

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



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**First Sunday in Advent (Year B) 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

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

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see,  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

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

### [FROM FR FRANCIS](#)

With the first Sunday of Advent, the Church begins a new liturgical year. The word "Advent" derives from the Latin *adventus* meaning 'arrival,' 'approach' or 'coming.' The Church offers us this time of Advent in order to prompt us to prepare for the 'coming' of Christ at Christmas. In Advent the shift in the liturgical mood is indicated by the colour violet – a sombre colour traditionally associated with mourning or penitence. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are more commonly associated with Lent, yet Advent also has a penitential aspect. We are called to undertake a spiritual preparation in readiness for the great feast of Christmas, which should not exclude these three tried and tested means of spiritual preparation.

Today the gospel reading from Luke calls us to "stay awake" in readiness for the coming of Christ. So often the end of the year can take us by surprise, and the next thing we know Christmas is upon us. It seems that pre-Christmas preparations are increasingly frenetic and

costly. It can be a stressful time as we juggle Christmas shopping, setting up the Christmas tree and other decorations, sending out Christmas cards, cooking and catering, and a string of end of year Christmas parties. Some even breathe a sigh of relief when Christmas is over. Yet are these the kind of preparations that the Church is encouraging us to engage in during Advent? Must we “stay awake” in order to do some more late-night Christmas shopping at Chadstone?

Obviously, Advent calls us to a vigilance which is foremost *spiritual*. There is the perennial danger that in all the Christmas rush we forget about the child Whose birthday we are celebrating. We are thoughtful and generous enough to remember to get presents for so many loved ones in our lives: family, friends, neighbours, colleagues. Yet, what gift do we offer the infant of Bethlehem? Indeed, what gift could we possibly offer the King of kings in his bed of straw? Do we even bother to ask him what he wants from us this Christmas? There is only one thing the child Jesus wants of us this Christmas: our hearts! How simple yet so costly a gift! For all the hours we will spend trawling through shopping centres these next four weeks, for how many minutes will we offer God our undivided attention in prayer? This Advent let us strive to take the opportunity to prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ, by setting aside time for prayer or spiritual reading, by fasting, or perhaps to assist with charitable works. These will be the best possible means of preparing for Christmas this year, a preparation that orients us to eternal life with Jesus Christ.

Writing in the 6<sup>th</sup> century Pope St Gregory the Great offered these words in his homily for the First Sunday of Advent, delivered during a terrible plague epidemic in Rome in 590AD, words which are remarkably apt 14 centuries later. At one point he notes ‘*epidemics also continue to cause us the greatest sorrow and anxiety*’ which he sees as a reminder that the heart of the Christian should not be set on this world:

*As our adorable Saviour will expect at His coming to find us ready, He warns us of the terrors that will accompany the latter days in order to wean us from the love of this world. ... We say this, beloved brethren, to encourage you to unceasing watchfulness over yourselves, so that no false confidence may take possession of your souls, leaving you to languish in ignorance; but that, on the contrary, a true and wholesome fear may drive you on to do good, and strengthen you in the carrying out of good works.*

*This wicked clinging to the world must be far removed from the hearts of good Christians, and of those who by faith are convinced that there is another life, and by their good works deserve that life. Let them weep over the destruction of the world, whose hearts are given to it, and whose hopes are fixed upon it, and who, far from seeking this new life, refuse to believe that there will be another life.*

*As for us who believe in this heavenly home and in its eternal bliss prepared for us, let us hasten to reach them. We should wish to attain this home as soon as possible, and endeavour to find the shortest way thither. For, are we not surrounded in this world by a great many misfortunes? Do we not experience many troubles and calamities? What, indeed, is this mortal life but a painful way? Consider, beloved brethren, what folly it would be in a man walking along a toilsome and difficult road until overcome with fatigue, and yet not wishing to see the end of it!*

(Pope St Gregory the Great, *Homily for first Sunday of Advent* preached in St Peter’s Basilica, Rome, c.590AD).

## **St Brigid's Parish Presbytery Restoration Appeal**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many of you may have noticed the works that have begun at St Brigid's Presbytery in these past few weeks. As has been explained previously, the activity was kick-started by a leaking water pipe which caused significant damage to the downstairs office areas in particular which have been gutted. The silver lining to this disaster is that insurance will cover the over-whelming majority of the expense of replacing or restoring the damage. There are, however, significant parts of the presbytery that while not directly affected by water damage are nonetheless well over-due for a restoration. Now is the opportune time to do this. The major expense is the replacing of the carpets in two rooms and the stairwell. They were probably beautiful carpets 60 years ago but they are looking very tired now. Since half of the carpets are being replaced due to water damage this is the time to upgrade these other rooms. Most of the upstairs also requires painting, which I am happy to do myself over January. Unfortunately the St Brigid's piggy bank is down to its last brass buttons. The year 2020 has not been kind to any of the parishes financially, but St Brigid's has been pushed into survival mode. If the parish can raise \$10,000 with this restoration appeal this will help put St Brigid's in a more secure position.

A word about the financial state of St Brigid's. I don't think it will be news to anyone that St Brigid's is struggling to keep its head above water financially. This is surprising considering there has been no resident priest at St Brigid's for at least 15 years so the parish is (quite unusually) unburdened by paying for the living expenses and car capital of the priest. To put it bluntly, St Patrick's, Lilydale, has been for many years now effectively paying the way for your priest. In spite of this Healesville parish continues to struggle to 'stay in the black' financially. The works being done to the presbytery are being done strictly as a matter of necessity in the interests of basic good stewardship. A well-kept house is a valuable asset. A neglected, rundown house is a financial liability. There is currently a tenant paying rent for the use of the presbytery which will provide a modest supplementary income for the parish, however the house is legally required to be safe and habitable.

No priest likes having to ask the parishioners for money, but this is a matter of some urgency as this work needs to proceed. If you are able to make a contribution, every dollar will help, though I ask you to consider digging deep. Perhaps you are not able to help financially, but are willing to assist with your time and talents? There is much on-going maintenance around the house and grounds-keeping that needs to be attended to. All volunteers would be most welcome!

Having raised the issue of finances, it is also apparent that St Brigid's currently does not have a finance committee, a canonical irregularity that needs to be remedied as soon as possible. The inability to meet parishioners has frustrated this process thus far but I hope to have a Finance Committee established by the beginning of 2021. Hopefully this will help parishioners to take on a greater ownership of the stewardship of their parish, and assist with much needed financial planning for the long-term stability of the parish.

I thank you all in anticipation for your generosity and support!

Fr Francis Denton

[FROM OUR FINANCE TEAM, SHARON AND JEAN](#)

### **Parish Financial Report November 2020**

The finances for the three churches in the Healesville Parish, Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville, St. Aloysius, Yarra Glen and St. Brigid's Healesville have been split into three during 2019. Each church has an individual bank account and reporting.

The staff for the three churches are currently being paid by St. Patrick's Parish, Lilydale with the help of JobKeeper. No charges for staff are being put through to the three churches until the end of 2020. JobKeeper will continue until March 2021 at a much reduced rate. Therefore, the churches will then have to take on their share of this expense.

Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville and St. Aloysius, Yarra Glen are maintaining a reasonable cash flow, each paying utility and insurance from their own reserves.

St. Brigid's Healesville Church Account has \$23,038.62 and is paying its own utility and insurance and has had help with cash flow from the school levy of \$ 4,363.68. 215 letters were sent out to school families, to date we have received 48 payments.

Some money has been obtained from Government Grants. The grants have been given because the staff who are employed are on JobKeeper. Therefore, \$5,000 of the grant money that was given to St. Patrick's Parish, Lilydale has been transferred to St. Brigid's Church, Healesville to help the cash flow, this puts the parish in a good position to try and keep a good working capital/cash flow during the next few months.

Money has been budgeted for the replacement of the Presbytery fence. Also, a second hand ride on mower will be purchased as we are unable to keep up with the current expense of fortnightly lawn mowing. The cost of the mower will be paid for out of Government Grants by St. Patrick's Parish, Lilydale.

Income from thanksgiving and weekly collections has dropped significantly. It is hoped that when parishioners are able to attend church again that finances will improve, as we cannot maintain this holding pattern much longer. The income from thanksgiving and other sources will continue to be made available each week in the Bulletin.

Healesville Hall Account has only \$ 399.64. The parish hall is used by many groups, Craft Group, Probus Singers, Care Group meetings, Care Group cook ups, Men's Breakfast, Probus Men's group, Wise Women just to name a few and also the school. While we support the use of the hall for these great causes, it is not generating any income to assist with paying wages of the caretaker and associated bills. I.e. utilities, insurance, repairs & maintenance, supply of biscuits, tea, coffee etc. for all who use the hall. Currently (pre Covid) there was only one regular paying customer of approx. \$165 per month. After deducting the cost of morning tea given to the group the proceeds left for the hall are minimal. As Covid restrictions are being lifted, the Hall will hopefully be able to increase its income from rents. If anyone can help find prospective users please call Sharon Jacob.

Our External accountant has not charged any of the churches in the Healesville Parish for accounting work since March 2020, this has been covered by St. Patrick's Parish, Lilydale.

*Prepared by Sharon Jacob, Parish Secretary & Jean Palmer, Accountant 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020.*

### **WEEKLY MASSES ARE STILL 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, 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.

## KEEPING US CONNECTED

Check out the Living Faith page on St Brigid's website. This page is kept up to date with the latest news and provides us with resources to assist our prayer life and enhance our reflection time with the Lord.

## MASS TIMES

**St Brigid's Healesville: Sunday 8.30 am and Thursday 9.15 am**

**St Aloysius Yarra Glen: No Masses until further notice**

(St Aloysius church is currently undergoing maintenance and is not open for Masses or Rosary gatherings until further notice. Essential works will be completed as soon as possible.)

**Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am**



Last week we were happy to hear the announcement that churches can have up to 150 people attend Mass, subject to the 4 square meter rule. Masks must be worn at all times and all sanitising, social distancing and contact tracing rules need to be followed.

Under this ruling we can have **40** people per Mass attend at St Brigid's. Bookings are essential to ensure our compliance, and with this increase in numbers we are moving to TryBooking.

**From Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, bookings for Masses will be on line. If you don't have access to a computer, or need assistance with TryBooking, please call Debbie on 0448 664 731. The link for bookings will be advertised in next week's bulletin.**

At this stage we are still unsure of the numbers allowed for Christmas Masses. Bookings for Christmas will be opened up once we have more information.

## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Available on request. The Sacrament is also available at St Patrick's Lilydale on Saturday mornings at 10 am.

## CARE GROUP CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Our Care Group is continuing to find ways of reaching out to those who are struggling. In this unusual year, we are asking for donations of festive food, toiletries, gifts, whatever can be added to hampers that will be distributed just before Christmas. Please think about buying an extra item as you shop. All donations must be received by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Care Group members will be available in the parish hall to accept donations on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30 to 3.30 pm. For further information, please call Maree on 0417 087 199. .

## COLUMBAN CALENDARS.

Columban Calendars for 2021 are now available in the church. Cost: \$10.00. Please place your money in an envelope clearly marked with 'Columban Calendar' in the basket near the church door when you come to Mass, or contact Debbie.

## SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE

Happy New Year! In this first week of Advent, we begin everything anew. A new Liturgical Year begins, and we enter a new season of preparation for our celebration of the birth of our Saviour, remembering and savouring the awesome truth that God has indeed visited his people, us. Through our contemplation of the ordinary realities of Jesus' human birth, we are drawn in with renewed wonder to the extraordinary miracle of Jesus, God made man. And as we wait for yet another Christmas to unfold, we are challenged, encouraged and motivated to renew, once again, our commitment to our God, and to those we meet, whom he loves so much. We are reminded to take up the opportunities that arise for each of us as individuals to touch the lives of others with the Good News of Jesus Christ, in yet another Year of Our Lord. There is a whole lot of activity opening up before us, no matter what our situation in life, as we light the first of our Advent candles.

As a new Season of Advent begins, we are called to look back, to look around and to look forward. We pause to reflect on our rich history of faith, which stretches backwards in time for thousands of years, celebrating our own place in the fullness of God's plan for humanity, which will continue to unfold throughout the centuries, until the completion of his design for us. We may feel tiny, even insignificant in the 'big scheme' enormity of our world, our neighbourhood or even our own household, yet we all have our place in God's plan. We may feel tired, and ill-equipped to live out our vocations as the living Gospel. Yet the story of Jesus reminds us that we are each given a chapter of his story to write! In the face of a new year of famine and feasting, we are each called to pass on our inheritance in faith to others, in a new cycle of discipleship. Wow! Now that's a task that is worth a few minutes of contemplation!

How can we hope to do justice to such a responsibility? With simple trust, we can open ourselves to the infinite power of God. And nothing, nothing is impossible to God. In ourselves we can do little, in God we can do everything. In offering our lives to him in each new day, we offer all we are with gratitude and acceptance of the miraculous potential in which we are each created. Jesus was born in a stable, a tiny, helpless baby, reliant on our Blessed Mother and Joseph for literally every human need. No matter whether we are a king, the president of a huge corporation, the parent of a little family, or living quietly in our later years of life, we can often feel just as vulnerable and helpless as Jesus was at the moment of his birth. Jesus lived as we live, vulnerable and frail in his humanity, drawing nourishment from his Father in prayer. Our surrender to God is our nourishment and our strength, propelling us towards the potential that God lavishly showers upon us as his gift through our Baptism. Jesus defeated even death itself. With his help, we too can fulfil our vocation to bring his Gospel to others, he asks us simply to be the best 'me' I can possibly be.

The tiny flame of the first Advent candle shines with hope. So, too, do we shine with the hope that Jesus won for us, the hope that God's people have always brought to our world through our communion with him.

## COLLECTION TOTALS 16<sup>TH</sup> NOV TO 22<sup>ND</sup> NOV 2020

**Healesville:** Thanksgiving: \$317.00  
Presbytery: \$35.00

**Yarra Glen:** Thanksgiving: \$0  
Presbytery: \$0



## PARISH PRAYER LIST

### 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, Lauren, Brooke, Anthony, Michelle, Judy.

#### FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN NOVEMBER

Jim Mahedy (02.11.67), William Hammond (04.11.95), Rihanna Dowler (07.11.13), Elsie O'Connor (08.11.06), Ede Huebel (11.11.84), Leopold Huebel (11.11.86), Mary Langridge (11.11.96), Gavan Pomeroy (12.11.71), Jim Pomeroy (26.11.02), Jan Slawinski (13.11.86), Eileen Youngberry (25.12.60), Jack Brown (27.11.13), Dorothy Thompson, Diosidit Armada, Baby Jean Gotch, Kath Skate

#### FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN DECEMBER

Josephine Fassler (06.12.95), Lucy Mahedy (09.12.96), Mark Broomhead (11.12.13), Ilona Huebel (12.12.74), Doris Dennehy (12.12.95), Danny O'Meara (12.12.10), Nora Podesta (14.12.06), Paul Dunlop (14.12.06), Neil Lindorff (19.12.08), Noel Dudgeon (20.12.09), Pietro Bariola (27.12.88), Bishop Joe Grech (28.12.10), Dolly (Florence) Reeves, Dennis Eldred, Dawn Flannaghan, Paul Hansen, Hans Rietbergen, John Burger, Maria Kermac (6.12.18), Silvano Kermac, Tony Grieve (4.12.19)

