



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

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11TH July 2021

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

First Reading: Amos 7:12-15

A reading from the prophet Amos

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer; get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.' 'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets.' Amos replied to Amaziah, 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores: but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14

**R. Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of
heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose
us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live
through love in his presence, determined that we should
become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his
own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his

grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved in whom, through
his blood, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our
sins. Such is the richness of the grace which he has
showered on us in all wisdom and insight. He has let us
know the mystery of his purpose, the hidden plan he so
kindly made in Christ from the beginning to act upon
when the times had run their course to the end:
that he would bring everything together under Christ, as
head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth.

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

Gospel Acclamation: cf Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out
in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits.
And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey
except a staff - no bread, no haversack, no coppers for
their purses. They were to wear sandals, but, he added,
'Do not take a spare tunic.' And he said to them, 'If you
enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the
district. And if any place does not welcome you and
people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off
the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.' So they
set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many
devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured
them.

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

Collections: 20th & 27th June and 4th July

Totals will be updated shortly, when Sharon returns from
holidays



Rosters 11th July 2021:

Reader: A. Lehman

Cuppa: Volunteer

Church cleaning: A. Lehman

Rosters 18th July 2021:

Reader: J. Barrett

Cuppa: M. Campitelli

Church cleaning: T & C O'Halloran

Thank you to all our volunteers!

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 check in a bit more efficient. Our Covid Marshall will be checking the 'ticks' so please remember to QR Code. Help is available for those who find this difficult to do.

Mass Bookings

There is no longer any need to book for weekend Masses. We are once again able to accommodate 86 worshippers in St Brigid's church, and 40 worshippers at St Aloysius in Yarra Glen, applying the 2 square metre rule.

Masses in our Parish this week

Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville, **Thursday at 10.30 am**
St Brigid's, Healesville, **Sunday 18th July at 8.30 am**
St Aloysius, Yarra Glen, **Sunday 18th July at 5.00 pm**

From Fr Francis



"And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them."

This instruction from Our Lord to the Apostles from today's Gospel has over the years intrigued me. What exactly does Jesus mean by "shaking off the dust from under your feet"? It's clearly not a favourable 'sign'. Unless we take the advice literally (as Joseph Smith of the Latter Day Saints was known to do!) there must be another analogical sense to the expression. It has been suggested that certain scrupulously pious Jews around the time of Christ were known to be in the custom of shaking off the dust from any Gentile towns they visited as a matter of ritual purity, so as not to be contaminated with their pagan way of life. If this is correct then Jesus' admonition for the apostles to do likewise is intended to serve as a stark warning to their largely Jewish audience. Those who reject the Apostles will be treated like Gentiles.

In the textual parallel from Matthew's Gospel (10:14), Matthew also speaks of "shaking the dust from your feet". He then adds rather ominously: "Truly, I say to you, it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town!" (Mt 10:15). Mark leaves this out, perhaps wishing to avoid going too hard on his audience. Nonetheless the sign of shaking the dust off remains in his teaching. The action is a response to the refusal of the townsfolk to listen to the apostles, who are acting as Christ's envoys. Skip ahead to Matt 10:40 and Jesus says: "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." The inverse would also hold true. Jesus associates so strongly with the Church acting in His name that when Saul is persecuting the Christians, Jesus says: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting *me*." (Acts 9:4). The message of the apostles is not their own: they speak on behalf of Christ. The Church in every age acts as a herald, proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom of God. The content of the message the Church proclaims is not hers to make up: it is the prerogative of the King to determine his decrees. The herald simply announces them. God wants us to sound the trumpet, and get the world to pay attention to his message of repentance, before it's too late!

There can be few things more infuriating than looking out for the best interests of those we love and then watching them fall into the very trouble you sought to warn them of because they refused to listen to you. A friend 'John' recounted to me recently such an incident. Another mutual friend 'Sam' had a diesel car that he would often drive around very close to empty. The John would often say to Sam "whatever you do, don't let the car run out of fuel. If you run a diesel engine on empty you can have a terrible time getting it starting again." When the recent storms came Sam found himself without electricity. He drove his car around to recharge his phone, but unfortunately the car was virtually on empty. When he

continued driving around to fill up the car he discovered that all the local service stations were closed as a result of the power outage. He couldn't find fuel anywhere! With growing desperation Sam drove as far as he could until the car rolled to stop about 15 kilometres from his home. It took about two weeks for him to get the car started again. Meanwhile John was indignant: 'Man, I warned him! I told him not to drive on empty!' Sometimes the only thing worse than being wrong, is being right!

The sign of shaking dust from one's feet might seem harsh, yet it is intended to prompt a change a heart. This response seems mild when compared with the culture's insatiable appetite for what has become known as 'cancel culture'. The aim of cancel culture is not to correct or persuade those who disagree with us, but to annihilate them. By contrast, Christianity always seeks the good of the other as an expression of genuine charity, even when they err. We see this principle operative in the first three Spiritual Works of Mercy: "to instruct the ignorant; to counsel the doubtful; to admonish sinners." In Christianity the objective is not to 'win' by defeating your opponent, the aim is foremost to 'win back' your brother (cf. Mt 18:15). Cancel culture is bereft of the Christian notion of redemption or repentance. It will not be satisfied with anything less than the total destruction of its enemies. There are no second chances, just lynch-mob rage, and the compulsion to scream over one's enemies to silence them. Christianity on the other hand, always maintains that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace. There is always the hope of redemption, even for those who are not yet ready to heed the Gospel's proclamation of the Kingdom of God. Jesus seeks to invite, to persuade, to court: all to win us to Himself. Jesus invites us to demonstrate that long-suffering patience with others so that if our words fail to persuade the apathetic, the witness of our love might convince them.

**Yours in Christ,
Fr Francis Denton**

Care Group News

Thank you to all who have made donations to assist our Care Group. Your contributions have enabled us to help families with care parcels in their time of need.

If you would like to contribute further, please leave non-perishable items at Mass on Sunday or contact Maree on 0417 087 199



7pm Fridays
6, 13, 20, 27 August
St Patrick's Church, Lilydale

Come along and learn more about the life of St Joseph and join in discussion and fellowship. We'll cover in particular his titles of:

- Terror of Demons
- Promoter of Virtue
- Son of David
- Patron of a Happy Death

The evenings begin with light finger food, followed by the presentation, and conclude with discussion, Q&A.

Free entry (donations appreciated).
Contact Fiona on 0429 474 074 for more information.

featuring:



Fiona Bradley



Anne Marie Quinn



Colin Patterson



Dr Patrick Carby CEM Case

The Ignatius Project is committed to offering quality adult faith formation opportunities in Catholic parishes and schools. All our speakers are experienced in working at a primary level. Read more at www.ignatiusproject.com



For more information phone **Fiona on 0402 474 074**.
Trybooking link for talks on St Joseph in August at St Patrick's Community Centre:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BSVFB>

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEK, 18TH JULY



ST VINCENT de PAUL WINTER APPEAL – NEXT WEEK

The annual Winter Appeal is held throughout the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and a special collection to assist the work of Vinnies will take place **next Sunday, 18th July**.

The Lilydale Conference of St Vincent de Paul greatly assists the Healesville community and our St Brigid's Care Group, and relies heavily on your contributions, through donations of blankets & warm socks, gloves and hats, or through monetary contributions. Please give generously to help support the vulnerable in our area. Thank you, in anticipation.

Debbie's Thoughts

It can be difficult to mindfully think through each of the prayers we recite at Mass each time we come to worship God. Our attention can wander, or we can become lost in our conversation with God, and the sheer volume of words can defeat our ability to stay 100% focussed as the prayers flow through us and around us. At times we can even take the words of the Mass for granted, their familiarity carrying us as we hear and say them over and over. God understands this of course, we are human, and he knows us. Happily, the communal nature of the liturgy, in its momentum and in its stillness, carries each

of us, no matter what our state of mind may be on any given day. The Mass is the most perfect way in which we can praise God, thank him, ask for forgiveness, and present to him our petitions, fears and joys. The miracles that flow from our liturgy are unfathomable. And they flow continuously through God's goodness, despite our human wavering in attention and presence.

It is good to reflect on the individual prayers of the Mass from time to time, investing the energy into them that they deserve. Occasionally a familiar prayer may strike us in a way that we had never quite noticed before. God tends to draw our attention to whatever we need when we least expect it, it is important to remember to listen for his voice and to give ourselves the time to catch up with his suggestions. For instance, a prayer that regularly surprises me supports our preparation to receive the Blessed Eucharist, '*Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, only say the word and my soul shall be healed*'. At times this prayer feels like a diamond to me, with a myriad of surfaces and angles to consider. I am vaguely aware of its potential, even though I know I do not have my head wrapped around its fullness. It is as if God hints: 'but wait, there is more...'. The prayer is based on the account from Matthew 8, quoting the words of the centurion who asked Jesus to cure his unwell servant. The centurion expressed faith that Jesus could cure the man with only a word, and at the same time, recognised his own unworthiness to receive Jesus into his home. The centurion knew with certainty that Jesus could heal without constraint, despite not having our 'understanding' of who Jesus is. His was a complete act of faith. He had no Bible studies under his belt, or any clear sense of Jesus' impending death and resurrection. He encountered Jesus face to face, and he believed.

As we repeat his words in another language and another time, we can ask for that sort of faith for ourselves, aware of how fragile our commitment to God can be. I pray with awareness of my weaknesses and wounds, recognising, without excuses, that I need to be healed in so many ways. I acknowledge Jesus as my saviour in every sense of the word, the one who can make me whole, as I was created to be. In these brief seconds of laying myself bare to Jesus, I open myself to his healing power. I wonder that Jesus *wants* to 'enter under my roof' as we meet each other in Holy Communion. In this moment, right before I receive him in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, I join with the centurion in acknowledging my unworthiness for him to come to me, to enter into my heart, for me to receive him as nourishment and life. I am aware of my own selfish tendency to turn my eyes from God, to look inwards, towards myself, again and again, yet when I turn inwards, who do I find? I find that same Jesus, my heart, my very source, waiting for me. Interesting! Yet another thought: I do not travel through life alone, I am accompanied by those who

wander with me, who are important to me. Who lives under my roof, with me in physical terms? Who do I then bring with me to Holy Communion? My family, my friends, those I love, they are all sheltered within my heart, the heart that Jesus shares. Who would I love to have under my roof if I could? Those I treasure who are far away from my arms in distance or time, my brothers and friends who live interstate for instance, and of course those who have died who have meant so much to me. Who do I bring with me in prayer? Those whom I pity when I watch the news, and those who have asked me to pray for them and their intentions, I don't even need to name names. Boundaries mean nothing to God. Holy Communion suddenly becomes a whole lot bigger, if that is possible.

That's an awful lot of prayer crammed into one short sentence! And these are just my thoughts. What is God sharing with you when you come to Mass?

Parish Prayer List

We pray for all who have died:

Libby Archibald

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, 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, John Wray

We pray for those whose anniversaries are in July:

Ann Maris (03.07.07), Julie Ann Ward (03.07.86), Nick Pitt (03.07.13), Margaret Brown (06.07.07), John Jansen (06.07.04), Ulick O'Boyle (07.07.11), Stenya Laszczewski (11.07.15), Jan Kisala (15.07.07), George Youngberry (18.07.67), Derek Beeby (18.07.11), Keith Chandler (20.07.13), Ronald Hosie (23.07.06), Theresa Humphries (25.07.11), Bernie Morrissey (26.07.00), Terry Fromholtz (28.07.12), Rev McCarter (30.07.96), Kevin Leahy