



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

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15th August 2021

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Year B)

First Reading: Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 44:10-12, 16

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:
forget your own people and your father's house.

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R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

So will the king desire your beauty:
He is your lord, pay homage to him.
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king. R.

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Accl

Alleluia, alleluia!

Mary is taken up to heaven,
and the angels of God shout for joy.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The Almighty has done great things for me; he has lifted up the lowly.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's

house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy - according to the promise he made to our ancestors - of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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- according to the promise he made to our ancestors - of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

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The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Due to the lockdown, we are **not able to attend Mass** this week. Fr Francis will be recording Mass and it will be available on the you tube channel on Sunday morning. The link is accessible through St Brigid's Healesville's website, <http://www.stbrigidshhealesville.cam.org.au/> or by searching St Brigid's Healesville on You Tube, or using the link: <https://bit.ly/StBsHville>

Thanksgiving

St Brigid's Healesville, -27/6/21

Thanksgiving: \$467.35

Presbytery: \$148.10

Peters Pence \$187.70

St Brigid's Healesville, -4/7/21

Thanksgiving: \$516.05

Presbytery: \$165.55

St Brigid's Healesville, -11/7/21

Thanksgiving: \$401.45

Presbytery: \$131.65

St Brigid's Healesville, -1/8/21

Thanksgiving: \$512.00

Presbytery: \$262.50

Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville 15th July 2021

Thanksgiving: \$71.00

Rosters

15th August 2021:

Reader: V. Ireland

Cuppa: M Jeffcott

Church cleaning: Tony & Cath O'Halloran

22nd August 2021:

Reader: L. Houlihan

Cuppa: Volunteer

Church cleaning: Catherine Saniga

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.

St Brigid's Safeguarding Committee

Child Protection is a major priority for our Parish, and the time has come for us to welcome a new committee to oversee our compliance with the extensive Catholic Church, Federal and State Government requirements in regard to this critical issue. The team will also be available to assist parishioners with anything related to safeguarding children, young adults and the vulnerable, so please feel free to approach any of the team with your questions or comments. The committee has already met to review our Safeguarding Policy, Parish Commitment Statement and Code of Conduct and to begin to work through the mandatory, extensive self-audit tool that will assist us to ensure that we, as a Parish, are keeping everyone as safe as possible. Members are renewing their training and becoming well-versed with current protocols, which are constantly under review. This is a big job, and we thank our committee for their generous commitment. Team members are all actively involved

within our Parish, and within the wider community, in roles that demand a high degree of awareness of keeping kids and the vulnerable safe. We are indeed blessed to have such a highly attuned and qualified group working for us and with us.

Team 2021 is: **Cath O'Halloran**, parishioner and a valued member of St Brigid's Primary teaching staff; **Debbie Edwards**, Parish Pastoral Worker, volunteer for the VCCEM, assisting with emergency pastoral support in times of disaster; **Fr Francis**, Parish Administrator; **John Barrett**, parishioner and Chair of the Lookout for Children group in Healesville; **Rod Hysted**, famous for achieving all things IT in our church, President of HICCI and working part-time in the Victorian Government Education System; **Sharon Jacob**, Parish Secretary, active volunteer for Stable One, caring for the homeless.

More news to follow!



Detail from Titian's *Assumption* (1515-1518) Basilica di Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, Venice.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Last week we missed the 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time on account of the Solemnity of Mary Mackillop. This Sunday is the 15th of August and therefore the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary takes precedence over the Ordinary Sunday. This honours the doctrine that at the end of her natural life, Mary was *assumed* (or 'taken up') body and soul into heaven. The Gospels give us multiple accounts of Jesus' Ascension into heaven (which we celebrated on the 6th August); by contrast there is no biblical account of the Assumption. The Fathers of the Church always

observed a closely affinity between the roles of Jesus and Mary in the economy of salvation, as the New Adam and New Eve who establish a new human family in the order of Grace. Just as Jesus ascended into heaven body and soul, it is fitting that Mary be granted the singular privilege of being spared bodily corruption and of sharing in the state of Christ's glorified body in heaven. The Assumption of Mary is the natural end for one who was conceived without sin and who, more so than any other human being, shared in the merits of Christ's work of Redemption.

Although faith in Our Lady's Assumption has been universally held in the Catholic and Orthodox Churches through the millennia, remarkably it was only officially defined as a Dogma in 1950 by Pope Pius XII. In his Apostolic Constitution, *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pius XII declared that "the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." The fact that this doctrine came to be defined so late in the Church's history should not mislead us into thinking it appeared as a doctrinal novelty in 1950.

The feast of the Assumption had been widely celebrated in both the liturgies of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches from at least the 5th century. In 600AD the Emperor Maurice in Constantinople had established the 15th August as the Feast Day of the Dormition or 'Sleep' (by which name the dogma is known in the Eastern Churches),. Fifty years later Rome followed suit further marking the day with a solemn procession in honour of Our Lady. The strongest documentary evidence for the feast of the Assumption appears in the sixth century. Saint John Damascene's (c.675-749AD) vigorous defence of this doctrine resulted in his title of "Doctor of the Assumption." He describes the bodily Assumption of Mary as a natural condition of her other privileges in the order of grace: "It was fitting that she, who had kept her virginity intact in childbirth, should keep her own body free from all corruption even after death." By the thirteen century the doctrine had acquired near-universal status, as is evident from the writings of saints Albert the Great, Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure, and thereafter was normative in the devotional life of the Church. Icons, frescoes, altarpieces and devotional paintings of the Assumption abound from this point onward.

There is one other very important historical consideration in support of the Assumption. The

evidence in not so much what we have, but what we *don't have* – namely there are no bodily relics of Mary! When we think of how immensely popular the cult of relics was in the early Church, and the fact that there are churches claiming the remains of virtually every saint known even from apostolic times, can you imagine how popular and revered a relic of Mary would be? And yet no church anywhere has ever claimed to have a relic of Mary. This is consistent with the doctrine that she was assumed *body and soul* into heaven.

Far from being a medieval myth, the dogma of the Assumption is the logically bound up in our faith in the Resurrection. Mary's Assumption anticipates the general resurrection of the dead which awaits all the faithful at the end of time. As Hugo Rahner explains "Our Lady's assumption...is therefore not so much an exception to the rule, but is more a fulfilling in advance of what is promised to the whole mystical body of Christ." We all look to Mary as a sign of the glory which we all hope to enjoy at the end of time at the general resurrection of the dead.

*Yours in Christ,
Fr Francis Denton*

Debbie's Thoughts

Another lockdown was just announced. So I decided to have a shower. In the middle of the day. Because I could!

Standing under that beautiful warm water, I thought to myself how blessed I am. Warm water on tap, literally. More than one and a half minutes at my disposal. Enough shampoo and conditioner. A warm dry towel to greet me when the water goes off at my command. A warm bathroom to stand in while I get dry. If I had lived even a hundred years ago, I doubt whether I would be counting my blessings in the same way.

So, I'm going to share. Here are just a few of the joys that I have recently heard people tell me about with enthusiasm as I have been ringing around, or bumping in to all you fellow lockdowners along my way. "I built a giant, detailed bridge in Minecraft!" "Look at this video footage of my little granddaughter bouncing up and down on her 'jumpoline'. My daughter sent it to me by email." "I have written two short stories!" "I finally got in and cleaned out that drain! And what came out of it is

awesome soil, complete with the fattest, healthiest, happiest worms you've ever seen!" "I love my new great-grandson's name!" "My Black Tulip Magnolia is in flower, so pretty!" "We found the tent in the shed! We're camping in the back yard." "I can ride my bike now" "I got a Kit Kat at the shops!" "Yes Mrs Edwards, your prescription is ready." "My dog and I went for a walk today, I notice they're building a new drive-way down the road." "I cooked an awesome new breakfast slice this morning." "My tax refund turned up!!!" "My back is heaps better now." "Click and collect works great!" "I finally remembered to buy Gravox! We can have gravy again!". "I sat in the sun today. It was perfect outside." "I don't need any fillings! 6 months til I need to think about dentists again!" "The horrible smell in my car was the deodoriser I had bought because I thought it would make it fresher! I threw it out! Back to normal!" "I saw a helicopter!!!" "I finished my jigsaw puzzle!"

We are very good at turning to God when things are not going so well, but we do tend to coast a little in our conversations with him when everyday life is chugging along nicely and giant challenges seem far away for now. We know that God is always there for us when we call out in dismay, or in panic. As I usually remind the traumatised, he hears ever single prayer, no matter how softly it is whispered from the depths of our hearts. He answers each and every prayer. Sometimes the answer is 'yes!', sometimes it is 'no', and sometimes it is 'wait a little', (or a lot). We draw comfort from reaching out to God, especially when prayer is the last constructive thing we can think to do in a bad situation. Yet I often think of how much God appreciates us turning to him when things are going ok, or even really well, with just a little conversation about things that are actually going right! The anecdotes I have recounted mostly describe ordinary, little, unremarkable joys that we need to gather up and treasure for our own mental health's sake. Sharing them with someone else can feel even better, especially when so much of our conversation at the moment revolves around what we can and can't do. Life really is still wonderful! We all love to hear about what makes our friends happy. Each gesture of gratitude and appreciation builds relationships and contributes to our sense of self-worth. God is perfect, he actually needs nothing from us physically, but he also loves us and wants us to feel close to him. He encourages us to reach for him, gently and persistently drawing us ever more deeply into a genuine, loving relationship with

him. If we wait for the big things to come along before we say 'thanks', or 'wow!' we risk failing to notice how blessed we are, and we miss an opportunity for that closeness that God offers us. He wants to be excited right along with us!

We can imagine Jesus' beautiful smile. We can imagine that he would have smiled often and easily, sharing his joy with those whom he encountered as part of his everyday life. This week, perhaps we can be on the lookout for reasons to share a smile with others, and with our loving friend God, often and easily. A smile is infectious in all the right ways!

(21.08.79), Zandor Hunka (22.08.06), Alison Snell (25.08.02) Maria Slawinski (25.08.82), Gerald Slattery, Derek Beeby, Tilly Blackburn, Thea Humphries, Maggie Lloyd-Smith, Margaret Pomeroy (23.08.19), Rosemary Fries (10.08), Albert Slawinski, Maureen Fogarty, Bob Barclay.

HICCI AGM

Advanced notice for your diary

The HICCI Annual General Meeting will take place on September the 19th, in the Saint Brigid's Parish Hall. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person this year. More information will follow closer to the date.

Also, if anyone can help with catering for a light supper, similar to the last AGM at our church, that would be wonderful. Please contact Rod Hysted on 0409 523 031, if you can help.

Lastly, If you would like to nominate as the Saint Brigid's representative on the HICCI Committee of Management, please contact Rod on the above phone number.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Recently Deceased:

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, 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

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN AUGUST

John McDonald (03.08.93), Patricia Newell (06.08.07), John Youngberry (07.08.79), Barbara Pollard (11.08.09), Andrew Sotko (14.08.07), Fr Loughnan (15.08.02), Bernadette Hanley (18.08.09), Mary Thomas (19.08.07), Douglas Ireland