



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

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Administrator: Fr. Francis Denton
Secretary: Mrs Sharon Jacob

Pastoral Worker Mrs. Debbie Edwards
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25TH APRIL 2021

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)

First Reading: Acts 4:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 117:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29

R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:

it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes. **R.**

I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. **R.**

Second Reading: John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been
revealed;

all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

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

Gospel Acclamation: John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd.'

The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Our Sunday Cuppas are back!
Please join us for our usual cuppa

in the hall after Sunday Masses.

Hope to see you there!

Mass Times

St Brigid's Healesville

Thursday: 9.15am (except 3rd Thursday)

Sunday: 8.30am

St Aloysius Yarra Glen

3rd Sunday of the month: 5pm

Our Lady of the Snows Marysville

3rd Thursday of the month: 10.30am

Reconciliation: Upon request

Anointing of the Sick By appointment

Marriages: Please give at least six months' notice.

Baptism: Please contact parish office for details.

Parish office - Please call 0448 658 418

Pastoral worker - Please call 0448 664 731

No Mass in Yarra Glen on Sunday 2nd May.

Changes in the Presbytery

From 5th April 2021, Sharon will be carrying out all secretarial duties at St Brigid's Parish. Her phone no is 0448 658 418. Debbie will continue as Pastoral Worker.

After a long time out of action, our beautifully refurbished office will be open on Thursdays between 9am and 2 pm. Exciting!

Invitation from the Care Group

Friendship afternoon tea. Please come along and join us, Friday 30th April at 1.30pm. St Brigid's Parish hall

All invited, cost free

Thanksgiving – 11th April 2021

St Brigid's Healesville,

Thanksgiving: \$323.50

Presbytery: \$154.00

St Aloysius, Yarra Glen – 26th March 2021

Thanksgiving: \$200.00

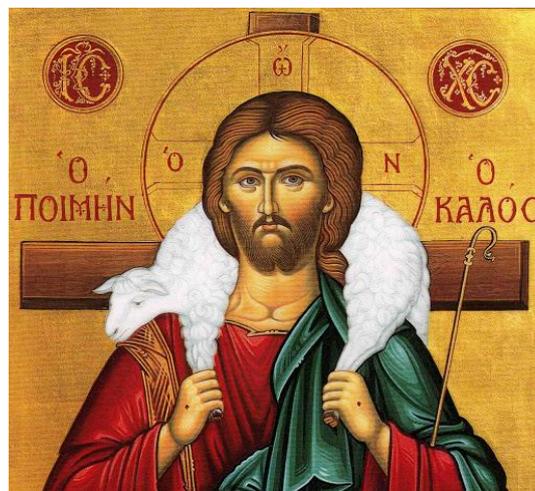
Presbytery: \$126.00

Yarra Glen Op Shop: \$2500

Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville 15th April

Thanksgiving: \$46.00

You will no longer need to book in for Mass. We will be using QR code as per government requirements. Rod will be at Mass to assist anyone having issues with the QR Code. Thanks Rod!



The readings of the fourth Sunday of Easter speak of Christ as the Good Shepherd and so this Sunday has become known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. For the past fifty years the universal Church has used this day to pray especially for vocations to priesthood and religious life. We continue to pray for vocations, throughout the Church but nor should we exclude the possibility of generating vocations from our local parishes. It is an unmistakable sign of the spiritual health of any parish or diocese that it should be able to produce vocations from among the faithful.

We often hear it reported that there is a vocations crisis and the impression given is that all the seminaries are empty. I remember when I was in the seminary how often people were surprised when I explained that I was studying to become a priest. I think they generally assumed that I was doing the preparations on my own. Imagine their surprise when I explained that there were over fifty

seminarians studying with me! Against all odds and in defiance of all worldly logic, we are seeing a slow resurgence of new vocations to the priesthood. During my years of training the seminary was expanded not once but *three times* to accommodate the growing number of seminarians.

Perhaps even more telling is the calibre of the new seminarians and religious vocations that are emerging, as a phenomenon particular to the secular Western world. Given that most of their peers have little or no faith, the vocations that emerge today are tried and tested. These young people invariably come with a strong and crystal clear faith, and unlike the rest of their generation are usually very well catechised. They are Catholic by choice not by cultural drift. Most have read their way into the faith and have a deep love of and openness to the Church's traditions. They genuinely seek first the Kingdom of God and reject the falsehood of the world's allurements, its superficiality, materialism and hedonism. It is not so much the number of these vocations but the quality of the candidates that is an encouraging sign of renewal.

Even so, these are not easy times to be a priest. The dark cloud of suspicion cast over the priesthood these past few decades has been devastating for morale as any priest will tell you. In the eyes of the world the priesthood has, like Christ on Calvary, been stripped of its dignity, prestige and status. The flip side of this is that the priesthood has undergone a real (and necessary) purification. No one today is mad enough to enter the priesthood for such worldly motives as money or privilege (I assure you they are both in desperately short supply!) as perhaps they may have been in the past. The only possible reason for wanting to become a priest today is out of zeal for the salvation of souls, to bring souls to know and love Jesus Christ.

Christ entered this world to be the shepherd King of a flock that he would make his own family. The priest continues to shepherd the flock, nourishing them with the sacraments, refreshing them with sound Christian teaching, and defending them from the malevolent forces of the world. Let us pray that the Lord will continue to touch the hearts of men and women willing to consecrate their lives in service to Christ and His Church, as holy priests, nuns, brothers and monks. How greatly does the world need their powerful witness!

Yours in Christ, Fr Francis Denton

The action in our lives is necessarily centred on getting through today, with one eye on the future, but there are times when the past seems closer than it usually feels. The solemnity of Anzac Day brings the past right to the centre of our attention, just as it should. This week we pause to remember all those who fought for our freedom in the past, actively defending our homeland, whether by direct participation in battle, or by suffering the myriad of effects that flow to families, communities and nations torn apart through conflict. The lives of those who have suffered in this way still matter. Not a single person alive in our country during the first half of the 20th century went untouched in some way by the horror of war, and this should never be forgotten. Anzac Day, in particular, brings the past into the present for all of us, hopefully reminding us of what to work hard to prevent in the future. We look back, and we remember with thanksgiving, celebrating the hard-fought freedom that previous generations have earned for us. The names of those millions and millions of people who have been affected by war throughout the history of our world have dissolved with the passing years, yet God remembers every single name, every single story.

When I visit with elderly residents of nursing homes, I often encourage them to pray for the wonderful people who have been so much a part of their lives, those who are no longer with them but are still so important to them. We pray for their grandparents, their mum and dad, their brothers and sisters, their friends, their spouse if they were married, and their children. Many are unable to talk to me, so I have simply assumed that this is a comforting experience for them. Last week, a lady in her 80s who suffers from memory loss looked totally devastated as soon as I walked in to her room. She told me that her mum and dad had 'gone', obviously still bewildered and very distressed by the trauma of losing them, even though they had died many, many years earlier. I had not reminded her of those who had gone before her, she voiced what was on her mind as soon as she had the opportunity. I then remembered asking another friend who was in her 90s if she still missed her mum and dad. She said "I

miss them more now than I did when I was young". The trauma of loss never leaves us, it just fades, and for some, it sits very close to the surface, no matter how many years have gone by.

Loss comes in all sorts of guises. We grieve many precious things throughout the course of our lifetimes, loved ones we miss, a job gone with the wind, our independence slipping through our grasp, loneliness in general, 'what coulda, shoulda, woulda been'. We may not be able to hug those we have loved who have already gone home to God, yet speaking to God about our pain is something we can do when we feel helpless. Prayer allows us to remain connected to those we love but cannot see or touch, through our unique and powerful relationship with God, who is present to each person he has created, or will create in our future time. As we stand waiting, God is present to those we love, no matter when they have lived, are living now, or will live in the future. Time means nothing to God. We don't have to specify what we want for those we pray for, just bringing them to God is enough. He knows how best to help. We can pray for our future grandchildren's grandchildren. We can pray for our distant ancestors. We can pray for those who will die today, or for anyone or anything anywhere. We can pray for those precious people whose physical absence almost paralyzes us in our confusion at having to step forward without their hand in ours. And we can pray for ourselves in our grief, knowing that we are never truly alone. Prayer is great stuff, conversation with our living God. We can share our pain and our fears with him whenever we want, and not one prayer is ever 'wasted'. He never tires of listening to us. Thank God!

Volunteers Required To Clean The Church:

If you can spare some time to help out with cleaning the church on a rostered basis, please contact the office. The more volunteers we can find, the lighter the load for all. New rosters will be issued shortly.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Recently Deceased:

Bob Wadsley, Bill Skate

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 Slattery, Lawrie Field, Annie, Bob Ireland, Val & Michael Christie, Ted & Peter Bowling, Natasha, Mia, James, Richard Adams, Mitchell & Wynn Wilson, Anne Bateman, Veronica Ireland, Wendy Turner (Ireland), Lauren, Brooke, Anthony, Laura Baosde Pinto, Michelle, Judy, Annette Fromholtz,

Anniversaries in April:

Tanya Grizic (03.04.06), Emil Weklak (11.04.11), Paul Nielsen (07.04.08), Shane O'Meara (14.04.69), Fr Tim Tolan (15.04.08), Frank Wilson (16.04.06), Beryl Perrin (19.04.06), Brendan Hammond (23.04.12), Fr Robert Coughlin (24.04), Edgar Snell (26.04.93), Violet Brooks (26.04.08), Alan Thompson (26.04.00), Jean Malcolm (26.04.17), Janine McIntyre (28.04.07), Reg Fraser (Good Friday 1997), Marshall McLinden, Teresa Toscano, Rosa Toscano, Richie Youngberry (20/4/18)

