



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

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**5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)**

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;  
for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:7-10**

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

**R. Praise the Lord, my soul!**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

**R. Praise the Lord, my soul!**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

**R. Praise the Lord, my soul!**

**Second Reading: James 2:1-5**

A reading from the letter of St James

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats;' then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

**Gospel: Mark 7:31-37**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and

touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**There will be no recoding of Mass while Fr Francis is on leave.**

**AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

**My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and  
unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me  
to be separated from You.  
Amen.**



The Parish office is closed during lockdown. Staff are working from home during this time and available by phone Debbie's phone number is

0448 664 731 and Sharon's is 0448 658 418.  
Parish email: lilydale@cam.org.au



**Zoom Afternoon Cuppa catch up**

Join us for a zoom afternoon cuppa this Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September at **1.00Pm.**



This will be a weekly zoom gathering while we are in lockdown

St Patrick's Parish Lilydale is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89675229871?pwd=MXNldG5ydVZtWXFTZ2hobVVKRzRqUT09>

**Debbie's Thoughts**

We wish all dads the happiest of Father's Day this week! May our celebrations feel wonderful, despite the fact that this Sunday may not be able to look like other Fathers Days. I allow myself to recognise that this is the first for me without my own precious dad's physical presence, (he passed away late last year), and that our

family has changed shape in other ways since last September, beautiful new babies added, one less beloved puppy dog subtracted, (yes, 'big fat old doggie under the tuckerbox' is now asleep). I am sure that there have been many changes for your family too. Even if my family wanted to recreate what used to be, we cannot. Like most families, there will be phone calls instead of hugs this Sunday. And, as a Parish family, we will need to attend Father's Day Mass online or on tv or radio instead of us gathering in our church. Life has changed for all of us recently, but our generation is not unique. Constant change is a fact of life. It has always been that way, it is how it will always be, with opportunity after opportunity for newness in each day. Life is never still. Our beating hearts remind us that minute to minute, change happens for better or for worse, no matter how hard we might wish things to happen differently.

This week's Gospel reflects this potential of change for all of us, as it takes us to the account of Jesus healing a deaf man, restoring his hearing and enabling him to speak clearly with the simple command 'ephphetha', 'be opened'. Life for that man changed forever, in an instant. When Jesus met the leper who expressed his certainty that Jesus could heal him if he wanted to, Jesus was strongly clear: 'of course I want to!'. 'Of course I want to'. Hear Jesus' words and hear his desire to give to us! Jesus fills us with confidence, we are invited, encouraged, even drawn to come to him for the things we need. Who better to share our joys, frustrations and fears with than Jesus, who always 'has our backs'? Each encounter with him is a new beginning. Jesus cured the deaf man who could not speak because his friends asked Jesus for help on his behalf. He offers us that same opportunity, to ask for healing for ourselves and for others. So, this Father's Day, we can ask Jesus to utter the command 'ephphetha' for fathers, and those who act as fathers, all around our world. What possibilities does that open for our dads, and for dads everywhere on our messy, wounded, bleeding planet? What possibilities does that prayer offer to their children? Worth thinking about. Our world certainly can use some changes.

Taking that one step further, we pray for 'ephphetha' for our politicians and leaders everywhere, that their hearts may be opened to fight for the rights and needs of those they serve, making justice their priority, thinking with the mind of Jesus, the Christ. We can ask that our own hearts will be opened to know just what to say to others when we meet them in the street, at the supermarket, or on the phone, so that we may bring Jesus' presence to another! We can ask God to use us as his instruments to bring 'ephphetha' to others by offering ourselves to be the hope of the Gospel for those we meet. Why not? God can do anything, anything, and always brings positives from negatives. We can certainly offer to help!

And we can pray that our own relationship with God may be blessed with 'ephphetha', if we dare to expose ourselves to the possibilities that that may bring. Where

might that leap of faith take us? We can pray with hope that Jesus will further open our ears, minds and hearts to his presence and to all of the amazing potential that our friendship with him can offer. But we do so with an awareness that our lives might just change forever as a result! Give God an inch, and he takes a mile, as they say. No prayer ever goes unheard or unanswered. We cannot even begin to predict where our prayer for 'ephphetha' may take us if we dare to pray it! How exciting! Are we brave enough to pray such a prayer with full commitment? There may be consequences... Jesus stands before us listening to the pleas of our hearts with the smile that says 'of course I want to!'. How might Jesus' command affect us if we offer him freedom to work within us, and with us? Friendship brings consequences: delightful companionship and risky vulnerability. What unimaginable consequences may flow within us if we invite our friend Jesus to utter the command 'ephphetha' in our direction?

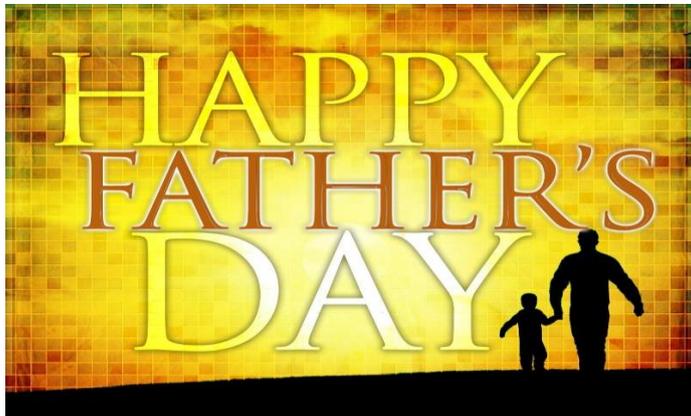
**PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE**  
Yarra Glen Mass will be rescheduled to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**HICCI AGM change of details**

The HICCI (Healesville Interchurch Community Care Inc) Annual General Meeting will take place on September the 19th, from 3.00pm, online using Zoom. Unfortunately, we will not be able to meet in person, again, this year. Details of how to join in on the meeting will follow in the next couple of weeks.

Secondly, If you would like to nominate as the Saint Brigid's representative on the HICCI Committee of Management, please contact Rod on 0409 523 031.

***Happy Father's Day to all Fathers and Grand Fathers!***



Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

- **Parish Secretary, Catholic Parish of Castlemaine**
- **Cook, Bayside Catholic Mission, Brighton**
- **Parish Seniors Advocate, St Xavier's Parish, Boxhill**
- **Finance Officer, Catholic Development Fund (CDF) - Part Time**

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

**Recently Deceased:**

**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.

