

CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Brigid's HEALESVILLE, St Aloysius YARRA GLEN & Our Lady of the Snows MARYSVILLE
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PENTECOST SUNDAY FROM FR FRANCIS

We tend to think of Pentecost as an exclusively Christian feast. In fact, Pentecost is the Hellenised name for one of the seven annual Jewish feasts, the 'Festival of Weeks' (in Hebrew, *Shavuot*) celebrated 50 days after the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Pentecost was always a joyful celebration, being as it was, a feast of thanksgiving to God for the incoming harvest. In the Christian dispensation the feast of Pentecost is given a new significance. Instead of celebrating this agricultural feast of the bountiful harvest, Christians rejoice in another kind of harvest - the rich spiritual bounty of souls who come to faith in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Christian feast of Pentecost marks the fifty days following Christ's Resurrection from the dead. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the Apostles marks the beginning of an age of new spiritual fecundity in the harvest of souls who will be counted among the elect. As Christ foretells, "the harvest is rich but the labourers are few!" (Matt 9:27).

Who exactly is this Holy Spirit who is sent upon the apostles? The Holy Spirit is the living love of the Father and Son, who has been poured into the life of the Church. The Holy Spirit animates the Church, the Body of Christ, much as a soul animates a physical body. Without the Holy Spirit the Church would simply be a human organisation, nothing more. But the presence of the Holy Spirit sanctifies the Church, making her divine, and we can even say, *holy*. The creed formulated at Nicaea (325AD) was rather sparse regarding the Holy Spirit. At the Council of Constantinople (381AD) the Church was able to enrich the Nicene Creed with additional articles of faith regarding the third person of the Holy Trinity. Here the

Holy Spirit was defined as "the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, Who has spoken through the prophets." This 'Giver of Divine Life' is poured into the souls of the Christian faithful at our baptism, enlivening us with Divine Charity. As living temples of the Holy Spirit we are called to set the world aglow with the fire of the love of Christ. The gifts of the Holy Spirit enable the mature Christian to live up to the demands of the Christ's teaching, difficult though they often are. Through the Holy Spirit God gives us the means to live a life of holiness, because "with God nothing is impossible" (Matt 19:26). Growing in a deeper awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit can enable the Christian to better use the gifts given to us at Baptism and perfected in Confirmation, in our daily struggle for holiness.

In spite of our total dependence upon Him, the Holy Spirit is probably the most elusive and mysterious of the three persons of the Holy Trinity. Perhaps for this reason many Christians through the ages have felt more inclined to pray to God the Father or to Jesus Christ, than to invoke the Holy Spirit. Yet, in the treasury of the Church's liturgical prayers we have a number of beautiful hymns addressed directly to the Holy Spirit. Today's liturgy is embellished with one of these: the so-called 'golden sequence' of Pentecost, *Veni, sancte Spiritus* (Come, Holy Spirit) which precedes the Gospel. This powerful and evocative ancient hymn invokes the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts and souls, bringing warmth, consolation, vigour and freshness! The following is one of the better poetic renderings of the Latin original into English by Anthony Petti.

Come Holy Spirit, God of light, fill us with your radiance bright;
Gentle father of the poor, make us, by your help, secure;
Come, your boundless grace impart, bring your love to every heart.
Lord of consolation, come, warm us when our hearts are numb;
Great consoler, come and heal, to our souls your strength reveal;
Cool, refreshing comfort pour, and our peace of mind restore.
Light immortal, fire divine, with your love our hearts refine;
Come, our inmost being fill, make us all to do your will;
Goodness you alone can give, grant that in your grace we live.
Come, our lukewarm hearts inspire, mould our wills to your desire;
In our weakness make us strong, and amend our every wrong;
Guide us when we go astray, wash our stain of guilt away.
Give to every faithful soul, gifts of grace to make us whole;
Help us when we come to die, so that we may live on high;
Ever let your love descend, give us joys that never end. Amen.

Happy Feast of Pentecost!



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 TELEVISED MASSES LINK:
<https://bit.ly/StBsHville>

TO BOOK IN TO ATTEND MASSES PLEASE PHONE:
0448 664 731

COLLECTIONS

Healesville to 17th May
Church: \$ 422
Presbytery: \$ 173
Marysville 20th February
Collection: \$55
Yarra Glen to 17th May
Collection: \$10
Presbytery: \$2700
Op Shop: \$2700
Chaplaincy Sunday: \$28



MASSES ARE 'BACK, WITH CHANGES'!

St Brigid's: Sunday 8.30 am and Thursdays 9.10 am.

(Please note: no Wednesday evening Masses)

To book to attend a Mass for Sunday or Thursday at St Brigid's, please call the parish mobile: 0448 664 731.

St Patrick's: Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm
Sunday: 10.30 pm
Tuesday: 9.10 am
Wednesday: 9.10 am
Friday: 9.10 am

For Masses at St Patrick's, Lilydale, phone: 0448 658 418

From next week, 20 people, plus Father, a reader and a server are permitted to attend each Mass. Protocols for sanitising and social distancing will be strictly observed. Bookings must be pre-arranged. A waiting list applies for those who would like to attend Mass regularly, and priority will be given to those who have not yet been able to attend Mass since the shutdown began.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation can be arranged by appointment, and is also now available on Saturdays at 10:00am at St Patrick's, Lilydale.

MONEY MATTERS...

Stewardship is biblical theme of some prominence in both the Old and New Testaments. Good stewards are well rewarded; bad stewards are roundly castigated (cf. Mt 25:14-30). As every business operator knows, keeping the books balancing is a challenge even in the best of times. The present circumstances of the COVID19 pandemic have placed a virtually unprecedented economic strain upon the nation. Small businesses are generally the worst effected, and in this regard, parishes are no exception. The media has given virtually no attention to the economic impact of COVID19 on local church

communities. With the suspension of all public Masses and Sacraments even the most financially healthy parishes are now feeling the pinch. The longer this situation persists, the greater the strain.

Healesville parish has been hard hit, with our weekly income down by approximately 50%. The costs of church insurance, amenities, wages for parish employees, and the priest's living costs all continue to accrue. Man does not live on bread *alone*, yet he still requires a little food in the stomach to live! The suspension of Masses has meant that for the past eight weeks we have had no regular collections at Mass. At this point we must express our deep gratitude to those who have continued to make their regular contributions either via direct debit or by taking the time to drop in their envelopes to the parish. Given the economic pressures being felt by so many, your sacrificial giving is especially appreciated at this time. If you haven't ever considered making regular contributions via direct debit now might be an opportunity for you to consider making the change. It is convenient for you, and provides far greater economic stability for the parish. Once established it's quick and easy to adjust the amount being given or to cancel the contributions altogether. Please feel free to ring Sharon on 0448 658 418 if you would like more information or guidance as to how to go about setting up a direct debit payment option.

Thank you once again for your amazingly generous support for the parish! May God bless you!

Fr Francis Denton

PLEASE PRAY:

For those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries occur in May, those who are sick, and for all of our parishioners,

and their families and friends. For the special intentions of our parishioners. For the victims of violence, abuse, natural disasters and injustice everywhere. For all children, and their families.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE 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, Maureen Fogarty, 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, 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 MAY

Mary Nichols (01.05.09), Mary Slawinski (01.05.96), Brian Blake (4.5.17), Mavis McKenzie (06.05.07), Meldy Thompson (10.05.01), Peter Hammond (16.05)Mark Bariola (11.05.99), Hesselina Weda (11.05.91), Margaret Brown (11.5.17), Ann de Groot (12.05.13), Elaine Postlethwaite (13.05.14), Kenneth Cole (14.05.11), Rev Fr Peter Youngberry (15.05.08), Renato Bariola (16.05.14), Inocencia Flores (25.05.05), Fred Dame (26.05.08), Joseph van de Linden, Olga Komiat, Eileen Edwards (16.05.17), Clodagh Gleeson (16.05.19), Richie Youngberry

We pray especially for those whom no one remembers