

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



Address: 15 High Street, Healesville, Victoria, 3777
Postal Address: PO Box 73, Healesville, Victoria, 3777
Phone: 5962 4026
Email Address: Healesville@cam.org.au
Website: <http://www.stbrigidshalesville.cam.org.au>
Link to weekly Masses: <https://bit.ly/StBsHville>

Administrator: Fr. Francis Denton
Pastoral Worker & Secretary (Admin): Mrs. Debbie Edwards 0448 664 731
Secretary (Finance): Mrs Sharon Jacob 0448 658 418

THE HOLY FAMILY
(YEAR B) 27TH DECEMBER 2020



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless.' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 104:1-6, 8-9

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! **R.**

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. **R.**

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.

O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant
for ever.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12,
17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Hebrews 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!
In the past God spoke to our fathers
through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:22, 39-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

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

FROM FR FRANCIS

Feast of the Holy Family

The Sunday in the octave of Christmas is always celebrated as the Feast of the Holy Family. This feast helps to 'flesh out' the meaning of the incarnation: that the Word of God though dwelling in the perfect Communion of the Holy Trinity willed to experience the bonds of communion that form the human family. Christ did not merely assume human flesh, he took to himself a human mother and human father-figure. Mary and Joseph were chosen by God, predestined for the monumental task of raising God in their home! The following is a 10 year retrospective of Pope Benedict XVI's angelus address for the Feast of the Holy Family from 2010.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel according to Luke recounts that when the shepherds of Bethlehem had received the Angel's announcement of the Messiah's birth "they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger" (2:16). The first eyewitnesses of Jesus' birth therefore beheld a family scene: a mother, a father and a newborn son. For this reason the Liturgy has us celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the First Sunday after Christmas. This year it occurred the very day after Christmas, and, taking precedence over the Feast of St Stephen, invites us to contemplate

this “icon” in which the little Jesus appears at the centre of his parents’ affection and care.

In the poor grotto of Bethlehem — the Fathers of the Church wrote — shines a very bright light, a reflection of the profound mystery which envelopes that Child, which Mary and Joseph cherish in their hearts and which can be seen in their expression, in their actions, and especially in their silence. Indeed, they preserve in their inmost depths the words of the Angel’s Annunciation to Mary: “the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (Lk 1:35).

Yet every child’s birth brings something of this mystery with it! Parents who receive a child as a gift know this well and often speak of it in this way. We have all heard people say to a father and a mother: “this child is a gift, a miracle!”. Indeed, human beings do not experience procreation merely as a reproductive act but perceive its richness and intuit that every human creature who is born on earth is the “sign” par excellence of the Creator and Father who is in Heaven.

How important it is, therefore, that every child coming into the world be welcomed by the warmth of a family! External comforts do not matter: Jesus was born in a stable and had a manger as his first cradle, but the love of Mary and of Joseph made him feel the tenderness and beauty of being loved. Children need this: the love of their father and mother. It is this that gives them security and, as they grow, enables them to discover the meaning of life. The Holy Family of Nazareth went through many trials, such as the “massacre of the innocents” — as recounted in the Gospel according to Matthew — which obliged Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt (cf. 2:13-23). Yet, trusting in divine Providence, they found their stability and guaranteed Jesus a serene childhood and a sound upbringing.

Dear friends, the Holy Family is of course unique and unrepeatable, but at the same time it is a “model of life” for every family because Jesus, true man, chose to be born into a human family and thereby blessed and consecrated it. Let us therefore entrust all families to Our Lady and to St Joseph, so that they do not lose heart in the face of trials and difficulties but always cultivate conjugal love and devote themselves with trust to the service of life and education.

(Pope Benedict XVI, 26th December 2010)

[MASS TIMES AND LINKS THIS WEEK](#)

Thursday 31st Dec Mass at 9.15 am

Friday 1st Jan 12 pm, New Year’s Day Mass:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNRAY>

3rd January 2021 at 8.30 am

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNTQA>

[SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE](#)

We know that Christmas is all about love. love is all around us as the song says. Yet it is good to be reminded that there is something deeper going on than the ‘slushy love-heart’ sort of love of Valentines Day cards.

Christmas is a call to the ‘true commitment’ love that each of us craves to share from deep within. We are called to really know that God is love. Through our Christmas traditions, we are encouraged to express love for others, and in giving love to another, we find personal fulfilment and joy. The Christmas card image of the new born baby Jesus lying in his mother’s arms is a comforting and peaceful expression of love that speaks to us without words, recognisable to each of us for it speaks of family. The lyrics to the carols that we sing each Christmas tell our human story through the memory of that first Christmas manger scene. Christmas encourages us to love and be loved through God’s love, lavished upon us through the gift of his Son, Jesus, whom the lyrics of Silent Night calls ‘love’s pure light’. On this Feast of the Holy Family, we are reminded that God’s love goes beyond the 25th day of December to everyday living, exactly where we find ourselves today. Life for Jesus’ family was just as messy as our lives are. Jesus ‘gets’ us. He is God with us, Emmanuel, and we know that he understands everything we face in life, because he shares our human journey. The guiding star that settled over the manger is an image of Jesus as ‘love’s pure light’, shining for each of us today and every day, drawing us to find love in exactly the way that the kings were drawn to find the holy family.

As a human family, there are many, many common instincts and experiences that bind us to each other, no matter who we are, where we are or when we are. For instance, each and every one of us shares the common experience of being born. We are united, all of us, in having been loved into being through a conscious act of creation of our loving Father. From there, our stories merge and diverge, according to our own paths. Some of us are blessed to be instantly loved by our families, some of us need to search for love, and sadly, some of us wait for love for a very long time. Yet we never stop searching. Whichever way our story runs, each of us is naturally drawn as part of who we are, from our very nature, to love. Loving comes with consequences, there is risk in loving. It does not always work out as we hope it might, but when we take that risk, choosing to open ourselves to loving and being loved, we open ourselves to the indescribable joy of feeling secure, appreciated, and valued for who we are. We grow and thrive in love, we become whole through love, sharing the joys and the pains of life with those with whom we find that special bond. We, in turn, are compelled to pass love on.

In loving and being loved, we experience God, who is love. We connect to the indescribable peace of knowing that someone else values my presence, values our relationship, values me. Our Heavenly Father created each of us on purpose, loving us into being, sending his Son to reveal the fullness of who he is to us, through the Holy Spirit. It is stunning to really contemplate that God values me, personally, and invites me in each moment to open myself to a deep and close relationship with him, to recognise his ever-faithful presence with me. God does have favourites... each and every one of us is his favourite! He loves every single one of us, just as he loves Jesus, or Mary, or Joseph (!) for God's love for each of us is perfect, he can love in no other way. My choices and actions may be imperfect, but I am loved perfectly, no matter what. This

Christmas, may each of us know that we are truly loved, valued and treasured, and that in loving others in our turn, we are passing on the love of God that must be shared.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

WE PRAY FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED AND 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, 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, Lydia, Joyce Slattey, 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.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN DECEMBER

Josephine Fassler (06.12.95), Lucy Mahedy (09.12.96), Mark Broomhead (11.12.13), Ilona Huebel (12.12.74), Doris Dennehy (12.12.95), Danny O'Meara (12.12.10), Nora Podesta (14.12.06), Paul Dunlop (14.12.06), Neil Lindorff (19.12.08), Noel Dudgeon (20.12.09), Pietro Bariola (27.12.88), Bishop Joe Grech (28.12.10), Dolly (Florence) Reeves, Dennis Eldred, Dawn Flannaghan, Paul Hansen, Hans Rietbergen, John Burger, Maria Kermac (6.12.18), Silvano Kermac, Tony Grieve (4.12.19), Fr Bernie Hammond