

**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  
Phone: 5962 4026*

*Email Address: [Healesville@cam.org.au](mailto:Healesville@cam.org.au)  
Website: <http://www.stbrigidshalesville.cam.org.au>  
Link to weekly Masses: <https://bit.ly/StBsHville>*

*Administrator: Fr. Francis Denton  
Pastor Emeritus: Fr John Dupuche*

*Pastoral Worker: Mrs. Debbie Edwards  
Secretary: Mrs. Debbie Edwards (Administration)  
Mob: 0448 664 731  
Secretary: Mrs Sharon Jacob (Finance)  
0448 658 418*

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Sirach 27:30 - 28:7**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps102:1-4, 9-12**

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful;  
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. R.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. R.

His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults. R.

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins. R.

**Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you!

Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## FROM FR FRANCIS DENTON

### **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

This Monday (14<sup>th</sup> September) is the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. According to long-standing tradition held in both Catholic and Orthodox Churches this day commemorates three dates across three centuries: 1) The finding of the True Cross; 2) The dedication of the Constantinian churches built on Calvary and the Holy Sepulchre; and 3) the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem in 629AD.

The finding of the True Cross by St Helena (the mother of the Emperor Constantine) who went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 324AD with a view to recovering the relics of the Passion. The recovery of Christ's Cross after almost 300 years might seem implausible, yet it's not impossible that these events were directed according to the mysterious providence of God. In 70AD the Romans had sacked Jerusalem and completely destroyed the temple. The aim was to extirpate all the religious hotspots of these 'non-conformist' Roman territories. Remember that just six years earlier Nero had blamed the Great Fire of Rome on the early Christians. For this reason, the Emperor Hadrian also saw to the levelling of Mount Calvary and the back-filling of Jesus tomb which were obvious places of veneration for first century Christians, who were seen (quite unjustly) as a trouble-making sect. A pagan temple dedicated to Venus was erected on the site to ensure Christians kept away. Providentially this had the unintended consequence of both marking and preserving these sacred sites. 250 years later Constantine converted to Christianity and the tables were turned. With Constantine's backing Helena oversaw the demolition of the pagan temple and the excavation of Calvary. In the process they uncovered a stone-cistern in which were found three wooden crosses and the titulus (the wooden plaque inscribed with Pilate's words: *Jesus Nazarenus Rex Judaeorum* – 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews'). The question remained: which of the three was the True Cross? The legend goes that a woman dying of a terminal disease was brought to the place and laid upon each of the crosses. Upon touching the third cross she was instantly cured, thereby identifying the True Cross. The story is recorded in the *Ecclesiastical History* of Socrates Scholasticus (born 380AD) and is corroborated in its essentials by St John Chrysostom, St Ambrose, and St Cyril of Alexandria, among other early sources. Since then fragments of the True Cross have been dispersed across the globe for veneration.

Remarkable though it is, in one sense this legend is secondary to the heart of this feast day. As Christians we honour the Cross of Christ not because the wood itself contains magical powers, but because the cross was the means by which our salvation was won for us. What began as a terrifying symbol of the brutal, worldly power of the Roman Empire, was transformed by Christ into the eternal sign of God's love for us: "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). The liturgical veneration of the Cross on Good Friday is a powerful reminder of the love we should have for the cross. I've always found it deeply moving to witness the sincerity and tenderness with which the faithful kiss the Cross on Good Friday. Each of us are called to 'take up our cross and follow Christ' (cf. Matt 16:24), and in doing so, to "make up for what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ" (Col 1:24). Every day, even in the small trials, frustrations and disappointments of life we have an opportunity to unite our sufferings to the Cross of Christ, thereby making our sacrifices fruitful and life-giving. I'm reminded of the splendid mosaic of the fruitful Cross in San Clemente in Rome. It depicts not the dead wood of a cross, but a cross that has put out fresh growth, lush with fruit and flowers, and teeming with life. The Cross of Christ has become for us the Tree of Life!

## CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.



## A LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI

Dear Friends

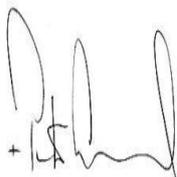
In Child Protection Week, our whole nation is invited to 'put children first'. In fact, that is the theme in 2020, which marks thirty years of Child Protection Week in Australia.

Although the Pandemic has changed the way we are all living and working, it doesn't change what is most important. For Christians, the Lord Jesus shows us that at all times, the most vulnerable among us are those requiring our greatest care. In particular, the safety and the protection of children is one of our most important priorities.

The Professional Standards Office of our Archdiocese along with our Mission Team have developed some resources to be of help for all in our communities. These are designed to support children and young people's right to be safe and feel safe.

My heart breaks for those who were not cared for and protected in the past. When a child is neglected or abused, the pain and suffering endures throughout their whole life. I am sad and angered that the Church has not always been a place that has put children first. We continue to address the horror of abuse, to walk with those in need, and to build a culture of safety and protection for our most vulnerable. Personally, I will continue to meet with survivors of abuse; listening to them, hearing them and trusting them, and helping our Church be continually converted.

Please pray with me that we would put children first always, and protect their safety.



Most Rev Peter A Comensoli  
Archbishop of Melbourne

## **WEEKLY MASSES ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR ST BRIGID'S YOU TUBE CHANNEL**

A reminder that Fr Francis' Sunday Masses are recorded each weekend and are available on St Brigid's You Tube Channel each Sunday morning. The link is accessible through St Brigid's Healesville's website, or by searching St Brigid's Healesville on You Tube, or using the link: [\*\*https://bit.ly/StBsHville\*\*](https://bit.ly/StBsHville)

## **KEEPING US CONNECTED**

Please email the office if you would like to participate in:

- **The Parish Grapevine** which advises of deaths, funerals or other parish news.
- **A regular Bible Study/Faith Reflection Group led by Fr Francis** via video chat on a phone, ipad or computer.

Don't forget to check out **the Living Faith page on St Brigid's website!** Once you have read the bulletin on our website, stay on to have a look around. Elissa keeps us up to date with the latest news and provides us with awesome resources to assist our prayer life and enhance our reflection time with the Lord. Thanks Elissa!

## **SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE**

Our readings at this time centre on justice, compassion and forgiveness. The Gospels are full of clear and explicit examples of Jesus as living fulfilment of his requests of us to love our neighbour. He repeatedly encourages us to live in harmony with each other, and particularly asks us to forgive, (others, and ourselves!), as many times as forgiveness is required. Jesus asks us to live justly, avoiding hypocrisy and regarding the behaviour of others with fairness and compassion, and to forgive even what seems unforgivable. He not only speaks about these virtues, he demonstrates them himself in a whole host of ways, culminating in his prayer of forgiveness for those who contributed to his crucifixion in every way, uttered aloud whilst he was dying on his cross. Jesus does not just 'talk the talk', he also very clearly 'walks the walk', and he does not ask us to do what he has not done himself. At times Jesus' challenges can feel achievable, certainly not easy, but doable with some good old elbow grease and gritted teeth. At other times, the reality of having to find enough patience and selflessness to overlook assaults from those whose opinions, habits and choices conflict with our own can be really tough to endure. The project of making forgiveness happen can be a huge ask. In practice, forgiving someone who has really hurt us, or impacted on our lives in a way that has caused actual damage, is much more than a head exercise. It cuts right to the centre of our being.

Wounds received through a lifetime of dealing with others who are not always kind can be an intolerable burden, and many suffer in this way. When those wounds arise through passionate relationships with family and friends, the act of forgiveness can become a challenge that can take a lifetime to wrestle to the ground. Some never achieve it, with predictable consequences. Grief support has been a focus of my vocation over many years, involving walking with families through the death of a loved one and beyond. Witnessing the fallout of family relationships and old friendships that have been irreparably ruptured during life's twists and turns is always a sad and confronting experience, and funerals often bring out the best and the worst in those at 'ground zero'. What is even sadder than family members bouncing grief from one to the other is when 'ground zero' does not include all of those who should be there. Distressingly, dealing with the grief and anger of unresolved conflict can take longer than one lifetime to manage, touching many precious lives along the way, and eating into peace

that keeps us whole. Jesus' plea for us to forgive is not simply a nice idea, it shows the Wisdom of the Holy Trinity at work.

I remember reading the thoughts of St Therese of Lisieux, the Saint I met and became friends with through my preparation for Confirmation. St Therese mused that Jesus clearly and repeatedly asks us to love one another, not only as we love ourselves, which we are not all that good at doing well, but as *he* has loved us. St Therese recognised that she could never love as Jesus loves, but knew with all her being that he would never have set us an impossible, unachievable task. To cut a long story short, she concluded that to love as Jesus loves, she had to love *with* his love. Her daily quest was to grow as close to Jesus as she could, to join her heart to his, asking him to love through her. Following on from her thoughts, it occurs to me that if we were to love with Jesus' love, forgiveness would be not only achievable, but a privilege, still tough to achieve, but worth the battle. The first baby step to achieving forgiveness is in *wanting* to forgive. The second step is to ask Jesus to love through us... So worth it

### THANKSGIVING TOTAL FOR AUGUST

St Brigid's: \$115 Thank you!!



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Congratulations to those celebrating birthdays about now! Happy Birthday to Marie Hammond, Jackie de Koenig, Sr Patricia and to Martha Adams who turns the big 80!

### GUARDIAN ANGELS OF KENYA

Please remember Fr Jason and his community in your prayers. Covid has hit them hard and daily life continues to bring great pastoral and financial challenges. For more information contact Paula or Sally.

### PLEASE PRAY: FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Albert Slawinski, Maureen Fogarty, Bob Barclay

### 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, 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, Lydia, Joyce Slattery, Lawrie Field, Annie, Bob Ireland, Val & Michael Christie, Ted & Peter Bowling, Natasha, Mia, James, Richard Adams, Mitchell & Wynn Wilson, Carina Warton, Anne Bateman.

### 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