

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time A – 2nd August 2020

First Reading *Is 55:1-3 A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16*

(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading *Rom 8:35. 37-39 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 14:13-21 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

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ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
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OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Thursday 9.00am to 12 noon. Tuesday & Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm

PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

Parish Priest: Fr Isidore Enyinnaya. **Ph:** 0451 140 471. **Email:** pp.nerang@bne.catholic.net.au
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Administration Assistant: Gurli Pennings **Tim Horvat:** Parish WHS & Safeguarding Officer

Dear People of God

Today, the Gospel reading begins with the news of John the Baptist's death. John the Baptist was imprisoned by King Herod for condemning his illicit and sinful marriage to his brother Philip's wife, Herodias. During Herod's birthday party, Herodias' daughter so impressed the King by her dance that the king promised to give her anything she would ask. On the advice of her mother, she requested the head of John the Baptist be given to her on a dish. And so, John was beheaded in prison. While in prison, John had sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3). That indicates that he was expecting him to do something to secure his release from prison. Jesus knew how great John had been and that he was imprisoned for the cause of righteousness. But still Jesus did nothing to save his cousin, his great mentor and his precursor. Receiving the news of his death, as Matthew narrates, Jesus "withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves".

Doesn't God appear sometimes to have withdrawn in the face of humans' inhumanity to other humans; at the sight of human wickedness, of tyranny, oppression, injustices, hatred and anger that unleash diverse evils? But why would Jesus withdraw when John expected him to come to his defence? Sure, He could even raise him from the dead. Why would he think of withdrawing when John's disciples needed him for consolation; when they needed him to speak up in condemnation of Herod's and Herodias' evil acts against an innocent John? Because He knows that nothing can change those, who, like the King and his illicit wife, have resolved not to change.

Would he have forced them to do his will? That would have turned each of them into a machine; a robot without free will or reason; being remotely controlled. They would no longer be humans if God hijacked their free will and reason. Then, they would not enjoy God's love, mercy, care, and friendship with fellow humans. But God wants us to enjoy his love and goodness freely and consciously. Graciously, He invites those who are thirsty and hungry to come to him, and buy food and drink - corn, bread, wine and milk, - without money. He was not referring only to physical thirst and hunger, but to those who are spiritually thirsty and hungry. God says in the same reading: "Listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live". However, like St John said, humans like Herod and Herodias, refusing to cooperate with the grace of God, prefer the darkness of error, sin and death to the light of truth, holiness and life (see John 3:19-21).

Whenever it appears that God has withdrawn himself from us, like when people feel his apparent silence or absence in moments of difficulty, trials, persecution, COVID pandemic, and in the face of injustice and oppression, He does that not to distance himself from us, but to give us the opportunity to genuinely and freely seek him. And when we do, He would go all out to show how deeply he loves us. He will compassionately teach, care and provide for all our needs. In Jesus, we have all it takes to live a good, happy and fulfilled life, but not without challenges. St Peter tells us that by His divine power, God "has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him [Jesus] who called us [to share in] his own glory and goodness" (2 Peter 1:3; words in bracket, mine).

Let all of God's people turn to Him then, in moments of crisis, difficulties, trials and temptations, and He will have pity and save. As St Paul tells us in today's second reading "These are trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us". For certainly, "neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord". Like the people in today's Gospel, let us go to that lonely place in search of our God: to the Church, the home altar, the sacred places in our lives and environment. St Matthew wrote: "But the people ... leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So, as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick". And as he works to alleviate human suffering and heal our land, especially at this time of COVID pandemic, he wants us all to be part of it. He says to his disciples today: "... give them something to eat yourselves". Let us help where we can and in whatever form we can, even if only with words of encouragement and faith.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

CHURCHES

St Brigid's Church
39-49 McLaren Rd
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St John's Church
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SCHOOL

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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 Morning 9.00 am

Mass for the Sick with Anointing is on the
Third Saturday of the month at 9.00am

The next Anointing Mass will be to be advised

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm
Sunday 8.30 am and 10.30am

Rosary

Monday, Tuesday, Friday at 7.30 am,

Saturday at 8.30am.

Divine Mercy Prayer Thursday 7.30 am

Adoration Thursday 6.00-7.00pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday 9.30 am

Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church By appointment only

St John's Windabout Road, Beechmont 4th Sunday of each month

Next Mass at St John's 23rd August 2020



COVID-19 EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

Dear Parishioners

With the further easing of COVID-19 restrictions we are now able to have more people (within reason) attend Mass. We will be resuming our usual schedule with a few exceptions as outlined on the previous page. However, the Government's social distancing guidelines will still apply.

All parishioners who wish to attend any or all of the weekday or Sunday Masses must now ring or email the office to have their name included in the list for that particular day. If you wish to attend daily and/or weekend (Sunday) Mass your name can be listed for the entire month of August if you let us know and then you do not have to contact us until the end of August to re-register for the following month. Unfortunately many people are under the assumption that they do not need to register but it is a requirement of the Archdiocese that we must comply with.

Please note I have added an extra Mass on Sunday at 10.30am. Please all those who would like to attend the 10.30 Mass should ring the Office Mon and Tuesday 9.00am to 12.00pm

With the new cases reported in Queensland we ask for your prayers.

The Funeral Mass of Elizabeth Walhain will take place at St Brigid's on Thursday, 6th August at 10:30am.

Elizabeth was a long time Parishioner here and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Following the latest outbreak of COVID-19 We advise anyone who has been to the following locations on these dates to isolate and get tested. []

Locations

- Parklands Christian College, Park Ridge, 22-23 July, 9.30am-6pm
- Madtongsan IV Restaurant, Sunnybank., 23 July, 7-9pm
- Heeretea-Bubble Tea Shop, Sunnybank, 23 July, 9.25pm
- YMCA Chatswood Hills Outside School Hours Care, Springwood, 23-24 July
- Primary Medical and Dental Practice, Browns Plains, 24 July, 3.30pm-3.50pm
- Thai Peak Restaurant, Springfield, 26 July, 6.30pm-9pm
- Cowch Dessert Cocktail Bar, Southbank, 27 July
- P'Nut Street Noodles, Southbank, 27 July
- African Grocery Store, Woodridge (Station Rd), 28 July
- Primary Medical and Dental Practice, Browns Plains, 28 July, 12.25-12.30pm
- Chatime Grand Plaza, Browns Plains, 28 July

Flights

- Flight VA863 from Melbourne to Sydney, 21 July
- Flight VA977 from Sydney to Brisbane, 21 July

SHALOM WORLD TV

Please Watch Inspiring and faith filled Christian television programs.

Shalom World's main website: <https://shalomworld.org>

Shalom Media: <https://shalommedia.org>

Shalom Media Store: <https://shalommediastore.org>

TO DOWNLOAD THE APP <https://shalomworld.org/watchon/apps>

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LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/shal...>

Subscribe: <https://www.youtube.com/c/shalomworld>

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

We pray for the recently deceased: Elizabeth Walhain

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

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

We pray for those who are sick or in hospital: Maria Vezic, Michelle Kurz, Peter Doring, John Sweeny, Kruze Patfield, Daryl Williams, Ava Mansfield, Shirley Jean Carr, Kath Fisher, Brenda Dale, (Baby) Paris Organ, Maureen Bourke, Jasmine Fay Parada, Patricia Smith, Maureen & Paul Humey, Valda Silvy, Joan Gordon, Amanda Gordon, Shelly Ryan, Sandra Miller, Nona Maguire, Linda Harri.



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

New Planned Giving Envelopes are available for collection in the Church now as well as receipts for the last year.

If you are not currently in the Planned Giving Program, please see Fr Isidore or telephone the office.

INSTALLATION OF CAMERAS IN THE CHURCH

With the COVID 19 restrictions and lockdown still in place, we would like to continue our live streaming to reach out to members of our community who may not be in the Church with us and also to make available to those who participated at the Mass an opportunity to watch the Mass and listen to the homily again if they so wish.

Installing cameras for professional video recording and uploading to the internet will also benefit the Church and families who would like to live stream the funeral of loved ones to relatives and friends who may be unable to attend. The same applies to weddings, graduation ceremonies, celebration of the sacraments like baptisms, first Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, and Anointing of the sick. Grand-parents and sick relatives and friends would not miss out completely. There are other uses and benefits as well which could accrue from the Church having fixed cameras in place.

If anyone feels touched to support this project, please do not hesitate to talk to me about how you could help.
Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIALS as at 26th July 2020

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 609.50 For Clergy Support (Greatly affected by COVID 19 Crisis)

2ND COLLECTION: \$ 861.10 For Parish expenses such as administration & maintenance of all our buildings & properties.

We appeal to all our Parishioners and friends who are not on planned giving already to consider switching over to planned giving or find another means of supporting the Parish and our ministry financially. We will send to parishioners the planned giving forms on request. I sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. Be assured of our prayers, and of your divine rewards.
Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

St Brigid's Sacramental Preparation 2020

Enrolment Forms for First Eucharist and Confirmation are available from the Reception at St Brigid's School or the Parish Office.. The sessions are commencing soon so please enrol your child as soon as possible or call the Parish Office during the hours shown on this Newsletter. The first Preparation session for Confirmation is today and the next will be on 8th August 2020, while that of First Holy Eucharist will be on 30th August 2020.