

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



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THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 15TH NOVEMBER 2020

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127:1-5

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **R.**

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. **R.**

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Second Reading: Thessalonians 5:1-6

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

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons,' since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is,' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

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

Gospel Acclamation: John 15:4, 5

Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said, "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Purgatory and praying for the Dead (Part 1)

As we began this month with All Souls, November is a month when Catholics are especially encouraged to pray to the faithful departed. By chance, during the week I was asked by a parishioner why we Catholics pray for the dead. It's a very good question. For those who have grown up with this custom it's possible you have never given any great thought as to *why* we pray for deceased loved ones, and what possible advantage our prayers have for them beyond the fondness of keeping their memory. It's interesting to note that this is a peculiarly "Catholic" custom. Most Protestant denominations observe a principled rejection of praying for the dead, and those that tolerate it do so with considerable unease. Muslims typically forbid praying for the dead, on the grounds that it constitutes intercessory prayer. Jews are similarly wary of praying for the dead, because it smacks of necromancy. Many of the oriental religions observe variations of "ancestor worship", although is more a kind of honouring their memory, rather than 'worship' in a strict theological sense. Nor does it really amount to praying for their eternal salvation.

So, let's examine the three key questions that arise here: 1) why pray for the dead? 2) what 'benefit' do the departed souls derive from our prayers and 3) how do we pray for the dead?

1. Why pray for the dead?

There is only one possible reason why Catholics pray for the dead and that is because of purgatory. Why? Because if there is only heaven and hell, then our prayers are of no avail to either the damned (since it is a permanent state), or those in heaven (since having God they

lack nothing). Our ability to intercede for the dead is confirmed by both scripture and tradition. There is one passage in particular where praying for the dead is explicitly sanctioned. In 2 Maccabees 12, the bodies of the fallen Jewish soldiers are collected for burial and they discover that the dead were wearing pagan amulets forbidden by the Jewish law: *“And it became clear to all that this was why these men had fallen. So they all blessed the ways of the Lord, the righteous Judge, who reveals the things that are hidden; and they turned to prayer, beseeching that the sin which had been committed might be wholly blotted out. And the noble Judas ...also took up a collection, man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering.” “In doing this he acted very well and honourably, taking account of the resurrection. For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin.”* (2Mac 12:40-46)

What is fascinating about this passage is the ringing endorsement of this practice of praying and offering atoning sacrifices for the sins of the deceased, and the explicit theological justification it provides. Of course, Maccabees doesn't mention purgatory by name but it is implicit in the fact that those who died with some 'residual' sin are being prayed for so they "might be delivered from their sin" even after death. This is only possible if there is some intermediary state that precedes entry into heaven.

Purgatory (which simply means 'purification') is better conceived of as a spiritual 'state' of purification, rather than a physical place, as Dante Alighieri would have us imagine it. Here's what the Catechism says:

1030 *All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.*

1031 *The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire.*

It is important to note that the suffering of the holy souls in purgatory is of entirely different order to the punishment of the souls of the damned. For the latter, the chief torment is the eternal separation from God and the despair borne of their eternal fate and what they have lost. By contrast the souls in purgatory are hope-filled since their eternal salvation is completely assured. Their suffering is a willed purification, that is borne of a love for God and his justice. Rightly then, are the souls in purgatory called the 'Holy Souls' for they are part of the Communion of the Body of Christ, and numbered among the elect. As a sign of our communion with them, the faithful departed are remembered in every Mass at the commemoration of the dead: *“Remember also, Lord, your servants who have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace. Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light and peace.”*

To be continued next week...

Fr Francis Denton

Dear Parishioners,

I will be commencing my annual retreat in the coming week, consequently all parish Masses from Tuesday through to Friday will be suspended.

The retreat which had been suspended due to the COVID restrictions has now opened up again, hence the very short notice. Regrettably this has made it impossible to find a replacement priest. I apologise for those who had been patiently waiting for the opportunity to have Mass who have now missed out.

Please remember me and the other priests who will be undertaking this directed retreat.

Kind regards,
Fr Francis Denton

Some of the locals around Healesville may have noticed evidence of works at the St Brigid's presbytery. Unfortunately (though perhaps providentially) we have recently discovered an internal leak in the house that has led to extensive water damage to the upstairs and downstairs of the building. Thankfully the home and contents insurance looks set to cover the lion's share of the cost of replacement of the damaged items, including the walls, ceiling and flooring. The end result will be a long-overdue renovation that the parish could never have afforded.

Thank you to local hero, Paul Bateman

A huge shout out to Paul Bateman who recently took on the jungle that had become the St Brigid's grounds, by taming them back into something resembling a lawn. An amazing job, Paul - thank you!

Please note, the cost of employing professional lawn-mowers on a regular basis has become unsustainable. We are currently attempting to source a second-hand ride-on mower. Our hope in the long-term would be to put together a roster of volunteers willing to mow the lawns with a parish owned ride-on. Hopefully this would share the burden of mowing the lawns around. If you are interested in assisting please get in touch via the parish office. Any help in the domain of grounds and maintenance, even on an irregular basis, would be gratefully accepted. Many thanks!

[WEEKLY MASSES ARE STILL 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 Patrick's in Lilydale.

KEEPING US CONNECTED

Check out the Living Faith page on St Brigid's website. This page is kept up to date with the latest news and provides us with resources to assist our prayer life and enhance our reflection time with the Lord.

MASS TIMES

No Mass this Thursday 19th November as Fr Francis is on retreat.

Regular Mass times apply now, with up to 20 people permitted to attend each Mass, excluding the celebrant. Weekly Mass times are as follows:

St Brigid's Healesville: Sunday 8.30 am and Thursday 9.15 am

St Aloysius Yarra Glen: No Masses until further notice

St Aloysius church is currently undergoing maintenance and is not open for Masses or Rosary gatherings until further notice. Essential works will be completed as soon as possible.

Mass times at Lilydale are: Saturday Vigil: 6 pm; Sunday: 10.30 am; Weekday Masses: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.15am and Latin Mass Saturday at 9.15 am.

Bookings are essential for all Masses. Please call or text Debbie on 0448 664 731. Masks must be worn at all times and all sanitising and social distance rules need to be followed.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Available on request. The Sacrament is also available at St Patrick's Lilydale on Saturday mornings at 10 am.

CARE GROUP CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Our Care Group is continuing to find ways of reaching out to those who are struggling. In this unusual year, we are asking for donations of festive food, toiletries, gifts, whatever can be added to hampers that will be distributed just before Christmas. Please think about buying an extra item as you shop and hold on to it for now. As the office is not currently open, times that goods can be dropped off to the parish will be advertised in the coming weeks.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE

As a parish, we have used the phrase 'In November We Remember' for many years now. It is our tradition to place the names of those who have died in the Remembrance Book, which is kept in the church throughout November, the Month of the Holy Souls. Each person named in the book is prayed for by our parish family in every Mass offered in the church during the month. The book is an honour roll of all of those who have been special to our parishioners, and is perpetual, ie you only need to add names once, they remain there from year to year. Please contact me to add names to the book at any time. We pray for the 'Holy Souls', those who have reached the end of their earthly journeys home to God, asking him to keep our loved ones close to his heart forever and ever.

Death is one of those taboo subjects that we don't want to open in our own minds unless we are forced in to it. Each November the Church encourages us to pray for those who have died. To some degree, this then leads us to think about our own inevitable deaths, very quietly, very gently, through the memory of those whom we love. It is a little like dipping our toes in a very big, scary, unexplored ocean of potential. During the month of the Holy Souls, we remember those who are precious to us, and to others, and those who have been forgotten by the world, asking God to surround them with his love and peace. We are gently confronted by

the inevitability that in the future, hopefully many, many years away, we ourselves will be one of the Holy Souls. The thoughts continue on, perhaps nudging us to examine how we are choosing to live each day now, today. How do we want to be remembered by our family and by those who encounter us in everyday life? What are the things we are proud of in our lives? Will our own memorials lead others to remember love, which never dies? Will I meet God as a familiar friend?

I have been forced into confronting death with my arm up my back over the past month, as I have just said 'goodbye' to my own precious dad. I have found that risking some calm, quiet reflection time on the possibilities that death opens can make a huge, healing difference to our experience of grief. I feel overwhelmingly privileged that our family was able to accept Dad's looming death with confidence and trust in God's mercy and love, the gift of faith passed on to us by Mum and Dad. I have met families over the years who have not felt that confidence. Saying goodbye to Dad was horrible, and scary, and all the other things I could never imagine it would be because I never wanted to think about it, but it was also joy-filled and loving, and filled with hope. I feel abundantly thankful for that calming and comforting sense that we are each made by God, and for God, deliberately loved into being by him. We are accompanied each step of our journeys home to him in eternity by our loving God who wants us to be with him, who knows and loves us for who we are, just as we are, and who wants to welcome us with arms wide open. Our part in the friendship is simply to open our hearts to him with trust. Simple really, when you boil it all down. I know that God met my dad in death as a beloved, treasured friend. This really helps.

Selecting readings from scripture for Dad's funeral became a joy, not a burden, as we considered possibility after possibility of beautiful, uplifting promises that God himself has given us. The funeral liturgy allows us to say goodbye with confidence and hope that life for those who have died has simply changed, not ended. I have often encouraged grieving families to reread the words of the funeral liturgy after the tumultuous weeks of mourning, to enable the beautiful words of farewell to quietly sink in and take root in their sad hearts. For now, I am sitting with just one phrase that has stuck with me over the past weeks, worth contemplating in a quiet moment: *Life has simply changed, not ended.*

[IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER](#)

If you wish to add the names of those who have died to our perpetual Memorial Book, please contact Debbie. The book will remain in St Brigid's church throughout November, the Month of the Holy Souls.

[FROM OUR FINANCE TEAM, SHARON AND JEAN](#)

Parish Financial Report November 2020

The finances for the three churches in the Healesville Parish, Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville, St. Aloysius, Yarra Glen and St. Brigid's Healesville have been split into three during 2019. Each church has an individual bank account and reporting.

The staff for the three churches are currently being paid by St. Patricks Parish, Lilydale with the help of JobKeeper. No charges for staff are being put through to the three churches until the end of 2020. JobKeeper will continue until March 2021 at a much reduced rate. Therefore, the churches will then have to take on their share of this expense.

Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville and St. Aloysius, Yarra Glen are maintaining a reasonable cash flow, each paying utility and insurance from their own reserves.

St. Brigid's Healesville Church Account has \$23,038.62 and is paying its own utility and insurance and has had help with cash flow from the school levy of \$ 4,363.68. 215 letters were sent out to school families, to date we have received 48 payments.

Some money has been obtained from Government Grants. The grants have been given because the staff who are employed are on JobKeeper. Therefore, \$5,000 of the grant money that was given to St .Patrick's Parish, Lilydale has been transferred to St. Brigid's Church, Healesville to help the cash flow, this puts the parish in a good position to try and keep a good working capital/cash flow during the next few months.

Money has been budgeted for the replacement of the Presbytery fence. Also, a second hand ride on mower will be purchased as we are unable to keep up with the current expense of fortnightly lawn mowing. The cost of the mower will be paid for out of Government Grants by St. Patrick's Parish, Lilydale.

Income from thanksgiving and weekly collections has dropped significantly. It is hoped that when parishioners are able to attend church again that finances will improve, as we cannot maintain this holding pattern much longer. The income from thanksgiving and other sources will continue to be made available each week in the Bulletin.

Healesville Hall Account has only \$ 399.64. The parish hall is used by many groups, Craft Group, Probus Singers, Care Group meetings, Care Group cook ups, Men's Breakfast, Probus Men's group, Wise Women just to name a few and also the school. While we support the use of the hall for these great causes, it is not generating any income to assist with paying wages of the caretaker and associated bills. I.e. utilities, insurance, repairs & maintenance, supply of biscuits, tea, coffee etc. for all who use the hall. Currently (pre Covid) there was only one regular paying customer of approx. \$165 per month. After deducting the cost of morning tea given to the group the proceeds left for the hall are minimal. As Covid restrictions are being lifted, the Hall will hopefully be able to increase its income from rents. If anyone can help find prospective users please call Sharon Jacob.

Our External accountant has not charged any of the churches in the Healesville Parish for accounting work since March 2020, this has been covered by St. Patrick's Parish, Lilydale.

Prepared by Sharon Jacob, Parish Secretary & Jean Palmer, Accountant 9th November 2020.

COLLECTION TOTALS 1ST NOV TO 12 NOV 2020

Healesville: Thanksgiving: \$120.00
Presbytery: \$40.00

Yarra Glen and Marysville: Thanksgiving: \$0

PARISH PRAYER LIST

PLEASE PRAY:

FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Allan Panozza

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, Lauren, Brooke, Anthony, Michelle, Judy.

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

