

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



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THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 8TH NOVEMBER 2020

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2-8

R. My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

R. My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
R. My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.
R. My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
R. My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 24:42, 44

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out."

But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

FROM FR FRANCIS

On Democracy and Truth

"Tradition means giving votes to the most obscure of all classes, our ancestors. It is the democracy of the dead. Tradition refuses to submit to the small and arrogant oligarchy of those who merely happen to be walking about." - G.K. Chesterton:

The attention of the world has been gripped by the US election. At the time of writing the outcome of the US election remains uncertain; the delay in counting postal votes means that the final outcome may take a few days to be determined. The global dominance of the USA culturally and economically means that, in a sense, the future of the world hangs on this election. As the Old Testament (and indeed the whole of history) repeatedly shows, the fate of nations can fall and rise depending on their leadership. Our Lord Himself warns: "To whom much is given, much is expected" (Luke 12:48).

All around the world, across Church, State and the business world, we see a crisis of leadership. Populism seems to be the prevailing 'principle' according to which decisions are made. As a consequence, policies which used to be governed by the principle of what is right, just and serving the common good, are now largely determined by whichever lobby group happens to scream the loudest. Leadership is now narrowly focused on optics, sound bites and opinion polls. Substantial policy decisions and prudential long-term planning that looks beyond the term of leadership are ignored. The mass media backed elites and the insidious role of Big Tech now mean that people's views and values can be manipulated and coerced on a scale never imagined. The media and Big Tech are the new morality police: they decide who is 'good' and who is 'bad' and determine which opinions are acceptable and which are not. If your values don't align with theirs they will ensure that you know you are a social pariah: a 'deplorable'. This hidden indoctrination is so systemic that few would even be aware of the extent to which their private opinions have been engineered by the Big Tech Matrix. Political propaganda is nothing new, but the scale and subtlety of this coercion of the masses is deeply disturbing. The progressive elites have embarked on a global campaign of intellectual colonisation, and this means the silencing of all alternative voices. When public opinion becomes so easily manipulated the very foundations of democracy are threatened. Whoever controls the media, controls the minds, and therefore the votes, of the masses.

What we are witnessing is part of a much greater cultural war that has been underway for the past century. The battleground concerns two diametrically opposed cultures, which Pope John Paul II summarised as the 'culture of life' and the 'culture of death' (*Evangelium Vitae*,

1995). Attendant to the culture of life is a love for the Truth, grounded in the reality of God's own being (cf. Exod 3:14). The culture of Death rejects God, and therefore denies the very notion of absolute truth, of nature and of reality. In this sea of 7 billion opinions, 'truth' is simply the dominant opinion, 'nature' is a human construct, and 'reality' is created by us. The rejection of truth reduces democracy to mob-rule. When Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judaea, asks Jesus "What is truth?" he does so with the cynicism of a man clearly well-acquainted with the ruthless game of politics. Pilate in many ways represents the failure of human politics that is governed by political expediency and populism rather than a love for Truth. Pilate beheld the very face of Truth Incarnate while musing "What is truth?" It was probably weakness rather than malice that saw him sentence Truth to death on a cross in order to please a crowd that had been manipulated by the cultural elites, the scribes and Pharisees.

It is said that the first casualty of war is the truth. This is no less true in the present culture war. In the modern political arena personal integrity and a reverential love of the Truth is almost nowhere to be seen. The noble, principled Statesman can't really compete in the modern world of cut-throat politics. Modern politics favours unscrupulous pragmatists who survive by rat-cunning, ruthless self-preservation, and shameless self-promotion. These pragmatists are quite comfortable doing whatever needs to be done to get the required outcome, even if it means cheating, lying, stealing, covering up and paying people off. The result is a system of entrenched corruption and backroom deals, that is protected by a barricade of lies and a well-oiled propaganda machine.

The ability to establish just and righteous public policy is only possible when there is respect for the truth. Jesus declares that the truth will set us free. Many political leaders see the truth as a danger that needs to be suppressed from the public. The public are presented with carefully selected and curated 'facts' in order to further their political goals, because for them the end justifies the means. Inconvenient truths are carefully buried. Rather than being guided by love for the truth, it is supposed that the winner assumes the right to create the truth. In a world which believes that 'might makes right' the inevitable outcome will be the ascent of the powerful over the weak. Few people like the idea of living under the rule of an unelected leader, however the strength of a democracy is also its weakness. A populace that has been brainwashed by the media will elect the candidate of the media's choosing. The personalities of our leaders emerge as a kind of caricature of the people they represent. Alas, too often we get the leader we deserve rather than the leader we need.

Amid a world of troubling change and instability the Christian turns to Jesus Christ. The Church is not a democracy and never has been. Neither its leadership nor its policies are determined by a majority vote. Jesus Christ is the unelected, supreme head of the Church. He is "the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" (Rev 22:13), "he is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow, forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Church teaching can never succumb to the passing fashions of the world. We hold firmly to the one immovable constant in the universe: "Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away." (Matt 24:35). Presidents, Prime Ministers, Premiers and even Popes all come and go. Only Christ remains forever, and therefore we set our hopes on Him.

Fr Francis Denton

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 Aloysius in Yarra Glen.

MASS TIMES

After this week's announcement of allowing **10** people inside churches for Mass, will be returning to our normal Mass schedule as of Wednesday 28th October.

Mass times are as follows:

Lilydale		Healesville	
Tuesday	9.15am	Thursday	8.30am
Wednesday	9.15am	Sunday	8.30am
Friday	9.15am		
Saturday	9am Latin Mass 6pm Vigil		
Sunday	10.30am		

Yarra Glen

Sunday 22nd November at 5pm – (changed to 4th Sunday due to Fr Francis commitments this month)

Bookings are essential for all Masses.. Please call or text 0448 658 418. Masks must be worn at all times and all sanitising and social distance rules need to be followed.

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.

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.

COLLECTION TOTALS TO 1ST NOVEMBER 2020

Healesville: Thanksgiving: \$1055.00
Presbytery: \$225.00

Yarra Glen: Thanksgiving: \$0

LAWN MOWING OF THE PARISH GROUNDS – PLEASE HELP!

We have purchased a second-hand ride on mower to help us to keep our large grounds under control. Maintenance of the property requires a combination of the ride on mower, a standard hand mower, and a whipper snipper. We are desperately seeking some help to keep the lawns adjacent to the church, presbytery and hall mowed, as the cost of a regular maintenance contractor is now beyond our means. A team of volunteers is ideal to spread the load. If you can offer a few hours of your time and energy, even occasionally, please contact Debbie.

PLEASE PRAY:

FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Congratulations to Dorothy Fraser who celebrates her 99th birthday on the 12th November

