



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr C

23rd February, 2025

Parish Priest Fr Vincent Nguyen
66 Aitken Street, Gisborne Vic 3437
Ph: 5428 2591

Parish Secretary Tammie Dalgleish
P O Box 467, Gisborne Vic 3437
Ph: 5428 2591

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**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,
Henslee C, Jacqueline D, Sebastian M,
Diane M, Eddie G, Marg P, Zoe F
& Ellen K.**

We pray for the recently deceased and for those who have
an anniversary at this time, especially

**Sophia Wisniewski, Peter Zieradzki, Rita Grech
John Kilgariff & Fiona Kilgariff.**

May they rest in peace

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

22/02/25 Saturday 6pm Mass – Gisborne
23/02/25 Normal Sunday Masses
23/02/25 12noon – Baptism's – Gisborne
25/02/25 5pm – Weekday Mass – Gisborne
26/02/25 **NO Weekday Mass**
26/02/25 Sacred Heart Kyneton – Feast Day
27/02/25 **NO Weekday Mass**
27/02/25 Clergy Meeting – Melbourne
28/02/25 9:15am – Weekday Mass - Gisborne
01/03/25 Saturday 6pm Mass – Gisborne
02/03/25 Normal Sunday Masses

COLUMBAN PARTNERSHIP GROUP

On the Australia Day weekend, Fr Robert McCullough celebrated our parish masses and spoke about the work of the Columbans in Pakistan. He was accompanied by Eric Siraj, the administrator of St Elizabeth's Hospital Hyderabad. Thanks to the generosity of St Brigid's Parish community, just over \$1600 was donated in the leaving collections towards the new orthopaedic ward and the Palliative Care Day Centre which is at present under construction. The partnership group would like to thank all those who gave so generously. Thanks also to Liza Wilson, who has kindly donated over \$400 from her Christmas Angels towards the hospital project too, meaning over \$2000 will be forwarded in the Parish name. Sadly, I was informed by Father Robert that Eric's father passed away shortly after he arrived home from Australia. Please keep Eric and his family in your prayers.

*Jayne O'Callaghan,**on behalf of the Columban Partnership Group.***REFLECTION by Fr. Michael Tate**

Jesus challenges us to unlearn the language of the world and to learn a language which is counter-cultural, paradoxical, perplexing, such as: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you' etc, etc. Are such attitudes and actions possible?

Our Lord is the best model. Jesus is the Word of God in human history. Jesus is the language of Heaven spoken in a human life. We have to read the Gospels and then imitate His dialect. Otherwise we might merely mutter to ourselves which would end up being eternally Hellish.

When we become aware of our language malpractice, i.e., sinning, and if we become really tongue-tied, i.e., seriously sinning, we can come to the Sacrament of Confession and emerge articulate and conversant with Christ again. We can talk with Our Lord again. We are singing the same tune.

Then at the moment of death we can gracefully pass over to our intended destiny which is not incommunicado, but communicado, holy communicado, holy conversation with God and with every creature.

We might pause for a moment and resolve to practise the language of Heaven and to 'walk the talk' every day.

mtate@bigpond.com**150th Anniversary Celebration**

Photographs wanted

Along with the professional footage shot on the day, there were a lot of cameras and phones being used to capture the celebrations.

If you would like your photographs to be included in the historical file for the 150th Anniversary event, please forward them to gisborne@cam.org.au

Livestreaming

If you weren't able to attend or watch online live you can still access the footage via the link below:

<https://www.westwardfilms.com.au/st-brigids-anniversary>



Rosters & Events



Ministers for next weekend's Masses

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

1st & 2nd March, 2025

6:00pm Mass St. Brigid's Reader: Eucharist:	8:00am Mass St. Ambrose's Welcomer: J. White Reader:	Flowers: 
9:30am Mass St. Patrick's Reader: Eucharist:	11:00am Mass St. Brigid's Reader: Eucharist:	

SACRISTAN NEEDED ST. PATRICK'S

If you are passionate about St. Patrick's and would like to become more involved in ministry, please contact Tam at the office and put your name forward. Full training will be provided and support given for as long as needed.

Feel free to speak with Bernie Stanchinotti regarding position description for Sacristan.

As always, parish volunteers need to hold a current Working with Children Check and complete the online Safeguarding Training required by our Safeguarding Policy.

Full training provided and sharing of the role also an option. The more people available to share the workload the better.



PARISH HISTORY BOOK

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

To mark the 150th anniversary of St Brigid's Church, Gisborne in February 2025, all families and parishioners are encouraged to purchase the book, which was written and published by parishioner, Leo Duggan in 2000 and has been re-printed with the addition of an Addendum summarizing what has occurred in the Parish since then.

Please support your Parish by purchasing a copy of the book. All proceeds will help your Parish to offset the costs of the recent 150th anniversary celebration. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

Focus country: the Cook Islands

On behalf of the Ecumenical churches in Gisborne

St. Brigid's Catholic Church

will host WDOP this year.

Friday, March 7th, 2025 - 10:30am

All welcome

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.

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

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.

HOME VISITS TO THE SICK

Parishioners wanting to have a home visit from Fr. Vincent should please contact the office by phone or email to arrange a suitable time.

Our Safeguarding Policy does not allow for a Priest or volunteer to attend a home to provide Communion or counsel without consent of the person directly involved.

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Thursday – 10am

For all enquiries please contact

Bernie 0414 890 377

St Brigid's Parish Weekly Giving

Collections last week: Presbytery \$451
Thanksgiving \$1040

Thank you for your ongoing support through the Thanksgiving Program.

Introduction: In today's liturgy we have a strong contrast between Christ's teaching and the ways of the world, with the words of Jesus about turning the other cheek. The Mass calls us to an act of faith, so that we do accept the words of Jesus and do want to live up to them.

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9, 12-13, 22-23.

In this reading we see how David has King Saul at his mercy while his companions wished to kill him, but David preserves Saul's life.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Paul contrasts Adam with Christ. Such a comparison shows the hope we have in Jesus of rising above the merely human level of Adam.

Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38

This continues Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount. Be open and receptive, and don't think you have heard it all before. Listen attentively to the heart of Christian teaching.

Prayer of Intercession: We have heard the high standard of the Gospel and the ideal Jesus sets for us. Let us now turn to him in prayer that we and all Christians may be able to live up to this ideal.

1. We pray through Jesus because he has the words of eternal life, that he may strengthen us to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. We pray through Jesus because he is the Son of God, that we can embrace his standard of love and service and reject the merely material or selfish standards.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. We pray through Jesus because he has first loved us, that we can desire to follow his commandments and to want to live up to the Gospel standard.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. We pray through Jesus for our Church leaders, especially the Pope and bishops that the Spirit encourages them to speak out when the standards of the world are in conflict with the Gospel.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. 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 and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Sophia Wisniewski, Peter Zieradzki, Rita Grech, John Kilgariff & Fiona Kilgariff**. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

Please join in the Parish Prayer.

Celebrant: Loving Father, you reveal your compassion in the love of Jesus, your Son. Strengthen our faith that we may follow his path. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

23 February 2025

First Reading 1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

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.)
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.)
3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

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

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

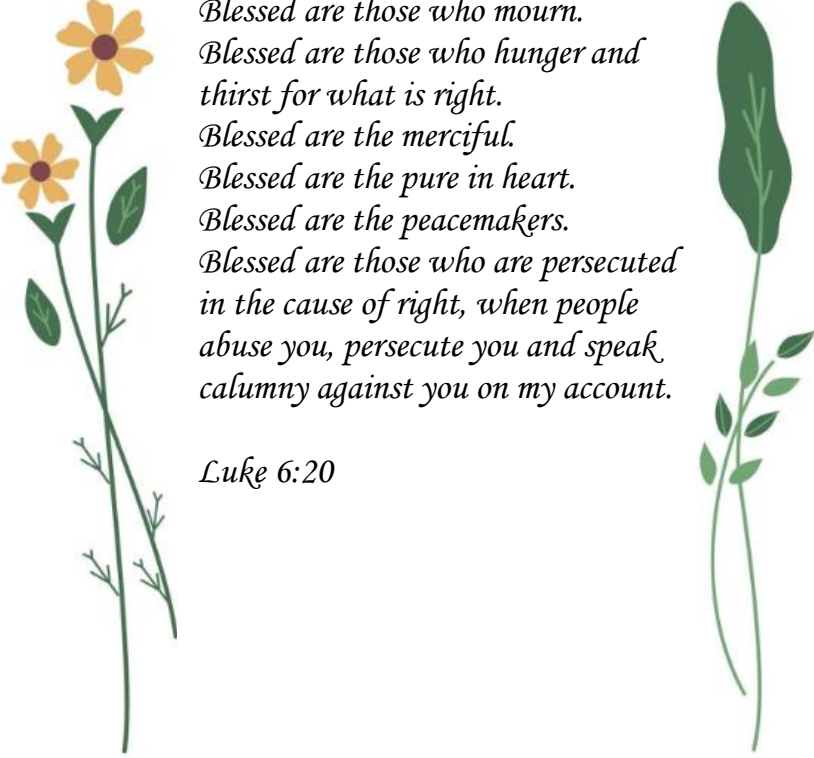
Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Reading for 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 2025

Father Vincent Nguyen PP



*Blessed are the poor in spirit.
Blessed are the gentle.
Blessed are those who mourn.
Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for what is right.
Blessed are the merciful.
Blessed are the pure in heart.
Blessed are the peacemakers.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
in the cause of right, when people
abuse you, persecute you and speak
calumny against you on my account.*

Luke 6:20

Two of the gospels Matthew's and Luke's talk about these core teachings of Jesus.

As such, it is a well known piece of scripture, but how often do we reflect on the meaning and its message as we live out our daily life.

On Sunday, Father Vincent had a member of the congregation join him to not just read the scripture but to read it as a narrative between **God** and the **Reader** to explain its meaning in our daily life.

It was originally written by Father Tommy Lane.

Members of our Mass asked Father if we could have this printed in the Parish Bulletin.

Please take time to read and reflect.

Dear Lord, those Beatitudes. Whatever do you mean by them? They sound like a lot of pious talk to me.

My child, they are not just pious talk. They are the most important words I spoke when I was on earth. Did you know that?

No, I didn't.

You didn't know? My goodness! Those words I spoke are as important for the way you live as are the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament.

If they're so important Lord, explain them to me. They sound very difficult to me.

Very well then. Let's begin. I invite my people to be my disciples, to follow me and not follow the ways of the world. If you live as my disciple I expect you to live your life with a different attitude to the sort of attitude you see on TV, hear on the radio, read in the newspaper or view on social media.

In what way is my attitude to be different?

I ask you to live your life with the attitude that you see in the Beatitudes.

You still haven't explained them to me. What does the first one mean? How happy are the poor in spirit?

You are poor in spirit when you need to rely on me to live, when you need my help to face life. You are poor in spirit when you admit that you are a sinner. If you do not trust in me you are not poor in spirit. When you have made plans and all those plans fall asunder, then you need to turn to me just as I turned to my Father when I was dying on the cross. On the cross I said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit". In that moment I was poor in spirit. When you commit your life into my hands, when you surrender control over your life into my hands, then you too are poor in spirit and will be happy.

Yes Lord, I can manage that one. But you also said happy are the gentle. Isn't it a bit much in today's world to expect me to be always gentle?

I understand fully that there are people who would persecute you if you allowed them to. I am not saying

that you should allow people to persecute you. When I said you would be happy if you were gentle what I meant was not to throw your weight around. Don't try to overcome violence with violence. You can still look for justice, but please don't look for justice by using violence. That's what I meant when I said happy are the gentle. You have examples of this sort of gentleness, overcoming violence with non-violence in people like Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

Right, Lord. But didn't you really go over the top when you said, "Happy are those who mourn"?

I think you misunderstood what I meant. If you understood properly you wouldn't say I went over the top.

Tell me Lord. I want to see you getting out of this one.

When I said, "Happy are those who mourn" I meant happy are those who are repentant, who are sorry for their sins, and sorry for the sins of others. I mean you to be conscious of the fact that not everyone lives the way I ask. When you are sorry because of that, then you mourn. I am saying it is good to let that feeling come to the surface. It is good to be sorry because of those murdered in Kosovo and Sierra Leon [1999]

Yes Lord. I am really sorry because of those and more recent crimes. I could say I mourn because of them. You also said I would be happy when I hunger and thirst for what is right.

That's correct, and do you know that the correct reason for hungering and thirsting for what is right is because when others suffer injustice, I suffer injustice?

Yes Lord, I know you said we are to love our neighbour as ourselves. But when I see one piece of injustice solved, once again I start hungering and thirsting for justice because I see another example of injustice.

Yes of course, because hungering and thirsting for justice means treating ourselves and others with dignity, and there is no end to that.

You also said that the merciful are happy. You mean that if I forgive others I will be happy. That is a hard pill to swallow. So-and-so is the greatest nuisance I have ever met!

When you pray the Our Father you say: Forgive us our trespassers as we forgive those who trespass against us. In other words, you ask God to forgive you, and then you in turn promise to pass on that forgiveness to others. If you look at life from the perspective of others, as well as your own perspective, the world will be a better place and so you will be happier.

You also said, "Happy are the pure of heart".

I should say that purity in heart is not only referring to temptations. In fact what I meant was that you are pure in heart when you stand up for your beliefs even when this puts you under pressure. You are pure in heart when you live your life in such a way that your faith has an effect on the way you live. You are pure in heart when you celebrate your faith here every Sunday and then put it into practice during the week.

Has this got anything to do with politics?

Of course. You are pure of heart when you uphold my values in the world, even if this means that you don't tow the party political line.

I easily understand why you said that peacemakers will be happy. We all want peace.

Yes, but what I said was that the peacemakers will be happy. I didn't say those who want peace will be happy. I expect my disciples to go and do something to bring about peace, not just to want peace but to make peace.

Finally, you said that we would be happy when persecuted in the cause of right, that we would be happy when people abuse us and persecute us on your account. This time you've really gone over the top!

Let me explain myself. Why is there persecution? Because there is a clash between two different ways of looking at the world. I expect my disciples to have my attitude towards life and the world. As you well know, not everybody does have my attitudes towards the world and life. Therefore, it is inevitable that there will be a clash of opinions. But I am saying to you that my disciples will be happy if they do not compromise, if they remain faithful to me even when it is not popular. I am saying that you will find real happiness, not in pleasing the crowd, but in remaining loyal to my teachings. I will reward you, the crowd will not reward you.

I see that being a disciple of yours, following you, is serious stuff.

Of course it is. I did say that if you want to be my disciple you must take up your cross everyday. Nowadays people don't want any cross. But I am calling people to convert continually, to model themselves on me everyday, not to allow themselves become tarnished and contaminated by the attitudes in the world that are the opposite of mine.

St Brigid's Church 150th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, February 9th, 2025



When you set about planning an event like St Brigid's Church 150th Anniversary, there are many things that you plan for, and as we know, many things that are out of our control. On Sunday, feedback from parishioners tells us that we were truly blessed with things going to plan and also with the weather.

As explained, Archbishop Peter Comensoli was only able to confirm in the week leading up to our special day, that he would be able to come and be the main celebrant. With the assistance of St Brigid's parish priest, Fr Vincent Nguyen, past parish priest, Fr Gerry Spillane and parish priest, Father John Healy from Woodend/Romsey/Lancefield we experienced a truly memorable mass. Unfortunately Fr Barry Tobin was an apology on the day but he will visit later in the year when in better health.

The streaming of this event proved to be an ideal way to not only cater for the families who attended in both the church and the hall but also to those who could not attend in person or on the day. You can view the mass by connecting to this link: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/150th-anniversary-celebrations-for-one-of-the-states-oldest-churches>.



Choir members across our parish mass centres joined together to ensure that our Liturgy was enhanced by music and song.



Following the Mass everyone was invited to follow Archbishop Peter outside where he blessed the pavers purchased by parishioners. We thank Neville Spiers for taking St Colmcille's Gate [looked after for many years by Peter Gardiner] and creating an installation that replicated the posts and fencing at St Colmcille's Church in Bullengarook.



For those people present who have been asking 'Did the sausages and drinks we bought raise enough to cover the cost of the plants surrounding the pavers and St Colmcille Gate installation - **YES**



The hall was a buzz with the sharing of refreshments and chatter; for many who have moved away from Gisborne it provided the perfect reason to come together and bring each other up to date on what has been happening in their lives and the lives of their families over the past years.



Thanks Pauline & Carolyn for Manning the Kitchen





To view an article written by Paul Lawry for the latest edition of **Melbourne Catholic** go to the following link:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/150th-anniversary-celebrations-for-one-of-the-states-oldest-churches>

Over the coming weeks look for some of these beautiful gifts that will grace the walls of St Brigid's Church.



Painting presented to Fr Vincent Nguyen commemorating 150 years across the parish by artist and parishioner, Kathryn Morgana-Aprile

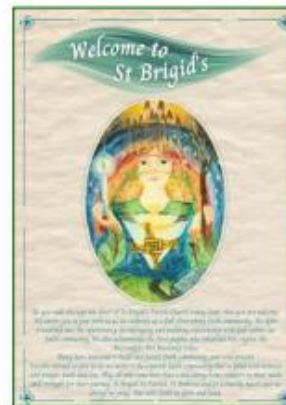


The Heritage Trail outside the church has three boards that will carry stories and information about our parish past and present. Check them regularly as this will be the next thing that will have ongoing additions to the content.

A big thankyou to our principals, Mel Daly & Kellie McDonald and their staff who attended this day.



Thankyou to the St Brigid's Junior Choir for their singing of St Brigid's Song.



Message of Welcome to everyone who enters our churches in the Gisborne Parish created by Jackie Schober & Emma Barker [St Brigid's Primary School]

