

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



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Link to weekly Masses: <https://bit.ly/StBsHville>

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**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**(YEAR B) 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading:** Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain

possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

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

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 115:10, 15-19

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

**Second Reading:** Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at

God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

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

**Gospel Acclamation:** cf Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel:** Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**FROM FR FRANCIS**

**Second Sunday of Lent –  
The Transfiguration of Christ**

Given that the focus of Lent is usually on the Passion of Our Lord, it might seem strange

that the Gospel for the second Sunday of Lent turns our attention to the Transfiguration. This is not accidental. The radiant glory of Christ's divinity which is manifested at the Transfiguration will steel the apostles for witnessing the disfiguring brutality of his Passion. St Leo the Great writes: "*By changing his appearance in this way he chiefly wished to prevent his disciples from feeling scandalised in their hearts by the cross. He did not want the disgrace of the Passion, which he freely accepted, to break their faith. This is why he revealed to them the excellence of hidden dignity.*" That the Transfiguration anticipates the passion and death of Christ is hinted at by Christ's own words to Peter, James and John immediately after the event. Jesus warns them to tell no one what they had seen until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. Even at his Transfiguration Christ's mind is set on the end goal of his earthly mission – his death and resurrection.

The manifestation of Christ's glory on Tabor is to prepare his disciples for the even greater manifestation of God – the revelation of his love for us on the cross. In John's Gospel Jesus repeatedly speaks of his impending death on the cross as being his glory (*doxa*). Just as Christ reveals on Mount Tabor the mystery of his divinity, so too on another mountain, Calvary, does Jesus unveil the mystery of his full acceptance of his humanity, even to death. Somehow amid the horror of Christ's brutal death the manifestation of his divine nature is revealed, such that even a pagan Roman centurion could exclaim, "truly this man was the Son of God!" And so the two events, the Transfiguration and the crucifixion, are linked and must be witnessed by his closest disciples, Peter James and John. Those same eyes that squinted before the blinding glory of Christ's Transfiguration will gaze upon the mutilated corpse of Christ amid the darkness of his Passion.

It is on Calvary, not on Tabor, that the full power of God is manifested. As St Paul testifies God's power is perfected through weakness (2Cor 12:9). On Mount Tabor we learn to fear God in his infinite power and majesty; but on Calvary we learn to love God in his infinite mercy and compassion. It is the manifestation of Divine Love from the cross

that above all else has the power to change the human heart.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Francis Denton

### [THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN LENT](#)

Fr Francis will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for 30 minutes before Masses throughout Lent.

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



**Please join us for our usual cuppa in the hall after Sunday Masses. We need to ‘socially distance’, use disposable cups and only one person can pour the drinks, but at least we are able to meet for a chat once again. Hope to see you there!**

### [MASS TIMES AND LINKS THIS WEEK](#)

**Thursday 4th March, 9.15 am at St Brigid’s**

**Sunday 7th March, 8.30 am at St Brigid’s**

**Link <https://www.trybooking.com/BPFTF>**

### [LENTEN PREPARATION GROUP](#)

#### **Lenten Reflection Group**

Fr Francis will be leading a Lenten reflection group via zoom every Thursday at 4:00pm during Lent. It provides an opportunity for prayerful reflection focusing on the readings of the coming Sunday, as well as a chance to share reflections on the Parousia Lenten program “No Greater Love: a Biblical walk through Christ’s Passion”. All are welcome, no preparation required!

Join the Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 814 6909 2109

Passcode: 734266

### [LENTEN RESOURCES – PARISH WEBSITE](#)

Check the Parish website for Elissa’s Lenten prayers and activities to do at home.

### [SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – CATECHIST CLASSES](#)

Please ask anyone who has children who do not attend St Brigid’s school and who would like to receive the Sacraments this year to contact Debbie as soon as possible. Classes have started already.

### [SOME THOUGHTS FROM DEBBIE](#)

I realise that this week I am one of the most blessed grandmothers in the whole of Melbourne! Unlike so many other grandparents with grandchildren born in hospital during Covid restrictions, I was unexpectedly able to peek in on my new born grand-daughter this week, as she lay in her smitten sister’s arms. Under lockdown rules, visits to her hospital room were restricted to brothers and sisters only, and off-limits to frustrated grandparents, aunts and uncles. I rarely push the envelope, yet here was I with my nose pressed up against the black tinted window of her room, employing a bit of creative thinking and some circus-worthy balancing. Rather than sitting in the car waiting to bring home her sisters, I was able to wade through the garden outside her hospital room to peer intently through my cupped hands, my nose almost pressed up against the dark glass. I was rewarded with a dim view of her perfect tiny features, as her sister held her close to the other side of the glass. Success!! No touching, but I could see her, even if it was for just a few precious seconds. So near and yet so far!



How often do we feel like this in striving to ‘find’ God? It is Lent, a time for reaching and for stretching, a time for being brave, for adventurous thinking, a time for making space, and for peering into the darkness. Groping around the unknown, sometimes we might feel as if we can make out something very precious, a wonderful encounter, just out of reach, out of the realm of language. So close, very, very near. Yet as hard as we stretch, we cannot quite hold what we seek. It is impossible for me to find words

to capture the wonder of the first sight of my new born grandchild, her tiny hands, her hair, her cheeks, her mouth. It is exponentially more impossible, if there is such a thing, for us to fix God's presence with mere words. The certainty of his presence can be overwhelming at times. God is spirit, we are human flesh. Yet we wrap our minds and our hearts around him, within him, because Jesus showed us his Father, showed us the Son, and ourselves, in the Holy Spirit. And he wraps his heart around us, and within us. True love, true communion.

If there is ever a good time to think through the mystery of what we cannot see, of what we know to be, it is in Lent. 'Here I am Lord. I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me.'

**COLLECTION TOTALS – THANK YOU!**

- St Brigid's Healesville, 7<sup>st</sup> Feb 21**  
 Thanksgiving: \$289.30  
 Presbytery: \$169.55
- St Brigid's Healesville, 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 21**  
 Thanksgiving: \$844.10  
 Presbytery: \$246.35
- St Aloysius, Yarra Glen 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 21**  
 Thanksgiving: \$120.00  
 Presbytery: \$100.00
- Yarra Glen Op Shop: \$2500**
- Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville 21<sup>st</sup> Jan**  
 Thanksgiving: \$70.00

**PROJECT COMPASSION – CARITAS AUSTRALIA**

Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available in the church. You can watch video clips or read the stories that accompany Caritas' 2021 Lenten campaign, entitled 'Be More', on their website: <https://lent.caritas.org.au>



**HAPPY BIG BIRTHDAY!!**

**to Coen Boerlege who turns 80 this week!**

**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

**WE PRAY FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED**

Brian Warton.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM**

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, RadeKrstic, 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, , Anne Bateman, Veronica Ireland, Wendy Turner (Ireland), Lauren, Brooke, Anthony, Laura Baosde Pinto, Michelle, Judy, Annette Fromholtz,

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN MARCH**

Sr Nell Russell (03.03.16), Ronald Donchi (05.03.83), H. Weda (12.03.03), Rene Chandler (13.03.96), Helen Srafford, (16.03.08), Frank McDonald (12.03.04), John Doensen (17.03.17), Ziggy Nadolski (18/3/11), Claudio Latin (20.03.13), Mary Snell (22.03.12), Antionio Bariola (24.03.99), John Field (23.03.42), Mary Wood (23.03.03), Eva Jansen (2006) , Erica Fries (2005), Mavis McKenzie (2006), Harry van de Ven, Susan Sosic (25.03.19)

