



**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

**3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

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

**First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24**

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones  
and flesh from my flesh!

This is to be called woman,  
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins  
himself to his wife, and they become one body.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127**

**R. May the Lord bless us  
all the days of our lives.**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
by the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper.

**R. May the Lord bless us  
all the days of our lives.**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table.

**R. May the Lord bless us  
all the days of our lives.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life!  
May you see your children's children.  
On Israel, peace!

**R. May the Lord bless us  
all the days of our lives.**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He who sanctifies, and those who are sanctified have one  
origin.

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made  
lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and  
splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace  
he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons  
into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom  
everything exists and through whom everything exists,  
should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who  
would take them to their salvation. For the one who  
sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the  
same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation: 1 John 4:12**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
If we love one another,  
God will live in us in perfect love.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel: Mark 10:2-12**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against  
the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing  
him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command

you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them. 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### **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: [healesville@cam.org.au](mailto:healesville@cam.org.au)

Due to the lockdown, we are **not able to attend Mass** this week. Fr Francis will be recording Mass and it will be available on the you tube channel on Sunday morning. The link is accessible through St Brigid's Healesville's website, <http://www.stbrigidshealesville.cam.org.au/> or by searching St Brigid's Healesville on You Tube, or using the link: <https://bit.ly/StBsHville>

### **On Vaccine Mandates: A House Divided Cannot Stand**

If there is one hymn that epitomises the Post-Conciliar spirit it is Deidre Brown's hymn, "Come as you are". Here is the first verse with which most of you will be familiar:

*Come as you are, that's how I want you  
Come as you are, feel quite at home  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven  
Come as you are, why stand alone?*

Well, for those who are presently unvaccinated it may well be that they are feeling very alone, unloved and unwelcome. In a world that has in recent decades bent over backwards to promote inclusivity and tolerance especially towards those on the margins of society, what we have witnessed in the past few months is a spectacular reversal of policy. The unvaccinated are being treated as a newly created underclass, set to be stripped of the most basic of human rights – the right to freedom of association, the right to work, the right to access health care and education, freedom of movement, freedom of religious practice, etc. If in February of 2020 someone had predicted a scenario where a vaccine passport would be required to participate in society, it would have been laughed to scorn: 'Ridiculous! This is Australia. That could never happen here!'

Move over tolerance and inclusion. Intolerance and exclusion are now the flavour of the day. The vitriolic hatred and readiness to discriminate and cast judgement upon those who have not been vaccinated has been fomented through 18 months of pent-up frustration, fear and demoralisation. Given that up until this year a small percentage of the population was vaccinated against COVID it is frightening that the mainstream media's relentless messaging has been able to whip up so much hatred so quickly. Nero blamed the Christians; Hitler blamed the Jews; Now the unvaccinated are the scapegoats of convenience in the New World Order. In such a world hatred becomes positively virtuous.

What should the Christian make of this new attitude? In his various letters St Paul is at pains to impress upon the new Christian communities that Jesus came to reconcile the human race into one new human family, breaking down the wall of division that separated one group from another. In his letter to the Ephesians Paul writes: "For [Christ] Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has torn down the dividing wall of hostility... that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace." (Eph 2:14-15). His point is even more emphatic in his letter to the Galatians: "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:27-28). One might add to that litany, "there is neither vaccinated, nor unvaccinated, for you are all one in Christ Jesus".

In the Body of Christ, all Christians enjoy a spiritual communion, having been made one in Christ. As this Sunday's Gospel proclaims what God has united no one (neither politician nor prelate) has the right to divide. The government's attempt to divide our Churches and our communities into two camps, the 'clean' and the 'unclean' is unjust and inherently unchristian. Every individual is free to decide for himself/herself, based upon his/her own very specific circumstances and health conditions, whether or not he/she choose to be vaccinated. 'Informed consent' must be just that: it should be informed by a good, honest, medical assessment that takes into account the risk/benefit ratio for each individual, and it must be freely consented to.

The Church has offered a qualified approval of the use of COVID vaccines. Yet to say that something is *permissible* is not to say it is recommended, much less mandatory. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's statement, *Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid-19 vaccines* (21

December 2020) clearly states that, as a rule, vaccine mandates are morally illicit: “practical reason makes evident that vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary.” (see: [https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20201221\\_nota-vaccini-anticovid\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html)). Dispensing medical advice is not part of the Church’s mission – nor is it my place to either persuade or dissuade anyone from taking the vaccines. It is, however, my place to resist any coercive or divisive restrictions that would be to the spiritual detriment of any of the flock.

It is foundational to medical ethics that the individual has the right to choose what recourse to medical therapies he/she pursues, free of coercion, fear or intimidation. Under no circumstances should anyone be forced to have any medicine or medical intervention against the individual’s will. The choice to have the COVID vaccine is a private matter between the individual and his/her physician; it is also a matter of personal conscience, especially considering the ethical implications of some of the vaccines as raised by the aforementioned CDF’s statement (see: paragraph 4). I urge all people to be respectful of every individual’s legal right to medical privacy, and the inviolability of conscience. For my part I will not permit the people of God in these parishes to be divided into two classes by segregating the vaccinated from the unvaccinated. I would sooner resign and/or leave this Archdiocese than be complicit in something so morally reprehensible.

Encompassed as we are by such a worldly spirit of division, suspicion and animosity, let us fervently implore the mercy of God praying for change of heart in our communities that we preserve the unity for which Christ prayed (cf. John17:21). Let us take to heart the life-giving words of St John: “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love.” (1 John 4:18). May love, not fear, reign in our hearts, our families, our Church and the world.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr Francis Denton

It is always wonderful when God reminds us that he really does care. Sometimes we get just a hint of his presence, sometimes his voice booms, easily recognisable for those who know to listen for it. One of those moments struck me last week. Worth sharing! My current main focus as Pastoral Worker is to ring as many of our friends as I can. I do get frustrated that I can’t manage to get around to ringing all who would love a call, but I try! Last week was indeed a very good week to ‘ring, ring, ring’ parishioners for a leisurely chat, it was not what you could call a ‘good news week’. On Tuesday we experienced the earthquake(s) that none of us could ignore, and volcanic eruptions were hitting the evening news. Throw in the pandemic etc etc, along with far too many images of political and social unrest in our own back yard and overseas for anyone to remain comfortable, and you pretty much have the tone of most conversations pegged. Many whom I contacted really wanted to share their own stories of the quake and their own thoughts on all the drama. It is relatively easy for us to feel God’s presence when things are going well, but when the wheels drop off, fear can easily overwhelm our somewhat fragile optimism. My chats with our friends that week reflected their sense of upheaval and destabilisation on so many levels. I tried to balance the fear by pointing out the beauty of our

natural world, its power reflecting God’s own infinite might, and I did remind many that God always brings good from every disaster, so tensions eased a little as many of those conversations went on.

So to my moment of recognition, which came late in the week, when I was helping to prepare the Prayers of the Faithful for last weekend’s recorded Mass. Those watching may have picked up on the appropriateness of Fr Francis’ opening prayer, as he introduced the Prayers of Intercession: *‘When all around us seems to tremble and shake, God is our sure foundation. With confidence, we pray for all who are in need of God’s fortifying and loving presence’*. What a week for that prayer to be prayed throughout our Archdiocese! Each week, Parish staff draft our Prayers of the Faithful using resources published by the Archdiocese of Melbourne, resources which are uploaded to the website months in advance of when they will be used. God certainly inspired the author of that prayer, popping it in to just the right week many months ago, and speaking directly to our fears and challenges in the process. But wait, there’s more... The Entrance Antiphon for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September was: *‘I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever’*, and the First Reading that day was from the Old Testament Book of Haggai 1:15-2:9: *‘Do not be afraid! For the Lord of Hosts says this: A little while now, and I am going to shake the heavens and the earth... and I will fill this Temple with glory, says the Lord of Hosts’*. Two big references, in my mind at least, to our biggest recorded earthquake, and to the chaos it provoked for our community. Bringing good from every moment of ‘disaster’, God certainly let me know that he is listening, and hearing our confusion, meeting it head on with compassion and encouragement. He speaks directly to our hearts through our liturgy, ‘do not be afraid’ and hints of the glory that makes us wonder. If he can shake the heavens and the earth, what might that glory look like, or feel like? I have a feeling it is way off the Richter scale!

My chats with our parishioners last week certainly reflected the distress and discomfort of many in our community. In moments of doubt, we might wonder if God actually does know that we are shaken up by what is happening to us this week, last week, last month, this year. Maybe we go a little further in our heart of hearts, and ask ourselves if he actually does care. After all, he does have a whole universe to run, all of time to be present in, and billions of hearts crying out to him in prayer for needs on a scale we can’t fathom. And yet, in our exact week of turmoil, that pre-packaged prayer, and the daily readings from an Old Testament Book that we have possibly never even heard of, voice just what we need. Of course, God knows. Of course God cares. In my conversations with our parishioners, I heard nervousness, confusion and distress, and God did too. I also heard wonderful stories of hope and celebration, just one example, someone we have been praying for on our Parish Prayer Lists has had wonderful news of recovery from truly critical illness. Miracles happen each and every day, God speaks to us every day, we can simply forget to notice. *‘Do not be afraid! For the Lord of Hosts says this: A little while now, and I am going to shake the heavens and the earth... and I will fill this Temple with glory, says the Lord of Hosts’*. Thanks be to God!

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

**Recently Deceased:** Bill Howie

**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 Hubby, Geoff Lucas, Sandra Donkin, Glen, Fred Bullas, Fred Coullas, Evie Gleeson, Indy Dawes, Rade Krstic, Megan Williams, Michael Wood, 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 SEPTEMBER

Patricia Carey (02.09.13), Michael Scowen (03.09.05), Bernard Jansen (05.09.04), Frieddy Laszozewski (10.09.82), Moyra Donchi (10.09.15), Bruce Jarvis (14.09.11), Dorothy Amarant (19.09.08), Michael O'Dwyer (20.09.97), Les Humphries (20.09.13), Greta Dame (28.09.96), Betty Ireland (28.09.97), Henriette Sallay (29.09.13), Justin Perry, Sr Mary Fran Coburn (2008), Peter Barnett, Laurie Fromholtz, John Duffy, Clare Lyons, Ashley Warton

### Columban Calendars 2022

This year we will trial pre-orders for the Columban Calendars as we were left with quite a few unsold last year. If you wish to order a calendar for next year, please let Debbie know: 0448 664 731. Cost: \$10, estimated delivery November.

### Lockdown Light—week five

*A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown*

...

Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations below.

### Podcasts for Christian living: How to keep our kids Catholic

In this episode of The Word on Fire show, Bishop Robert Barron and Brandon Vogt discuss what helps children retain their faith into young adulthood. Listen at [www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving5](http://www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving5)

### Getting to know your Bible: Science and the Bible: Are they opposed?

*Getting Started:* In this video, Bishop Robert Barron firmly debunks the common claim that science and religion are diametrically opposed. Watch at [www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted5a](http://www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted5a) and visit [www.reasonfaithscience.com](http://www.reasonfaithscience.com) for further resources.

*Going Deeper:* This video skilfully explores a Catholic understanding of the Book of Genesis' account of creation through a tapestry of voices. View here [www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper5](http://www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper5)

