

CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Brigid's HEALESVILLE, St Aloysius YARRA GLEN & Our Lady of the Snows MARYSVILLE
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ADMINISTRATOR: Fr Francis Denton: email: francis.denton@cam.org.au
PASTOR EMERITUS, Fr John Dupuche (In Pastoral relationship with Healesville & Lilydale)
PASTORAL WORKER: Debbie Edwards 0448 664 731 email: healesville@cam.org.au
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ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL *Principal:* Vicki Wissell 5962 4200
MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE *Principal:* Philip Morison 9735 4022

OFFICE HOURS

PARISH STAFF ARE CURRENTLY WORKING

FROM HOME

DEBBIE'S MOBILE NO:
0448 664 731

SHARON'S MOBILE NO:
0448 658 418



ALL MASSES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR LINKS TO TELEVISED MASSES LINK:
<https://bit.ly/StBsHville>

MASSES WILL CONTINUE TO BE RECORDED WEEKLY (THANKS ROD!)

COLLECTIONS

Healesville to 21st June
Church: \$694
Presbytery: \$35

Yarra Glen to 21st June
Church: \$225
Presbytery: \$98
Op Shop: \$2700

Marysville



FROM FR FRANCIS DENTON

Well, here we go again on the COVID19 merry-go-round. Just when we thought we were emerging from the slump we find ourselves back in it. Premier Daniel Andrews' announcement on Tuesday that we are going back into at least six weeks of a 'stage three' lock-down was distressing and disappointing for all of us. This will affect everyone in different ways to greater or lesser degrees of seriousness. As far as the life of the parish is concerned is means, unfortunately, no more public Masses. Apologies to all those who had booked in Masses for the weeks ahead. Sacraments are limited according to the previous restrictions: 10 for funerals; 5 for baptisms and weddings. Outside of these events all churches must remain closed to the public. Hopefully this time around we are better prepared and know what to expect.

Between 1941-1942 during the second World War London was subjected to sustained German air raids by the *Luftwaffe* known as the 'blitz'. In an example of united national cooperation all homes would black out their windows at night to minimise the visibility of the London geography. When the German aircraft approached the sirens called alerting everyone. Many sought refuge in the underground or other purpose built bomb-shelters. Yet, extraordinarily, the majority of Londoners simply stuck it out at home. Bombing or no bombings, life went on. It's hard to imagine the anxiety of living through something so terrifying for such a sustained period of time. Yet by all accounts the British demonstrated a remarkable resilience and fortitude during the wartime years. Journalists of the time noted the prevailing *esprit de corps* and high morale. It is said that the Londoners came to talk about the bombings as they would the weather: "Oh dear, Margaret, wasn't it *blitzy* yesterday?" "Yes, much better today, thankfully, Mrs Bloomsbury." The mood of British 'stiff-upper-lipped' resilience was captured in the now famous wartime poster: "Keep Calm and Carry On."

Perhaps we all underestimate our human capacity for resilience. Or maybe our culture has been molycoddled for too long – a society that has for the most part never experienced serious privation, hardship and suffering. Certainly, the situation we face with the COVID19 is incomparably less menacing and dangerous than being bombed, and yet the world seems to be falling apart at the



seams. Perhaps one major cultural difference from the 1940's to today is the decline in faith. When God is removed from the equation we can be left feeling rather small and powerless in the face of powers much greater than ourselves. For those with faith we have the consolation of the virtue of hope, knowing that God is ultimately the Lord of history. As St Paul says in his Letter to the Romans "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him" (Rom 8:27) and therefore he asks rhetorically "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom 8:31).

God, who has his purpose in all things, is with us through every trial we face. In the midst of our frustration and anxiety we can renew our trust in Jesus Christ, who is always our consolation in times of adversity. This spirit of Christian surrender to God's will is beautifully captured in the prayer of the great Spanish mystic, St Teresa of Avila:

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.*

May the Good Lord fill your hearts with peace and trust, and let faith be our consolation in these times.

ALL MASSES IN OUR PARISH HAVE NOW BEEN SUSPENDED

St Brigid's, St Aloysius and Our Lady of the Snows: All Masses suspended until further notice

Fr Francis and Fr John will continue to pray for us in their private Masses, and we as a Parish join our prayers to theirs.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation can be arranged on request, please phone Debbie on 0448 664 731.

130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST ALOYSIUS CHURCH

Fr Francis will still celebrate Mass in St Aloysius at Yarra Glen on the 130th Anniversary of the dedication of the church. However, Mass will be said without a congregation, in accordance with current restrictions. Again, we join our prayers with that Mass in thanksgiving for all who have contributed to the life of St Aloysius over so many years.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE

Our parish prayer list is a powerful tool for getting things done, and every day many good people actively pray for

those who are named in our newsletter each week, especially now that we are locked down yet again. Praying for others is something each of us *can* do for those we cannot meet with. Even those in nursing homes can undertake the powerful task of supporting others who are burdened with ill health, grief or any number of other challenges. We don't need to give God specifics about what anyone else may or may not need. He knows much bigger and better than we do. Having lovingly created each of us, God is 'on it' before anyone even asks. In prayer, we might beg for things on our wish list, for ourselves and for others, but we can also thank God for his gifts, we can ask for forgiveness, and we can express our joy when we are bursting with appreciation for our beautiful world.

Covid time is our opportunity to be quiet, and to sit with God, to have a cuppa with him, to watch tv with him, to share a sunny spot or a warm blanket with him. As we pray for those who cross our paths in life, our prayers join with those of many, many good people who spend quiet time with the Lord. Knowing that we are part of a chain of conversations with God when we feel most alone can really bring us comfort and peace in a dark moment. We are reminded of the closeness of those who share our human journey, our brothers and sisters in Christ, companions on our road. It is good to remember that as others pray for us, we are lifted to God's heart through their concern for us. What a gift! If we take the time to recognise it, we may become aware that someone unnamed is praying for us when we manage to do something we did not think we could do, inspiring us to find courage when we most need it.

If I stop and think, right now I am drawing God's attention to individuals who are dying, and little ones still to be born. I know, or know of friends having big operations, couples celebrating their engagement, families who are shattered through grief of all shapes and sizes, someone who is in jail, someone else who should be, a birthday girl, and a birthday boy, students studying towards a bright future, and those who have no concept of where tomorrow is likely to take them. I have beautiful friends who inspire me through their tenacity and love of life. I know those who are enduring life-changing illness, those looking for jobs, happy little kids excitedly looking forward to even more school holidays, and nameless individuals struggling to find a roof over their heads on these cold nights. I remember those who have died, and everyone affected by Covid 19 around our world. You will have your own list of those who inspire you to pray. All around us, ordinary people living ordinary lives need prayers, as we all do. We ask God's 'invisible' help to enable us to tackle our

next breath, and consequently, our next adventure. Whether that next breath is our first or our last, you could say that each of us is alone, and yet each of us is never alone, immersed in God's awareness and love, and carried even more deeply into his care through the prayers of others.

Prayer fascinates me, in its potential, in its simplicity, and in its effects. Our prayer is conversation with God, and as is the case in all friendships, the more time in conversation we spend with our friend, the closer our friendship becomes. Even better, those we bring to our friend also 'grow', in ways we may not ever recognise, as our prayers are answered, even when the answer is 'no' or 'not yet'. As usual, I have been thinking... Mary prayed for Jesus, her little boy, and God the Son. He still needed his mother's prayers in his human frailty. Her prayers were addressed to God, for Jesus. Hmm. Another big concept for a quiet moment of reflection... Who needs your prayers today?

PLEASE PRAY:

For all of our parishioners, and their families and friends, and for their special intentions. For those who are sick. For those affected by Covid 19. For the victims of violence, abuse, natural disasters, injustice, and for children everywhere. For all who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur in July.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Babies Emmett, Noah Glen Christie, Tedi and Santi; Roman, Blake Smith, Trish Leahy, John Snell, Abby Sharp, Peter Munro, Megan, Bernie Jansen, Andrew Sharp, John, Glenn, Lyn Francis, Dorothy Barber, Maureen Fogarty, Fiona, Annie Preuss, Michelle Ryan, Damian, John, Alison, Heather, Julie Bates, Garry Dettman, Bradley Jordan, Jeanette Henkel, Richard Galbraith, Debbie Huby, Geoff Lucas, Sandra Donkin, Dorothy Fraser, Glen, Fred Bullas, Fred Coullas, , Evie Gleeson, Indy Dawes, Rade Krstic, Megan Williams, Michael Wood, Bill Howie, Jennie, Michael, Margo & Stephen Youngberry, Marie Hammond, John Mulholland, Rhiannon Days, Val Savitt, Ron Garland, Jaz Nueber, James Cooney, Robert, Mary & Gerard Bariola, Tilly Van der Zee, Albert Slawinski, Lydia, Joyce Slattery, Lawrie Field, Annie, Bob Ireland, Val & Michael Christie, Ted & Peter Bowling, Natasha, Mia, James, Richard Adams, Mitchell & Wynn Wilson.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN JULY

Ann Maris (03.07.07), Julie Ann Ward (03.07.86), Nick Pitt (03.07.13), Margaret Brown (06.07.07), John Jansen (06.07.04), Ulick O'Boyle (07.07.11), Stenya Laszczewski (11.07.15), Jan Kisala (15.07.07), George Youngberry (18.07.67), Derek Beeby (18.07.11), Keith Chandler (20.07.13), Ronald Hosie (23.07.06), Theresa Humphries (25.07.11), Bernie Morrissey (26.07.00), Terry Fromholtz (28.07.12), Rev McCarter (30.07.96), Kevin Leahy.

A very happy birthday to Annie, go this week!

