



**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

16th May 2021

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Year B)

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

To the measure of the full stature of Christ.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would:

When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners,
he gave gifts to men.

When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Thanksgiving – 9th May 2021

St Brigid's Healesville,
Thanksgiving: \$365.00
Presbytery: \$99.60

St Aloysius, Yarra Glen – 18th April 2021
Thanksgiving: \$200.00
Presbytery: \$126.00
Yarra Glen Op Shop: \$2500

Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville 15th April 2021
Thanksgiving: \$48.90

QR CODE APP - Please download the Services Victoria app from the Apple App Store for iPhones (<https://bit.ly/SBHCO>), or the Google Play Store for Android phones (<https://bit.ly/SBSAFE>). This will make the check in a bit more efficient

LOOKOUT FOR CHILDREN- Please come along and join us for the next Lookout meeting: Monday 24th May, 1 pm, Golden Wattle house, 1 Joffre Street. Trudi Maiden will share with us of her work in Lifeboat, a group set up by Father Kevin Dillon to support survivors of church sexual abuse.

Chaplaincy Sunday

This weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community. Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic chaplains can continue to faithfully meet the emotional and spiritual needs of the vulnerable, isolated and marginalised in our community by providing pastoral and spiritual support. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and a financial donation to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing loneliness, illness, pain, grief and death.

You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.ccam.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.



This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven. The positioning of the feast is traditionally forty days after Easter Sunday acknowledging the period of forty days during which Our Lord appeared to his disciples after his resurrection. For this reason the Ascension was traditionally always celebrated on the Thursday of the sixth week of Easter. For pragmatic reasons in Australia the feast was transferred to the following Sunday in the new liturgical calendar. Either way, this feast marks a turning point in the life of the Church. Once Jesus has ascended to his Heavenly Father the Church is left to continue the mission of Christ. Two thousand years later Jesus parting words continue to ring in the ears of the Church: "Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation!" The Church in every age, nation and culture has the divinely conferred mandate to make the Gospel known. In our own little corner of the world we too strive to fulfill this 'great commission' to announce the message of salvation in Jesus: "He who believes and is baptised will be saved!"

The mission of the Church is never carried out alone. Christ promises to 'remain with us always, until the close of the age' (cf. Matt 28:20). Through the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus stands steadfast besides His Church. Nor is the consolation of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, in any way lacking today in spite of the real challenges that surround us. This feast of the Ascension ought to renew

our trust and faith that the Lord Jesus is always very near to his Church, calling us to persevere in the path of holiness, and to continue to boldly proclaim the Good News.

In last week's bulletin I introduced Archbishop Comensoli's plan to begin a strategic restructuring of parishes across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. He wants to use this as an opportunity for growth, to set about consciously putting in place a path for pastoral renewal. In the course of his presentation The Archbishop identified four key areas that every parish ought to properly address if it is to flourish as a parish, which he summarised under the ancient Greek titles of *Leitourgia*, *Kerygma*, *Koinonia* and *Diakonia*.

Leitourgia – We could transliterate this as 'Liturgy' yet it means more broadly 'Worship.' The worship that the Church renders to the Triune God is our primary mission. The glory and adoration we give to God is the spiritual basis upon which the mission of the Church depends. Every apostolate of the Church flows from the liturgy, because here Christ himself is made truly present, particularly in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. We should aim to give glory and honour to God in every Mass by making an offering to him of the very best we can give him. A parish that strives to honour and worship God is one that He will surely bless.

Kerygma – the Greek word means the 'proclamation' of the Gospel. Having experienced the love of God in a personal way and having worshipped him fittingly in the liturgy, we next want to share that experience with others. The kerymatic teaching of the Apostles is characterised by a zealous passion for souls. There is no embarrassment or tentativeness to be found here, just a fearless intent! In every parish the proclamation of the gospel should resound with crystal clarity. Under the umbrella of *kerygma* we should consider things such as faith formation, catechetics, retreats, talks, missions and the like.

Koinonia – the work here could be translated as communion or fellowship. It describes the unity of the apostles at Pentecost: "they were all of one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1). Later the Acts of the Apostles notes that "All the believers were one in heart and mind." Unity is one of the 'marks' of the Church, and it should be a hallmark of every parish, where our faith in Christ himself is the basis of our unity and fellowship. This expresses itself in a common life of fraternity and friendship forming a community that truly cares for its members, and seeks to draw others into this union. This charism safeguards the parish against any tendency to forming 'power factions' or cliques – which are by their nature opposed to an authentically Christian spirit.

Diakonia – the fruit of these three aforementioned domains of worship, proclamation and fellowship should

be *diakonia* or service. A community of Christians that loves God and neighbour should automatically be attuned to attending to the needs of others. As a parish we should always be looking for ways that we can better respond to the needs of others: whether material assistance, support in sickness or distress, attending to the bereaved, the lonely, the housebound, and so on.

These four categories are by no means exhaustive in terms of a parish's potential scope, but I think it provides a helpful framework for seeing what are the areas of strength and weakness in our own parish. This awareness will help us to become more intentional disciples of Jesus Christ and to better work together to fulfill the mission of the Church.

Yours in Christ,
Fr Francis Denton

Debbie's thoughts

The apostles watched Jesus rising into the sky as he ascended to his Father. As always, Jesus made the realities of heaven possible for our human minds to grasp. He physically showed his followers that their relationship with him was changing. Jesus became obscured from their senses, and from that moment, like us, his friends needed to become aware of his presence with them in a different way, built on faith. Their friendly, familiar conversations with Jesus became what we now call prayer. His friends could no longer see Jesus as they had done, or hear his voice, but they continued to converse with him nevertheless. Just as we do. Prayer is instinct, and a shared experience. It need not be a complicated thing. Jesus himself gave us the Lord's Prayer as an example of how to pray, prompted by the apostles' own curiosity and thirst for a deeper relationship with God. We can pray with words that others have written for us, there are volumes on what to say and do, written by great saints, and by prep children, by scholars and the simple of heart. We pray when we come to Mass using formal liturgy in the company of our parish family, and we can speak to God from our hearts, using words, or not using words, depending on what is happening for us in that particular moment. And we can simply 'be' with God. Any glance, any thought that flies to him, be it sad, overjoyed, frustrated, terrified, grumpy, overwhelmed, or simply delivered with love, is prayer. It is good to be reminded that as we pray for those who cross our paths in life, our prayers join with those of many, many good people who spend quiet time with the Lord. All we need in order to pray is a second or two of our time, and presence of mind. For some much easier said than done, but every effort is rewarded. Even those who can no longer move about easily, those who are housebound or in nursing homes or hospitals, can undertake the powerful task of supporting others through prayer, lightening the load of anyone burdened with ill health, grief, loneliness, poverty, fear or any

number of other challenges. Knowing that we are part of a chain of conversations with God when we feel most alone can really bring comfort and peace in a dark moment. I may become aware that someone is praying for me when I am able to climb mountains with courage when I need it, using strength I did not suspect I could find. God knows exactly who each and every one of us is, and what we need, and he is 'on it' before someone even asks, but when we do stop to ask, we grow in relationship with him. Prayer anoints the one who prays as much as the one who is prayed for. Prayer fascinates me, in its potential, in its simplicity, and in its effects. We resort to prayer when we are so confronted by the messiness of our own life, and of the lives of those around us, that we are too uncomfortable to simply do nothing. Prayer can often be the only active option we have. All around me, and all around you, ordinary people living ordinary lives need prayers, as we all do, asking God's 'invisible' help us to tackle our next breath, and consequently, our next adventure. Whether that next breath is our first or our last, you could say that each of us is alone, and yet each of us is never alone, immersed in God's awareness and love. We ask for something we need, we thank him for his gifts, we ask for forgiveness, and we pray when we are bursting with appreciation for our beautiful world. God already knows our thoughts before we form them. Like the apostles who lived with Jesus, we can immerse ourselves in conversation with him, listening, chatting, growing, and letting go. I often wonder. Mary prayed for Jesus, God the Son. He still needed his mother's prayers, in his human frailty. Her prayers were addressed to our Father, for Jesus and through Jesus, God. Hmm. Another big concept for a quiet moment of reflection... Who needs your prayers today?

Michelle, Judy, Annette Fromholtz, Bill Skate

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)

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,