

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



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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Job

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more
than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his
wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to
me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be
day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening
comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days
have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see
joy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 146:1-6

**R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken-
hearted.**

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. **R.**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
he fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. **R.**

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. **R.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

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

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it
is a duty which has been laid on me; I should
be punished if I did not preach it! If I had
chosen this work myself, I might have been
paid for it, but as I have not, it is a
responsibility which has been put into my
hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is
this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the
Good News free, and not insist on the rights
which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have
made myself the slave of everyone so as to
win as many as I could. For the weak I made
myself weak. I made myself all things to all
men in order to save some at any cost; and I
still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have
a share in its blessing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia! He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

[FROM FR FRANCIS](#)

St Brigid's Parish Feast Day

Last Monday 1st February was, of course, the Healesville Parish's patronal feast day of St Brigid. It very nearly snuck past unnoticed! The parish feast Day is in many ways like a parish birthday and something that we should rightly celebrate. Perhaps given the dreaded lock downs of the past year we have extra cause to celebrate as a parish community. Following Mass we will have the option of tea, coffee and cake over in the hall. Hopefully many of you will be able to join us! Let's pray

and hope next year we might be able to pull off some more substantial celebrations!

Given the predominantly Irish heritage of the foundation of the Catholic Church in Australia, it's not surprising how many of the oldest parishes are dedicated to the Irish saints. St Brigid is one of the three co-patrons of Ireland, together with St Patrick (obviously!) and the great Irish missionary, St Columbanus. Admittedly, I knew nothing about St Brigid until some years ago when I was commissioned to paint a pair of paintings for St Mary Star of the Sea, West Melbourne. The two paintings of St Brigid and Columbanus were to go either side of St Patrick to 'complete' the side chapel dedicated to the Irish saints. This exercise prompted me to do some research into her life and iconography and resulted in the painting pictured here.



Curiously, St Brigid is typically shown holding a crozier – the ceremonial staff normally associated with bishops as a sign of their pastoral authority. Abbots and Abbesses also have the privilege of the ceremonial use of the crozier as a symbol of their spiritual governance of their respective communities. For this reason, St Brigid's crozier points inward (towards the flock of her community) whereas a bishop's crozier will face outward to the world. In her left hand St Brigid holds a lamp, another of her symbols. It is quite possibly a mere coincidence that her feast day falls the day before the feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) when candles are traditionally blessed and carried in a candlelit procession, in honour of Christ, whom Zechariah proclaims to be "the light to enlighten the gentiles" (Luke 2:32). In any

case St Brigid was certainly one who carried the light of Christ into the pagan Celtic world, and remains a great example for us to be courageous bearers of the light of Christ in the neo-pagan world of the 21st century.

St Brigid, pray for us!

Yours in Christ,

Fr Francis Denton

[OUR SUNDAY CUPPA IS BACK!!!](#)

Please stay for a cuppa in the hall after Sunday Masses. We need to use disposable cups and only one person can pour the drinks, but at least we can meet for a chat once again. Yay!!

[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=SFVLRy9lZXJ2WG5ZOUFmUF13ZFmQT09>

Meeting ID: 814 6909 2109

Passcode: 734266

[MASS TIMES AND LINKS](#)

Thursday 11th Feb, 9.15 am at St Brigid's

Sunday 14th Feb, 8.30 am at St Brigid's
<https://www.trybooking.com/BOQQH>

Ash Wednesday 17th March, 7.00 pm at St Brigid's

[SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE](#)

This year, more than any other for many decades, our children resume school with a solid appreciation of the great gift of 'normal', whatever that is. Our shutdowns of last year have highlighted how blessed we are to have such a wonderful, caring school community as our own. We pray for our staff and entire school community as they launch in to the excitement of a new school year. In amongst the back to school bustle at a busy shopping

centre last week, I enjoyed the sight of families getting organised for the big return. I thought back to an experience I wrote about awhile ago now, in which, to my delight, the love of God jumped before my eyes, totally unexpectedly. Passing through the food court, I remember spotting an elderly couple who were simply choosing a sandwich. They peered in the glass cabinet together, heads almost touching, her on her walker, him very close to her. They looked to me as if they should be sharing the walking frame as well as their lunch, and as I hurried past, I found myself celebrating their unknown love story. They earnestly discussed what looked good, nothing more. This simple snapshot of ordinary life for this unknown elderly couple drew me into a strong awareness of God's love in action. I know nothing about them, but I know they love each other. In their companionship, I found God's powerful presence. As I hurried past, I felt just how much God loves them both, and I found him in their loving presence with each other.

These moments of awareness can strike when least expected, and with all the comings and goings of our community kicking back to normal routine, God's love in action has broken through for me several times recently, perhaps because I have been 'tuned in'. This week I have a diary full of appointments for encounters with lovely friends, I will speak with families seeking Baptism and young couples wanting to book their weddings. There will be planning meetings that will organise our year and repair our buildings, and all the admin that never goes away needs attention. I open my diary with that strong awareness of God's creative love in action. In people watching, and in remember this elderly couple's lunch time companionship, I am reminded again and again to look and to listen. God's face shines through the love of ordinary people leading ordinary lives and through the world he has created for each and every one of us. We do not have to trek to faraway lands, or do exotic meditation courses to find him, lockdown or no lockdown is irrelevant. We simply need to open our eyes and our ears. Crying babies, mourning families, drivers and passengers spending 'quality time' together in cars, the rubbish truck blocking my passage in collecting our recyclables, wherever we look we can find

good people getting on with their lives together. In routine moments of us simply getting on with our day, or in earth-shattering, chaotic experiences of change, God's presence is the breath that sustains us in every new minute. Just as we don't need to remember to consciously take each new breath, we don't need to remember that God is there for us in order to enjoy his gentle, faithful, sustaining presence. But when we do remember to savour that reality, with thanks, or even with a horrified prayer of exasperation, such as 'are you kidding!?!?!?!', each moment of our day becomes a prayer, a conversation with God. We can spend 'quality time' with God without even moving a muscle or spending a cent. And when we are 'tuned out', we know with certainty that God remembers and loves us, no matter what we are up to. Where will you find God today?



REPAIRS TO THE PRESBYTERY - UPDATE

Work is progressing in the presbytery, slowly but surely. Repairs to the roof are now a priority. We are yet to establish how expensive this will be for us. Structural repairs and plastering have been completed and painters are currently hard at work freshening up the damaged rooms. Work will soon start on repairing the flooring and installing new carpets. The building will be lovely when repairs are completed! Thanks so much to all who have contributed to the

Restoration Appeal to assist us with our portion of the repair bill. Just under \$3000 has been raised so far.

COLLECTION TOTALS – THANK YOU!

St Brigid's Healesville, 31st Jan 21

Thanksgiving: \$868.35
Presbytery: \$183.55

St Aloysius, Yarra Glen 24th Jan 21

Thanksgiving: \$858.35
Presbytery: \$82.00

Our Lady of the Snow, Marysville 21st Jan 21

Thanksgiving: \$48.00

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

