

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEALESVILLE, INCORPORATING HEALESVILLE (ST BRIGID'S),
YARRA GLEN (ST ALOYSIUS) & MARYSVILLE (OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS)**



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TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 11th OCTOBER 2020

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name,
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

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

Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere; full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Gospel Acclamation: cf Ephesians 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited," he said, "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

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

FROM FR FRANCIS

Daily Mass Recommencing on Tuesday 13th October (9:15am)

After much prayer, consultation and reflection I've decided to recommence the 9:15am Mass at St Patrick's Lilydale. My reluctance to do so last weekend was motivated by a genuine concern for the preservation of a sense of the sacred, the risk of desecration of the Blessed Sacrament by having Mass outdoors, and the fact that a congregation of five falls short of the needs of the parishes of Lilydale and Healesville. Since there are no changes to the government's prohibition of the use of our churches these Masses will necessarily take place outdoors, albeit in a somewhat protected location on the presbytery verandah. After holding daily adoration this past week I am satisfied that a Mass could be offered with sufficient reverence and decorum in the current location. Once again this means that Healesville parishioners will sadly miss out. The alternative is to hold no public Masses, which I don't think is to anyone's advantage. So while I recognise that this is a less than perfect solution to our present predicament, it's the only feasible option until the government relaxes the current restrictions for places of worship. Since only five can attend each Mass you will obviously need to book your place in advance. Daily Mass will be held at 9:15am Tuesday to Sunday. The Saturday morning Mass will be in the Extraordinary Form as per the former roster.

Parish Rosary Novena via Zoom (17th - 25th October @ 12:00pm)

This Tuesday 13th October will be the 103rd Anniversary of the so-called 'Miracle of the Sun'. For those familiar with the message of Our Lady of Fatima the event requires no introduction. Our Lady had appeared to the three seers Lucia (aged 10), and her cousins, Francisco (aged 9) and Jacinta (aged 7) on the 13th day of the month beginning on the 13th May at a field at the Cova da Iria, just outside of Fatima, Portugal. They suffered merciless mockery from both family and townsfolk, and considerable intimidation from civil and Church authorities alike. At no point did they waver in their testimony, in spite of the immense pressure and sufferings these young children were made to endure for months on end. Crowds of the religious, the curious and the sceptical began to grow every month as the children returned to the field at Cova da Iria on the 13th of each month. On the 13th August the civil authorities from Lisbon intervened and had the children imprisoned, interrogated and threatened with torture and execution. All three were willing to die rather than retract their story. Defeated in their game of bluff, the authorities eventually had the children released. In spite of their sufferings Our Lady promised a sign from heaven, that would vindicate the children's account of these apparitions and the authenticity of the message entrusted to them. The news spread like wild fire, to the great anxiety of the secular government. Come the day of the 13th October, the crowds had gathered to such an extent that the authorities were helpless to prevent them. Perhaps they hoped that the more people present to act as witnesses, the more easily the presumed 'hoax' could be exposed. News reporters from the major secular newspapers were present with camera men ready to expose this supposed 'fraud'. In spite of a torrential downpour an immense crowd of approximately 70,000 had congregated at the Cova da Iria on the 13th October. The seers arrived and began to pray the rosary as they did on each occasion. The thick cloud cover quickly began to disperse and then began a solar phenomenon that immediately drew the attention of the entire crowd. Witnesses described the sun appear to spin and even to oscillate. Initially this drew gasps of astonishment but at a certain point the sun appeared to be hurtling towards the earth. The crowd broke out into an outright panic with screams of terror resounding across the field. Within a few minutes this mysterious phenomenon ceased, by which time the ground and people who had been drenched with rain minutes earlier were now bone dry. The event was reported in the secular press with no natural means available to explain how so many people had experienced the same event, simultaneously. It was the sceptics who were now spluttering to explain away this miracle, the most widely witnessed miracle in post-Biblical history.

As we reflect 103 year later, on the whole Fatima ‘event’ we should examine anew the message that lies at its centre. Our Lady used these shepherd children as her chosen instruments to call the world to prayer and penance. More specifically, Our Lady asked the faithful to pray the rosary daily, a call that has, alas, gone largely unheeded. **In this month of October when the Church invites us to renew our commitment to this beautiful prayer the parishes of Healesville and Lilydale are invited to come together in prayer for a Rosary novena via zoom. It will run daily from Saturday 17th October to Sunday 25th October, at 12:00pm.**

The zoom link

is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82006873116?pwd=TExON0ZUeW00dkFCQ0p1cE5Va1IMdz09>



Original photograph of the crowd who witnessed the 'Miracle of the Sun' on 13th October 1917.

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> **This week's Mass comes from St Patrick's in Lilydale.**

FROM ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“..if the music of the Gospel ceases to resonate in our very being, we will lose the joy born of compassion, the tender love born of trust, the capacity for reconciliation that has its source in our knowledge that we have been forgiven and sent forth. If the music of the Gospel ceases to sound in our homes, our public squares, our workplaces, our political and financial life, then we will no longer hear the strains that challenge us to defend the dignity of every man and woman”. [FT 277]

On this Feast of St Francis of Assisi, passionate and poetic missionary of the Gospel, I share with you the Holy Father's awaited Encyclical, “*Fratelli Tutti – on Fraternity and Social Friendship*”, which extends the guiding paths laid down by *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Laudato Si'*: [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)

I urge you to read it, and to then return to it with time and space to draw more deeply into the riches within. Over coming weeks our Proclaim Mission Team and the Communications Team will be looking to ways that this latest signpost might be explored.

Situated as we are in the latter stages of this Pandemic, it offers much that we might embrace as we determine who we are as people of God in Melbourne, and how we might emerge from this time of exile to go on mission into the world with the beating heart of Jesus.

The Holy Father speaks to us as ‘fellow travelers...children of the same earth... brothers and sisters all.’ Our own Saint Mary of the Cross also spoke to our shared pilgrimage as being ‘but travelers here..’. We are not on this path alone, but together as humanity, accompanied by the One who through His great sacrifice, calls us to live always with love, mercy and compassion for all.”

St Francis of Assisi, Pray for Us. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Pray for Us.

Yours in peace and fraternity

+Peter

[MARCH FOR THE BABIES 2020](#)

Live Streamed March for the Babies 2020 **10th October 2020 at 1.00 pm.** Link: www.mftb.online

[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!

[RIDE ON MOWER REQUIRED](#)

If anyone can assist us to source a second hand ride-on mower, please contact Debbie. We would greatly appreciate advice from someone in the trade, or an offer to sell or donate a ride-on mower in good condition.

[SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE](#)

For the first time in months, school resumes for most of our kids this coming week. Mums and dads may still be working from home, but our littlies will be off enjoying the excitement of catching up with their friends as they return to their classrooms. Masses are still a little way off, but hope looms that life may be sneaking back to normal. I think we have all now come to appreciate the simple pleasure of seeing a friend face to face, and enjoying their physical company, as a great gift, even a precious treat, since we have been unable to be together in this way for months now. Rather than seeing time with others as the 'nothing-out-of-the-ordinary' occurrence that we possibly took for granted before lock down, catching up with friends is now something we have come to value and treasure, and really look forward to. Silence, too, may have become quite a rare treat in families. Next week may see hard-working mums and dads enjoying a very quiet cuppa with a bikkie and feet up for at least 10 full minutes, hopefully a very sweet moment indeed!

There is a well-known hymn called 'Be Still' which provides inspiration for us to enjoy quiet time with God. It is often sung as a Communion Reflection hymn at Mass, so appropriate when we have just entered into Holy Communion through reception of Jesus in the Eucharist. It is right up there on my list of top ten contemplation moments with yet another of my favourites, 'Everyday God', a hymn which inspires us to recognise God in every aspect of our daily living. The lyrics of both hymns encourage us to remember that God is with us in every minute of every day. You may not remember all the words, but I think the titles are enough for you to get an idea of where my thoughts are wandering. I feel encouraged when I am reminded that God accompanies us through each and every step of our way, from our earliest moments to our oldest. He is there with us in the placid, peaceful times that are oases of rest for us, where he may be easier to recognise as we are less likely to be distracted. He is equally there throughout every inch of the chaotic, messy clamour that we

often experience as we negotiate each new twist in our tale, a reality that is sometimes easy for us to forget in our busy-ness. God never leaves us, any of us, no matter the choices we may make throughout our lifetimes. He loves us into being and he faithfully loves us along our journey to old age, keeping us afloat and inspiring us to flourish. We may feel alone at times, but the reality is far different from our perception. Even when people are at a distance from us, God is always intimately close. Jesus, God the Son, human as we are human, is our true friend, always at our side. We are never alone, even in 'iso'.

How comforting is this in a world where we can easily get lost? We need simply to open our hearts to let God's presence break through to us in order to find ourselves. Our healthy relationships with our world are formed largely from the loving relationships we discover within our families, and within the friendships we form with others whom we encounter along our road through the years. To be loved and to love is everything to us, no matter how old we may be. Our loving relationships are our beating heart, they are our security, our comfort, our nourishment, our inspiration and our nurturing encouragement to find our potential. If there is any good to come out of our lock down experience, it may be that it has rammed home to us that our family and our friends are critical to our sense of being whole. As lock down lifts and we rediscover companionship with our friends, and the joy of our extended family get-togethers, let us recognise our everyday God in the faces, smiles and friendship of those we love. As isolation recedes into our memories, let us continue to remember to appreciate our friends and extended family as God's great gifts to us. He showers us with the priceless gifts of family and friends with generosity and wisdom, so that we may live life to the full, knowing that we are loved for who we are. Thank you, Everyday God!

PLEASE PRAY:

FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

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, Veronica Ireland.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN OCTOBER

Michael O'Meara (04.10.80), Vincent Jones (05.10.04), Barbara Smythe (05.10.07), William Howie (07.10.94), Andre Smith (08.10.08), Florence Walker (09.10.07), Sarah Field (12.10.58), Ella Morley (14.10.08), Ronald Stevens (17.10.00), Robbie Ireland Jnr (20.10.90), Angelina Pretto (Mioni) (21.10.00), Shirley O'Meara (22.10.10), Christopher Perry (23.10.01), Jacinta Chandler (24.10.01), Sam Galletti (27.10.13), Betty Ireland (29.10.97), Enid Jarrett (28.10.93), Frank O'Halloran (31.10.12), Filippo Mingerulli, Francesca Bellucci, Anne Ashdown

