

**ANNIVERSARY MASS FOR SERVANT OF GOD AND CO-FOUNDER OF
OUR LADY'S NURSES FOR THE POOR
EILEEN O'CONNOR**

**St Brigid's Catholic Church, Coogee NSW
10.30am–10 January 2026**

Principal Celebrant: Most Rev. Terry Brady, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Sydney.

Concelebrants: Rev Fr Thoi Tran msc. Rev Fr Paul Smithers

Musicians: Theresa Wisniewski & Francisca Minshull

Entrance Hymn: All Are Welcome (Marty Haugen)

WELCOME - Acknowledgement of Country—Sr Kerry Macdermott oln

First Reading: 1 John 5:14-21 read by Dr Mary O'Connell

Responsorial Psalm: 149: 3-4,
Response: Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel: John 3: 22-30 proclaimed by Rev Fr Thoi Tran msc

Homily: Most Rev. Terry Brady

Prayers of the Faithful: read by Sr Laureen Dixon rsc - Congregational Leader

Offertory Hymn: As I kneel before you (Maria Parkinson)

Lord's Prayer: (sung by all)

Communion Hymns: Holy is Your Name; Panis Angelicus (César Franck); **All that I Am** (David Haas)

Recession Hymn: Hail Queen of Heaven (Fr John Lingard)

Eileen Rosaline O'Connor 19 February 1892 - 10 January 1921

Born in Melbourne in 1892, Eileen suffered from a severe curvature of the spine and could not stand or walk for much of her life. It is now known Eileen suffered from transverse myelitis, an inflammation of the spinal cord.

Eileen embodied a distinctive spirituality marked by an unwavering devotion to Our Lady and her willingness to devote her suffering to Our Lady's work. Eileen's beautiful spirit inspired many people to seek her guidance and prayers. She listened to them, understood their problems and gave wise advice. There are numerous anecdotal and documented accounts of Eileen's intercession in answering the prayers of the faithful.

Eileen died on 10 January 1921, aged just 28 years. Her legacy – the mission of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor over the past 113 years remains as important as ever. Assisted by the ongoing generosity of benefactors and volunteers, the Sisters continue to support the sick poor in Sydney. The work is also continued by 'The Brown Nurses,' an independent ministry of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor.



Prayer for Beatification of Eileen O'Connor:

Great and Merciful God, through the maternal love of the Blessed Virgin Mary, you inspired your servant Eileen O'Connor, to care for the sick and dying poor and to serve your Church through spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Listen graciously to our prayers, and grant that Eileen may be raised to the glory of your altar. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. AMEN

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