



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

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12th SEPTEMBER 2021

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I gave my body to those who struck me.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.
My vindicator is here at hand.
Does anyone start proceedings against me?
Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help,
who dare condemn me?

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 114:1-6, 8-9

***R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.***

I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him.

***R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.***

They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord my God, deliver me!

***R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.***

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me!
***R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.***

He has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.
***R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.***

Second Reading: James 2:14-18

A reading from the letter of St James

Faith without good works is dead.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds - now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Galatians 6:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

There will be no recoding of Mass while Fr Francis is on leave.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and
unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me
to be separated from You.
Amen.**



The Parish office is closed during lockdown. Staff are working from home during this time and available

by phone Debbie's phone number is 0448 664 731 and Sharon's is 0448 658 418.
Parish email: healesville@cam.org.au



Zoom Afternoon Cuppa catch up

Join us for a zoom afternoon cuppa this Sunday 12th September at **1.00Pm.**

This will be a weekly zoom gathering while we are in lockdown

St Patrick's Parish Lilydale is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87664951148?pwd=R2pIOHdpWmlqdWpYWlJ3a1BNb0VlQT09>

Debbie's Thoughts

September 14 is the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross, such an upside down title at first glance, followed the next day by the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. As Jesus' close friends, it seems incongruous that we could or would exult in Jesus' crucifixion, and honour the instrument of his indescribably painful torture, leading to his death. We actually do this every time we make the Sign of the Cross, so much a part of our identity as Catholics. I vividly remember bringing a 20-something Japanese friend into our church years ago, and watching his jaw literally drop, as he stared with obvious horror at the giant cross that hangs above our sanctuary. Familiar with Shinto faith traditions, which are rooted in human connections with the Japanese land and its seasons, his brain just could not take in how we could have such a macbre image in our obviously peaceful place of worship. As his first introduction to formal Christianity, he obviously struggled with the image of Jesus in his degrading emptiness. Our prayer of Ephphetha from last week seems so appropriate, yet again, 'Open our eyes Lord'.

The key to the cross is evident in the words we pray following the Consecration of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus during the Eucharistic Prayer, The Mystery of Faith: "for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free...". Thousands of 'criminals' died on the cross as Jesus did, it was a common form of execution in his society. Only one rose from the dead, Jesus, the Christ. The cross is nothing, futile, useless without the Resurrection. There is no way out but through, the cross was and is the way to the Resurrection for Jesus and for all of us, the way to eternity with the risen Lord. Heaven forever. We do exult in the cross, for it is the way through for all of us.

I remember a conversation from a few years ago with a Grade 3/4 class, which led to a student expressing something that was worrying her. She was concerned to know that if Jesus lived and died, and then rose from the dead, were it possible that Jesus is a zombie? This was a genuine question, she was not joking. When I was growing up, many topics that our young children discuss freely today were not even concepts that I was familiar with until I was very much older. Cartoons were a little violent, and absurd, the Road Runner and Wile E Coyote battling it out with dynamite and giant springs, but there was never a hint of blood, just smoking fur and a stunned look. It is a far different world today. Zombies are fictitious characters in the horror genre, and this example illustrates how vulnerable our youngsters are, with more exposure than ever to what is not real. It is no wonder that their young minds struggle to separate fantasy from

spirituality when the two concepts collide. Four year olds believe in fairies and superheroes, but children do eventually work out what is fantasy and what is reality, with adult guidance. God is reality, not fantasy, and our belief in him should bring no fear. Our friendship with Jesus should sustain and comfort us as we journey through life, his cross assures us that he has endured everything that we endure in life, and that he understands us and our struggles with generosity and compassion. Growing up with Jesus and knowing him as our 'invisible friend' who is an integral part of our natural world equips us with a sense of security that takes us through life, and on, past death itself.

No matter how old we are, we never outgrow our need to know that God is with us, and that he uses our world and those we meet to communicate his love for us. We need to help our little ones to sort out fantasy from reality, but, more importantly, we need to allow ourselves to see the truth beyond our senses, opening our eyes to the limitless love that God has for each of us, no matter what we choose to do with our lives. He may not like what we choose to do, but he loves us. We make the Sign of the Cross with that certainty in our hearts. Jesus himself raised several people from the dead, and they were truly alive, but they died again, never to return to their earthly journeys. Life with God for eternity is our destination, the point of our journey, home. Jesus rose from the dead, and is truly risen, defeating even death itself, King of heaven and earth, ruler of life and of death. He obliterated death, it now has no power over him, and never can again. As the result of his triumph, death is not the end for any of us, as it is for the fictitious zombie, or vampire etc, who appears in stories around Halloween, wreaks havoc, but then does die when killed in the 'right way'. Thanks to Jesus, the reality of death is our gateway to new life with God forever, eternal joy and peace, where we are meant to be. We exult in the cross, we exult Jesus' closeness to us, no matter what we are experiencing, and we look forward with anticipation to the glory of the resurrection, our hope and our gift, made possible through the crosses we bear, in union with the cross of Jesus Christ.

HICCI News

A reminder to everyone in our church community: HICCI is here to help, please call 5911 6000, to talk to our wonderful staff about your needs.

Also, our HICCI AGM is next Sunday 19/09/2021, starting at 3pm. Please go to this link to register for the AGM: bit.ly/HICCIAGM2021

You will receive the meeting details, including how to join the meeting, back by return email.

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE

Yarra Glen Mass will be rescheduled to Sunday 26th September.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

- **Parish Secretary, Catholic Parish of Castlemaine**
- **Cook, Bayside Catholic Mission, Brighton**
- **Parish Seniors Advocate, St Xavier's Parish, Boxhill**
- **Finance Officer, Catholic Development Fund (CDF) - Part Time**

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

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 SEPTEMBER

Patricia Carey (02.09.13), Michael Scowen (03.09.05), Bernard Jansen (05.09.04), Frieddy Laszowski (10.09.82), Moyra Donchi (10.09.15), Bruce Jarvis (14.09.11), Dorothy Amarant (19.09.08), Michael O'Dwyer (20.09.97), Les Humphries (20.09.13), Greta Dame (28.09.96), Betty Ireland (28.09.97), Henriette Sallay (29.09.13), Justin Perry, Sr Mary Fran Coburn (2008), Peter Barnett, Laurie Fromholtz, John Duffy, Clare Lyons, Ashley Warton

