



**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  
Website: <http://www.stbrigidshealesville.cam.org.au>

Administrator: Fr. Francis Denton  
Secretary: Mrs Sharon Jacob 0448 658 418

Pastoral Worker: Mrs. Debbie Edwards 0448 664 731  
Email: [Healesville@cam.org.au](mailto:Healesville@cam.org.au) Ph: 5962 4026

**1<sup>ST</sup> August 2021**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)**

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our heart's content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them in this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.'

'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your heart's content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God.'" And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 77:3-4, 23-25, 54**

**R. The Lord gave them bread from heaven.**

The things we have heard and understood,  
the things our fathers have told us,  
we will tell to the next generation:  
the glories of the Lord and his might.

**R. The Lord gave them bread from heaven.**

He commanded the clouds above  
and opened the gates of heaven.  
He rained down manna for their food,  
and gave them bread from heaven.  
**R. The Lord gave them bread from heaven.**

Mere men ate the bread of angels.  
He sent them abundance of food.  
He brought them to his holy land,  
to the mountain which his right hand had won.  
**R. The Lord gave them bread from heaven.**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 4:17, 20-24**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:4**

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 6:24-35**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered:  
'I tell you most solemnly,  
you are not looking for me  
because you have seen the signs

but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat.  
 Do not work for food that cannot last,  
 but work for food that endures to eternal life,  
 the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you,  
 for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.'  
 Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do  
 the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer,  
 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he  
 has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show  
 us that we should believe in you? What work will you do?  
 Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture  
 says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'  
 Jesus answered:  
 'I tell you solemnly,  
 it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven,  
 it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven,  
 the true bread;  
 for the bread of God  
 is that which comes down from heaven  
 and gives life to the world.'  
 'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus  
 answered:  
 'I am the bread of life.  
 He who comes to me will never be hungry;  
 he who believes in me will never thirst.'

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

**Collections: 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> July**

Totals will be updated shortly, when Sharon returns to  
 the office after lockdown.

**Rosters 1<sup>ST</sup> August 2021:**

**Reader:** J. Drummond  
**Cuppa:** J. Drummond  
**Church cleaning:** Rod Hysted

**Rosters 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021:**

**Reader:** A. Houlihan  
**Cuppa:** Volunteer  
**Church cleaning:** A. Lehman

**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  
 check in a bit more efficient. Our Covid Marshall will be  
 checking the 'ticks' so please remember to QR Code.  
 Help is available for those who find this difficult to do.

**St Brigid's Safeguarding Committee**

Child Protection is a major priority for our Parish, and the  
 time has come for us to welcome a new committee to

oversee our compliance with the extensive Catholic  
 Church, Federal and State Government requirements in  
 regard to this critical issue. The team will also be  
 available to assist parishioners with anything related to  
 safeguarding children, young adults and the vulnerable,  
 so please feel free to approach any of the team with your  
 questions or comments. The committee has already met  
 to review our Safeguarding Policy, Parish Commitment  
 Statement and Code of Conduct and to begin to work  
 through the mandatory, extensive self-audit tool that will  
 assist us to ensure that we, as a Parish, are keeping  
 everyone as safe as possible. Members are renewing  
 their training and becoming well-versed with current  
 protocols, which are constantly under review. This is a  
 big job, and we thank our committee for their generous  
 commitment. Team members are all actively involved  
 within our Parish, and within the wider community, in  
 roles that demand a high degree of awareness of keeping  
 kids and the vulnerable safe. We are indeed blessed to  
 have such a highly attuned and qualified group working  
 for us and with us.

Team 2021 is: **Cath O'Halloran**, parishioner and a valued  
 member of St Brigid's Primary teaching staff; **Debbie  
 Edwards**, Parish Pastoral Worker, volunteer for the  
 VCEM, assisting with emergency pastoral support in  
 times of disaster; **Fr Francis**, Parish Administrator; **John  
 Barrett**, parishioner and Chair of the Lookout for Children  
 group in Healesville; **Rod Hysted**, famous for achieving all  
 things IT in our church, President of HICCI and working  
 part-time in the Victorian Government Education System;  
**Sharon Jacob**, Parish Secretary, active volunteer for  
 Stable One, caring for the homeless.

More news to follow!



*Detail from Raphael's Transfiguration (1516-1520) –  
 Vatican Museums, Vatican City State*

Next Saturday, 6 August is the Feast of the  
 Transfiguration. Why the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, we might ask?

You'll need to persevere to the end of the article to find out.

The Feast of the Transfiguration reaches back to the fourth and fifth centuries where it spread from Jerusalem to observance in many of the Eastern Rites. The feast first appeared in Spain in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but entered into the Roman Calendar quite late (by the Church's standards!) when Pope Callixtus III decreed it a feast for the universal Church in A.D. 1457 to commemorate the Christian defeat of the Ottoman Turks in the Siege of Belgrade. The Christians won this strategically important victory on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, but apparently the news didn't reach Rome until the 6<sup>th</sup> August. When it finally did, Pope Callixtus' decided to upgrade the feast of the Transfiguration for the universal Church, where it has remained to this day. This Feast is a good example of the organic development of the liturgy over millennia, such is the incredible richness of the history of the Church's liturgy.

Jesus's Transfiguration on the heights of Mt Tabor offers us a rare glimpse of Christ's true divinity, veiled as it usually is. Like the numerous Old Testament manifestations of the glory of God, (which we call 'theophanies') Christ's manifestation of his glory takes place on a mountain. We see here especially a parallel with the theophany on Mt Sinai when God establishes his Mosaic covenant with Israel, amid the flashing of lightning and fire. The terrifying thunder of trumpet blast on Mt Sinai is however replaced with the coherent sound of a voice from heaven declaring: "This is my son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him." In the last recorded words of Mary at the marriage feast of Cana, Jesus' mother says "Do whatever he tells you." On Mt Tabor with the last recorded words of Jesus heavenly Father, we hear the same message "Listen to Him." Both Jesus' human mother and Divine Father command obedience to their son.

The image of the Transfiguration is perhaps the clearest evocation of Christ's true glory, since scripture denies us an explicit description of the Resurrection itself. Yet without doubt the Transfiguration on Tabor anticipates, albeit momentarily, the glorious radiance of Christ's Resurrection. Many would instantly recognise Raphael's painting of the Transfiguration, in the Vatican Museum. Jesus is lifted up into the air, with a luminous glow, flanked by Moses and Elijah. Peter, James and John are cast on the ground, shielding their eyes from the blinding vision of Christ's glory. All this occurs in the top half of the painting. Who then are the crowd of spectators gathered at the bottom of the Mountain? Strangely, they are not looking at Christ. Instead, their attention is fixed upon a boy clearly in a deeply disturbed state, with his eyes rolling back into his head unnaturally: he is possessed by a demon that none of the apostles have been able to drive out. Raphael's Masterpiece (the last he would paint before his death) cleverly joins the

portrayal of the Transfiguration with the event that immediately follows it in Matthew's Gospel: the cure of the Epileptic demoniac. In one painting we see the whole reality of the Christian life. The consolation of being in the presence of God, but also the reality of our struggle with evil and suffering. Good and evil, consolation and desolation, glory and suffering are the two sides of the one Christian Coin.

St Bede in his commentary says that God "*in a loving concession allowed Peter, James and John to enjoy for a very short time the contemplation of the happiness that last forever, so as to enable them to bear adversity with greater fortitude.*" The spiritual life is much like this: oscillating between the desert-lows of desolation to the mountain-peaks of consolation; or between the glory of Tabor, and human chaos and distress that we find at the bottom of the mountain. The temptation might be for us to make the false assumption that being a Christian means that we should be immune from suffering. That is, if we are striving to be faithful to Christ then God should look after us and spare us from all difficulties and sufferings. Alas, this is rarely if ever the case! His way must be our way.

Christ tells us that if we are to come after him, then we must "Deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him." Following Christ means walking in his footsteps, all the way to Calvary! Christian maturity calls us to accept the ups and downs of life, and to see the hand of God at work in the midst of blessings and suffering. Christ's glory is not only manifested on Mt Tabor, but also on Calvary. The link between Tabor and Calvary is hinted at liturgically in the positioning of this Feast Day, because the 6<sup>th</sup> August is exactly forty days before the 14<sup>th</sup> September – the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross. Since forty days is that Biblical number of the 'completed time' we see these two events connected symbolically. The Son of Man is lifted up in glory not only at the Transfiguration but even more profoundly on the Cross.

*Yours in Christ,  
Fr Francis Denton*

#### **Debbie's Thoughts**

Last weekend we were still experiencing lock down when I spoke about the sadness that our Confirmation candidates and their families faced in having their reception of the Sacrament postponed. Just like so many other important family events, the consequences of our efforts to keep everyone safe in our community are hitting us all hard, and we are frustrated by having to make things up as we go along. We have no precedents for our current situation, we are all just doing the best that we can. Under 'normal' circumstances, as part of their preparation to receive Confirmation, our candidates would have attended Mass regularly throughout the weeks leading up to their big day, receiving Holy Communion often, and would have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their final preparations. Through the Sacraments, God

nourishes us and keeps us strong as we experience our daily challenges and those that we will encounter in the years we still have to negotiate. They even help us to cope with our past. The last 18 months have made many of us stop to think, as we have not been able to simply turn up to receive the Sacraments whenever it has suited us. Being unable to receive Holy Communion is a great source of distress for many of our parishioners since lock down has become an imposing reality. As I wrote my article for our Parish newsletter last week, I was personally reminded to thank God for the wonderful gift that we have been given in Spiritual Communion. As I thought about it, I realised again that God thinks of solutions before we even see a problem looming. Our ability to open our eyes to appreciate his thoughtful care often requires the catalyst of irregular situations we cannot predict to help us to notice. The Church has always taught us that Spiritual Communion is available to those who seek it. Until recent times, we have not had to endure the absence of Masses as a regular problem, so we may not have needed to be aware that this beautiful gift is available to each of us. God finds a way to show us that he is with us when we call on him, and reminds us that he will never leave us alone.

As I wrote last week, worth repeating, Spiritual Communion nourishes us when we most need God's strength and comfort, particularly when our world is upside down, and whenever we wish to unite ourselves to him, aware of his loving call. We are blessed to be able to ask Jesus to come to us in that same Communion that we would experience if we were able to go to Mass. Jesus is perfect, and it follows that Holy Communion with Jesus cannot be less than perfect, if we come to him with sincere hearts. The Eucharist is such a 'clever' reality! No human words can capture it. We leave the details of how it all works to God, the author of all life. Holy Communion is a mystery, we simply need to accept the gift and ask God to help us to dive into its infinite potential. Invited to unite ourselves to Jesus, the way, the truth and the life, may we enter into Holy Communion with hearts filled with love and thanksgiving. Once again, the beautiful prayer that we can say that asks Jesus to come to us spiritually:

#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and desire to receive You into my soul. Even though I cannot receive You sacramentally in this moment, come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

#### HICCI AGM

##### Advanced notice for your diary

The HICCI Annual General Meeting will take place on September the 19th, in the Saint Brigid's Parish Hall. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person this year. More information will follow closer to the date.

Also, if anyone can help with catering for a light supper, similar to the last AGM at our church, that would be wonderful. Please contact Rod Hysted on 0409 523 031, if you can help.

Lastly, If you would like to nominate as the Saint Brigid's representative on the HICCI Committee of Management, please contact Rod on the above phone number.



7pm Fridays  
6, 13, 20, 27 August  
St Patrick's Church, Lilydale

Come along and learn more about the life of St Joseph and join in discussion and fellowship. We'll cover in particular his titles of:

- Terror of Demons
- Promoter of Virtue
- Son of David
- Patron of a Happy Death

The evenings begin with light finger food, followed by the presentation, and conclude with discussion, Q&A.

Free entry donations appreciated.  
Contact Fiona on 0402 474 074 for more information.



Fiona Bradley



Anne Marie Quinn



Colin Patterson



Fr Pádraig Corby OSM Gen.

The Ignatius Project is committed to offering quality adult faith formation opportunities in Catholic parishes and schools. All our speakers are experienced in teaching at a tertiary level. Read more at [www.ignatiusproject.com](http://www.ignatiusproject.com)



For more information phone **Fiona on 0402 474 074.**

Trybooking link for talks on St Joseph in August at St Patrick's Community Centre:

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

#### PARISH PRAYER LIST

**Recently Deceased:** Jackie DeKoning

**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, 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

#### FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN AUGUST

John McDonald (03.08.93), Patricia Newell (06.08.07), John Youngberry (07.08.79), Barbara Pollard (11.08.09), Andrew Sotko (14.08.07), Fr Loughnan (15.08.02), Bernadette Hanley (18.08.09), Mary Thomas (19.08.07), Douglas Ireland (21.08.79), Zandor Hunka (22.08.06), Alison Snell (25.08.02) Maria Slawinski (25.08.82), Gerald Slattery, Derek Beeby, Tilly Blackburn, Thea Humphries, Maggie Lloyd-Smith, Margaret Pomeroy (23.08.19), Rosemary Fries (10.08), Albert Slawinski, Maureen Fogarty, Bob Barclay.