



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

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20th June 2021

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

First Reading: Job 38:1, 8-11

A reading from the book of Job

From the heart of the tempest the Lord gave Job his answer. He said:

Who pent up the sea behind closed doors
when it leapt tumultuous out of the womb,
when I wrapped it in a robe of mist
and made black clouds its swaddling bands;
when I marked the bounds it was not to cross
and made it fast with a bolted gate?
Come thus far, I said, and no farther;
here your proud waves shall break.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 106:23-26, 28-31

**R. Give thanks to the Lord,
his love is everlasting.**

Some sailed to the sea in ships
to trade on the mighty waters.
These men have seen the Lord's deeds,
the wonders he does in the deep.

**R. Give thanks to the Lord,
his love is everlasting.**

For he spoke; he summoned the gale,
tossing the waves of the sea
up to heaven and back into the deep;
their soul melted away in their distress.

**R. Give thanks to the Lord,
his love is everlasting.**

Then they cried to the Lord in their need
and he rescued them from their distress.
He stilled the storm to a whisper:
all the waves of the sea were hushed.

**R. Give thanks to the Lord,
his love is everlasting.**

They rejoiced because of the calm
and he led them to the haven they desired.
Let them thank the Lord for his love,
the wonders he does for men.

**R. Give thanks to the Lord,
his love is everlasting.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

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

The love of Christ overwhelms us when we reflect that if one man has died for all, then all men should be dead; and the reason he died for all was so that living men should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised to life for them.

From now onwards, therefore, we do not judge anyone by the standards of the flesh. Even if we did once know Christ in the flesh, that is not how we know him now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here.

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 4:35-41

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Thanksgiving – 13th June 2021

St Brigid's Healesville,

Thanksgiving: \$695.00

Presbytery: \$ 37.00

QR CODE APP - Please download the Services Victoria app from the Apple App Store for iPhones (<https://bit.ly/SBHCO>), or the Google Play Store for Android phones (<https://bit.ly/SBSAFE>). This will make the check in a bit more efficient



Parish Rosters! Can you help?

This is a shout out for volunteers for the following rosters: Reading, Church cleaning and Sunday Cuppas.

If you can go on our roster please let Denise O'Dwyer or the office know. Denise will get the rosters

together in the next week or so. "Many hands make light work"

Attention Hall Users:

Each time you use the hall can you please fill in the calendar on the bench in the kitchen. If you have any upcoming dates, can you please book them in the calendar also. We are trying to keep a track of who is using the hall and when. As there are so many groups and all having your own keys it is hard to keep track. It is expected if you use the hall, you leave it clean and tidy. We have recently had some issue where it has not been left clean. Every person who enters the Hall **MUST** QR register. The scanner codes are up on the entry doors.

If you have any queries or concerns, please call Sharon 0448 658 418.

Solemnity of the Birthday of St John the Baptist



*"...you shall call his name John.
And you will have joy and gladness,
and many will rejoice at his birth;
for he will be great before the Lord,
...and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit,
even from his mother's womb."*

(Luke 1:13-15)

There are three birthday's that the Church celebrates in her liturgical calendar: the birth of Christ (25th December), the birth of Mary (8th September), and the birth of John of the Baptist

(24th June). All three are ranked as Solemnities (1st Class feasts). Whilst the importance of the birth of Jesus Christ and Mary might be self-evident given their unique roles in salvation history, it's interesting that John the Baptist's birth should be accorded such significance. There are no liturgical feast days for the birthdays for St Joseph, St Peter or St Paul, for example.

Two questions might emerge from this feast:

- 1) how do we know John the Baptist was born on the 24th June?
- 2) why would we need to celebrate John's birthday when we already have a feast day for his martyrdom (29th August)?

To answer the first question, it would be nice if we could say that we found a copy of his birth certificate! Too bad there are no such documents! The answer is connected to the date of the birth of Christ. Jesus' birth has from ancient times been celebrated on the 25th December which (in the northern hemisphere at least) is the Winter Solstice – it has the shortest hours of daylight in the year. This was interpreted symbolically. Christ the light enters into the darkness of the world, and so from that day forward the days become increasingly longer. The Prologue of John's Gospel says, speaking of Christ: "his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it" (John 1:4-5).

What does this have to do with John's birthday? Well, Luke's Gospel tells us that at the Annunciation (fittingly celebrated on the 25th March, nine months before Christ's nativity) the Archangel Gabriel told Mary that her kinswoman, Elizabeth was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with the future John the Baptist. So, it would stand to reason that John was born about three months after the Annunciation. In the northern hemisphere the 24th June is the Summer Solstice (the day with the *longest* daylight hours in the year) and therefore John's birthday takes on a symbolic meaning. When John is asked whether he is the Messiah, he renounces all claim to the title: no, there is one coming after him who is greater than he is, and he is not fit to undo the strap of his sandal. John declares: "He must increase, I must decrease" (John 3:30). Following the Summer Solstice, the days become increasingly shorter as the season progresses towards winter, until they reach the winter solstice on the 25th December, the birth of Christ.

Perhaps the answer to the first question goes some way towards answering the second question: Why would we need to celebrate John the Baptist's birthday anyway? Again, we can turn to scripture. The Gospels of Luke and John are remarkably different in their telling of the birth of Christ. Luke presents a very human account of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes. John presents a mysterious other-worldly account of the Word who became flesh. But interestingly, as different as these accounts are John the Baptist features very prominently in both. Luke's Gospel begins with a detailed account of the wondrous circumstances of John's birth. We are told: "All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him." (Luke 1:65-66).

It is clear that God has big plans for this child John. The divinely ordained mission of John the Baptist is made equally clear in the Gospel of John: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light,

but came to bear witness to the light.” (John 1:6-8). The whole of John’s extraordinary vocation is one of preparing the way for Jesus. John the Baptist is the forerunner of Christ, the herald who announces the coming of the king, the last and greatest of the prophets. His greatness lies in the Christian paradox of recognising his smallness: “*He must increase, I must decrease*”.

This is not to say that John was a shrinking violet. On the contrary, he was so utterly divested of self-interest and the need for human respect that he was a fire brand, scorching the conscience of Israel. He offends the cultural elites, calling the pharisees “you brood of vipers!” (Matt 3:7) and he infuriates the ruling, self-satisfied classes, particularly those living in sin, such as King Herod (Luke 3:19). Alas, prophets have a knack for pricking guilty consciences by speaking truth to power. On account of this King Herod has John imprisoned and eventually executed, not because it was just, but because it was socially expedient in order to please his dinner guests and a dancing girl at his own birthday party (John 14:1-12). Scripture drips with blood and irony in equal measure.

Jesus would later declare “among those born of women there has risen no one who is greater than John the Baptist” (Matt 11:11). As we come to celebrate the nativity of John the Baptist this week may we seek to imitate the lesson of his greatness by allowing Christ to increase in our lives.

Yours in Christ,
Fr Francis Denton



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

POSTPONED

ST VINCENT de PAUL WINTER APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

The Winter Appeal will take place when . The Lilydale Conference relies heavily on your contributions Either through blankets & warm socks, gloves and hats or monetary Contributions. This will greatly assist us in aiding those we assist In the area.

Please give generously as you have in the past. Thank you In anticipation.

If you would like to book into Mass this weekend at St Brigid’s please call Debbie 0448 664 731

Numbers are capped at 40 people under the 4 square meter rule

Debbie’s Thoughts

A couple of week ago, we made available Archbishop Peter’s Pastoral letter entitled ‘**Take the Way of the Gospel**’. ABp Peter sent out his letter at Pentecost 2021, setting out his vision for the direction that the Church in the Archdiocese of Melbourne will take over the next few years, which is still in the early stages of planning. Some of our parishioners will have read his letter, others will have missed it as we have drifted in and out of lockdown. Whichever way it goes, there is no escaping the momentum that will follow from the tiny beginning that this letter heralds. Change is a-coming! What an exciting if not disconcerting time we are in for. Change is never comfortable. We love to feel secure and settled, and change disrupts and shifts us, often to unexplored new

horizons we can’t yet know and may not expect, but there is a general sense of hopeful expectation as we stand at the threshold of something new.

This is a very big moment for our Church in Melbourne, and as we decide which direction to take going forward, Archbishop Peter is deliberately centring our gaze on our predecessors, the Apostles, sent out at Pentecost with the fire of the Holy Spirit propelling them onwards in their first steps of their mission to take the Gospel to the world. As always, the Gospel should be at the centre of everything we do, the launching point, the energy and ‘the way’. He also takes us back to the early choices of ABp Gould as he established our local Church when Melbourne was being settled. From there, ABp Peter’s vision for us propels us forward in every way. An information session was presented for Clergy of the Archdiocese in early May, followed by a second information session for lay representatives from each of the 209 Parishes in the Melbourne Archdiocese. I was able to attend that session on behalf of St Patrick’s and St Brigid’s. The next formal gathering for us, which has necessarily been deferred until August, will be a regional session that will focus on our specific situation in the Eastern region of Melbourne. More representatives from each Parish will be encouraged to join the active discussion at that session.

What we do know so far is that our local Church is being re-imagined, clustered into mission communities, each mission comprising a family of local faith communities. Concrete details of the ultimate shape of what our Archdiocese will look like in 5 years time have yet to be worked out, much less finalised. Clustered families of faith communities may be formed geographically, culturally or with faith movements in mind. There is a trial cluster currently up and running in the Camberwell area for instance, where 2 Priests share ministry in 5 parishes, with assistance from retired clergy. Centralised staffing administers and supports the parishes in the cluster, sharing resources where appropriate, and parish councils and groups on the ground from each of the 5 parishes in the Mission Community co-operate closely with each other. They are working together to build a sense of family worship that promotes enthusiasm for a shared journey, rather than negotiating the way as individual communities. In our case, Lilydale and Healesville Parishes have been successfully sharing our Parish Priest / Administrator and Parish staff for years, running 4 churches and preserving the dignity and culture of each community as we go, a great example of how co-operation between parishes can work really well. How a larger mission community model is to work in our area where there are big distances between local parishes is an interesting question, just one of the many that have yet to be answered. The clear message from ABp Peter is that whatever we do, our aim is to rejuvenate our Archdiocese. It is obvious that the current shape of the Church in Melbourne is not working to the full benefit of our young people, or of families, and the numbers of faithful attending Masses are telling a story. The message I heard again and again is that it is not about making convenient choices because of a shortage of Priests or low numbers in the pews, it is about re-energising our faith communities, working towards making them the life of our local neighbourhoods as they have such great potential to be. The clear aim is that the change will happen very carefully, and respectfully, enabling our local Church in Melbourne to be as energised and relevant to today’s reality as we can encourage it to be.

The restructure is currently at the vital early stage of prayer and discernment, asking the Holy Spirit’s direction and

guidance. Discussion with anyone who wants to add their voice to the planning, from clergy to the faithful in the pews, is beginning to happen. We all have the ability and the opportunity to take part in the process, to add our voice as a parish and as individuals. Our parishioners are encouraged to join the conversation. Zoom workshops with team members from the Archdiocese are to run in the weeks to come, commencing with initial sessions on June 18th at 2 pm and June 22nd at 7.30 pm. More will be scheduled in due course. These sessions are designed to prayerfully engage participants in the heart and the vision of 'Take the Way of the Gospel', rather than in the process and the mechanics of forming Missions, which will come later. Groups will be limited in number, the trybooking link is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BRYSQ> Each of us has a vital part to play in this new chapter in our story. Our most important resource as individuals and as a Parish is our prayer, conversation with our Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the secure foundation of every step we take. Please pray for our Archdiocese, and for those making decisions that will affect our future for generations to come. Please pray for us all as a family of faith. Please pray for our Parish. **Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.**

We pray for those who have recently deceased: Dorothy Fraser

Parish Prayer List: We pray 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, John Wray

We pray for those whose anniversaries are in June

Evelyn Hales (04.06.10), Margaret Plozza (05.06.11), Gwen Perry (07.06.91), Fr Paddy Fitzpatrick (07.06.08), Anna Maras (10.06.07), Shirlene Pigot (11.06.07), Margie Lovell (13.6.17), Bruce Jarvis (14.06.11), Noel Perry (16.06.91), Eileen Cullen (16.06.07), Douglas Pearce (16.06.13), Helen Warton (19.06.10), Kathleen Barratt (21.06.06), Patrick Gilleece (22.06.16), Judith Giannone (23.06.10), Elizabeth Cushnahan (24.06.09), German Flores (24.06.03), Rosina Bariola (24.06.91), Annemienk Runharr (27.06.08), Des

Carroll (27.06.14), Bev Nash (28.06.01), Sheena Sotko (30.06.97), Frank Richards (30.06.14), Robert de Koning, Marcia Keebaugh, Rosina Anastasio (3.06.19), Domenico Anastasio (15.06.15)

Care Group

Thank you to all who have made donations. This has enabled us to help families with care parcels in their time of need . If you would like to contribute, please leave non-perishable items at mass on Sunday or Contact Maree on 0417087199

