

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



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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(YEAR B) 14TH FEBRUARY 2021

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.

O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. **R.**

But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.

I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'

And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. **R.**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!

O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. **R.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31 -
11:1

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

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink,
whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of
God. Never do anything offensive to
anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the
Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to
everyone at all times, not anxious for my
own advantage but for the advantage of
everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;

God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

[FROM FR FRANCIS](#)

Ash Wednesday and Lent

It feels like Christmas has barely finished but, ready or not, this coming Wednesday we begin a new Lenten season. Although Ash Wednesday is not actually a Holy Day of obligation it remains one of the best attended days in the liturgical calendar. The (small 's') sacramental action of the imposition of ashes is an ancient yet potent symbol of repentance, one that clearly continues to speak to people today, and helps us enter into this holy season.

Let's be honest. For many Catholics Lent is a bit of a trial. We often begin full of good intentions and yet a few weeks in we can find ourselves struggling to maintain our initial fervour and firm resolutions. With any professional competitive sport today, the athletes invariably begin with pre-season training, to get themselves warmed up and ready for the beginning of the actual season. The Church in fact used to have a spiritual "pre-season" to Lent, which began on *Septuagesima Sunday*, basically three weeks

prior to the first Sunday of Lent. This was dropped with the liturgical reforms of Paul VI, who wanted to streamline the liturgical calendar. Notwithstanding this change, it is always good to prepare ourselves for Lent and to begin with a clear game plan, rather than just making it up as we go along! Perhaps if our Lents in recent years have become a bit lax, stale and repetitive we might try to think outside the square and take up some Lenten practices we may have never tried before, or perhaps challenge ourselves.

Here are three possible ideas you may have never considered:

Abstain from television/social media/internet.

Forget chocolate and booze; there are probably few things worse for our spiritual health today than the toxic cultural influences of the world of digital entertainment. In our superficial, hyper-stimulated, tech-addicted world it's become almost impossible to detach ourselves from our devices. Perhaps that's why now more than ever we should seriously consider going into a radical screen-time detox. The reason we abstain from the things we like is to mortify our earthly attachment to them, with the higher aim of being able to better attach ourselves to the things of God. Given the amount of time that the average person spends staring at a screen each day, our abstaining from one or other of these forms of entertainment would no doubt free ourselves up to spend time in serious, dedicated periods of prayer, spiritual reading, or engaging in real and sustaining human interactions – like enjoying the company of family and friends – not through a screen!

Go to bed and get up on time.

Truly, no one loves the snooze button more than me! Seriously, I mean, no one! When you're lying half-comatose in your early-morning delirium it can be a truly heroic act of the will to force yourself out of bed as soon as you hear the alarm go off. St Jose Maria Escrivà used to speak of the "heroic half-minute" – the challenge of rousing yourself from sleep within 30 seconds of your alarm going off. Perhaps the other half of this challenge is to develop the discipline of going to bed on time. Unlike some of the more brutal Christian penances of former ages this act of

self-discipline won't harm you (once you recover from the initial shock!) yet it is an exercise of true virtue and helps set the tone for the whole day. When we think of how much our Lord suffered for us it is good for us to be willing to suffer these small mortifications, and to offer them intentionally for Jesus Christ, in honour of His Passion.

Commit to a daily 'Holy Hour'

There is no greater sign of our love for someone than our willingness to spend time with them. If it's someone we *really* love, we can waste the whole day with them and not notice. Why would it be any different with God? If we truly love God we should want to spend time with him in prayer, rather than making excuses so as to avoid him! Those who say "I'll aim to pray when I get the time" are really saying "God is such a low priority I'll give him whatever time I have left over once I've done all the important stuff". Realistically, prayer won't happen unless you consciously make it happen. Our best intentions to 'pray more' fall apart unless we have a carefully protected schedule. One challenge for Lent might be to set a daily 'appointment' with our Lord. In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus said to the snoozing apostles, "Could you not keep watch with me one hour?" (Mt 26:40). From this arose the devotion of the Holy Hour, particularly when spent before the Blessed Sacrament. Even if we don't have the luxury of spending a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament we can strive to set aside an hour of prayer each day. It may be necessary to break it into parts (2 x 30 minutes; 3 x 20 minutes, etc.) or various forms of prayer (reading scripture, rosary, mental prayer, daily Mass) at different points of the day – that's not important. What matters is serious conscientious effort to make time for God each day as a concrete sign of the value you place on your living relationship with God.

There will be NO Masses offered for Ash Wednesday this year due to the latest Covid lockdown restrictions

Yours in Christ,

Fr Francis Denton

OUR SUNDAY CUPPA IS BACK!!!

Please check the bulletin and listen for announcements at the end of Mass for news on meeting for a cuppa in the hall after Sunday Masses. We need to use disposable cups and only one person can pour the drinks, but at least we were able to meet for a chat once again last week. May it continue!

LENTEN PREPARATION GROUP

Fr Francis will be conducting a Lenten Preparation group by zoom **each Thursday during Lent at 4 pm**. Commences Thursday 11th Feb, the week before Lent begins, concludes Thursday 25th March. All welcome!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81469092109?pwd=SFVLRy9lZXJ2WG5ZOUFmUFI3ZFmQT09>

Meeting ID: 814 6909 2109

Passcode: 734266

LENTEN RESOURCES – PARISH WEBSITE

Check the Parish website for Elissa's Ash Wednesday prayers and activities to do at home.

MASS TIMES AND LINKS THIS WEEK

NO MASSES DURING LOCKDOWN

Thursday 18th Feb, no Mass at St Brigid's.

Thursday 18th Feb, Marysville Mass to be confirmed depending on lockdown restrictions.

Sunday 21st Feb, 8.30 am at St Brigid's to be confirmed depending on lockdown restrictions.

Ash Wednesday 17th March NO MASSES

SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE

Last night I wandered outside quietly, leaving the din of family communication behind a closed door, to 'check the sky'. I found myself marvelling at the amount of water I could feel in the air. It had rained, and every breath in and out felt saturated, as if the air

itself was liquid. Very tropical. 'Alone' in the night quiet, it occurred to me that God's presence, for me at least, is like that moisture in the air, totally invisible, but saturating, within and without. Like invisible moisture in the air that occasionally turns to rain we can touch, sometimes awareness of God breaks through, often when you least expect it. God does not change, but my awareness levels do. He is always there, no matter what I am up to. I often speak about 'tuning in' to God's presence, about listening for his side of our conversations. I know how many words I often want to throw up in prayer, it is normal to have a list that we feel we need to carefully mention when talking God, to make sure we have covered everyone we need to pray for. But we do need to pause the chatter occasionally, to listen, and to simply 'be' with God. In that unexpected moment of unguarded openness, I felt God's presence, a moment of prayer without words. As usual, nothing lasts long, and my next noteworthy moment came when I managed to smash a casserole dish, complete with yummy leftovers, all over my floor. Glass and mess everywhere. Sigh! It is as if those tiny flashes of God's presence are constantly threatened with oblivion by our busy, untidy, ragged world. Yet that invisible, very real hope is always with us. We need to remember to tune in to it to avoid being overcome by the distracting clamour.

As we come to Lent this year, I am patently aware of that inconvenient, very real world. Working in a Parish in very safe Victoria, most of the people whom I encounter in my week are absolutely lovely, faithful people, and it is tempting to believe that everyone in the world is as nice as our parishioners. I can shut the world out in our beautiful church, consciously or non-consciously. I can forget that life is not so wonderful for much of the world's population, and that not everyone is 'nice'. Out of our line of vision, the world's needy still exist, and the bad guys of the world work hard to drown out the good. In coming back to reality, it is easy to feel totally helpless in the face of enormous misery and danger for so many of our brothers and sisters everywhere, 'out there'. What can we possibly do to make a difference? Praying for our brothers and sisters is critical. Words are important sometimes! Supporting Project

Compassion in Lent is another way of acknowledging the misery we cannot see, hidden by our horizon. It is an example of something constructive we can do.

The words of the Mass give us another. We begin our Opening Rites with an act of contrition, asking God to forgive the wrong we do on a daily basis. We prepare ourselves through the penitential prayers of the liturgy to hear his Word, and to be nourished through the Blessed Eucharist. Yet 'out there' there is a world of pain that needs healing. Our sorrow does not stop with ourselves or those next to us in the pews. The words of the Agnus Dei prayer come to my mind: "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, have mercy on us, grant us peace". In every Mass said throughout the world, 24 hours a day, each and every living human being, perpetrator and victim, or both, is prayed for in the perfection of Jesus' promises to us. The liturgy uses the words of John the Baptist, 'the greatest of all prophets' as Jesus called him, who clearly called Jesus 'the Lamb of God'. We know with our entire beings that Jesus does not lie, nor does John the Baptist exaggerate. Jesus takes away the sins of the world. We don't understand how. But we trust. Life is filled with smashed dishes, it is also bathed in that presence of God we don't always detect. I know which way my confidence swings!

[REPAIRS TO THE PRESBYTERY - UPDATE](#)

Work is progressing in the presbytery, slowly but surely. Repairs to the roof are now a priority. We are yet to establish how expensive this will be for us. Structural repairs and plastering have been completed and painters are currently hard at work freshening up the damaged rooms. Work will soon start on repairing the flooring and installing new carpets. The building will be lovely when repairs are completed! Thanks so much to all who have contributed to the Restoration Appeal to assist us with our portion of the repair bill. Just under \$3000 has been raised so far.

[WHERE DO OUR COLLECTIONS GO?](#)

Staff are often asked where each of the collections is directed to. By way of

clarification, if you place loose money on the plate at the first collection, it goes to the running expenses of the parish and any restoration that we need. If you place loose money on the second collection it goes to Fr Francis for his living expenses, and a portion is sent to the Archdiocese of Melbourne to support retired Priests. Please do not hesitate to ring Sharon on 0448 658 418 if you would like further clarification.

HALL HIRE – UPDATE

The hall is available for hire to groups or individuals who may wish to hold functions. (Covid restrictions apply). Please advertise this to anyone who might be interested. A new group has taken up a permanent booking on Wednesday evenings throughout school terms. Please be aware of our commitment to them as paying customers. If you use the hall, please ensure that it is left tidy and clean and that Covid sanitising protocols are followed, including completing contact tracing sheets.

Please ensure that you let the office know if you regularly use the hall for your group so that we do not hire the hall to others in your timeslot.

COLLECTION TOTALS – THANK YOU!

St Brigid's Healesville, 31st Jan 21
Thanksgiving: \$868.35
Presbytery: \$183.55

St Aloysius, Yarra Glen 24th Jan 21
Thanksgiving: \$858.35
Presbytery: \$82.00

Our Lady of the Snow, Marysville 21st Jan 21
Thanksgiving: \$48.00

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, 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, Wendy Turner (Ireland), Lauren, Brooke, Anthony, Laura Baosde Pinto, Michelle, Judy, Annette Fromholtz.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Laurie Nairn (01.02.13), John Holland (08.02.11), Giobatta Mioni (09.02.49), John Doyle (09.02.17), Leonard Postlethwaite (10.02.09), George Shaddock (12.02.10), Zofia (Sonia) Howie (8.02.16), Dorothy Chan (13.02.07), Claire Keppel (16.02.94), Anton Wolke (20.02.07), Ian Read (22.02.08), Tubby Dennehy (23.02.03), Jan Rijs (23.02.08), Anne Huggett, Sr Joan McKenna (26.02.16), Patricia Chandler (28.02.92), Des Murphy (29.02.08), Roy Grieve (27.02.93), Fr Bernie Hammond

