

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEALESVILLE, INCORPORATING HEALESVILLE (ST BRIGID'S),
YARRA GLEN (ST ALOYSIUS) & MARYSVILLE (OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS)**



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TWENTY- NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)18th OCTOBER 2020

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I am you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

Worship the Lord in his temple,
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king,'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: Philippians 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he replied, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

FROM FR FRANCIS

Parish Rosary Novena

This weekend we begin our Rosary Novena which runs from Saturday 17th to Sunday 25th October, at 12:00pm via zoom. October is a month traditionally dedicated to the Rosary. This week I thought I'd share a more personal reflection on the importance of the rosary in my own life.

Growing up in a large family of nine children there was often a lot happening: school, footy, cricket, ballet, piano lessons and so on. However busy life was, my Mum and Dad would always ensure that at the end of the day the family would come together to pray. This was so much a part of our daily family ritual that I really didn't think much of it. We had our list of people we prayed for by name but the heart of the family prayers was the recitation of a decade of the rosary. Probably with so many kids at different ages there was a wisdom in keeping the prayers short and achievable. The popular podcaster, Fr Mike Schmitz, often says that when it comes to prayer 'consistency always wins over intensity'. Rather than trying to do something that is so onerous that we can rarely find the motivation to do it, we are better to adopt a pattern of prayer that is easier and that we will more easily make part of our daily routine. My parents had obviously intuited this piece of practical wisdom, because although the prayers would only go for about 5-6 minutes we prayed as a family every day, without exception. Even if we were on holidays or travelling back late at night from some function we would pray that decade of the rosary. Without me even knowing it, my parents were training me in the discipline of the spiritual life, helping me to come to see God as being a part of my everyday life.

The Rosary continues to be a source of spiritual consolation and strength. On those busy days when I struggle to fit in the rosary I always sense the difference, like skipping a meal. That said I can certainly sympathise with those for whom praying the rosary is something of a struggle. It does require self-discipline, especially if it is a new part of our prayer routine. However for those beginners wondering 'how to pray?' the beauty of the Rosary is that it is a ready-made package, so we don't have to guess what to do. The words we pray (primarily the Our Father and the Hail Mary) are lifted directly from Scripture, therefore we are praying divinely inspired prayers – the Word of God. They are short and easy to learn (even tiny children can quickly memorise them) making the rosary a prayer that is accessible to everyone. The repetitive structure of the rosary gives it a concrete form, which is why it is helpful to pray with rosary beads. The rosary is not merely a vocal prayer – it's also a form of mental prayer. It gives us the opportunity to meditate on the mysteries of the life of Christ. The Apostles Creed which starts the rosary is a summary of our faith, so it's also a catechetical prayer.

The rosary is a prayer that has the full endorsement of Heaven itself! Mary gave the rosary to St Dominic Guzman in the 12th Century to be the means by which his mission to convert the Albigensians would succeed. When in 1858 Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes she instructed her to kneel down and pray the rosary. Sixty years later when Our Lady appeared to the three Fatima children, she instructed them to pray the rosary, every day. Lesser known is the remarkable fact that the Church continues to offer a daily plenary indulgence to the faithful 'when the Rosary is prayed in Church, in a family group or in a religious community.' Given that the forced closure of our churches has left so many people feeling spiritually malnourished, the rosary is the one prayer that is always available

So if you're wondering why you should pray the rosary daily here in summary are 10 reasons:

1. It's easy to learn and suitable for all ages: for beginners and experts, sinners and saints!
2. We can pray it anywhere, at anytime
3. It gives one's prayer-life a clear structure (we always know what to do!)
4. It is a way of praying with the scriptures
5. It is a way of meditating on the key events in the life of Christ
6. In our frenetic world the rosary gives us the chance to be still with the Lord and His Mother
7. Daily recitation of the rosary teaches us discipline in the spiritual life
8. There are many promises attached to devotion to the rosary (see: <http://themostholyrosary.com/15promises.htm>)
9. There is a plenary indulgence attached when the Rosary prayed in common
10. Mary herself asked us to, and we should always listen to our Mother! Mothers know best!

Hopefully many of you will be able to join our online Rosary Novena. Even if you can't make all of the nine days online, feel free to pray at home in your own time. Mathew Moxey has kindly put together a fantastic booklet and outline for the rosary novena which will be available on the parish website. Feel free to print it out. Hope to see you then!

Finally, here is a link to a great motivational talk on praying the rosary by Dr Edward Sri <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-U8y7IIEbmw>

[PARISH ROSARY NOVENA VIA ZOOM](#)

Daily from Saturday 17th October to Sunday 25th October, at 12:00pm.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82006873116?pwd=TExON0ZUeW00dkFCQ0p1cE5Va1IMdz09>

[WEEKLY MASSES ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR ST BRIGID'S YOU TUBE CHANNEL](#)

A reminder that Fr Francis' Sunday Masses are recorded each weekend and are available on St Brigid's You Tube Channel each Sunday morning. The link is accessible through St Brigid's Healesville's website, by searching St Brigid's Healesville on You Tube, or using the link: <https://bit.ly/StBsHville>

This week's Mass comes from St Brigid's in Healesville.

[KEEPING US CONNECTED](#)

A regular Bible Study/Faith Reflection Group led by Fr Francis meets via video chat each Thursday afternoon at 4.00 pm. Please feel free to join in. The link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87988418932?pwd=bk1KzhGNXNNSVIDSFBCakY0eWp1Zz09>

Don't forget to check out **the Living Faith page on St Brigid's website!** Once you have read the bulletin on our website, stay on to have a look around. Elissa keeps us up to date with the latest news and provides us with awesome resources to assist our prayer life and enhance our reflection time with the Lord. Thanks Elissa!

[HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!](#) to Elsa Gianforte who celebrates her birthday this week.



LAWN MOWING OF THE PARISH GROUNDS – PLEASE HELP!

We are in the process of purchasing a ride on mower to help us to keep our large grounds under control. The property requires some mowing using a standard hand mower, as well mowing the larger sections by ride on mower. Either way, we are desperately seeking some help to keep the lawns mowed, as the cost of a regular maintenance contractor is now beyond our means. A team of volunteers is ideal, so that no one needs to commit to too many hours in helping out. If you can offer a few hours of your time and energy, even occasionally, please contact Debbie.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

This Sunday we would ordinarily have the opportunity to support the World Mission Appeal for "World Mission Sunday". The Australian-based Catholic Mission assists the needy in many part of the developing world but relies on the generosity of Catholic parishes. This year the outreach of Catholic Mission has been heavily impacted by the COVID lockdown and they are calling for our support. Should you wish to make a donation to this worthy cause you can simply text "GIVE" to 0488 854 436 and follow the prompts to make your donation.

<https://www.catholicmission.org.au/our-work/see-our-work-in-action/wmm20-cambodia-appeal>

SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE

A few generations of people live at our house, it is never very quiet for very long. An amazing array of animals live with us too, some invited, like our infamous yappy dogs, some uninvited, like the pair of nesting doves I was watching yesterday while we ate our lunch in the sunshine. These gentle, quiet birds were completely in tune with each other, sitting side by side on the handrail of our balcony preening themselves, mirroring the exact movements of each other without the need for any sort of audible language. I remember thinking to myself that their connected movements were a marvel of synchronisation, worthy of an Olympic medal for synchronised preening! It was obvious to me that these committed doves speak a language all of their own. I love watching the birds that pop in and out of my garden, cockies, maggies, doves, pigeons, parrots, crows etcetc, all with individual personality and flair. A dear friend once shared with me his love of 'the dawn chorus', a daily spectacular which plays out all year round in our part of the world, loudly and clearly. We can tell when dawn is about to break before the light even begins to creep into the sky, as the birds rejoice together in song, greeting the new day just beginning. Beautiful! My friend lived for a long time in Maine in the US, not that far from the Arctic circle, and commented on the winter silence that reigns there for much of the year. If any bird doesn't fly south for the winter, it shuts its beak for months on end, as whatever makes a noise in the snow gets eaten by a hungry something else! Pressure! Our Aussie birds happily sing in safety.

Sometimes I feel that we live much of our life with our beaks shut, despite the noise all around us. Scripture talks about the Holy Spirit speaking for us to God when words of prayer fail us. I am often comforted by this beautiful assurance. Our prayer life can fluctuate from day to day, even minute to minute, a little like the birds' pretty songs. At times our prayers come easily, we feel connected to God in some mysterious way, and we can feel like we are part of an active, two-way conversation. Our song can be heard, by ourselves, and even by others. At other times, it can feel like we are simply squawking, we wonder if God is listening at all. Then there are the times we experience when we just do not have the energy or the resources for words of any sort, well, not decent ones permitted in a dictionary

anyway! We may wish to pray, but no words seem possible, we are left sitting in our own incapability, our beaks closed but our hearts searching for comfort. When we are reduced to sad, confused and even desperate emotions ebbing and flowing, as we often are, we and God become just like the doves moving in synch without the need for words. Even angry thoughts are best shared with God, they are part of who we are as human. God partners us faithfully, perfectly aware of each of our thoughts and feelings, positive and negative, understanding us better than we understand ourselves.

We need to take heart, and to realise that the life-long conversation between us and God never ever ceases. When we do not have the inner-strength, the presence of mind, the generosity, or the peacefulness to approach formal prayer, the Holy Spirit speaks through us if we open ourselves to his mercy, he speaks with us and in us, drawing us deeply into God's compassionate heart. Our prayer may be unconscious, but it is genuine and continuous, set in motion from our earliest moments of life, for each of us, no matter what our story, is created in the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we allow the Holy Spirit to pray on our behalf, he whispers our wordless acts of sorrow for our poor choices, prompting us to strive for holiness in a world that drags us backwards at every step. He pleads for what we need, physically, mentally and spiritually. He thanks God for his great goodness and his gifts, and praises him with hymns we cannot sing ourselves. The faithful breath of the Holy Spirit, the love of the Father and the Son, flows around and through our confused and wounded hearts with love beyond our capabilities, even when we feel that we are the silent partner in the conversation that carries us to eternity. We and God speak a language all of our own, sometimes a language of words, sometimes not. We are created in the image of God, by God and for life with God. A true miracle.

PLEASE PRAY:

FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Bobby Lloyd-Smith

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, 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, RadeKrstic, 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, Lydia, Joyce Slattery, Lawrie Field, Annie, Bob Ireland, Val & Michael Christie, Ted & Peter Bowling, Natasha, Mia, James, Richard Adams, Mitchell & Wynn Wilson, Carina Warton, Anne Bateman, Veronica Ireland.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN OCTOBER

Michael O'Meara (04.10.80), Vincent Jones (05.10.04), Barbara Smythe (05.10.07), William Howie (07.10.94), Andre Smith (08.10.08), Florence Walker (09.10.07), Sarah Field (12.10.58), Ella Morley (14.10.08), Ronald Stevens (17.10.00), Robbie Ireland Jnr (20.10.90), Angelina Pretto (Mioni) (21.10.00), Shirley O'Meara (22.10.10), Christopher Perry (23.10.01), Jacinta Chandler (24.10.01), Sam Galletti (27.10.13), Betty Ireland (29.10.97), Enid Jarrett (28.10.93), Frank O'Halloran (31.10.12), Filippo Mingerulli, Francesca Bellucci, Anne Ashdown