

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
Website: <http://www.stbrigidshalesville.cam.org.au>
Link to weekly Masses: <https://bit.ly/StBsHville>

Administrator: Fr. Francis Denton
Pastoral Worker & Secretary (Admin): Mrs. Debbie Edwards 0448 664 731
Secretary (Finance): Mrs Sharon Jacob 0448 658 418

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
(YEAR B) 10TH JANUARY 2021

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets.

He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation. **R.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the Lord

for he has done glorious deeds,

make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: cf John 1:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:
This is the Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Mark

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit'.

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MASS TIMES AND LINKS THIS WEEK

Sunday 17th Jan at 8.30 am

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNZND>

MASSES IN JANUARY

- There will be no Mass on Thursday 14th Jan while Fr Francis takes a short, well-earned break
- Fr John will be saying Mass for us on Sunday 17th January at 8.30 am
- A prayer service will be held at Our Lady of the Snows in Marysville on Thursday 21st Jan at 10.30 am
- Mass will be celebrated at St Aloysius in Yarra Glen on Sunday 24th Jan at 5 pm.

LAWN MOWING & MAINTENANCE

We can no longer afford to employ a contractor to keep our lawns mowed. We now have a ride-on mower to handle the larger areas, but still require volunteers who can drive the ride-on, whipper snip and mow smaller areas, preferably using their own equipment. A big thanks to those who are already generously helping out with this considerable task. Please contact the office if you can give even a little of your time at your own pace, to allow us to put together a roster that will help spread the load for all. We also have a few important odd jobs that need a handyman's touch. Please contact Debbie

SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE

We face the New Year with a sense of fresh expectation, buoyed by the fun of the Christmas season that we have just enjoyed, and slowly acclimatising to the fact that daily routine is once again well and truly back. Our readings at Masses this week reflect what we experience on the ground, for the Church's liturgical year has an uncanny connection to what we, as a society, face each day. We just need to take the time to notice. Liturgically, the Christmas stories recede and the nitty gritty of life in Israel in the first century jumps out before us, almost without warning. In our Gospel this week, Jesus is now 30 years old and, up until the moment of his Baptism, has been just another unremarkable face in the crowd from the perspective of society around him. Living in 21st century Melbourne, I find this gap in our knowledge of the life of Jesus to be quite comforting. It reinforces to me that we need not feel that we have to be standing in a spotlight to love God. 'Ordinary' is part of God's plan for all of us, even Jesus. John the Baptist makes his second appearance in the Gospels, a well-known, if not somewhat bizarre local figure. It was John who revealed the unborn Jesus to his mother, a prophet even before his own birth, as he leapt for joy in her womb at the sound of Mary's voice. Not many of us have confirmed careers before we are even born, but Jesus and John, the sons of cousins Mary and Elizabeth, stand out amongst men for many reasons, not the least being their destinies as the promised saviour of humanity and his herald. John the

Baptist now baptises Jesus, immersing him in the Jordan River, and from the moment Jesus breaks the surface of the water to draw in a new breath, he is propelled from obscurity to distinction, driven by his vocation, reflecting the unpredictability of our own human journeys. Jesus rises, John recedes.

The Gospel talks about the heavens being ‘torn open’ to reveal the fullness of the Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In this glorious, incomprehensible moment, the secrets of heaven burst upon humanity like a lightning flash – blindingly present, then hidden from our eyes yet again. Jesus pulls into sharp, clear focus the predictions of the prophets. Through him we can see, hear, touch and feel God. Jesus shows us his Father in the love of the Holy Spirit in a way that we can truly understand, for he meets us exactly where we are.

From the heights of the glorious moment of revelation of the Trinity following his baptism, Jesus is dumped into the reality of living amongst men who have no idea of who he truly is, or who God truly is. He ‘is driven’ into the desert in preparation for what is to come, fasting and praying for 40 days and nights. Over the next weeks, the Gospels bring us stories of Jesus who is getting to know a bunch of new friends, and adversaries. We come to know Jesus who is bold, simple, controversial, loving, gentle, just, who is homeless, jobless, and reliant on others for food and lodging. Jesus lives life as a struggle, in the same way that we do. No preferential treatment for the Father’s own Son here, we come to truly know God through Jesus, our brother from the trenches.

I wonder about Jesus’ own thoughts as he experienced the affirmation of the voice of his Father and the visible appearance of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. I wonder about his prayer life in the desert, or before and after he raised Lazarus from the dead, his prayer before and after his Transfiguration, as he gave his close friends Holy Communion, or as he suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane. What were those conversations between Father, Son

and Holy Spirit like? I wonder what Jesus wondered about! As a human baby, toddler and teenager he learned as we learn. As God, he knows everything. He is not just half/half man and God, putting on our humanity like a pizza topping or a multicoloured coat. Jesus is human. Jesus is God. And the Gospels carry us along with him in his journey in the dust. Enjoy the ride!

PARISH PRAYER LIST

WE PRAY FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED AND 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 JANUARY

Henny Puschmann (08.01.07), John Gentle (14.01.84), Giuseppe Panozzo (14.01.83), Maria Jansen (14.01.08), Stephen Sotko Snr (20.01.09), Kathy Heath (21.01.07), Stephen Sotko Jnr (28.01.06), Garry Sweeney (21.01.17), Ethel Lalor, Philip Plant, Bern Porter, Judy Robertson.

