

**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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(YEAR B) 7TH FEBRUARY 2021



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: "Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

R. If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' **R.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

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

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit.

The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia! A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

[FROM FR FRANCIS](#)

Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020

On the 10 December 2020, while most of us were frantically engaged in post-lockdown end of year mayhem and Christmas preparations, the *Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill* passed its third reading in the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) and its first reading in the Legislative Council (Upper House). The

Bill purports to protect same-sex attracted and gender-confused people (of no specified age-bracket) from the risk discrimination and harm. Due to our culture's heightened sensitivity around LGBT issues the Bill was met with praise from lobbyists and the media who presented it as a straight-forward and uncontroversial legislative 'update'. Only those with access to 'alternative news' sources are likely to be aware of the finer points of detail of this Bill and its profound implications for people of faith. Like so much of this government's legislation, this is another 'Trojan Horse' Bill. It presents itself as being about one issue, but once in place will unleash many unanticipated and destructive consequences. By the time people wake up to what has happened it will be too late. The aim of this Bill is clear: to bully, intimidate and criminalise those who hold to a Judeo-Christian sexual ethic. It has grave consequences for those who might find themselves prohibited from offering a professionally informed opinion on issues of sexuality: pastors, priests, teachers, counsellors, doctors, psychologists, etc. However, the law would affect everyone including parents, siblings, friends, neighbours, colleagues, bloggers, you name it, everyone!

Let me say from the outset: no one deserves to face unjust discrimination, for any reason. The law already has in place extensive legal mechanisms to prosecute those accused of unjust discrimination or mistreatment. This Bill is, practically speaking, unnecessary. It is driven by political ideology, not justice. Its function is not to protect the vulnerable but to criminalise the increasingly vulnerable people of strong religious and moral convictions whose values don't align with the prevailing progressive dogmas of the New World Order. While this Bill is frighteningly vague and unqualified in many respects, it is in other parts quite explicit about what kinds of practices would be considered criminal should this Bill pass. It gives examples: praying for someone, *even when someone has asked you to pray for them* in this matter is subject to criminal prosecution. Even parents who are anything less than unflinchingly enthusiastic about the idea of their pre-teen child having gender reassignment surgery, would be subject to prosecution – not only by the child, but even by third parties who happen to hear about it. Penalties include fines of up to \$200,000 and/or

a prison sentence of up to ten years. If that sounds too outrageous to be believable, then I encourage you to read this bill for yourself.

This Bill would effectively prohibit anyone who holds a traditional, Biblical view of sex and marriage from voicing their opinion, *publicly or privately*, for fear of causing offence to someone, somewhere. Social media posts, conversations, written articles, prayers, scripture quotations, are all subject to prosecution, and not only in Victoria, but even when this occurs in other States, individuals could find themselves subject to criminal proceedings. One could be forgiven for assuming the Andrews Government have decided to take George Orwell's dystopian novel '1984' as its inspiration for how to exercise state control over its citizens. At this point we're only half a step away from 'thought police'.

Putting entirely to one side the threat this Bill poses to Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion, the greatest victims of this Bill will be the many vulnerable and gender-confused people who sincerely wish to reach out in search of help and support. The young are especially vulnerable in this regard. The Government claims to support people's free choice to 'be whoever they want to be', but then proceeds to tell them who they *have* to be. A boy who wants to change and become girl must be supported in his choice; and yet a person who experiences some same sex attraction and seeks support to change his sexual orientation is told this is absolutely prohibited. Why is the will of the individual being treated differently in these cases? If a heterosexual person decided to become homosexual would the Victorian government also suppress this change of sexual orientation? The double standards are glaring. Where is the respect for the individual's free choice should a same-sex attracted person *want* to live a chaste and virtuous life with the support of a church group? Where is the consideration for the long-term good of a child who might be having a confused 'phase' while coming to understand who he/she is? Such are the logical inconsistencies of this Bill. Children are not legally permitted to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, drive vehicles or vote because the law recognises that they lack the requisite maturity; yet the Victorian Government says that minors should not only be encouraged to

have invasive surgery that will have life-long consequences physically and psychologically, but that they should be denied any alternatives to this path - and that whoever fails to encourage them is a criminal. This is a double injustice - for the vulnerable children concerned, as well as those who love them enough to want to help them avoid a disastrous decision that they may come to regret.

If you think that this issue doesn't affect you, think again. If passed this Bill will affect the entire culture of your children, grand-children and beyond for generations. Schools, hospital, agencies and institutions with a 'non-compliant' Christian ethos will eventually have to close for fear of prosecution. This Bill must be contested. If you would like to find out more about the issue, the Australian Christian Lobby has put together some excellent resources summarising the problematic aspects and implications of this Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill. Managing Director of ACL, Martyn Iles, breaks down the key problems in his analysis which can be viewed on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V1WYHPVVI&feature=emb_title

I hope many of you will be able to sign the petition accessible in the link below, or better still, contact your MP's to express your concerns:

https://www.acl.org.au/cm_vic_conversionbill

Yours in Christ,

Fr Francis Denton

LENTEN PREPARATION GROUP

Fr Francis will be conducting a Lenten Preparation group by zoom **each Thursday during Lent at 4 pm**. Commences Thursday 11th Feb, the week before Lent begins, concludes Thursday 25th March. All welcome!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81469092109?pwd=SFVLRy9lZXJ2WG5ZOUFmUFI3ZFmQT09>

Meeting ID: 814 6909 2109

Passcode: 734266

MASS TIMES AND LINKS THIS WEEK

Thursday 4th Feb, 9.15 am at St Brigid's

Sunday 7th Feb, 8.30 am at St Brigid's

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

DO YOU KNOW A TILER?

We require the services of a floor tiler and a roof tiler. Please contact Sharon or Debbie

SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE

I clearly remember bringing home each of my six children as newborns. It was an exciting time, a tiring time, and a time of quiet fears. Despite being a 'professional parent' by the time my youngest child was born, I remember feeling that I couldn't even organise a decent meal, much less raise a well-rounded human being, or 6!! No matter how proficient we may be as a person, doubts are part of the process of love. In moments of idealism, we want the absolute best for each and every one of our children, for our spouse, for our loved ones in general, and as good Christians, for those whom we encounter in each day. How often do our lofty goals fall short? For the most part, we do our best, and at any given time, our best is all we can do, working with what resources we may have in that moment. We are not perfect. We mess up again and again. Others can forgive us, seeing our struggles. Can we do the same for ourselves? As we look back, it is important to remember that we tried. A conversation with a friend a couple of days ago still hangs in my mind. Thinking over our time as parents, we pondered some of the things we might do differently if we ever found that magic 'do over' wand that doesn't exist. I am sure that most of us would choose to do things very differently if we had the chance to remake some of the bigger choices of our lives again. Looking back can be cleansing, but it can also allow regret or guilt to take a hold of our hearts. No matter how much money we have, how powerful we are, how determined we are, we cannot erase the past, no matter how much we would like to. However, we can learn from our mistakes.

As wise parents, we sometimes allow our children to experience the effects of their own choices so that they learn through

experience. We encourage our kids to experiment and be brave, necessary for their healthy growth to maturity. We stand on the side lines as the cheer squad, encouraging and empathetic, and we pick them up when they fall over, inspiring them to keep going, 'onwards'. As individuals, I am not sure that we are very good at extending the same responsible encouragement to ourselves. We are tempted to beat ourselves up, as we wrestle with things we would like to change if we could live life all over again. Sadness, bitterness, hurt and frustration often flow unexpectedly from decisions we have made, despite our good intentions. It all just goes wrong, which can eat us from the inside, and can drain the life from hearts weighed down by a sense of having contributed to calamity. St Paul tells us today that he would like to see us set free from all worry, with a heart that trusts in the Lord. We can never erase the past. Yet we can learn from our experiences and ensure that history does not repeat itself.

Dealing effectively with our past is part of an essential, ongoing process of healing. We can talk through our hurt with those whom we have affected and we can try to mend relationships as best we can, but dealing with our own secret discomfort is sometimes less simple. We need to admit our weaknesses to ourselves, and to God, with honesty. With deepening wisdom, we resolve to accept our limitations, but strive for our potential to do better next time. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an underrated, precious gift. It enables us to deal with our own sense of shame, or lack of it. We admit our failings without making slippery excuses. The Priest, sitting in the place of Jesus himself, helps us to work out where we should feel sorrow, and equally helps us to identify guilt that does not belong, shame that weighs us down needlessly. In asking forgiveness from our loving God, we open ourselves up to experiencing the freedom that St Paul longed for on our behalf. We can say 'I am truly sorry' and hear the words "I grant you pardon and peace". We are reconciled with God, with others, and with ourselves. We are freed from our past, accepting that we do try to do the best we can with what we have. We walk on with an unburdened heart, free to love God with enthusiasm. Who needs a magic wand?

HELLO FROM SPECIAL FRIENDS

A big thanks to our parishioners, and especially to members of our Care Group, who regularly stay in touch with old friends and pass messages through to us.

This week, a message from Jennie Youngberry:

'I would like to say a big thank you for the beautiful flower bouquets, the cards and newsletters received from the parish family over 2020/21. They always brought a smile, a ray of sunshine knowing you are thinking of us and keeping us in your prayers; and you in ours. God bless x Jennie

And another special hello and thank you comes from Dorothy Fraser

These messages are reiterated by so many of our special friends

SPECIAL RESTORATION COLLECTION

Thanks so much to all who have contributed to the Restoration Appeal to assist us with repairs to the presbytery. We now know that we need to fund repairs to the roof, as well as carpets, painting etc.

To date we have received just under \$3000 from generous friends.



COLLECTION TOTALS

Thanks to all who have donated to collections at St Brigid's, Our Lady of the Snows and St Aloysius. Recent totals will be published next week.

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, Wendy Turner (Ireland), Lauren, Brooke, Anthony, Laura Baosde Pinto, Michelle, Judy.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN FEBRUARY

Laurie Nairn (01.02.13), John Holland (08.02.11), Giobatta Mioni (09.02.49), John Doyle (09.02.17), Leonard Postlethwaite (10.02.09), George Shaddock (12.02.10), Zofia (Sonia) Howie (8.02.16), Dorothy Chan (13.02.07), Claire Keppel (16.02.94), Anton Wolke (20.02.07), Ian Read (22.02.08), Tubby Dennehy (23.02.03), Jan Rijs (23.02.08), Anne Huggett, Sr Joan McKenna (26.02.16), Patricia Chandler (28.02.92), Des Murphy (29.02.08), Roy Grieve (27.02.93), Fr Bernie Hammond