

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A. 26 Feb 2017**

**FIRST READING** *Is 49:14-15*

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Zion was saying, 'The Lord has abandoned me, the Lord has forgotten me.' Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** *Ps 61:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6*

*(R.) Rest in God alone, my soul.*

1. In God alone is my soul at rest;  
My help comes from him.  
He alone is my rock, my stronghold,  
My fortress: I stand firm. *(R.)*
2. In God alone be at rest, my soul;  
for my hope comes from him.  
He alone is my rock, my stronghold,  
my fortress: I stand firm. *(R.)*
3. In God is my safety and glory, the rock  
of my strength. Take refuge in God all  
You people. Trust him at all times.  
Pour out your hearts before him. *(R)*

**SECOND READING** *1 Cor 4:1-5*

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

People must think of us as Christ's servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God. What is expected of stewards is that each one should be found worthy of his trust. Not that it makes the slightest difference to me whether you, or indeed any human tribunal, find me worthy or not. I will not even pass judgement on myself. True, my conscience does not reproach me at all, but that does not prove that I am acquitted: the Lord alone is my judge. There must be no passing of premature judgement. Leave that until the Lord comes: he will light up all that is hidden in the dark and reveal the secret intentions of men's hearts. Then will be the time for each one to have whatever praise he deserves, from God.

**GOSPEL** *Mt 6:24-34*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.

'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry, do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**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**

**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.

**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 26 TH 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**

**PHONE: (07) 5596 2632 FAX: (07) 5596 3669**

**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 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

Today's First Reading from a section of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah called the Book of Consolation. It was written while the Chosen People were in exile in Babylon. It is always a consolation for an oppressed and exiled people to hear that their liberation is close at hand. But when this does not happen, they become impatient. They start to ask anguished questions. Terrible doubts begin to surface in their minds. Indeed, there is nothing more painful and hurtful than to feel abandoned when you are in trouble. Especially by the very one who had promised to intervene. For whom you have waited day after day, apparently in vain. How much more so when the expected helper is God? Then our faith and our hope begin to wobble, become unsteady. The words meant to restore courage end up wounding the heart instead, causing one to fall into doubt and despair. Since God does not do anything for us, he has forgotten us.

But God answers: Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the child of her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you. Here, in this oracle of consolation from Isaiah, the innermost depths of God are revealed. No commentary is needed. Every mother, every father knows what it is to say 'The child of my womb'. To forget your child would be to forget yourself; to cease to be who you are. I will never forget you, says God.

It is the same profound loving care and concern which Jesus also promises to those who live their lives following the Sermon on the Mount. Those of us who lead lives characterised by the Beatitudes; those of us who respond to the challenge to be salt of the earth and light of the world, have no need to fear or worry. We are not to worry about our bodies, or the clothes we are to wear or the food we are to eat. The birds of the air worry not about such things. And yet, God looks after them. The flowers in the field neither work nor spin. And yet, promises Jesus, not even King Solomon—renowned for his luxury and finery – is clothed as one of these.

Because God knows all that we need. God sees to it that we are clothes. God sees to it that we are safe. God sees to it that we are fed. I will never forget you, says God.

Again, this is where this Sermon on the Mount challenges us. We are not to worry about any of these things. Instead, we are to set our hearts on the Kingdom of God, and on God's righteousness. And all these other things will be given us as well. I think, therefore, that is the context in which we must understand Jesus' injunction about serving two masters; about serving God and money.

To live a life of the Beatitudes is not to have to choose between God and money. We know that God is good. And yet we know, too, that money is not all bad. But, to live a life of the Beatitudes, is to choose between that which is definitive and eternal on the one hand and that which is transient, passing and perishable on the other.

We set out hearts on the Kingdom of God. We set our hearts on God's righteousness. And all these other things will be given us as well.

*Reflection by Anthony Doran as published in Pastoral Liturgy—a publication of the School of Philosophy & Theology, The University of Notre Dame Australia*

## 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 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



## ASH WEDNESDAY 1st MARCH 2017

Mass at St Brigid's will be 7.00am and 6.00pm with a School Mass at 9.15am

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

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

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday evening during Lent at 6.00pm in St Brigid's Church.

## BAPTISM PRAYERS

We ask pray for Matilda Opal Brown 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.



## Project Compassion

Today is Project Compassion Sunday, marking the beginning of Caritas Australia's annual Lenten appeal. Our Gospel reading this week reminds us to place all our trust in God and not to worry about things that are outside of our control.

Our Project Compassion theme this year is taken from the words of Jesus: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Matt. 22:39

For more than 50 years, Caritas Australia has been privileged to work together with some of our most marginalised sisters and brothers in Australian and in communities around the world. Working together, we have all grown stronger. Vulnerable communities are growing resilient in the face of poverty and injustice, and grown in dignity.

There's no better time than Lent for expressing our solidarity with our neighbours. Throughout Lent, we commit to strengthen our faith through prayer, reflection, fasting and almsgiving. We do this in our homes, our schools, our parishes, and as one Catholic family together with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Project Compassion empowers us to put our faith in action this Lenten season, and act with compassion and solidarity with our neighbours so that, wherever we live, whatever our circumstances, whatever our level of wealth or poverty, we can share the same chance of a better future for our families and communities.

Over the next six weeks, you will hear six stories about our neighbours from First Australian communities and from other countries. As you get to know them better, you'll learn how they have become good neighbours in their own communities.

And you'll come to realise, that they could all be living next door to you, sharing your fear, your hopes, your aspirations — and your desire to leave the world a better place

You'll hear stories about lives transformed through love and compassion, and through Project Compassion you'll be able to be part of that transformation.

We can 'Live our Lent' — we can pray together, with and for our world, and link our Lenten fasting to our almsgiving. Lent enables us to open the doors of our heart, and welcome the stranger. With true compassion, with love for our neighbours, there are no strangers. There is only the one human family living in what Pope Francis calls our common home.

We have boxes and envelopes for you to collect your donations which are available at the entrance to the Church.

As we journey through Lent together you will come to know more neighbours like— Dinia from the Philippines Martina from Timor-Leste, First Australian Uncle Richard, Nguyet from Vietnam, Semiti and his community from Fiji, and Alo-ma, also from the Philippines. And as you show your love for your neighbour through participation in Project Compassion, more lives will be transformed.

## 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.

## 2017 SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

### General Parent Meetings

Wednesday: March 8 at 6.00pm and Saturday March 11 at 10.00am in St Brigid's Church

An overview of the St Brigid's Parish Sacramental Preparation. This is the first of 2 identical meetings for families wishing to begin the journey of preparing their children for the sacraments. A second meeting for families who may not be able to attend this date will be held on March 11.

### Communion Preparation Parent Meeting

Sunday 21st May (after 8.30am Mass in the Church)

This meeting is for families wishing to participate in Communion preparation and the program is for children who were involved in the 2016 Confirmation preparation. Families may still attend the General Parent Meetings if involved in Communion preparation.

First Holy Communion Masses: Saturday 17 June at 6.00pm or Sunday 18 June at 8.30am.

Confirmation Mass: Friday 1 September at 6.00pm.

## ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIAL DETAILS as at Tuesday 21st February 2017

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 600.90 - For Clergy Support

2ND COLLECTION: \$ 1,233.30 - 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 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.



## 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.



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:

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

Paul Busuttil

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.

