



Second Sunday of Easter - Yr C

27th April, 2025

Parish Priest Fr Vincent Nguyen
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Ph: 5428 2591

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CHILD PROTECTION - is everyone's responsibility

Check the Parish Website for:

Child Safety & Code of Conduct Policy
Parish Privacy Act / Professional Standards

A parent must accompany any child leaving the church during Mass.

Parish Email: gisborne@cam.org.au
Parish Website melbcatholic.org/s/gisborne
Parish Facebook Page www.facebook.com/stbrigidsparishgisborne

Secretary Hours Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm**CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:**

Please pray for those who are in ill health:

**Eileen S, Corine V, Anthony S,
Fran S, Helen K, Shane R, George T,
Jacqueline D, Sebastian M,
Diane M, Marg P, Zoe F,
Ellen K & Pat P.**

We pray for the recently deceased and for those who have
an anniversary at this time.
May they rest in peace

Upcoming Events & Holy Week Mass Times

26/04/25 Saturday 6pm Mass – Gisborne
27/04/25 Normal Sunday Masses
27/04/25 12pm – Baptism's
29/04/25 5pm – Weekday Mass – Gisborne
30/04/25 9:15am – Weekday Mass – Gisborne
01/05/25 9:15am – Weekday Mass – Gisborne
02/05/25 9:15am – Weekday Mass – Gisborne
03/05/25 Saturday 6pm Mass – Gisborne
04/05/25 Normal Sunday Masses
04/05/25 3pm – Eddie & Peter Gardiner
Book Launch – Parish Hall

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Doubt and questioning are a normal and proper part of being human. We should allow for this within the community of the Church. A point may come where a person may no longer remain in the Church with any integrity. But a dismissive, excluding Church is not the Church of this gospel story.

Within the companionship of the Church a doubter may hear the words: 'Peace be with you.' What sort of peace? It is that inner assurance that, in the midst of all the tribulations and the turmoil and the myriad precursor deaths which we suffer on all sorts of levels, the Conqueror of Death wants to be with us.

How can the Risen Lord be with us? In Holy Communion, and in those counted as least in the world. According to Matthew 25, He is those without the necessities of life: food, shelter, medical care, comfort in distress.

We could pause for a moment to savour that Peace which comes from faith in the Conqueror of Death and in his Real Presence in Holy Communion and in those in dire need.

mtate@bigpond.com

With sorrow and thankfulness, we join the Church and the world in mourning the passing of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, on Easter Monday – a day enveloped by the light of the Resurrection. A shepherd with a heart for the lost, a voice for the marginalized, and a tireless advocate for a missionary Church, Pope Francis dedicated his life to making the love of Christ known to all. From his first call to embrace the joy of the Gospel to his unwavering commitment to mercy and evangelization, his papacy was a reminder that the Church does not exist for itself but for the world. His vision for a missionary Church – one that goes to the peripheries, encounters people where they are, and invites them into a life-changing relationship with Jesus – has inspired so many to embrace renewal, including the movement and ministry of Divine Renovation.

As we grieve, we also rejoice in the hope of Easter and give thanks for the witness of his life, his courage, and his call to be a Church on mission. And in this moment of transition, we entrust him to the loving arms of the Father and pray for the College of Cardinals as they prepare to discern his successor. *Let us unite in prayer:*

“Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.”



Rosters & Events



Ministers for next weekend's Masses

Third Sunday of Easter – Year C

3rd & 4th May, 2025

6:00pm Mass St. Brigid's Reader: B Floreani Eucharist: N. Spiers	8:00am Mass St. Ambrose's Welcomer: J. White Reader: P. Lacy	Flowers: T. Armstrong 
9:30am Mass St. Patrick's Reader: M. Redman Eucharist: M. Cooper	11:00am Mass St. Brigid's Reader: B. Myers Eucharist: T. Armstrong	

'PARISH, PRIESTS AND PIONEERS, A HISTORY OF ST. BRIGID'S PARISH, GISBORNE'

The cost for the book is \$10 (A5 - small) or \$20 (A4 - large).
Books can be purchased directly from the Parish Office or at weekend Masses.

SPECIAL COLLECTION GOOD FRIDAY HOLY PLACES

Thank you for your generosity.
The total contribution was
\$495

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND - CATHOLICCARE SUNDAY APPEAL

CARITAS PROJECT COMPASSION

Please return envelopes and mite boxes this week to be included with the Project Compassion Collection.

THANKSGIVING BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Thanksgiving Program, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

**St. Brigid's Church Account
NAB**

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 6742 95773

Please use your surname and TG number as the reference.

PRIEST & PRESBYTERY BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Priest & Presbytery expenses, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

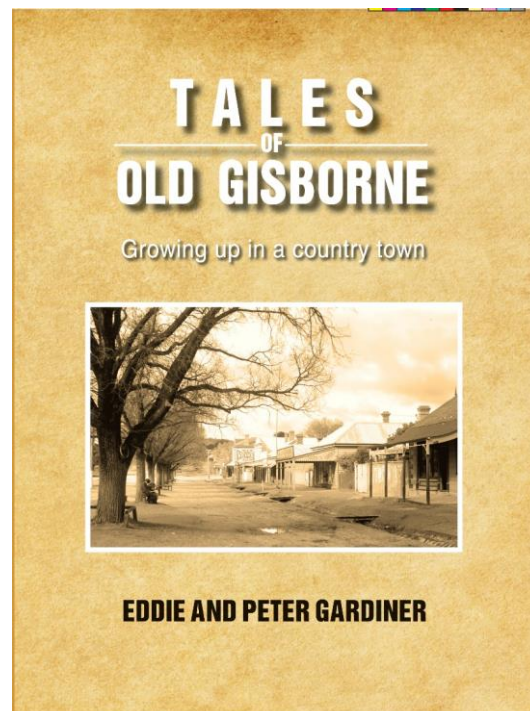
**St. Brigid's Presbytery Account
NAB**

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 6672 72303

Please use your surname as the reference.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE LAUNCH OF THE BOOK



TO BE HELD AT ST BRIGID'S PARISH HALL
ON SUNDAY 4 MAY AT 2.30PM

Copies of the Book will be available for purchase - \$35

(Cash accepted & Credit Card facility available)

We'd be grateful if those attending could bring a small plate of food to share for afternoon tea. Please advise Tam at the office if you can help.

KARATE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Thursday evenings 6pm - 1st TWO lessons
free then \$7 per class

No term commitment required;
pay as you come.

Enquiries: Kathryn Aprile—0404 340 892

OPEN HOUSE

Meet after 11am Sunday Mass at the
Kaffeine Bar for a coffee and chat.
Everyone Welcome!

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Should you have a loved one gravely ill and in need of anointing or the services of a priest, please call the Parish Landline on 5428 2591.

WEEKLY SOCIAL CARDS NIGHT

St. Brigid's Hall – Tuesday 7:30pm start -
Entry \$10 per player

Light supper served on completion of play
EVERYONE WELCOME

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Thursday – 10am
For all enquiries please contact
Bernie 0414 890 377

St Brigid's Parish Weekly Giving

Collections last week: Presbytery \$935
Thanksgiving \$1825

Thank you for your ongoing support through the Thanksgiving Program.

Introduction: In this Easter Season we strive to deepen our Christian commitment through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Today we pray for an increase in our awareness of our baptismal blessing so that God will renew the gift of life within us.

1st Reading: Acts 5:12-16

We hear how Luke's aim is to describe the progress of the early Church as it grows under the influence of the Holy Spirit, who leads many people to seek healing.

2nd Reading: Revelations 1:9-13; 17-19

John the evangelist uses the medium of revelation, as if in the future, to speak to the people of the present. Jesus reveals himself to John as the Alpha and the Omega.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

This account from John's Gospel tells of one of the early appearances of Jesus to the disciples after the resurrection, and the struggle of Thomas to come to terms with his doubts. With faith he can later exclaim 'my Lord and my God.'

Prayer of Intercession: We have heard of the appearance of Jesus to the disciples and how he chided Thomas for his lack of faith. With faith in the Risen Saviour, we turn in confidence to him to grant our prayers.

1. For Pope Francis, a man of humility, mercy and hope. Let us pray that he may now be caught up in the promise of God's kingdom.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. We pray for our school communities as they return for term two. May the spirit of wisdom and understanding be with them in abundance.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. We pray for those men and woman who have offered themselves in the pursuit of peace. May all who have been affected by war know the healing embrace of Jesus the Risen Lord.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. We pray for our faith community. May we, like the first Christian communities, be a community of faith, prayer, worship and loving service to others.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For the children of the parish receiving baptism this weekend that their faith may be strengthened and that their baptism may be a reminder to each one of us of the call to discipleship.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

6. We pray for ourselves and the special needs of all in our parish community. We pray for those who are sick – especially and those on our parish prayer list – the frail, and for all who care for them. For the faithful departed: for those who have died recently, especially Pope Francis and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they be at peace with the risen Christ.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Please join in the parish Prayer.

Celebrant: Father of our Risen Lord Jesus, your Spirit changed the human ways of the apostles and the early Christian community. May we continue to embrace our faith and be open to change and future growth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Next week's readings: Acts 5:27-32, 40-41; Revelations 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

ST. BRIGID'S GISBORNE PARISH PRAYER

God our Father, we thank you for all the blessings we enjoy in our parish family of St. Brigid's Gisborne.

Many have laboured to build our parish. May we all work together and hand in hand stand together.

May our parish be filled with holiness and prayer, faith and love.

May all who come here find a welcoming home, comfort in their needs and strength for their journey.

St. Brigid, St. Patrick, St. Ambrose and St. Colmcille watch over us always we pray, that with faith we grow and learn.

We make our prayer in Jesus name.

Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (*all bow*)

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; "he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen

The Living Word

Second Sunday of Easter, Year C

27 April 2025

First Reading

Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117:2-4, 22-27. R. v.1

(R.) *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.*

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)
3. O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the true God is our light. (R.)

Second Reading

Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the

underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

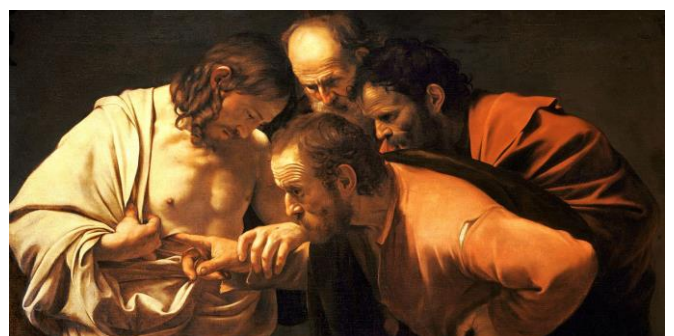
Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Monday, April 21st, 2025.

A prayer following the death of His Holiness Pope Francis, giving thanks for his life of ministry.



Father in heaven, we praise your name
for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them and the peace in which they rest.

We praise you today for your servant Francis and for all that you did through him.
Meet us in our sadness and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant Francis.
Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.

Enfold him in the arms of your mercy,
in the blessed rest of everlasting peace and in the glorious company of the saints in light.
Amen.

Pope Francis has died on Easter Monday aged 88

Pope Francis died on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88 at his residence in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta.

By Devin Watkins

At 9:45 AM, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church, announced the death of Pope Francis from the Casa Santa Marta with these words:

"Dearest brothers and sisters, with deep sorrow I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis. At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of His Church. He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially in favor of the poorest and most marginalized. With immense gratitude for his example as a true disciple of the Lord Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of the One and Triune God."

The Director of the Holy See Press Office, Matteo Bruni, told journalists later on Monday that "The translation of the Holy Father's mortal remains to the Vatican Basilica, for the veneration of all the faithful, may take place on the morning of Wednesday, April 23, 2025, according to the arrangements that shall be determined and communicated tomorrow, following the first Congregation of the Cardinals," Mr. Bruni said.

In April 2024, the late Pope Francis approved an updated edition of the liturgical book for papal funeral rites, which will guide the funeral Mass which has yet to be announced.

The second edition of the *Ordo Exsequiarum Romani Pontificis* introduces several new elements, including how the Pope's mortal remains are to be handled after death.

The ascertainment of death takes place in the chapel, rather than in the room where he died, and his body is immediately placed inside the coffin.

According to Archbishop Diego Ravelli, Master of Apostolic Ceremonies, the late Pope Francis had requested that the funeral rites be simplified and focused on expressing the faith of the Church in the Risen Body of Christ.

"The renewed rite," said Archbishop Ravelli, **"seeks to emphasise even more that the funeral of the Roman Pontiff is that of a pastor and disciple of Christ and not of a powerful person of this world."**



<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-04/pope-francis-dies-on-easter-monday-aged-88.html>



We *needed* Francis, but we also need to prepare for his successor.

The Francis legacy cannot be compromised; too much is at stake to have a restorationist pope dismantle the ecclesial vision and pastoral timbre of the Argentine's pontificate. We need a Francis II.

The cardinal electors—many of whom have been created by Francis—will discern over a period of concentrated time the qualities most needed in the next pope and what our hyper-turbulent world needs in the new Bishop of Rome. For sure: they will fret about continuity. For some the allure of the Ratzinger papacy will be compelling, for others a new style of leadership is imperative, and for many the special gifts that Francis bequeathed the church must be nurtured and allowed to flourish.

The Francis papacy was not without its flaws, but its strengths are formidable.

He was the pope of many firsts: he was the first Jesuit pope; the first pope to take the name Francis; the first in centuries to live outside the Apostolic Palace, opting instead of the Casa Santa Marta, an apartment complex for visiting clerics and guests; the first to aggressively promote women through appointments to the highest offices of Vatican governance.

To the world—Catholic and otherwise—he was the pope of mercy, a universal pastor who prized compassion over the law, personal flexibility over administrative rigidity, the enfleshed individual over abstract reasoning.

He instructed bishops to see their pastorship as something other than mere management; he exhorted theologians to get onto the streets, to be pioneers in effecting a cultural revolution. And he did these things because he was committed to an enlivening theological enterprise rooted in the reality of the people, grounded in experience and not ideology, a theology that promotes a way of life open to an endlessly unfolding culture of dialogue.

As with his Jesuit companions, he was poised to celebrate all human endeavours that disclose the majesty of God, and therefore all ministry is *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*. And that ministry includes care for our common home, the protection of migrants, and the dismantling—or at least serious mitigating—of the geo-economic policies that perpetuate inequity. He has made Rome, once the centre of an ecclesiastical empire, a treasured seat on the periphery, a sanctuary for a healthy universalism over a debilitating globalization, a soft power that can build bridges, a beacon of human and spiritual harmony in a sea of dark turmoil.

And he did this—because of the authenticity of his moral voice. This was the leader who chose to fly to Lampedusa on his first Vatican outing to stand in solidarity with the homeless and abandoned.

If his successor can do likewise, then the Bergoglio signature will be entrenched.

Dr. Michael W. Higgins has been involved with investigating and expanding the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, particularly in Canada, for over forty years. Dr. Higgins is the Basilian Distinguished Fellow of Contemporary Catholic Thought at the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto.