

# The Catholic Communities of St. John the Evangelist and St. Brigid

Sunday, August 23, 2026

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Parish Family,

Peace of Christ be with you!

How are you all? Last Sunday, when I asked before the Mass how you were doing, one answer stayed with me: “Joyful!” What a beautiful word! As Christians, we are called to be a joyful people because we are people of the Resurrection. Our joy does not mean that life is always easy; it means that, even in difficult moments, we know that Christ is alive and that our hope is in Him.

I have also been encouraged by your participation during Mass. Your responses are loud and clear—and I love it! It makes our celebration lively and prayerful. After all, the Mass is not something the priest celebrates while everyone else simply watches. Otherwise, I might feel like an actor standing on the altar while the congregation becomes the audience! ♦♦ But that is not what the Eucharist is. We are all participants. We pray together, respond together, sing together, and together we offer ourselves to God.

I have also been so encouraged by the response whenever I have asked for help in both our communities of St. John’s and St. Brigid’s. Many of you have come forward generously to lend a hand. As I said before, this is OUR Church. Every one of us has a place, a gift, and a part to play in building our parish family.

As you may have seen on our website, we are inviting parishioners to participate in ministries such as Readers, Altar Servers, and Choir. If you feel called to serve, please connect with the appropriate persons in our parish. Your willingness to share your time and gifts is a beautiful expression of faith.

Next Sunday, Jesus asks His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Perhaps we can ask ourselves the same question. Who is Jesus for me? And if He truly is the centre of our lives, how can I share His love through my presence, my

service, and my joy?

Thank you for being who you are and for contributing whatever you can. Let us continue to grow together, serve together, pray together, and rejoice together.

Let us love God, and let us love one another.

God bless you all!

Fr. Anthoni Bawanthade CMF