

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

St Brigid's, Healesville
Sunday at 8.30 am
Thursday at 9.15 am

St Aloysius', Yarra Glen
Next Mass: Sunday 19th July
at 5 pm

Our Lady of the Snows,
Marysville
Next Mass to be advised

OFFICE HOURS

PARISH STAFF ARE
CURRENTLY 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 14th June
Church: \$ 204
Presbytery: \$ 45
Marysville 20th February
Collection: \$55
Yarra Glen to 7th June
Collection: \$215
Presbytery: \$115
Op Shop: \$2700
Care Group: \$50
Caritas: \$20



FROM FR FRANCIS DENTON

Personal Reflection on the Priesthood on my Anniversary of Ordination



This Saturday 27th June is the feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. It also happens to be my fifth anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood. Such an occasion is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the incredible gift of the priesthood, a gift which is given not for the sake of the ordained, but for the sake of the people of God. In my first year in the seminary I read Bishop Fulton Sheen's book on the priesthood entitled "The Priest is Not His Own." Sheen's principal insight is that the priest does not live for himself and his own personal fulfillment, but as a victim-soul offering himself in union with Christ on the cross. Sheen's vision stands in stark contrast to modern distortion which seeks to view the priesthood as a career path for power, influence and status. In truth, those who see the priestly office through the perverse Marxist lens of 'power' understand neither Jesus Christ, nor Christianity, nor the priesthood in their essence. The priest stands with Christ as a sign of contradiction to the world. His life is one of radical self-renunciation, because he lives not for the sake of this world, but for the life to come. The priest's life is a gift given for others.

By virtue of his configuration to Christ the priest is called to empty himself of all his egoism and worldly aspirations, and learn to embrace the will of God, in imitation of Christ. This is the *kenosis* or 'self-emptying' described by St Paul in the canticle of his Letter to the Philippians: "Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not could equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). Following the example of Christ, who is both priest and victim, those ordained to the sacred ministry must share in both Christ's Priesthood and his Victimhood. Just as Christ offered himself, totally and freely for us on the cross, so the priest is called to offer himself totally and freely: "no-one takes my life from me, I lay it down of my own accord" (John 10:18). Since love is the operative motivation the sacrifice turns to sweetness and comes to bear an abundance of fruit. The wood of the cross becomes the Tree of Life.

Some people imagine that the demands of the priesthood, a life of obedience to the bishop and especially clerical

celibacy, are 'too hard' today. It is imagined that if such disciplines were dropped there would be a stampede of candidates applying for the seminary. I'm doubtful that this would happen. In fact, I suspect the opposite would happen. A priesthood that panders to comfort, self-indulgence and the spirit of worldly accommodation is a priesthood that any young Christian man would quickly come to despise for its rank inauthenticity. To be a priest is to be an *alter Christus*, *ipse Christus* – 'another Christ, Christ himself'. The priest is called to configure himself to Christ, in a life of simplicity, purity, obedience, charity and sacrifice. The fact that we poor priests fall so far short of the ideal should not lead us abandon the ideal or to lower the bar that Christ himself set. The sinner is called to holiness, in spite of his sins. How much more so the priest whose hands are consecrated with the sacred Chrism to set him apart for a life of radical service? Every time the priest offers the Mass he utters the words of consecration holding the Host: "This is my body which will be given up for you." It is the body of Christ that is offered on the altar, but so too is the body of the priest offered in union his master: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

We hear these sentiments echoed in this Sunday's Gospel: "Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it. Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it." Herein lies the paradox of Christianity. It is in renouncing our lives for the sake of Christ that we discover the greatness of our calling as saints. Having surrendered everything for Christ we find ourselves enriched a hundred-fold with treasure that will not perish. I take this opportunity to renew my thanks to God for the abundant blessings he has bestowed upon me - the gift of my life, my faith, my parents, family, friends and parishioners; for his patience with me in my weakness and ineptitude; for the gift of His Son, who died for my salvation; and for a share in his priesthood and his victimhood. Please pray for me and all my brother priests that we may persevere in serving Our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully and generously.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us!

CONGRATULATIONS FR FRANCIS!!!

We congratulate you on the 5th Anniversary of your Ordination to the Priesthood.

May God continue to bless you and your ministry.



THIS WEEK'S MASSES IN OUR PARISH

St Brigid's: Sunday 8.30 am and Thursdays 9.15 am.
20 people are permitted to attend each Mass at St Brigid's and St Aloysius churches. Bookings must be pre-arranged by phoning Debbie to book for each Mass.
To book to attend a Mass please call Debbie: 0448 664 731.

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

130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST ALOYSIUS CHURCH

Mass will be celebrated in St Aloysius church on Sunday 19th July 2020 at 5 pm. Please phone Debbie to book in.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS AT ST PATRICK'S LILYDALE

Mass will be celebrated in the Extraordinary form (Latin Mass) each Saturday morning at 9 am at St Patrick's, Lilydale, commencing on Saturday 4th July 2020.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE

The shortest day of the year quietly slipped by us this week. I checked the stats. Tomorrow, sunrise will still be in the same minute that it was today, but sunset will 'officially' be one minute later than it was yesterday. And this time next week, sunset will be 2 minutes later than it will be today. How many of us would notice this phenomenon if I hadn't pointed it out? More to the point, as interesting as I might find this little observation, does it matter whether we notice it or not? No Act of Parliament or turn out of any police force could alter the inevitability of the moment when our sun tips over the edge of our sight each afternoon, and darkness covers the lands. Yet from the space station, high above the earth, astronauts can watch the sun moving over our planet from a unique perspective, as observers, not controllers, of wonders beyond our sight, our world as part of our universe. These visitors to the edge of space watch without illusions, fully aware that no matter how much technology we congratulate ourselves on having developed to allow them to be there, they are there as visitors, not as masters, and as observers, not as gods. The complex beauty of our world is a constant reminder to us of our creator, 'one God, creator of Heaven and Earth', as we say in the Nicene Creed. Any power we think we may have is mere illusion, we are God's appointed stewards of creation and nothing more.

We cannot control the darkness of night, but as Christians, we are the people who may be tuned in to the hope of our creation in a way that others miss. Light overcomes darkness, no matter how tiny that light may be. It defeats it, always. We follow Jesus, the light of the world, aware of our limitations and incapacities, but trusting that he continues to lead us through the darkest of nights. Just as the star of Bethlehem was guide to the Wise Men using the guidance of the star in the quiet of the night to find our newborn saviour, we trust God's wisdom and love for each of us to guide us when we are blinded by darkness we cannot control. The scriptures are filled with images of the light overpowering darkness. We think of the angels filling the dark sky above the shepherds with golden light, as they sang for the Son of God, newly born and lying in his mother's arms: 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth'. My mind spins on to Jesus on the mountain, transfigured, as his divinity shone through his humanity, allowing his friends a glimpse of mystery beyond their sight. 'His face shone like the sun', the truth of Jesus, true God and true man broke into their struggling minds like the sun breaks through the clouds. Imagine our own meeting with Jesus, as we close our eyes on our earthly lives, eyes dimmed with age or sickness, and open them again in death to behold the face of Jesus, who is the light of our earthly life, and the light of our life beyond this world. The wonders we shall see in that glorious light! Perhaps you could light a candle this week in a quiet place, and spend a few minutes prayerfully contemplating Jesus, the light. What might your heart find as you gaze into that tiny light in the darkness? God only knows!

PLEASE PRAY:

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, injustice, and for children everywhere. For all who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur in June.

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, 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,