



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

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9th May 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B)

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up', he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:1-4

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

All the ends of the earth have seen

the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy.

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Second Reading: 1 John 4,11-16

A reading from the first letter of St John

My dear people,
since God has loved us so much,
we too should love one another.
No one has ever seen God;
but as long as we love one another
God will live in us
and his love will be complete in us.
We can know that we are living in him
and he is living in us
because he lets us share his Spirit.
We ourselves saw and we testify
that the Father sent his Son
as saviour of the world.
If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,
God lives in him, and he in God.
We ourselves have known and put our faith in
God's love towards ourselves.
God is love
and anyone who lives in love lives in God,
and God lives in him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 15:9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:
'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,

just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.
 I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.
 This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.
 A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.
 You are my friends, if you do what I command you.
 I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business;
 I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.
 You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask in my name.
 What I command you is to love one another.' The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



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

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 – 2nd May 2021

St Brigid's Healesville,

Thanksgiving: \$528.25

Presbytery: \$176.40

St Aloysius, Yarra Glen – 18th April 2021

Thanksgiving: \$95.00

Presbytery: \$50.0

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!

Chaplaincy Appeal 2021

Next weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Each year a special collection is conducted in all parishes for the purpose of supporting the vital work of our Catholic chaplains. The chaplains support thousands of Victorians every year in hospitals, prisons and youth justice centres, and those living with HIV/AIDS. Chaplains provide a listening ear, a compassionate presence, along with assistance to cope with emotional pain and loneliness. Please give generously. You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.ccam.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

PLEASE NOTE - QR CODE Please assist us to follow new Government requirements by using the QR code when you enter the church. If you are unable to QR, volunteers will be available to assist you. This is a mandatory requirement and we can be fined if we do not comply. Thanks!!

LOOKOUT - Please come along and join us for the next Lookout meeting: Monday 24th, 1 pm, Golden Wattle house, 1 Joffre Street. Trudi Maiden will share with us of her work in Lifeboat, a group set up by Father Kevin Dillon to support survivors of church sexual abuse.

Care Friendship Afternoon Tea

Thank you to all who helped and attended our special catch up. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all, the friendship, catching up, chatting and laughing, just being together again. We hope to have another friendship get together soon. – Care Group



A Prayer for Mothers Loving God, we know your love because we have mothers. We thank you for the mothers who carried us in their wombs, nourishing, protecting and bringing us into the world. We thank you for the mothers who did not give birth to us, but loved us just the same.

With gratitude we remember their words of encouragement when we have felt unsure or afraid. We thank you for their kindness when the world has treated us unkindly. We thank you for their soft, comforting arms and the gentle way they kissed away our tears. We thank you that they protected us with the fierceness of a lioness protecting her cubs. We thank you for the times when they corrected us, rather than letting us continue down wrong paths. Help us to live so that their investment in us might not be in vain. We honour our mothers with lives of service to you, in the name of the risen Christ, for it is in his name we pray. Amen

"I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last" (John 15:16)

On Wednesday 28th April about 200 priests from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne gathered in Bulleen with Archbishop Peter Comensoli. The Archbishop called the meeting in order to address the looming crisis over the shortage of priestly vocations and what this means in very practical terms for the parishes of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Firstly some background that helps put the situation in a historical content. Archbishop Daniel Mannix during his epic term in office (from 1917 to 1963) oversaw the Archdiocese of Melbourne through a period of unparalleled growth and expansion. A softening of anti-Catholic sentiment coupled with mass immigration from Catholic nations meant the Church in Melbourne underwent a building boom. During his 46 years as archbishop, Mannix virtually doubled the number of churches from 160 to 300, and established an additional 108 parishes. This was a practical response to a real pastoral demand, since the Catholic population in Melbourne had grown from 150,000 to 600,000, an increase of 400%. Because access to transport was then very limited, Mannix boldly envisaged having a parish within walking distance of every Catholic, in an era where Mass attendance was about 80% of the Catholic population.

Sixty years later the Church in the Archdiocese of Melbourne finds herself in very different circumstances. Since the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) Mass attendance has plummeted, together with vocations. The vast multi-story complex of the Glen Waverley seminary (now the Victorian Police Academy) was built to accommodate hundreds of seminarians, in anticipation of the projected growth of the Church. Corpus Christi seminary has since been drastically downsized to the present site in Carlton. Here's the point: a corresponding 'downsizing' of parishes to reflect the shifting demography of parishioners never happened. The result is the present situation of a surplus of very poorly attended churches in the inner suburbs, many of which are teetering on the edge of financial viability.

No one wants to be the villain responsible for shutting down churches, but there comes a tipping point where the cost of keeping churches open for an ever-shrinking congregation requires us to ask some hard questions and to make even harder decisions. We can all have sentimental reasons for

wanting to keep our local church open, however the fact is you can't pay the bills with sentimentality. Parishes need to be financially viable and self-sufficient communities. This calls for a rigorous examination of operating costs and sources of income. Systems that worked in the past for a large and committed congregation, will not necessarily work today.

Since the COVID-induced shut down of churches last year, many parishes are on 'life support'. Formerly committed parishioners have vanished or become sporadic in their Mass attendance. Overnight, many volunteers vanished, together with many of the parishes' services and outreach. Parish incomes across the board have taken a serious hit. At a time when many parishes were already struggling to remain viable, the COVID disaster has pushed them over the edge. All this has resulted in a parochial 'die-back' that has to be addressed. Add to this the looming shortage of priests who are stretched to capacity and the result is a ticking time-bomb. Clearly something has to change: we cannot continue like it's business as usual.

For these reasons Archbishop Comensoli is currently engaged in a thorough and strategic overview of the parishes in Melbourne. The objective is not to shut down churches (if this is at all avoidable) but to work out which parishes could be grouped together into newly formed 'parish missions' with a view to consolidating congregations and resources. The decisions that will be made by the Archbishop in the coming months and years may not be enthusiastically embraced by all, nor will they be without legitimate critique. It's an experiment that will require ongoing reviews and adjustments. Yet, I think Archbishop Comensoli is to be commended for at least being pro-active in addressing the problem rather than allowing the decline to continue to haemorrhage unchecked. Sometimes a surgeon must sever the limb to save the person, and the failure to act in time will exact an even higher price. That doesn't make the task of severing the limb pleasant but it justifies the seriousness of the remedy.

What this means for our parish remains to be seen. The Archbishop's blue-print has not been revealed, and there will be an on-going process of consultation with clergy and the faithful alike, since everyone will be affected by these changes. Challenging though this situation is, it also presents us with a real opportunity: to embark upon a mission of intentional parish renewal. Our aim should not be to aspire to mere 'survival' – we should want to see our parishes flourish in every sense. In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus instructs his disciples: "I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last" (John 15:16). Likewise, the ideal for each parish is not merely to survive, but to flourish and bear fruit, fruit that will last. In the weeks and months ahead, I hope to lay out a vision for the parish of genuine renewal, one that can move us from 'maintenance' to 'mission', or from 'survival' to 'fruition'. There are never quick fixes or silver bullets to substantial cultural renewal. This is a long-term project that will demand of us faith, hope, charity, sacrifice, generosity, commitment, prayer and a little elbow grease! In the months ahead I hope to guide the parish along a path of renewal where we can each reflect on the good fruit that we would like to see this parish produce, and what part we can play in bringing it to fruition.

To be continued...

Yours in Christ, Fr Francis Denton

Debbie's Thoughts

Congratulations to all our mums this weekend as we celebrate Mothers Day! For those who are blessed to spend the day with their mum, enjoy your time together, for if nothing else, the pandemic has taught us to treasure the simple ability to hug and kiss those we love when we meet up. Mothers Day is a chance to pause, and to celebrate the wonder of motherhood in which we have all participated as children, for the connection between mothers and children in all directions is life-giving. Motherhood is a precious honour, the participation in creation with God, the source of all life. No matter how that life comes in to being, it will always be. We are created for God, by God, created to live for eternity, and our mother participates in that miracle as an integral co-worker with our Heavenly Father. It is true that not all relationships are smooth sailing, we are human, and things do not always run as we imagine they might. Yet, no matter how our stories turn out in the end, they begin with life, which we celebrate today. We can pray for our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers, indeed our whole family tree stretching backwards and forwards throughout history, for no one ever born, or to be born in the future, is inaccessible to God, or forgotten by him. Prayer is the most powerful and useful gift we can give our mums, and it is unrestricted by whether they are still living in the next room, or overseas, or have gone home to God before us. God invites mums into co-operation with him in creating new life through motherhood, and he is ever-ready to sustain us as we try to live up to the responsibilities that come with that privilege. Prayer results in showers, even floods, of useful graces that keep us afloat. Only fair in my book!

Despite the flowers and kittens on the Mothers Day cards, motherhood is no easy gig! It is exhausting, messy, exciting, repetitive, surprising and filled with unexpected moments. We tend to forget the tough bits as the years fly by, usually because they are replaced by bigger and better tough bits, but the joys that come with the honour never quite leave us. I remember the kinder rum balls that used to come home beautifully wrapped, created by enthusiastic little hands that taste-tested as they went. On kinder duty just before Mothers Day one year, I watched them being made... no pre-school cooking produce ever passed my lips again!! Then there was breakfast in bed thanks to the co-operative efforts of the prep brigade. Squashy asparagus and anything else easily openable from the pantry, lovingly arranged on a beautifully decorated platter complete with yellow daisies from the lawn, carried in proudly, big smiles which got bigger and bigger as I 'enjoyed'. Canned asparagus has not been on my shopping list since. Ever! I still have the hand-made cards, and the bits of wool glued to icy pole sticks. I remember the glitter that confettied the bed sheets, and the carpet, and the mattress, and under the bed, in the wardrobe etc etc. Glitter is manufactured with tenacity and staying-power built in. I remember.

I am also reminded of the responsibilities of motherhood very, very regularly. Over the years I have had multiple conversations with parishioners who grieve that their children no longer attend Mass. I point out that they are praying for their children, and that not one prayer goes unheard. The seeds planted by parents when their children are young remain with them throughout all their ages and stages. As my children have reached adulthood, I have seen those seeds sprout and flourish, although the greenery produced may not look like I thought it should. I know that what I taught them about God,

that I love him and that he loves me, and them, will stay with them and spring up to feed them when they most need it. I am one mother in history. I am certain that billions of other mothers have thought my thoughts before me. Luckily, God is good at 'after sales service', he is always ready to jump in when called upon to keep us on task. Bring on those graces!!

Happy Mothers Day to all!

Recently Deceased:

Parish Prayer List

We pray for all who have died , for those who are sick and those who care for them.

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,

We pray for those whose anniversaries are 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)

