



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
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23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time A - 6th September 2020

First Reading Ez 33:7-9 *A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

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| <p>1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)</p> <p>2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)</p> | <p>3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)</p> |
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Second Reading Rom 13:8-10 *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!
 God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
 and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
 Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 18:15-20 *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

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Dear Friends in Christ

Today, as we celebrate Father's Day in Australia, it seems to me that God is particularly addressing fathers, encouraging them to speak up against the evil behaviours in their families (if any) and in the society at large. God has appointed fathers as Watchmen (Sentries) to their families – the House of God entrusted to their care. However, this reflection concerns all of us.

In today's first reading, God appointed Ezekiel "as a sentry to the house of Israel". By this appointment, God made him his prophet to communicate his word and warn the wicked ones among his people. In fact, the first reading is a job description for a prophet. And that is where the reading becomes relevant to each of us. At baptism, we were grafted onto Christ the Prophet. And so, in him we became prophets. Like Ezekiel, God is addressing us today as prophets. Hence, we are bound to warn others of their wicked ways. God says: **"If ... you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life."**

Most people in our contemporary world believe that the wicked are only the big time criminals or abusers. The sense of sin or wrong choices in those little things that are subtly destroying the fabric of our world is almost gone. People measure wickedness by acts or words that harm others or oneself. If it is enjoyable, if it makes you or me feel good, if I feel like doing it, if I can do it, then it is not a sin (even when God says it is) – that is what worldly people presumptuously teach. According to them, everything is permissible and so people are encouraged to go for it. Most of the human behaviours that were previously abhorred as sinful, are no longer seen as sin nowadays, or if they are seen as sin, they are not worth worrying about because God is merciful and ever loving. And so, Christians neglect their job as God's watchmen to their fellow human beings, to their fellow brothers and sisters in God's House who may be living a wicked or sinful life.

In biblical terms, wickedness refers to any infringement of God's commandment of love. It refers to sin and wrong behaviours. St Paul, in today's second reading, sums up all the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, into one single command, which is, "You must love your neighbour as yourself". And he went on to say: "Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations". It obvious, that mutual love cannot coexist with sins like adultery, killing, stealing, and so on. But sometimes less obvious that it cannot coexist with lying, gossiping, envy, jealousy, spiritual sloth, lust, prayerlessness, and so on. God is love. And any behaviour that does not align with love of God and neighbour is sinful.

In today's gospel, Jesus explains further how we are to do our job as sentries. He says: "If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves." Here Jesus promotes dialogue. He teaches that we should respect the dignity, integrity, and privacy of the wrong doer. We should not embarrass him or her; abuse, insult, condemn, judge or discriminate against him or her. We should not look down on them because we are not perfect ourselves. We should attack the sin and not the sinner. If our initial effort fails, we should then bring in godly experts, first two or three. And later, the community of the faithful - the Church. If this fails, then we will not be held responsible by God for their fault. All we owe them then is prayer and love.

Our faith in the authority Jesus gave us today, can still save wrong doers. We can lose one another from the bondage of evil and bind the evil itself from acting in human beings. It all depends on our agreement prayer. That is why every Christian must belong to a prayer group or form prayer partners. Get more people to pray for the wrong doer. Families should be encouraged to pray together for a particular intention until something happens, sometimes, for any errant member without being judgemental and condemnatory avoiding embarrassment as much as possible. This, in particular, is where the role of fathers comes in.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

<p>CHURCHES</p> <p>St Brigid's Church 39-49 McLaren Rd Nerang Q 4211</p> <p>St John's Church Windabout Rd Beechmont Q 4211</p> <p>SCHOOL</p> <p>St Brigid's Primary McLaren Road Nerang Q 4211 Phone: 5596 4188</p> <p>WEB PAGE: www.sb.qld.edu.au</p> <p>DAVID SEWELL Principal</p>	<p>MASS AND PRAYER TIMES AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH</p>		
	<p><u>Week Day Mass</u></p>		
	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	7.00 am	
	Wednesday	5.45 pm	
	Saturday Morning	9.00 am	
	<p>Mass for the Sick with Anointing is on the Third Saturday of the month at</p>		
	<p>The next Anointing Mass will be to be advised</p>		
	<p><u>Sunday Mass</u></p>		
	Saturday Vigil	6.00 pm	
	Sunday	8.30 am and 10.30am	
<p><u>Rosary</u></p>			
<p>Monday, Tuesday, Friday at 7.30 am, Saturday at 8.30am.</p>			
<u>Divine Mercy Prayer</u>	Thursday 7.30 am		
<u>Adoration</u>	Thursday 6.00-7.00pm		
<p><u>Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help</u> Saturday 9.30 am</p>			
<p><u>Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church</u> By appointment only</p>			
<p><u>St John's Windabout Road, Beechmont</u> 4th Sunday of each month</p>			
<p><u>Next Mass at St John's</u> 27th September 2020</p>			

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 departed whose anniversaries occur at this time: Kerry John Victor, Jozo Krajivovic

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: Gregory Hume, Noela Hopkins, Peter Doring, John Sweeny, Daryl Williams, Ava Mansfield, Shirley Jean Carr, Kath Fisher, Brenda Dale, (Baby) Paris Organ, Maureen Bourke, Patricia Smith, Maureen & Paul Hume, Valda Silvy, Joan Gordon, Amanda Gordon, Shelly Ryan, Sandra Miller, Nona Maguire,

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



BAPTISM PRAYERS

We pray for Lily Nguyen Madai and Danny Nguyen Madai who is being baptised this weekend. We pray that they will grow in grace and wisdom and abound with the love of God all their life's journey. We pray for their Family and Godparents.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK—SEPTEMBER 6—12, 2020

This year National Child Protection Week will celebrate its 30th year with the theme 'Putting children first'. Putting children first means prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children. To grow up well children need to feel safe and loved, have a chance to play and explore, have a say in decisions that affect them, and access to essential things like food, shelter and healthcare.

Show your support for National Child Protection Week by raising awareness of it in your parish or ministry. More information is available on the National Child Protection Week website at www.napcan.org.au/national-child-protection-week/.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION

This year's Good Friday Collection has been rescheduled by Pope Francis to Sunday 13th September. The hope of many is that rescheduling will go some way to offset the collection's cancellation on Good Friday and the closure of churches around the world, even until the present time in some countries. The collection remains a vital contribution and act of solidarity that the whole church is invited to make to support, through the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, the Christian peoples of the Holy Land. These often Arab Christians, who trace their faith back to Pentecost (Acts 2:10), still walk in the footsteps of Jesus and often experience a seemingly endless Way of the Cross. Please give generously to this appeal.

COVID-19 Mass Guidelines

Dear Parishioners

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 September 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: The Government's social distancing guidelines will also apply. With the new cases reported in Queensland we ask for your prayers.

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. We are grateful to generous parishioners who have donated more than \$4,825.00 towards this project.

SHALOM WORLD TV
Please Watch Inspiring and faith filled Christian television programs.

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SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION SCHEDULE

Meeting dates for Confirmation are:

17th October 10.10 am
24th October 3pm to 5.00pm Retreat
25th October 9.30am to 10.30am continuation of Retreat
30th October 6.00pm Confirmation night

Meetings for First Eucharist are:

12th September 10.10am after Mass
10th October 10.10am after Mass
11th October 9.30am after Mass
31st October 10.10am after Mass
1st November 9:30am after Mass—brief meeting only
7th November 10.10am after Mass
14th November 10.10am Retreat
15th November 9.30am to 10.30am continuation of Retreat
21st November 6.00pm First Eucharist
22nd November 8.30am First Eucharist

ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIALS as at 30th August 2020

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 739.50 For Clergy Support (Greatly affected by COVID 19 Crisis)

2ND COLLECTION: \$ 1119.65 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

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