



**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
Website: <http://www.stbrigidshalesville.cam.org.au>
Phone: 5962 4026 or 0448 658418

Administrator: Fr. Francis Denton
Secretary: Mrs Sharon Jacob

Pastoral Worker Mrs. Debbie Edwards
Email Address: Healesville@cam.org.au

18th April 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B)

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 4:2, 4, 7, 9

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! R.

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him. R.

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. R.

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. R.

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

Second Reading: 1 John 2:1-5

reading from the first letter of St John
Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and those of the whole world.

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,
but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.
Anyone who says, 'I know him',
and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar,
refusing to admit the truth.

But when anyone does obey what he has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: cf Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he

said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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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

Changes in the Presbytery

From 5th April 2021, Sharon will be carrying out all secretarial duties at St Brigid's Parish. Her phone no is 0448 658 418. Debbie will continue as Pastoral Worker.

After a long time out of action, our beautifully refurbished office will be open on Thursdays between 9am and 2 pm. Exciting!

Invitation from the care group

Friendship afternoon tea. Please come along and join us, Friday 30th April at 1.30pm. St Brigid's Parish hall

All invited , cost free

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

You will no longer need to book in for Mass. We will be using QR code as per government requirements. Rod will be at Mass to assist anyone having issues with the Qr Code. Thanks Rod!



This weekend brings us to the third Sunday of Easter, within this season of Easter-tide. Forty days of fasting and penance during Lent now gives way to fifty days of celebrating the Resurrection of Christ. Sometimes we can forget that Easter is such a long

period of celebration. As with Christmas, it seems that the day after Easter Sunday all the stores and supermarkets have shed their Easter wares and are looking forward to the next selling theme in the commercial calendar of marketing. I think it would be a shame for us to sell ourselves short of the full duration of this joyful season of feasting! The Church guides us through this season through the lectionary readings which turn our attention to the many resurrection accounts in the New Testament.

In the Gospel for this Sunday we hear of the episode that follows hot on the heels from the story well known to us as the Supper at Emmaus. In that account the two disciples reflect on their way back to Jerusalem: “did not our hearts burn within us as he explained to us the scriptures?” When Jesus appears to the apostles he similarly directs them to understand the Scriptural prophecies that His Life, death and resurrection have fulfilled. “This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the prophets and in the Psalms has to be fulfilled.” Luke goes on to tell us that Jesus “then opened their minds to understand the scriptures.” Of course, when Luke is talking about the scriptures, he is referring to the Old Testament not the New Testament – which was still a work in progress! Jesus is suggesting that the proper way to read and understand the Old Testament is with a ‘Christological lens’. This recalls St Augustine’s observation that “the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New.” The Church Fathers of the first five centuries were obsessed with this ‘typological’ reading of the Old Testament. They could find in every detail of the Old Testament symbols (also called ‘types’) that foreshadowed Jesus Christ. In doing so the Church Fathers were merely following the example of Jesus Himself, since we see Him interpreting the Old Testament in the same way. For example, in John 3:14 Jesus says to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life.” He is referring to the episode in Numbers 21 when the rebellious Israelites complain about the manna and want to go back to Egypt. God sends fiery serpents and those bitten die. Moses intercedes on behalf of the people so God instructs Moses to make a serpent of bronze and lift it up on a staff. Those who look upon the serpent are cured. To be fair, without the benefit of hindsight it’s not entirely self-evident that this event from the Old Testament is pointing us to Jesus. Yet our

understanding of Jesus unlocks for us the hidden depths of meaning that we can draw out from the Old Testament – in this instance, that salvation comes by lifting our eyes to the cross! Christ is prophetically prefigured in so many of these Old Testament types: for example we see Christ tempted in a garden in Adam, slain as an innocent victim in Abel, perfectly obedient to God in Abraham, sacrificed in Isaac, betrayed and sold in Joseph, delivering his people in Moses, reigning in King David, and so on.

It can often happen that we ‘know’ something without really ‘understanding’ what it means. It might be a joke, or a double entendre, or some cultural reference that we hear but that goes over our heads. Then at some later date the penny drops – and we realise, ‘oh, that’s what he meant!’ Actually, this is often my own experience of reading the scriptures. Sometimes I can come across a passage of the Bible that I have read dozens of times before, but then in a moment of inspiration the significance of some detail leaps off the page, striking me with great insight. Perhaps this applies not only to scripture but to the whole Easter story. We’ve heard the story of Jesus’ resurrection a hundred times and so we fail to let the meaning penetrate our hearts and minds. Appearing in his resurrected body Jesus was able to open the minds of the apostles so they came to understand the scriptures that they knew but failed to grasp the meaning of. Hopefully this Easter season can be experienced as a similar grace of coming to know and understand the significance of Christ’s Resurrection for us.

Yours in Christ, Fr Francis Denton

Debbie’s Thoughts

My favourite Gospel from the whole year was read this week, the account of Mary Magdalene in the garden outside Jesus’ empty tomb. I love hearing of the moment when Mary unexpectedly discovers Jesus ‘missing’, and in her great distress, begins looking for any sort of solution to help her to find him. I love that Mary couldn’t care less when two angels spoke to her, such was her focus on Jesus. Two angels?.. not a ripple. She was searching for her friend, her master, her God, nothing else mattered in that moment. Mary Magdalene is one of my super-heroes. She hung in there with Jesus through the worst of his ordeal, staying with his battered, disfigured body when others took off. I often wonder if she could have survived the ordeal of Jesus’ crucifixion without the calm strength of Our

Blessed Mother to support her. No doubt they spent the hushed hours of that very long Sabbath day between Jesus' burial and his resurrection in each other's company. Jesus' followers were a family, and as a family does, I am sure they gathered together in their horror and devastation to grieve for him with one heart. Mary Magdalene dearly loved her friend Jesus, and I am sure that Our Blessed Mother would have supported and comforted Mary, in their personal friendship, and in honour of Mary's love for her son. Our Blessed Mother loves us all in the same way, meeting our love for Jesus with gratitude, and the hatred that the world throws at him with merciful sorrow. The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary beat as one.

When she encounters Jesus in the garden, Mary Magdalene fails to recognise him. This hints to us of what we are to be like in eternal life, reinforcing that life for us will be changed, but certainly not ended. It will be different to the frailty we experience while we are still in the world. Exciting! It is only when Jesus calls Mary by her name that she recognises him. I love this!! With one simple, very personal word, 'Mary', Jesus obliterates her devastation and propels her into Easter joy that has no comparison. I can just imagine her heart soaring to the ultimate in human happiness. With one word from Jesus, her name, Jesus gives to Mary the gift of full acceptance and recognition of who she has been, who she is, and who she will be. She is filled with the joy of recognising Jesus. For me, this is one of those powerful moments that speak of our own friendship with Jesus. It is Eucharistic in the full sense of the word, with all its incomprehensible potential for Mary, and for each of us. How often do we hear Jesus speak our names? I am sure it happens all the time, but we fail to listen for it. Each time we feel emptiness, in our great need for comfort or courage, or we receive a quiet little nudge that says 'choose a different path, this one isn't good for you', each time we throw open our hearts to receive Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist, we know Jesus speaking deep within. We often fail to recognise him, as Mary did. Jesus is our friend too, just as he is Mary's friend. She grew to love him by listening to him and spending time with him. We are Jesus' friends, in exactly the same way that Mary, Peter, James and John are his friends. He reassured them, and picked them up when they fell. When they denied him and ran away, there was no suggestion that he wouldn't accept their sorrow and pick up where their relationship had always been, strengthened and deepened through pain and fire. We are, indeed,

an Easter people. We are the ones who have eaten and drunk with him after the Resurrection. It is the way of the world to value having friends 'in high places', friends who can bail us out, or do favours for us, using their power or position in the eyes of society. With Jesus as our friend in the highest of high places, what on earth do we ever have to worry about??

Recently Deceased: Bob Wadsley, Bill Skate

Parish Prayer List

We pray for all who have died , for those who are sick and 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, 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,

We pray for those whose anniversaries are in April

Tanya Grizic (03.04.06), Emil Weklak (11.04.11), Paul Nielsen (07.04.08), Shane O'Meara (14.04.69), Fr Tim Tolan (15.04.08), Frank Wilson (16.04.06), Beryl Perrin (19.04.06), Brendan Hammond (23.04.12), Fr Robert Coughlin (24.04), Edgar Snell (26.04.93), Violet Brooks (26.04.08), Alan Thompson (26.04.00), Jean Malcolm (26.04.17), Janine McIntyre (28.04.07), Reg Fraser (Good Friday 1997), Marshall McLinden, Teresa Toscano, Rosa Toscano, Richie Youngberry (20/4/18)

