

CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Brigid's HEALESVILLE, St Aloysius YARRA GLEN & Our Lady of the Snows MARYSVILLE
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WEEKLY MASS TIMES

NO MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

St Aloysius', Yarra Glen
St Brigid's, Healesville
St Brigid's, Healesville
Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville

OFFICE HOURS

PARISH STAFF ARE NOW WORKING FROM HOME

DEBBIE'S MOBILE NO: 0448 664 731

SHARON'S MOBILE NO: 0448 658 418



SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR LINKS TO MASSES AND THE EASTER CEREMONIES

LINK: https://bit.ly/StBsHville

PLEASE PRAY WITH FR FRANCIS AND FR JOHN AS THEY PRAY THEIR DAILY MASSES FOR US ALL

COLLECTIONS

Healesville to 30th April
Church: \$ 310
Presbytery: \$ 130
Marysville 20th February
Collection: \$55
Yarra Glen to 30th April
Collection: \$25
Presbytery \$8
Op Shop: \$2700



FROM FR FRANCIS

4th Sunday of Easter – “Good Shepherd Sunday”

The fourth Sunday of Easter has in recent times been given the name “Good Shepherd Sunday.” In chapter 10 of John’s Gospel Jesus proclaims himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. The image of Christ the Good Shepherd, is among the earliest in Christian iconography, popular at a time when Christianity was still an underground religion. For example, the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome contains a fresco dating from about 250AD, depicting the classical image of the good shepherd carrying a sheep upon his shoulders. It is a consoling image of God that brings together strength and tenderness, as he seeks out the lost sheep.

Even as Our Lord speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd, he warns the flock of false shepherds – ‘hirelings’ who don’t really care for the sheep but merely want to use them for their own advantage, and will abandon them at the first whiff of danger. St Augustine in his lengthy ‘Sermon on the Shepherds’ rails against the shepherds of his own day who seem to think only of the ‘milk, wool and meat’ the sheep provide, while doing nothing to nurture or protect the flock. Perhaps it has always been so. The Church continues to reel from the pain caused by these false shepherds, more so than ever in the wake of the sexual abuse crisis. These false shepherds have brought such a profound sense of betrayal, outrage and devastation to the flock. It has (quite understandably) shattered the trust of so many ordinary Catholics. The Church can and must denounce these false shepherds. The stain of dishonour these men have inflicted upon the Church affects all the faithful, not least those who continue to serve in ministry. Indeed, there are still many faithful shepherds who quietly go about doing their part to build up the Kingdom of God. These faithful shepherds have

persevered in their calling because they can recognise the unique gift of the priesthood for the good of the world, in spite of its tarnished reputation in the eyes of the public.

On this day, ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’, Corpus Christi Seminary would ordinarily send seminarians into the parishes to speak about vocations. Clearly that won’t be happening this year! Given my recent arrival to the Lilydale and Healesville parishes, I thought I could tell a little of my own vocation story. I hope you don’t think it too self-indulgent of me! I was born and grew up in Ballarat, the seventh of nine children. My parents were both very strong in their faith. In the Denton household Mass was a non-negotiable, not that I minded, as it gave me the opportunity to serve Mass with my brothers. The Catholic faith permeated my up-bringing in a quiet, gentle way. We prayed the morning offering in the car on the way to school; we always said grace before meals; and every night Dad and Mum would herd us together to pray a decade of the rosary together. My parents also made a point of offering hospitality to priests. Here I was able to see first-hand the kindness and goodness of the many priests who were honoured guests at our table. On account of this I grew up with a very favourable impression of priests. There was one Redemptorist priest, Fr Patrick Murray, in particular who left a deep impression. He was a truly joyful and kind-hearted man, who showed a genuine personal interest in everyone he met. He was also a gifted preacher who instilled a love for Mary and the saints in his homilies, and offered the Mass with great care and reverence.

Once in secondary school my faith continued to grow, albeit in a private way. My Dad gave me his old tattered edition of the ‘Imitation of Christ’ by Thomas à Kempis. It sat on my book-shelf unread for about two years before I picked it up. I soon formed the ritual of reading a chapter before bed. It offered some serious spiritual nourishment and gave my

prayer life a new interiority. The first stirrings of ‘the call’ began in these years with the simple conviction that God had a plan for my life.

It wasn’t until I started university studies that the seed of God’s call began to germinate. There was both an excitement and a restlessness in my soul as I strove to fathom who God is and what his plan for me might be. During my university years I was drawn to the study of literature and art history. Studying the masterpieces of Western culture had the unexpected effect of deepening my appreciation for the role of the Church in shaping western culture and values. I was always drawn to the transcendentals of Beauty, Truth, and Goodness. Paradoxically, it became increasingly clear to me that the modern secular world of the university was actively subverting these transcendentals by privileging ugliness and disorder over Beauty, relativism and subjectivism over Truth, and inverting the normative distinctions between Good and evil. The University culture’s hostility to Christianity was palpable, yet it proved to be an important challenge to my faith, one that prompted me to examine my own core beliefs as I found myself increasingly defending the Church and her teachings which I was now being forced to understand for myself. During these years I was able to develop my passion for painting, and while at university I had been asked to restore some old, flaky wall-paintings in my old school chapel of St Patrick’s College, Ballarat. This became a summer job, and so at the age of 19 for two months I was spending about nine hours a day in a chapel painting. This was like heaven for me, and I recall feeling I could happily do this for the rest of my life! I experienced a peace in my soul, and a joy in being able to serve God in beautifying his church. I thought often of the words the crucifix spoke to St Francis: “Go Francis, rebuild my church which as you can see is falling into ruin.”

In fact, the life of my patron saint, Francis of Assisi, had captivated me from

childhood. So, I began to explore the possibility of the religious life. Whilst discerning this call, I worked in retail to save up my pennies and then went backpacking around Europe with some good Catholic friends. The trip coincided with the 2005 World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany with the newly elected, Pope Benedict XVI. This Pope made a deep impression on me, which continued to grow in the years ahead as I read more and more of his vast theological corpus. I returned from five months in Europe with a strong sense of needing to commit to God’s call. By the end of the year I had begun a postulancy with the Capuchin Franciscans. This was a wonderful period of prayer, community, study and apostolic works. The goodness and faith of the friars was very edifying. Above all else it gave me the space to stop to hear God’s call. Through this year, I really grew in an understanding and appreciation of the priesthood, such that, at the end of the postulancy it seemed clear to me that even though the Capuchins weren’t quite the ‘right fit’ I might be called to the diocesan priesthood. The following year, in 2007, I joined Corpus Christi seminary which finally brought me great peace. At last I felt this was where God wanted me. My time in the seminary was not without its challenges. There were times where it was ‘touch and go’ but in his providence I’m quite certain God used these trials to purify my own intentions. My ordination to the priesthood on 27th June 2015 brought to a close a long chapter of sincere soul-searching motivated by the desire to know and do God’s holy will. I’m quite convinced that in this embrace of the Divine Will lies our truest peace and fulfilment. I thank God for entrusting me with a share in the precious gift of the priesthood, and pray that sustained by His grace I might serve him worthily and well, all the days of my life.

On this day the Church invites all the faithful to pray for priests and especially to pray for vocations to the priesthood. Perhaps our privation of the Mass and

Sacraments during this coronavirus pandemic might have one positive effect - it might serve to sharpen our awareness of just how precious the gift of the priesthood is. Without the priesthood the Church would find itself permanently deprived of the consolation of the Mass and the Sacraments. Our reality for the past month might well become the long-term reality for future generations of Catholics if we fail to nurture and promote vocations to the priesthood. Please pray for me, for all our priests, and indeed for many more holy vocations so that the prophesy of Jeremiah might be fulfilled:

“I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding” (Jer 3:15).

Fr Francis Denton



MAREE C IS RETIRING!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FROM US ALL

After some 30 years serving the St Brigid’s community, initially with the nuns and then with the Care Group, Maree Campitelli has decided to call ‘time’ on her work with the Care Group. For those of us who have had the privilege to get to know her, we appreciate Maree for the loving and compassionate person she is. Her work within the community helping those less fortunate among us has been tireless. Maree has a wonderful “can do” attitude and a refreshing “no nonsense” approach to getting things done without any fanfare. She has never sought plaudits for all her efforts, but now is the time that she deserves to receive some. Maree and Mario have been cornerstones of the St

Brigid’s community and will no doubt continue to be for a long time. They will now have more time to spend together and with their lovely family. We wish them and their family all the best for the years ahead. **Thank you, Maree!**

From Ed on behalf of Care.

THE SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is still available by appointment. Please contact staff if you or anyone you know would like to receive the **Sacraments of Reconciliation or Anointing of the Sick.**

PARISH STAFF

Parish staff are still available by phone to pass on any information you may need, and to care for your family in this time of stress and uncertainty.

THANKSGIVING CONTRIBUTIONS

Your parish still needs your help to survive financially. Please consider placing your donation in the letterbox slot, to the left of the front door of the presbytery. Please do not use the wooden box next to the office door, it is not secure. If you wish to donate via electronic funds transfer (EFT), please ring Sharon on 0448 658 418. New envelopes will be arriving shortly, by mail.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries occur in May, those who are sick, and all of our parishioners, and their families, friends, and all who are important to us all. We also pray that Covid 19 may be defeated throughout our world.

