



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
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PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time A - 13 Sept 2020

First Reading Sir 27:30 – 28:7 *A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4, 9-12. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

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| <p>1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)</p> | <p>3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)</p> |
| <p>2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)</p> | <p>4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. (R.)</p> |

Second Reading Rom 14:7-9 *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!
 I give you a new commandment:
 love one another as I have loved you.
 Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 18:21-35 *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

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Dear People of God

In today's second reading, St Paul says: 'The life and death of each of us has its influence on others...' In our interaction with others as humans we not only influence them positively, like in making them happy, teaching and helping them grow, etc., but we might also find ourselves offending and hurting others knowingly or unknowingly, influencing them negatively. However, St Paul calls us to live for Christ, since we belong to him. Part of the way to live for Christ, is to have the forgiving Spirit of Christ and to eschew the spirit of unforgiveness.

The first reading and the gospel give reasons why and how we should, and could easily, forgive. **They show that 'it is human to err but divine to forgive'**. Why do some people find it very hard to forgive others? I have heard some people say, 'I am finding it hard to forgive him/her or them'. However, I think, if we understand the reasons why we should forgive others, including my other self (as when I say 'I can't forgive myself), forgiving others becomes easier. We are not called to forget but to forgive. Unforgiveness is rooted in anger and resentment towards the wrong doer(s). And the first reading of today says these same faults: anger and resentment, are found with the sinner.

The first reason why we should forgive, is to avoid sin by not harbouring anger and resentment which give the devil an opportunity. (Eph. 4:26-27). The second reason is to receive mercy and forgiveness from God whom we often offend - unless we claim we have no sin. St John says: 'If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.' (1 John 1:8-10). Also, St Paul says: 'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...' The inescapable fact that we are all struggling with the power of sin will help us forgive others as God has forgiven us. This is the lesson from the story of the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant we read today in the Gospel. When we forgive we are like God.

The third reason from the first reading is that we need forgiveness ourselves because we err sometimes. The gravity of what we do may be less, but we will still need forgiveness from others - if not for our sins of commission, then for our sins of omission. This will help us avoid nurturing resentments and anger. Together with our human weaknesses and limitations, comes our temporary existence here on earth. Life is too short to be wasted nursing hurts and harbouring resentments and anger. So, let go of anger, resentment and unforgiveness, and be free to live on. Life continues.

In today's gospel, Jesus, in answer to Peter's question, tells us to forgive as often as we are offended. And as we pray in the Lord's Prayer: 'Forgive us ... as we forgive others', so, we expect God to forgive us in the same way as we forgive others. Some people forgive others with conditions attached. We should ask ourselves, if God is to forgive us with similar conditions attached, will it augur well for us at the end. The first reading of today says: **'Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.'** Let us remember then that there is heaven and there is hell. Let us remember that God has commanded us to love by showing mercy and forgiving others. Let us remember that Christ died for us while we were still sinners and sealed the new covenant with his blood while praying: Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing. (Luke 23:34)

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
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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 27th September 2020



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

We pray for the recently deceased: Robert Phillips

We pray for the departed whose anniversaries occur at this time: John Baldacchino, Kerry John Victor, Jozo Krajevovic

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 Jasper James O'Neill who is being baptised this weekend. We pray that he will grow in grace and wisdom and abound with the love of God all his life's journey. We pray for his Family and Godparents.

WORD OF LIFE ACADEMY - - Come and pray with the Word of God. Every last Saturday of the month from 10 am to 12 pm at St Brigid's Parish. Next meeting is Saturday 26th September 2020. All Welcome.

IN EMERGENCIES or HOSPITAL CALLS

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

University & Gold Coast Priv Hosp-Southport Parish 5510 2222

HOLY LAND COLLECTION TODAY

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.

Week-day Mass Readings

Days		Memorials/Feasts	Readings (R1 and R2)	Gospel Reading
Mon	14/9/20	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	R1: Num. 21:4-9 or Phil 2:6-11	Jn. 3:13-17
Tues	15/9/20	Our Lady of Sorrows	R1: (Heb. 5:7-9);	Jn. 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Wed	16/9/20	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian	R1: 1 Cor. 12:31—13:13	Lk 7:31-35
Thurs	17/9/20		R1: 1 Cor. 15:1-11	Lk 7:36-50
Fri	18/9		R1: 1 Cor. 15:12-20, 42-49	Lk 8:1-3

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

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.

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 6th September 2020

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 619.10 For Clergy Support (Greatly affected by COVID 19 Crisis)

2ND COLLECTION: \$ 1134.40 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

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 \$5,225.00 towards this project.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya