



**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.stbrigidshealesville.cam.org.au>

Administrator: Fr. Francis Denton  
Secretary: Mrs Sharon Jacob 0448 658 418

Pastoral Worker: Mrs. Debbie Edwards 0448 664 731  
Email: [Healesville@cam.org.au](mailto:Healesville@cam.org.au) Ph: 5962 4026

**21<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)**

**First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2,15-18**

A reading from the book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33:2-3, 16-23**

**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.

**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his ears to their appeal.

**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
He will keep guard over all his bones,  
not one of his bones shall be broken.

**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ.  
Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives submit to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never

hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body - and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation: cf John 6:63, 68**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 6:60-69**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life,

the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit

and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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.stbrigidshalesville.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 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Thanksgiving: \$71.00

**Rosters**

**15<sup>th</sup> August 2021:**

**Reader:** V. Ireland

**Cuppa:** M Jeffcott

**Church cleaning:** Tony & Cath O'Halloran

**22nd August 2021:**

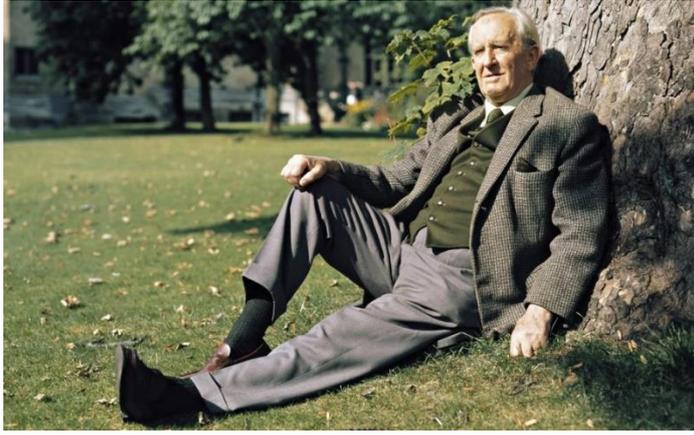
**Reader:** L. Houlihan

**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.

## J.R.R Tolkien on scandals, faith, and the Eucharist



J.R.R. Tolkien's name has been immortalised on account of his fantasy novels, *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy and *The Hobbit*. The latter is reputed to be the best-selling novel of all time (around 140 million copies sold). Less well known is the fact that Tolkien was a devout Catholic, and one who held firmly to his faith even amidst the storms of the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, when so many fell away from the Church. I chanced upon the following extract from a private letter that Tolkien wrote to his son, Michael, who was himself experiencing a crisis of faith on account of the upheaval of the Second Vatican Council. The advice offered is the wisdom of a sage, one who has lived through trials and tribulations and seen the light eventually prevail over the powers of darkness. This is of course a theme prominent in his own fiction work. Tolkien's words seem fitting for our own troubled times, as we can find ourselves flattened by the seemingly endless scandals and internal divisions within the Church. His musings lead back to the primacy of the Eucharist to sustain us in faith.

(From a letter to Michael Tolkien, dated 1 November 1963)

[...]You speak of 'sagging faith', however. That is quite another matter:

In the last resort faith is an act of will, inspired by love. Our love may be chilled and our will eroded by the spectacle of the shortcomings, folly, and even sins of the Church and its ministers, but I do not think that one who has once had faith goes back over the line for these reasons (least of all anyone with any historical knowledge).

'Scandal' at most is an occasion of temptation – as indecency is to lust, which it does not make but arouses. It is convenient because it tends to turn our eyes away from ourselves and our own faults to find a scape-goat. But the act of will of faith is not a single moment of final decision: it is a permanent indefinitely repeated act, a state which must go on – so we pray for 'final perseverance'. The temptation to 'unbelief (which really means rejection of Our Lord and His claims) is always there within us. Many of us longs to find an excuse for it outside us. The stronger the inner temptation the more readily and severely shall we be 'scandalized' by others. I think I am as sensitive as you (or any other Christian) to the 'scandals', both of clergy and laity. I have suffered grievously in my life from stupid, tired, dimmed, and even bad priests; but I now know enough about myself to be aware that I should not leave the Church (which for me would mean leaving the allegiance of Our Lord) for any such reasons: I should leave because I did not believe, and should not believe any more, even if I had never met anyone in orders who was not

both wise and saintly. I should deny the Blessed Sacrament, that is: call Our Lord a fraud to His face.

If He is a fraud and the Gospels fraudulent – that is, garbled accounts of a demented megalomaniac (which is the only alternative), then of course the spectacle exhibited by the Church (in the sense of clergy) in history and today is simply evidence of a gigantic fraud. If not, however, then this spectacle is alas! only what was to be expected: it began before the first Easter, and it does not affect faith at all – except that we may and should be deeply grieved. But we should grieve on our Lord's behalf and for Him, associating ourselves with the scandalizers not with the saints, not crying out that we cannot 'take' Judas Iscariot, or even the absurd & cowardly Simon Peter, or the silly women like James' mother, trying to push her sons [to honoured places].

It takes a fantastic will to unbelief to suppose that Jesus never really 'happened', and more to suppose that he did not say the things recorded of him – so incapable of being 'invented' by anyone in the world at that time, such as: '*before Abraham came to be I am*' (John viii). '*He that hath seen me hath seen the Father*' (John ix); or the promulgation of the Blessed Sacrament in John vi: '*He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life*'. We must therefore either believe in Him and in what he said and take the consequences; or reject him and take the consequences.

I find it for myself difficult to believe that anyone who has ever been to Communion, even once, with at least right intention, can ever again reject Him without grave blame. (However, He alone knows each unique soul and its circumstances.) The only cure for sagging of fainting faith is Communion. Though always Itself, perfect and complete and inviolate, the Blessed Sacrament does not operate completely and once for all in any of us. Like the act of Faith it must be continuous and grow by exercise. Frequency is of the highest effect...

J.R.R. Tolkien, red. Humphrey Carpenter, Christopher Tolkien, *The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien* (London, 1981).

Today's Gospel marks the dramatic conclusion of chapter 6, the 'Bread of Life' discourse. The drama builds with the evident ill-ease of the crowd with Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist. Jesus' insistence that unless we eat his flesh and drink his blood we cannot have life within us disturbs these once enthusiastic disciples. The crowd does nothing to hide its repulsion: "This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?" Nor does John's Gospel disguise the embarrassing moment when the crowds walk away from Jesus: "After this many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him." The Eucharist becomes the stumbling block on which their faith falters. At this point Jesus turns to the apostles and asks if they too intend to abandon him. Peter speaks for the whole Church in making an act of faith: "Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life." When our faith is tested by scandals, trials and the sheer difficulty of living as a Christian we might feel tempted to want to walk away. Yet this would be to merely walk away from the One who is the answer to all our problems. If we find ourselves flat and dejected, we should run to him, who alone can satisfy us, the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ.

*Yours in Christ,*  
*Fr Francis Denton*

### Debbie's Thoughts

Last week I wrote about just some of the little things that are making our parishioners happy at the moment. Some bright happy thoughts seemed to me worth highlighting and celebrating, a small distraction from our world locked up, or down, as the case may be, and a mighty reminder that God knows, sees, hears and cares, and that the world is still a wonderful place to live, despite our planet's ups and downs. And so it was. During this week, I have had a really uplifting response to our combined positives! Thank you! I felt so happy when I received a photo of a beautiful plant Louise spotted on a walk, and really enjoyed sharing a photo of one of my own glorious bushes in return. Spring is indeed springing, much to the delight of those who have even one tiny pot plant to their name! Another of our friends told me of how much they love getting out early, to enjoy mist and icy air, and some peace from all that working from home and remote learning which is filling up every room of their house. I have heard from a few who are electing to exercise in their own backyards, hearing from a couple who enjoy walking round and round their backyard swimming pool together, and another friend who marches up and down her drive way a million times each day, no mask required at home! I received some wonderful news about the health of a couple of people from our Parish Prayer list, whose test results have come back as positive as you can get, an oasis in the long months of their struggles with major health issues. Your prayers have made a real difference! In hearing of the joys that our friends are finding in the little, ordinary things that daily living brings, I feel uplifted myself, and energised to push through my own little challenges. Hopefully these brief anecdotes have done the same for you.

So carrying on the good news, I have a new hobby to share! In a moment of 'inspired leisure', last week I 'googled' *volcano live Iceland*. Wow!! Doing an internet search using these key words, I found live video footage of a very active volcano literally oozing rivers of bright orange, red and yellow fire, right now, at the extreme north of our planet, on the island of Iceland. There are cameras trained on the volcano from various angles, transmitting to the internet 24/7. You can hear the explosions and the constant rumbles. Having been watching on and off for the best part of a week now, I realise that sometimes the mountain can't be seen at all due to thick fog or rain. I know when it is raining in southern Iceland! At other times, the view is simply spectacular, night and day. I watched a new crater form, lava spurting through a small hole to build up a new mini-volcano next to the main crater. And then, periodically, everything just shuts down. The show simply stops to our eyes. The fire goes out, and all that is left to see is a river of black steaming rocks. Obviously, beneath the ground heaps is still happening, lava and magma are boiling around, searching for a place to push through to the surface. We just can't see that bit, but we know it is there. Volcano enthusiasts type comments over the video footage, even predicting when the show will pick up again. So interesting! Maybe you could follow my lead? If volcanos aren't your interest, perhaps you could look up hummingbirds, or how to mix concrete, or cool Christmas tree ideas. The internet is a wonderful view into the big wide world we can't always see.

The internet is also a wonderful tool for prayer, an integral part of that same world we can't see. You can participate in Masses from all over Melbourne, Australia and the world, every single day. You can listen to inspired speakers, you can read classic spiritual literature, like *Story of a Soul*, the autobiography of St Therese of Lisieux for instance. You can allow God to lead you to all sorts of unexpected places. And for those who do not have a computer, even the mention of these possibilities reminds you that you have your own version of the internet within your own mind and heart. Our imaginations can take us anywhere and everywhere, searching for what we can't see with our actual eyes. We may not see, but we find God. I think they call it faith? Our prayer unites us to all of God's creation through our union with him, who loves all nature, all creation, all people, individually and perfectly. And we don't even need to leave our own lounge rooms!

### **HICCI AGM change of details**

The HICCI (Healesville Interchurch Community Care Inc) Annual General Meeting will take place on September the 19th, from 3.00pm, online using Zoom. Unfortunately, we will not be able to meet in person, again, this year. Details of how to join in on the meeting will follow in the next couple of weeks.

Secondly, If you would like to nominate as the Saint Brigid's representative on the HICCI Committee of Management, please contact Rod on 0409 523 031.

### **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 (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.