



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

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2nd April 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B)

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:26-28, 30-32

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever! **R.**

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.

They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R.**

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:

'These things the Lord has done.' **R.**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active; only by this can we be
certain that we are the children of the truth and be able

to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever
accusations it may raise against us, because God is
greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own
conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we
keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he
wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in
the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one
another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his
commandments lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given
us.

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

Gospel Acclamation: John 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 15:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my
Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears
no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear
fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are
pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken
to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must
remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you
remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in
me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from
me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in
me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he
withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the
fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my
words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you
shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should
bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

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



Our Sunday Cuppas are back!
Please join us for our usual cuppa
in the hall after Sunday Masses. Hope to see you
there!

Mass Times

St Brigid's Healesville

Thursday: 9.15am (except 3rd Thursday)

Sunday: 8.30am

St Aloysius Yarra Glen

3rd Sunday of the month: 5pm

Our Lady of the Snows Marysville

3rd Thursday of the month: 10.30am

Reconciliation: Upon request

Anointing of the Sick By appointment

Marriages: Please give at least six months' notice.

Baptism: Please contact parish office for details.

Parish office - Please call 0448 658 418

Pastoral worker - Please call 0448 664 731

AROUND THE PARISH THIS MONTH!!

No Mass in Yarra Glen on Sunday 2nd May.

Parish Working Bee – volunteers to help paint!!

The finishing touches are being completed to the refurbishment of the presbytery following water damage from a leaking pipe. The wooden floors have been repaired, new carpet laid, new vinyl flooring installed in the kitchen, and bathroom renovations are almost complete. The grand old house will all look wonderful! Now we would like to freshen the paintwork to complete the make-over.

If you can help to paint this coming Thursday and Friday, please notify the office.

Backyard Blitz

In the coming weeks, our attention will turn to the backyard, with a view to preparing the area for some exciting new plans in the works to give the Care Group its own productive space. Please consider donating some muscle power and time to help out our Parish, and the Care Group, who give so much to everyone else. More information to follow.

Volunteers Required To Clean The Church:

If you can spare some time to help out with cleaning the church on a rostered basis, please contact the office. The more volunteers we can find, the lighter the load for all, and Mollie will really appreciate the assistance. New rosters will be issued shortly.

Thanksgiving – 11th April 2021

St Brigid's Healesville,

Thanksgiving: \$323.50

Presbytery: \$154.00

St Aloysius, Yarra Glen – 26th March 2021

Thanksgiving: \$200.00

Presbytery: \$126.00

Yarra Glen Op Shop: \$2500

Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville 15th April

Thanksgiving: \$46.00

QR CODES

Please assist us to follow new Government requirements by using the QR code when you enter any of our Parish churches. If you are unable to QR, volunteers will be available to assist you. This is a mandatory requirement and we can be fined if we do not comply.

Saturday 1st May, Feast of St Joseph the Worker

On Saturday we will have celebrated the Feast of St Joseph the Worker. This is a relatively new feast, having been instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1955. The major feast day of St Joseph is, of course, the 19th March, the Solemnity of St Joseph. Why did Pope Pius XII see the need to add this extra feast day focusing on Joseph as “the worker”?

In the 1950's Communism was gaining serious momentum as a political ideology. Europe was in a position of incredible weakness, morally and economically having been shattered in every sense by the sheer devastation of the Second World War. The Global Communists recognised their opportunity to exploit this weakness. Orchestrated via the Soviet Union, the Communists strategically endeavoured to infiltrate all the major institutions in the West, focusing their attention on the education departments, particularly the universities. Their purpose was to brainwash the following generations of students into an army of leftist, anti-capitalist, anti-Western and fundamentally anti-Christian revolutionaries. Their mission was, of course, a resounding success and university faculties remain to this day ideological hotbeds of Marxism under various guises.

At the time Bishop Fulton Sheen was in full force as a proto-tele-evangelist in the United States, where he rose as a fiercely outspoken opponent of Communism, exposing the very real risk it posed to the foundations of the Christian West. In Australia the Catholic layman, B.A. Santamaria fulfilled a similar role in denouncing Communism attempting to keep the Australian Labor Party from drinking the Communist Kool-Aid. In the 1950's the Pope himself, Pius XII, was under no illusions as to the seriousness of the Communist threat and the culture wars being waged across the globe, under the banner of the atheistic humanism. He was acutely aware of the events of the past century. In 1889 an international federation of socialist groups and trade unions designated May 1 as a day in support of workers, in commemoration of the 1886 Haymarket Riot in Chicago which had rallied for the 8-hour working day. In the thick of the industrial revolution, doubtless many of the demands of those early unionists were legitimate: a shorter work day, fair wages, and basic worker's rights. In 1891 Pope Leo XIII wrote *Rerum Novarum* on "The Rights and Duties of Capital and Labour" in which he stridently defended the rights of workers whilst offering an excoriating critique of the new Marxist notions spreading across the world. Pope Leo XIII observed: *To remedy these wrongs the socialists, working on the poor man's envy of the rich, are striving to do away with private property, and contend that individual possessions should become the common property of all, to be administered by the State or by municipal bodies. They hold that by thus transferring property from private individuals to the community, the present mischievous state of things will be set to rights, inasmuch as each citizen will then get his fair share of whatever there is to enjoy. But their contentions are so clearly powerless to end the controversy that were they carried into effect the working man himself would be among the first to suffer. They are, moreover, emphatically unjust, for they would rob the lawful possessor, distort the functions of the State, and create utter confusion in the community.*

By 1904 a pan-national organisation of socialist and communist political parties had named May 1st as "International Workers' Day," or "May Day." The institution of this public holiday across Western nations was utilised by the global Communists to bolster its critique of the "systemic injustice" of the democratic, capitalist West. Ever since Communist nations have seized upon the secular feast day for propagandising purposes holding huge public parades that supposedly honour 'the worker'. Communism's claim to emancipate and champion the rights of the workers is of course grimly ironic. It is no coincidence that the working conditions in Communist countries remain among the worst in the world. China has become the sweat shop of the world's because in a country with no substantial worker's rights, no Western nation can compete with China for cheap, quasi-slave labour. It is also no accident that the Communist doctrine assumes a militantly

atheistic, materialist world view. As some commentators have observed, "atheism *is* the state religion of Communism". Without God there is no concept of the intrinsic value of the human person (who in the Biblical vision is created in God's image and likeness). In the Marxist/Communist outlook human beings can be reduced to dispensable economic units. The rights of the individual are subordinated to the amorphous concept of the "common good" of the State – defined according to the dictates of the reigning party. For Communism there are no moral absolutes: just the principle of "might makes right". When this theory is put into practise the result is in the region of 100 million deaths in the past century – through executions, gulags, orchestrated mass starvation, and the like. And that's without counting the millions of forced abortions as a result of China's one child policy.

Pope Pius XII saw in St Joseph an answer to the dehumanising Communist vision of labour and the human person. The value of work is when it is done for the good of those we love. St Joseph offer us a model of fatherly, self-less service. He is one who used his gifts and the sweat of his brow to provide for the Holy Family of Nazareth. Unlike the grotesque anti-humanism of Communism, Christianity upholds that Man is not merely an animal nor a machine. Man is endowed with a rational soul that orients him to the Divine. Consequently, work is not an end in itself, but is 'good' insofar as it is an expression of man's creative powers which enable him to improve his environment and circumstances, in accord with the design of his heavenly Creator. St Joseph remains a powerful model for us of a quiet, industrious provider who shows us the value of labour as a work of service that schools us in sacrificial love. St Joseph the Worker, pray for us!

Yours in Christ, Fr Francis Denton

Debbie's Thoughts

I find myself saying, yet again, "One of my favourite passages from Scripture is..." This time I am sitting with the passage that begins 'Think of the love that the Father has lavished upon us by allowing us to be called his children. For that is what we are...' There is a universe of truth in this little gem, and as the years go by I value it more and more. The Father has indeed 'lavished' much upon us. It is so good to take time to pause, ponder and give thanks for this great blessing! This time of the year, our readings at Mass come from the Acts of the Apostles, the accounts of what happened to Jesus' best friends as they spread out internationally to tell the world about God. For simple fishermen and tax collectors, this must have been an incredibly daunting challenge. Much of their international travels were spurred on by a host of angry mobs wanting to slit their throats! It is good to remember that Jesus lived in the real world, and travels

with us in that same real world. The Holy Spirit inflamed the apostles with a drive to take the message of Jesus to everyone, eventually, but they had to catch up with the program at their own pace! First on their lists for sharing were the Jewish neighbours that they encountered close to home, but it quickly became apparent that God had bigger horizons in mind for their ministries! One disaster after another pushed them to where God wanted them to go. And the message they set burning still smoulders on today.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing. If we look backwards along our own paths as our careers were being shaped, we can probably discover events and people that influenced how we came to make our way through adulthood. Unexpected golden job opportunities, failed exams that caused us to readjust our trajectory, hard work, no work, even danger, poverty, unplanned pregnancy, or the death of a loved one, or simply a random chance encounter, can nudge us forward in surprising directions. The 'woulda, coulda, shoulda' regrets can actually be seen in positive lights when we look back years later. Parents are often at the bottom of these unexpected opportunities that have shaped our futures. Sometimes we might recognise that they meddled incessantly in the hope of making something wonderful happen for their children, other times they may have seemed to us to be hard-hearted, using bizarre 'tough love' tactics in order to help their kids to reach for their potential. We are all different, with strengths and flaws galore. We make our way through life according to our opportunities, and our drive to reach for the stars or to hold on to the grass under our feet. Whichever way it goes, if we look with both eyes wide open at what brought us to where we are today, we can see God. We can find our Heavenly Father's hand guiding and helping us to deal with disaster and with success alike. So it was for the apostles, Jesus' loved and most trusted friends. They were certainly not molly-coddled because they were mates with Jesus, the Father's only Son, but they did not feel unloved or forgotten. God lavishes love upon us each day, just as he did for the apostles when they most needed him. Sometimes there is a bit of tough love involved, or disaster strikes without mercy, and equally, sometimes we are struck dumb by how 'lucky' we are. There is no luck involved. God's gifts to us, his beloved children, are everywhere. His apostles had to look through the storms and shipwrecks, the bad guys wanting to stone them, the betrayal, and the rejection, to find their friend Jesus. We need to look through the unemployment, the decay of old age and ill health, the financial struggles, the 'bad luck', the relatives that don't turn out like we think they should, etc etc, to find our friend Jesus. He never leaves us, he helps us to deal with our mountains. Lavish is a great word!

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Recently Deceased:

Bob Wadsley, Bill Skate, Catherine Backshall

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

Anniversaries in May:

Mary Nichols (01.05.09), Mary Slawinski (01.05.96), Brian Blake (4.5.17), Mavis McKenzie (06.05.07), Meldy Thompson (10.05.01), Peter Hammond (16.05) Mark Bariola (11.05.99), Hesselina Weda (11.05.91), Margaret Brown (11.5.17), Ann de Groot (12.05.13), Elaine Postlethwaite (13.05.14), Kenneth Cole (14.05.11), Rev Fr Peter Youngberry (15.05.08), Renato Bariola (16.05.14), Inocencia Flores (25.05.05), Fred Dame (26.05.08), Joseph van de Linden, Olga Komiat, Eileen Edwards (16.05.17), Clodagh Gleeson (16.05.19)

