



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

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26th SEPTEMBER 2021

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

First Reading: Numbers 11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

So in them your servant finds instruction;
great reward is in their keeping.

But who can detect all his errors?

From hidden faults acquit me.

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

From presumption restrain your servant
and let it not rule me.

Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin.

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Second Reading: James 5:1-6

A reading from the letter of St James

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them - listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: cf John 17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth:

make us holy in the truth.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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



Thanksgiving

Parishioners are asking about getting their thanksgiving envelopes to us. Deb & I will be outside the office 11am to 11.30am on Thursday 30th September if you would like to drop the off.

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>

Debbie's Thoughts

A movie I watched with great interest one quiet evening recently really made me think. It is called 'The Two Popes', and the disclaimer that opens the movie's action clearly points out that it is based on a true story, which opens up lots of room for the movie-makers' interpretation of what actually happened on the ground. It is the story of Pope Benedict and Pope Francis and their supposed encounters with each other at the time of Pope Benedict's choice to step down from the Papacy, leading to Pope Francis' election as our current Pope. Really interesting. Given that the film depicts their private conversations, including a segment where they hear each other's Confessions, it is clear that the movie is a third-person guess at what may have been said as they explored each other's opinions and respective thoughts on the spiritual leadership of millions and millions of people around the world, history in the making. Early in the movie, Pope Benedict makes it clear that he totally disagrees with Pope Francis' opinions on almost everything they speak about, rather a stunning thought for me. Two men, so different, both elected Popes of the Catholic Church, both working to spread the Gospel of Christ in the best way that each can. They need not fully agree with each other's opinions, for we are all different, by design.

Jesus chose his apostles carefully, the twelve who would carry his Church on their shoulders, precariously forging its die cast place in the history of mankind. He chose a rag tag bunch of ordinary tradies from his own back yard. They lived with him, ate and walked with him, talked and prayed with him, laughed and cried with him over 3 years of constant personal encounter with Jesus, the Christ.

Judas chose to betray Jesus' trust, but the other apostles were sent out to continue his ministry, taking the Church to the four corners of the world, launching it into history, to the end of time itself. The 'story' of the Church continues to unfold today, ever-protected by the Holy Spirit as Jesus promised. Jesus' apostles were all individuals, with different strengths and weaknesses, different levels of understanding, different potentials. Each had an individual job to do, each had the support, encouragement and strength of their Heavenly Father, of their friend Jesus, and of the Holy Spirit, as they completed their allotted missions in God's service. All but John were put to death for their troubles. St John lived out his Seniors Card days in exile, writing. I think, as a bunch, they could have collectively coined the phrase 'life wasn't meant to be easy, and then you die'. Sounds depressing? Not at all! Look at their achievements! Look at the Catholic Church, still alive and well today. And look at their reward: 'and then you die'. Would Jesus leave even one of them alone for even a second? Absolutely not.

The leadership of our Church has passed from one tradie to another throughout history since the death of St Peter, who was crucified upside down, his choice, as he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus did. Each Pope has carried the weight of the responsibility of caring for the Catholic Faith in a different way to his predecessors, and his successors. The analogy of the Church as a giant ship moving forward in time helps me to cope with the ups and downs of our Church's history. Each captain renovates as he goes. Some captains and crew could be labelled 'out and out crooks', others great saints. No matter the calibre of the crew, the Church has continued to sail through history under the protection of the Holy Spirit, moving forward safely, through smooth seas and through gales. Our part in the process is to pray, pray, pray, for the Holy Father, and for all those who make decisions for our Church. They bare great responsibility and our prayers for them are our great responsibility.

A passage from Deuteronomy 12:3 recently caught my eye: 'Those who are wise will shine brightly like the splendour of the firmament and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.' The First Reading from the Mass that day from 1 Timothy 2:1-8 took me further, "...there should be prayers offered for everyone... and especially for kings and others in authority...". Listening to conversations from all sides

over the weeks of lockdown, I have heard plenty of voices criticising politicians from near and far, and I have heard directly opposing opinions applauding decisions made by those same politicians. It always stuns me that any crowd of individuals will contain a wide variety of views on politics, and religion, and everyone sees things from their own perspective. My thoughts roll from there... don't just grizzle and criticise! Pray! We elect politicians to speak for us, for better or worse. We cast our vote, and our part does not simply stop there. We need to pray for those in authority, really, really faithfully and with great dedication. This is our responsibility, and our privilege.

We pray for all who make decisions for others, Pope and politicians, presidents and parents. Our Lady, Help of Christians, Patron Saint of Australia, pray for us, and with us.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Recently Deceased: Bill Howie

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, 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 Laszozewski (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

Columban Calendars 2022

This year we will trial pre-orders for the Columban Calendars as we were left with quite a few unsold last year. If you wish to order a calendar for next year, please let Debbie know: 0448 664 731. Cost: \$10, estimated delivery November.



ST BRIGID'S
ST ALOYSIUS
OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

Child safe
PARISH

As sent in by the care Group

This is a short Testimonial of Jackie De Koning, our dear friend, co-worker, one who inspired us and was a blessing to St Brigid's Parish and the wider community.

Jackie was born in Holland, the eldest in a large family. Her mum died young, leaving behind seven little ones who were raised by their dad and an auntie.

Jackie came to Australia as an eighteen year old, met and married Jack. They had three beautiful daughters and subsequently eight grandchildren.

As a little girl, Jackie had watched her mum give food parcels and help to neighbours in need, even though they too, had little. Having learnt caring from her mother she too went on to do the same starting when her girls were little. She would make up parcels and cook meals for others.

'We must share what we have with others,' she would say.

This passion led to Jackie's lifelong ministry of care, friendship and support through an involvement in groups and activities within the parish and the wider community.

For forty years Jackie was involved in caring and sharing. Her community work started with getting together with neighbours for a chat, a catch up and thus becoming friends. Soon they were preparing meals together for those in need.

In the 90's Jackie came to love fifty older men and women in Marna House. They were 'orphans', with no family members or friends to care for them, help them, love them. They were adopted into our St Brigid's family. There followed a beautiful enriching time with these friends who had so little. It started with regular visits, then bringing them to Sunday mass, gatherings for Christmas, Easter, birthdays, outings and singalongs. Sewing and repairing their clothes was also on the agenda together with op shopping for clothing they were in need of. Who could forget the wonderful fashion parade, including makeup and lively singalongs. It was right up Jackie's alley, being family.

Over seven years ago 'Wild Grains' offered bread and goodies for families. Jackie and Angelique did not hesitate to volunteer to pick up the offerings and to deliver them to families who were grateful for this help. The initial one day a week has increased to three days of pick ups. The De Koning family are on the roster keeping their days faithfully.

Cook ups continued, initially with her daughters, in their homes, preparing some forty meals and continuing now with soups and bread.

Jackie and Jack also went to people's homes helping them with things they could not do themselves. Sr Pat was a regular visitor for meals, then she was entertained with a game of cards or perhaps a swim in the pool. Maureen's daughter in the hospital was also not forgotten. Help was also given to the Abbey and Rod's initiative, the refugees.

Jackie could also be called 'Mother Christmas'. Throughout the year Jackie and family would go shopping, collecting gifts, clothing and food for care parcels, chocolates for Christmas and Easter, all to be shared within the community and for refugees. However Christmas was the centre of all 'in memory of Jesus, given to us by our Heavenly Father because He loved us so very much.'

In January the shoppers would go off to find Christmas bargains at the sales. Some of the items were angels suitable gifts for our friends in Age Care, decorations, cribs, wrapping paper, clothing and many other useful gifts. Every year the family also donated four or five hampers, full of special food and beautiful gifts. Jackie loved the shopping trips with her family. 'All those bargains' Jackie would exclaim. Lately she would jump out of her wheelchair and eagerly sift through to find the treasures. 'Ahhhh!!! I'm still needed!'

Jackie and Jack were also on the St Brigid's communion round taking Jesus to our friends in the Aged Care facilities of Aurrum and Holmwood. They led the paraliturgy praying with all those present. The recipients were always very grateful for this great privilege.

Jackie has been our angel. She has been there to care all those years, never in the limelight but 'quietly' hidden in the shadows. Not only Jackie but also Jack, Angelique, Kim, Vanessa and their families as well as, those in Holland were all involved. It was a real family affair. Now it is time for Jackie's light to shine brightly for all to see. She will live on in our lives, parish and community. To honour her memory we will chat and think about her legacy.

Following the writings of Maria Valtorta was Jackie's path to come to know, to grow and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. There was peace and serenity in her illness. It was a shared journey with all the family; a way of the cross together; Jackie an inspiration, ready to leave all behind, to go to our eternal home without any fear or hesitation. She was very close to Jesus and she was supported by the love of her beautiful family during the time of her grave illness. Jackie was an inspiration to all. She never felt alone. Jackie knew that this was not the end but the fulfilment of her humanity.