

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



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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (YEAR B) 20TH DECEMBER 2020

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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



FROM FR FRANCIS

There are some pedants who would argue that strictly speaking carols are more properly saved up for Christmas Day onwards, for the same reason that we don't sing joyful Easter hymns during Lent. After all Advent is a penitential season too, not that you would notice given all the pre-Christmas feasting! If that's the case then there really ought to be more Advent carols. One of the few songs that could properly be called an Advent hymn is "O come, O come, Emmanuel." This hymn has a fascinating history with roots that go back to the Church's ancient liturgy, with a strong scriptural grounding, drawing in particular from Isaiah.

Throughout the weeks of Advent the readings at Mass and in the Divine Office have focused heavily on the prophet Isaiah. More so than any other prophet, Isaiah proclaims the promise of the 'Messiah' (or in Greek, 'Christ') meaning the Anointed One, who would come to save not only Israel but all the nations. Isaiah employs a range of titles and prophetic imagery that anticipate the Christmas story quite directly: "behold the Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel!" (Isaiah 7:14). Seven of these Messianic titles from Isaiah were arranged into Magnificat antiphons to be used at Evening Prayer in the Divine Office in the seven days leading up to Christmas. These have become known as the Great 'O' Antiphons, because they each begin by invoking Jesus Christ under a title in the vocative form. In order these are: O Wisdom (*Sapientia*), O Lord (*Adonai*), O Root of Jesse (*Radix Jesse*), O Key of David (*Clavis David*), O Rising Sun (*Oriens*), O King of the Nations (*Rex Gentium*) and O Emmanuel. If the first letter of each title is read backwards it forms an acrostic, 'ERO CRAS,' which in Latin means "tomorrow I will come" (literally, "tomorrow I will be"). Whether it was deliberate or coincidental is academic, however what is clear is the prominence given to these antiphons from at least the 8th century (and possibly as far back as the 6th century). In the monasteries the expression "Keep your O" became a common pre-Christmas salutation!

The popular Advent hymn "O come, o come, Emmanuel" is a 19th century poetic arrangement based upon these 'O' antiphons: each verse is based upon one of the seven Messianic titles (although note that the first verse is in fact the last of the 'O' antiphons). We may want to reflect on this ancient and beautiful hymn in the coming week as we prepare for the coming of Christ who is *Emmanuel* – 'God With Us.'

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. (Refrain)*

*O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)*

*O come, thou Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them;
That trust your mighty power to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (Refrain)*

*O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)*

*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. (Refrain)*

*O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our Prince of Peace. (Refrain)*

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

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

No Thursday morning Mass this week, Christmas Eve.

St Aloysius Yarra Glen: No Masses until further notice

St Aloysius church: Essential works have commenced. We hope that St Aloysius will be available again for use just before Christmas.

Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville: This Thursday 17th December at 10.30am

**St Patrick's Lilydale: Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm and Sunday 10.30 am,
Tuesday to Friday 9.15 am, Saturday (Latin) 9.00 am**

There will be no Latin Mass at St Patrick's on Saturday 26th December.



MASS BOOKINGS USING TRYBOOKING

The numbers allowed to attend Masses are determined by the size of each church and whether electronic recording is used. Under current restrictions we can have **80** people attend each Mass at St Brigid's. Bookings are essential.

If you don't have access to a computer, or need assistance with TryBooking, please call Debbie on 0448 664 731.

LINKS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES AT ST BRIGID'S

Link for Christmas Eve Family Mass: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNRAW>

Link for Christmas Morning Mass: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNRAX>

Link for 27th Dec 20 Sunday Mass: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNRJD>

Link for New Year's Day Mass, 12 pm: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNRAY>

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Children's Nativity Play: 6.30 pm followed by **Christmas Eve Family Mass: 7.00 pm.** On the lawns between the hall and the church. Byo picnic rug and sunscreen.

Christmas Morning Mass, Friday 25th Dec: 8.30 am in the church

Midnight Mass will be celebrated at **St Patrick's Church in Lilydale: 12 am.**

New Year's Day Mass at St Brigid's: 12.00 pm (noon)

Please note that there will be no 9.15 am Mass at St Brigid's on Christmas Eve.

St Patrick's Lilydale: Christmas Eve Family Mass 5 pm; Christmas Morning 10.30 am. New Year's Day Mass: 9.15 am (Email lilydale@cam.org.au for the links)

Please note that there will be no Latin Mass on Saturday 26th Dec.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER AT 8 AM IN THE CHURCH

This Sunday morning, 20th December, Fr Francis will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Mass.

Also available upon request. The Sacrament is available at St Patrick's Lilydale each week on Saturday mornings at 10 am.

CARE GROUP CHRISTMAS HAMPERS – THANK YOU!!

Our Care Group has been very busy this week delivering wonderful hampers for special friends. Many thanks go to those who have donated festive cheer, and to Maree and the team who have worked so hard to make Christmas special for more than 50 delighted recipients. For further information, please call Maree on 0417 087 199. .

COLUMBAN CALENDARS.

Columban Calendars for 2021 are available in the church. Cost: \$10.00.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE

As we light the last of our Advent candles, our waiting for the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, the one who was promised through the ages, is nearing its fulfilment. Week by week, the light is gathering in intensity as each lit candle adds to the symbolism that prepares us for Christmas joy, pointing to truths beyond sight. I am fond of saying that nothing ever happens by accident in our Catholic traditions, everything has a meaning. The significance of candlelight piercing the darkness is reinforced in our minds over and over again, candles are an integral part of our formal liturgies, and very often of our informal moments in God's company. Light overcomes darkness, no matter how tiny that light may be. It defeats it, always. Light dispels fear, it leads to knowledge. Light reveals truth. The Advent wreath's 3 purple candles encourage our earnest contemplation of our own relationship with God, we examine our commitment to him with the light of truth as our guide. The pink candle symbolises a spark of joy as we draw nearer, day by day, to the fulfilment of our Advent journeys. The white candle at the centre of the wreath, lit on Christmas Day, is a mere shadow of the glory that the angels proclaimed in celebration of the moment of Jesus' birth. Together, these symbols speak to our hearts without words. We move from darkness to light, remembering Jesus as the light of the world, the hope of all mankind. As we rejoice with the angels, we can 'see' them in our hearts, hosts of angels, throngs of 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' fills our very beings.

My mind spins on to Jesus on the mountain, transfigured, as his divinity shone through his humanity to allow his friends a glimpse of understanding within their struggling minds. 'His face shone like the sun'... Our imaginations are bathed in the light of Jesus' face, they draw us to him, a man like us in every way, yet God, the Son, the beloved. We imagine the light that pierced Mary and Joseph's hearts as they gazed in wonder at tiny, newborn Jesus, so beautiful, so perfect, born with his mum's eyes, his grandmother's hair, and his Father's, well, everything! Imagine their hearts on fire with love that spilled out to light the lives of whomever they met. The sword that eventually pierced Mary's heart, foretold at Jesus' presentation in the temple, could never extinguish the light that burned there, the light of hope that was lit within her soul at the moment of her own creation. That same light burns in our souls too, it is a pilot light, with limitless potential to flare up, to inspire us, to give us courage, to extinguish our darkest moments of fear and loneliness, to set our own hearts burning with a fire that we cannot keep to ourselves. Spend a minute or two noticing our Advent Wreath today. 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? God only knows!

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION

This year you can donate to the Melbourne Overseas Mission Collection online through their website at: MOM annual appeal donation link: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMOM>

RESTORATION APPEAL – ST BRIGID’S PRESBYTERY RENOVATIONS

This year’s special Christmas collection will stay in our Parish to help cover the cost of well-overdue maintenance and refurbishment of the Parish house. A leaking upstairs toilet has destroyed the office, kitchen floor and bathroom. Demolition of damaged surfaces and hygiene works will soon be completed, readying us for construction work to commence. It is a huge job! The office will be completely rebuilt, the upstairs bathroom renovated, and flooring, including carpets, will be replaced. As Fr Francis has reported, most of the cost of the works is covered by insurance, but we still need to find some funds ourselves. Your generosity is much appreciated.

COLLECTION TOTALS

Healesville (to 6th Dec): Thanksgiving: \$ 710.65 Presbytery: \$ 142 Restoration: \$650.65

Healesville (to 13th Dec): Thanksgiving: \$230.90 Presbytery: \$35.00

Yarra Glen: \$55

Marysville: \$55

PARISH PRAYER LIST

WE PRAY FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED

WE PRAY 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.

WE PRAY 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), Fr Bernie Hammond

