

**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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

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

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18**

**R. The Lord is near to all who call him.**

I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. **R.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

## **Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

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

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## [A LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI](#)

### **To the People and Clergy of the Archdiocese of Melbourne**

Dear friends in Christ,

As we now welcome the beginnings of easing in COVID-19 Restrictions in Victoria, I would like to take this opportunity to write to you, the Clergy and people of our Archdiocese. It is great news that regional Victoria will, from tonight, move into the Third Step of the Roadmap to reopening, which includes our parishes located outside the metropolitan zone. However, we have a long way to go.

The deprivation in sacramental life has been a profound loss for our people. As well as all the other sufferings of the Pandemic, the sense of estrangement from the Eucharist has been a particular struggle for Catholics. The Mass is our primary means of gathering together in faith; it is the source and summit of our Christian life, and its life-giving nourishment and healing is dearly missed.

In the midst of this loss, I am grateful to our Priests and Deacons for continuing to serve the faithful, for sharing a sacramental ministry even under strict conditions, and for being alongside our people and their loved ones in times of death and grief. Thank you for your faithfulness. All of us are anxious to open church doors, but I want to emphasise our need to be creative in the ways we do so, especially with the thousands of children who have been waiting for Sacraments of Initiation. Countless Catholic families are awaiting Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation for their children. Adults, too, have longed to be received into the life of the Church. We shall be exploring possibilities such as outdoor liturgies in parish and school settings to facilitate these crucial events of grace and welcome.

Throughout the pandemic, I have been advocating directly with the Government, reminding authorities continually of our respectful compliance with each stage of restrictions, and seeking a fair consideration in what is permitted. The Catholic community throughout the pandemic has been constructive and positive.

We have, and continue to act in a mature way, caring for the safety and vulnerability of Victorians facing great risk. Thankfully the signs of driving down COVID numbers are looking good at this moment and Catholics join other people of faith in giving thanks for this outcome and working to ensure the steps ahead do not take us backward. Now, it is essential that the Government does not treat faith communities as an afterthought to the opening up of other sectors. Our churches are locations for communities of care and essential service, and must be treated fairly and reasonably.

Practically speaking, I have been in discussion with the Premier to thank him for overturning the restriction on spiritual ministry to the sick and the dying, and have assured him that the Catholic Church is able to manage restrictions (including good hygiene, face coverings, social distancing and density requirements). If pubs and restaurants can open, then places of worship should be open under similar conditions and numbers.

If case numbers track well, I expect we will see larger outdoor gatherings in regional Victoria become possible over the next few weeks, and proportionate opportunities for gathering in metropolitan Melbourne. I am hopeful that this may occur sometime in October, which would be a deeply welcomed improvement on the current Roadmap

indications. If we can open our churches, even for outdoor gatherings, then we should open them.

The Deputy Premier and the Multicultural Affairs Minister are conducting discussions this month through the Multifaith Leaders Forum. The Archdiocese will be contributing to these meetings. In addition I will continue to engage with the Premier and Ministers directly on the Church's need for opening doors, carefully and safely.

Be assured of my ongoing closeness in prayer and concern. I have heard your cry, and I am working to bring your voice to the authorities. The Lord has promised he will be with us always; let us place our hope in Him. With every grace and blessing, I remain, Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

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>

### **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!

### **SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY THIS WEEK**

Social Services Sunday is our opportunity to give thanks and to pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 45 member organisations, and the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers who, together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all those in our parishes who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond.

## SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE

I moved our 'fire pit' this week. As it is made of bricks and rocks and was standing on concrete, I expected that the only living inhabitants of the whole set up would be the occasional sneaky spider hanging around the top stones, waiting for whatever may happen to wander past for its next meal. I saw one tiny spider. I also found heaps of upset worms living a foot down against the concrete base. Life finds a way! These tiny, fragile creatures can obviously live on the micro-organisms that survive in the dust at the bottom of a rock pile, relying on random rain to make life possible in their desert home. The number of tv soap moments happening in our own backyards each day is stunning, without us even noticing much of the action. My neighbour was jumping up and down with sheer fury last week because a fox had jumped our back fence, and then scaled his fence 'with malice and forethought' to chase his beloved cat. We live in a suburban street, and it was 11.45 in the middle of the day! These David Attenborough moments occur in every 'backyard' around the world, from concrete jungle to lush rain forest, from lava pit to desert and mountain top, from open ocean to puddle, and they do so with very little reference to the control that we think we have. Life survives with our help, but it also survives without it, or in spite of it. By the way, I carefully saved each and every worm, with my whopping gardening gloves making the project potentially lethal to the victims I was saving, and relocated them to the lawn and a new life of freedom in unfamiliar green.

As I did, I was thinking about St Francis of Assisi, who regarded all living things as God's expression of love. St Francis was given the huge mission to 'rebuild' God's church, starting with the local building which lay in ruins at his feet. God's voice spoke to his heart loudly and clearly. Hundreds of years later, his name is now synonymous with care for the poor, care for creation, and respect for all life, the building blocks of maintaining God's Church on Earth. St Francis' example of love for our world encourages us to experience God with awe and with wonder, finding him through all living things. He is a role model for Pope Francis I, whose pontificate reaches out to the poor and the marginalised with confidence and courage. God literally speaks to us through each spark of life, no matter how tiny or insignificant the living thing he has created may be. We may not recognise all links in the chain of life, but eventually the creature, the plant, the rock formation, or the trickle of water becomes big enough to catch our attention, and if we open our eyes with the perception of St Francis, we too can find God.

Everything works together with such marvellous precision. Our world, nestled in our universe, is a simply stunning place. We need only to stop occasionally to recognise God's artistic touches. We are the stewards of creation, scripture clearly commissioning us to care for God's precious masterpiece, our world. We literally hold the life and death of other living creatures in the palm of our hands. Yet life finds a way, despite our tendency to act foolishly, selfishly and often carelessly in our role of caretaker. Pope Francis invites us all to participate in the Season of Creation, which began on 1<sup>st</sup> September, and concludes officially on 4<sup>th</sup> October, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. The Season of Creation is celebrated throughout the Christian world. Catholics joined the movement in 2015, but it actually began in 1989 when the Orthodox Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1<sup>st</sup> September as a day of prayer for creation. Together, we pray and act as one to care for our common home, unconcerned about the boundaries of race or creed. Through our common respect and concern for our world, we find what binds us, not what tears us apart.

## 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.

## OPPORTUNITIES IN FAITH FORMATION

- **'Walking with Wisdom' Contemplative Sessions (via Zoom)** – Thursdays, 10am-12.30pm (AEST) on 8, 15, 22 & 29 October 2020. We invite you to join us for a series of contemplative sessions with Carole Carmody rsm and Marlene McGrath, providing opportunities for Deep Listening: to oneself at this unique time in our lives; to Divine Wisdom in the Heart, and in the Hearts of Others; and to engage in a gentle, creative response. Join for one or all sessions. \$85 for the Series or \$25 per session. Bookings at [www.trybooking.com/BLILH](http://www.trybooking.com/BLILH). Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, tel 03 9890 1101, [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)
- **Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Retreats during Isolation** - The team of Spiritual Directors at JISA-Campion in Kew are offering a series of online guided retreats, ranging from 3 to 8 days. For more information: 1300 392 636 or email [info@jisa.org.au](mailto:info@jisa.org.au)
- Applications for **The Siloam Program**, which prepares participants to be Spiritual Directors, are now being accepted by the Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Brochure and application form at [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) or ph: 03 9890 1101.

## THANKSGIVING TOTAL TO 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

St Brigid's: Church: \$165 Presbytery: \$110 Thank you!!

## 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), Freddy 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