURA, SRI LANKA

The Annual Fundraising Food Fest for the benefit of the Parish of Ratnapura in Sri Lanka will be held on Sunday 5th November following the 8.30am Mass.

There will also be a cake stall. Parishioners are asked to please make cakes, slices, jams etc for the cake stall with all proceeds going to Bishop Cletus Perera to help with the work in his Diocese. Parishioners are encouraged to support this worthy cause by purchasing a meal on the day and also purchasing from the stall.

SOUND SYSTEM IN CHURCH

The Parish needs \$9,171.80 to fix and upgrade the sound system in the Church. At the moment the donations to this project stands at \$3,820.00. May God keep blessing you as you consider giving towards this project.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next parents preparation meeting for Baptisms of infants will be held on **Sunday 19th November 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 24th October 2017

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 681.10 - For Clergy Support
2ND COLLECTION: \$ 1,206.10 - 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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month outside school holidays. For more information please call the Parish Office.

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 this events in the 2018 Parish liturgy and Events Calendar.

ST BRIGID'S CRAFT GROUP. The craft group meet every Tuesday from 9.30am to 11.30am. in the Parish Centre. Everyone welcome.

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.

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 FROM 1ST JULY 2017

Week Day Mass

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

The Mass at 9.00am on the First Saturday of each month will be a Mass For the Sick with Anointing

The next Anointing Mass will be 4th November, 2017

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

<u>Divine Mercy Prayer</u>	Thursday	7.30am
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<u>Adoration Holy Hour with Benediction</u>	Thursday	6-7pm
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<u>Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help</u>	Saturday	9.30 am
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<u>Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church</u>	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 12th November 10.30 am



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR DAILY MASS ATTENDEES

There will be no daily Mass on Tuesday 7th November, Wednesday 8th November and Thursday 9th November as Fr Isidore will be away in Canberra.

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 and Tina Vettori

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



ALL SAINTS DAY AND ALL SOULS DAY

All Saints Day Wednesday 1st November Mass will be 7.00am and 5.45pm with a School Mass at 9.15am.

All Souls Day Thursday 2nd November Mass will be 7.00am 12.00 noon and 5.45pm.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A Sunday, 29 Oct 2017

FIRST READING *Ex 22:20-26*

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v.2*

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

SECOND READING *1 Thes 1:5-10*

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

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Jn 14:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Mt 22:34-40*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.

JOIN THE ROSARY CRUSADE IN SUPPORT OF NATURAL FAMILY

This month of October Parishioners are encouraged to join in praying and fasting for Marriage and Family. We are encouraged to pray rosaries for marriage, offer hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, fast on Fridays for families, give up meat on Fridays, give up sweets and other treats on Fridays. Go to RosaryCrusade.org.au to make your rosary pledge and join the crusade.

