

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

**THURSDAYS 10 AM TO 2 PM**

DEBBIE'S MOBILE NO:  
0448 664 731

SHARON'S MOBILE NO:  
0448 658 418



#### COLLECTIONS

Healesville 28th March  
Church: \$ Nil  
Presbytery: \$ Nil

Marysville 20th February  
Collection: \$55.00

Yarra Glen 21st March  
Collection: tba  
Op Shop: tba

**PUBLIC EASTER  
CELEBRATIONS IN THE  
CHURCH HAVE BEEN  
SUSPENDED**

**PLEASE PRAY THROUGH  
THE DAYS OF HOLY WEEK  
KNOWING YOUR PARISH  
FAMILY IS PRAYING WITH  
YOU**

#### Open Letter to the Parishioners of Lilydale and Healesville

To my dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How strange and trying are the times in which we live?! In one week, the Church will enter the most sacred time of the year, as we accompany Our Lord through the Holy Triduum, from the darkness of His passion and death, into the dazzling light of His glorious Resurrection. And yet, we know that this will be a Holy Week quite like any other.

For a priest to begin a new parish assignment on the eve of Holy Week would present a real pastoral challenge even in the best of circumstances. To do so in the middle of a global pandemic with a ban on all public liturgies and sacraments looks to me like a Divine April Fool's Day prank. God clearly has a sense of humour, having me start on 1<sup>st</sup> April! This is definitely not what I envisaged for my first Easter in a new parish. Could any of us have guessed even three months ago that the doors of every church in the country would be closed for Easter? I think we are all justified in nursing a little anxiety in these current circumstances. Perhaps you feel overwhelmed by change and uncertainty in these times? Perhaps some of you feel that having to take on the burden of a new priest was the very last thing you needed?!

Understandably, parishioners are always concerned when a new priest arrives. What will he be like? What will he change? Does he understand the way we do things here? All these questions are quite natural, because a parish is a spiritual 'home' – and we don't take kindly to interlopers coming in and rearranging the furniture! But every priest who comes into a parish will bring his own personality: his talents, and (alas) his own short-comings. I beg your forgiveness in advance! Change is always unsettling, but it also provides an

opportunity for growth. I am quite confident that God, in His inscrutable wisdom, has chosen me for this parish, at this particular time of crisis. He will want to use this situation to help me grow as a pastor of souls. I pray and hope that God will also use this situation to help each of us more perfectly conform ourselves to the Divine Will. Pandemic or no pandemic, God is still God. He can use everything in His providence to school us in the way of Christian discipleship.

These quiet months ahead will give me an opportunity to settle in and survey the land of these vast parishes, and attend to a range of maintenance and planning matters. More importantly, I will endeavour to make contact with as many of you as possible in this interim period, by whatever means possible. I am eager to meet you, to hear your concerns, share your burdens, and if possible offer real practical assistance. Without the presence of a visible congregation my work as a priest may seem rather limited. In such times one must remember that the Holy Spirit is the principle agent of 'action' in the life of the Church. The working of the Holy Spirit is not constrained by dint of plague, pestilence, war or famine; on the contrary the workings of God's grace continues in the silence of our hearts whenever we come before God, and call upon him from the depths of our souls. The greatest thing the priest can do for the faithful in such times of trial is to intercede in prayer for his people.

With this truth in mind, today, on my first official day in the Parish I made a solemn act of consecration of the two parishes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In doing so I consecrated all of you and your families, and placed you under the maternal protection of the Mother of God according to the following Act:

*"O Immaculate, Mother of the Church and Queen of Heaven,*

*we join together as a parish family to consecrate ourselves to your Immaculate Heart. We consecrate to you all that we are, all that we have, all that we love, our bodies, our hearts, our souls.*

*To you we consecrate our families, our priests, our religious and all who serve in our parish ministries.*

*We entrust to you the sick and dying, and the souls of the faithful departed of our entire parish.*

*We desire that everyone may come to know you more fully and share in the benefits of your intercession of love.*

*So that our consecration may be truly effective and persevering, and so that it may bear the fruits of a rich interior life, today we renew our consecrations as Christians through the Baptismal promises.*

*We promise to follow with joy and humility the truths of the Catholic Church, always showing fidelity to the teaching of the Holy Father, our Bishop and the Magisterium. We promise to show you faithful devotion, to listen to the word of God and to read it attentively, to obey God's commandments, to participate in the feast of the Church, to seek the strength of the sacraments, specially Reconciliation and the Eucharist.*

*We pray that we may always be ready to offer our prayers, sacrifices and sufferings to bring about the triumph of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our souls and in those is our sisters and brothers, in our parish and the entire world. Amen"*

In writing this letter I want to assure you of my daily prayers. Every day I will continue to offer Mass in the church at St Patrick's where I will bring to the altar the intentions of all the parishioners. I further pledge to you a daily holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament for the sanctification of the two parishes. May I

ask, of your charity, for you to pray for me too? Pray that I may be a faithful shepherd of the flock entrusted to me, that I may help you come to know, love and serve Christ more perfectly. I look forward eagerly to the opportunity to be able to meet you, once this becomes practically possible. In the meantime, if there is anything that I and the parish team can do to support you please don't hesitate to get in touch. I look forward to meeting each of you!

Yours in Christ,

**Fr Francis Denton**

**Administrator of St Patrick's, Lilydale and St Brigid's, Healesville**

1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

#### FROM THE OFFICE

Please contact the Parish if anyone you know would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, or the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our weekly bulletin will still be published to keep everyone updated on the latest news. Google 'St Brigid's Parish Healesville' for our webpage or pick up a printed copy from the plastic box at the door of the Parish Office. Thanks to our volunteer 'posties', you may be able to receive a bulletin in your letterbox. Please ring Debbie to arrange.

The St Brigid's Care Group is still encouraging inquiries from anyone who is in physical need. Please call Maree: 0417 087 199.

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.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO!!

As we all endure being confined in our

homes, social isolation is a real danger, particularly for those who live alone. **Please set yourself the goal to ring at least one other person you know each day, to help keep everyone connected.** The sky is the limit when it comes to how many elderly, sick, lonely or vulnerable people you could speak to by phone. Staying in contact with family and friends is Psychological First Aid, and a lot of fun!

#### 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.

#### 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.**

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

All victims of the Corona virus, the bushfires, drought, abuse, and injustice, and children everywhere.

**RECENTLY DECEASED**  
Pat Dovan, Kath Skate, Tony Grieve, Sabatino (Tino) Gianforte, Ernst Fries.

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK**  
Blake Smith, Trish Leahy, John Snell, Abby Sharp, Peter Munro, Babies Emmett Tedi and Santi, Megan, Bernie Jansen, Andrew Sharp, John, Glenn, Lyn Francis, Dorothy Barber, Maureen Fogarty, Fiona, Annie Preuss, Michelle Ryan, Damian, John, Alison, Heather, Julie Bates, Garry Dettman, Bradley Jordan, Jeanette Henkel, Richard Galbraith, Annette Fromholtz, Debbie Huby, Geoff Lucas, Sandra Donkin, Dorothy Fraser, Glen, Fred Bullas, Fred Coullas, Mitchell Wilson, 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, Albert Slawinski, Lydia, Joyce Slattery, Lawrie Field, Annie, Bob Ireland, Val & Michael Christie, Ted & Peter Bowling, Natasha, Mia, James, Richard Adams

#### FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN APRIL

Tanya Grizic (03.04.06), Emil Weklak (11.04.11), Paul Nielsen (07.04.08), Shane O'Meara (14.04.69), Fr Tim Tolan (15.04.08), Frank Wilson (16.04.06), Beryl Perrin (19.04.06), Brendan Hammond (23.04.12), Fr Robert Coughlin (24.04) Edgar Snell (26.04.93), Violet Brooks (26.04.08), Alan Thompson (26.04.00), Jean Malcolm (26.04.17), Janine McIntyre (28.04.07), Reg Fraser (Good Friday 1997), Susan Susic, Marshall McLinden, Teresa Toscano, Rosa Toscano

*We pray especially for those whom no one remembers.*

