St Brigid's Social Justice Group began in 2005. The original decision involved two strands:

1  To raise money for small charities - groups outside mainstream who struggled to keep afloat;

2  To use this money-raising as a means of educating parishioners about social justice issues beyond Coogee, to make us all aware of the wider world.

Since then, there has been a third unexpected strand: our loyalty to our church hierarchy has been challenged by the findings of the Royal Commission.  The good, decent Catholics whom we have supported renew our confidence in our Church and give us hope for the future.

Among the "causes" we have supported have been:

* Northern Beaches Refugee Sanctuary from N Sydney parish, bringing accepted refugees out of refugee camps to Australia;
* the OLSH nuns in PNG, fixing their roof;
* St Canice's Kitchen, feeding the homeless;
* the Blue Dragon Foundation, working with street kids in Vietnam;
* the Good Shepherd Sisters, running education programmes for disadvantaged young people;
* the Franciscans at Paddington, teaching disadvantaged young people to drive and mentoring them in the process ;
* Sr Susan Connolly, collecting signatures on petitions in ours and neighbouring parishes, asking for justice for Timor-Leste in its border dispute with Australia;
* movies shown on refugee issues and the Camino;
* guest speakers like Louise from Hammondcare who are joining with Vinnies and the Wayside Chapel to create a specialised aged care facility for the homeless;
* Catholic Mission, programme  hosting Sudanese refugees on days out to Coogee and the City; and
* the Asylum Seekers Centre by holding an art exhibition for a refugee artist

We also belong to and support both the Sydney Alliance and the Sydney Archdiocese Social Justice Group.  Twice a year, we attend the Archdiocese meetings and we are part of their coordination team.

We meet and plan on the first Tuesday of the month after 9.30 Mass in the room above the parish office.  Everyone is welcome to be part of the SJ Group and to give us inspiration.  Please join us for a cuppa.

St Brigid's parish is always generous and encouraging.