



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

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10th OCTOBER 2021

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

First Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11

A reading from the book of Wisdom

I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 89:12-17

**R. Fill us with your love, O Lord,
and we will sing for joy!**

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

**R. Fill us with your love, O Lord,
and we will sing for joy!**

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy to balance our affliction
for the years when we knew misfortune.

**R. Fill us with your love, O Lord,
and we will sing for joy!**

Show forth your works to your servants;
let your glory shine on their children.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

**R. Fill us with your love, O Lord,
and we will sing for joy!**

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 10:17-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to

pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



The Three Seers of Fatima: St Jacinta (left), St Francisco (right) and Servant of God, Lucia (centre).

"There is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families ... that cannot be solved by the Rosary."

(Servant of God, Lucia dos Santos of Fatima)

This month of October is traditionally dedicated in a special way to the rosary. On Thursday of this past week (7th October) we celebrated the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is linked to one of the most important military victories in the history of Christendom: the great naval victory of the Battle of Lepanto. Next Wednesday, the 13th October will commemorate the anniversary of the miracle of Sun at Fatima – a miracle witnessed by some 70,000 on-lookers. Both of these events in Church history are closely linked to the Rosary. When Our Lady appeared to the three seers, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, at Fatima her message was very simple. She called the faithful to prayer and penance, and specifically asked that we pray the rosary daily. Our Lady presented the rosary as the spiritual weapon by which the powers of evil in world would be conquered.

The truth is that the rosary is a prayer that many Catholics struggle with. Tragically, many have never been taught how to pray it. Whenever there is a rosary said before a funeral I can't help but notice that virtually everyone under the age 60 is silent. In many cases it is not their fault: they were never taught. Yet, even among those who know how to pray the rosary, it can become a bit of a trial to pray. Some will roll their eyes and say, 'It's a waste of time: I just don't get anything out of it'.

With an adjustment to our attitude we can rediscover anew the beauty and power of this great prayer. Perhaps the first thing that has to change is our attitude to prayer generally. The cult of mindfulness (or 'therapeutic Deism') has in many ways warped our understanding of prayer. Sometimes we think that the point of prayer is to relax or to feel better about ourselves. The attitude of "I don't get anything out of it" suggests that we're probably putting the cart before the horse. The primary motive of prayer can never be about ourselves. Authentic prayer

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 Collection during lockdown 5th August to 7th October

St Brigid's Healesville

Thanksgiving:

Cash \$365.00

EFT: \$1005.00

Presbytery: \$255.00

Priest Retirement Fund \$60.00

St Aloysius, Yarra Glen

Thanksgiving:

Cash & Cheque \$230.00

Presbytery: \$80.00

Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville

Thanksgiving: \$0.00

The most asked question this week has been how the church will handle the vaccinated V non vaccinated requirements when mass returns. The archdiocese is currently working on a document they hope to have out next week.

flows from our love for God, and the knowledge that we have a real, living, personal relationship with God. The desire to pray is prompted by our longing to speak to God and his beloved saints, to spend time with them. Love of God, not love of self, is the correct motive behind our spiritual aspirations.

So why pray the rosary? Here are seven solid reasons to persevere with the rosary, or indeed to take it up again:

1. The rosary is easy.

Anyone can pray the rosary. Even small children can memorise the prayers. Because the rosary has a clear structure and is repetitive even beginners can pick it up very quickly. Despite its simplicity the rosary has nonetheless nourished the prayer lives of the most advanced saints and mystics. Pope St John Paul II called the rosary his favourite prayer.

2. The rosary is flexible.

The rosary can be prayed by anyone, anywhere, at any time: kneeling in a church, sitting by a window, whilst going for a walk, or lying on a sick bed. I've personally prayed many rosaries on a plane about 35,000 feet in the air! The rosary can be prayed aloud or silently, alone or in groups, and in any language. Everyone can find a way to pray the rosary that works for him/her according to their circumstances. It can even be prayed during lockdowns!

3. The rosary is scriptural

The rosary is composed of prayers rooted in scripture and tradition. The aptly named 'Apostles' Creed' goes back to the apostolic period. The 'Our Father' comes straight out of the sermon on the Mount (Mt 6:9-13). The 'Hail Mary' is drawn from the infancy narrative of Luke's Gospel (Lk 1:28; 1:42). The 'Glory Be' is an ancient doxology (prayer of glorifying God) formulated in the first centuries after the pattern found in many of St Paul's letters. Moreover, the mysteries of the rosary give us an opportunity to meditate on the life of Christ as recorded in the scriptures. A prayer life centred on the rosary is a spiritual house built on solid rock.

4. The Rosary is meditative.

Lots of people struggle to find space to clear their heads. We're bombarded with information, anxieties, checklists of chores, entertainment, messages, social media, etc. Amid the noise of the world the rosary offers us a temporary refuge. For 15 minutes we can enter into calming rhythm of prayer and be still before God. This is surely a healthy antidote to the tyranny of activism in our times? (Just be sure to put you phone on silent when you pray your rosary!).

5. In the rosary Mary directs us to Jesus

"To Jesus, through Mary" was the motto of St Louis Marie de Montfort. Like many saints he discovered that while there are many paths that lead us to Jesus, Mary is the shortest and most direct path. The rosary does not

direct our attention away from Jesus; on the contrary Mary leads us to her Son. The mysteries of the Rosary are inherently 'Christological' – they prompt us to meditate on the central mysteries of Jesus' life.

6. There are many graces that flow from the rosary In her various apparitions to the saints Our Lady has promised many special graces that will be merited by those who are devoted to the rosary. Our Lady offered to St Dominic 15 promises to those who prayed the rosary. (See here: <http://themostholyrosary.com/15promises.htm>). In addition to Our Lady's promises, the Church continues to offer a plenary indulgence (under the usual conditions) when the Rosary is prayed in Church, in a family group or in a religious community.

7. Our Lady asked us to pray the Rosary.

Perhaps this seems simplistic but as mentioned above Our Lady of Fatima explicitly requested that the faithful pray the rosary, every day. The power of the rosary goes beyond the mere sum of its parts. The rosary taken as a whole is an act of faith in Our Lady's powerful intercession. Our obedience to Mary as our spiritual Mother (in fulfilment of the fourth commandment (cf. Exod 20:12)), is itself pleasing to God and therefore meritorious.

Given that we currently have no ready access to the sacraments and the Mass it's perhaps more important than ever that we have a routine of prayer to sustain us in this difficult time. We might take the opportunity to renew our commitment to this beautiful prayer confident that through Our Lady's intercession we can overcome all the trials we face.

Our Lady of the Rosary: pray for us!

Yours in Christ,
Fr Francis Denton

Debbie's Thoughts

What funny times we live in! We can, and do, say it again and again at the moment, and justifiably so. Nothing seems normal. Even our familiar traditions can be twisted and tipped to suit when we need them to be. It suddenly occurred to me this morning that the celebration of that recently popular celebration 'Christmas in July' was almost non-existent this year, justifiable when we could not get together. It is one of those celebrations that has been rising in popularity in recent times, probably a clever marketing tool for the catering and retail industries in more prosperous trading years, yes, but, very effectively, a really good excuse for friends to gather and share a meal and some companionship. I know some who very clearly hate the concept of Christmas being taken out of order from our Liturgical Calendar, their teeth set on edge by the 'secularisation' of one of our most precious Feasts. I understand. For me, if even one person thinks about Jesus in the middle of the year, it's all worth it! I happen to remember wandering through the deserted food court

at Chirnside Park Shopping Centre on a miserable, cold afternoon last July. I noticed that Bakers Delight had some of their delicious Christmas jam tarts sitting on the counter. No advertising, no fanfare, so I asked. I was told that management had chosen to bake them in July simply to lift the spirits of those experiencing lockdown fatigue. It certainly worked for my family! Thank you Bakers Delight.

We all know what an amazing job our Care Group does in our local area, caring pastorally and physically for so many. Thank you, and may God bless each and every one of you! Amongst their many unsung achievements, most weeks over many years, Care Group members have attended Aurrum and Holmwood Aged Care to be with residents as our parishioners, or Father, have led them in a time of prayer and reflection. Residents gather together in a common room, some in wheel chairs, some walk in themselves. They may be in their 80s, 90s, even 100s, some can hear well, some can't, hearing aids can help, or hinder. Some can see well, others struggle. Some understand English, others catch a word or two. Some love to chatter, others sit quietly, their private thoughts locked away in their hearts. I have led a similar monthly prayer time in Lilydale Aged Care. We listen to familiar hymns together, think about a Gospel account and I encourage those gathered to quietly bring to the Lord those for whom they wish to pray, loved ones from their past, from their present, and yes, even their future great, great, great grandchildren. Some years ago, whilst preparing for such a gathering, I realised that the Gospel of the day was not going to suit the needs of tired retirees. I purposely chose favourite, familiar Gospels from then on, and we have celebrated Christmas 2 to 3 times a year since then! For me personally, our shared prayer has been one of those times when I have most tangibly felt God's presence. The Gospel account of Jesus, Mary and Joseph sharing a stable with animals and angels, drummer boys and shepherds, kings and stars is simply beautiful. Silent Night played at any time of the year brings peace beyond words. I have seen the distinct, obvious effect that this familiar melody has instantly brought to the room and beyond, reflected visibly on the gathered residents' faces. I play the music loud enough for bedridden residents in rooms nearby to hear too. Nursing staff move around the area quietly as they care for those who have chosen not to join us. Religious, non-religious, everyone can hear. No one has ever objected.

Pastoral visitation has been a challenging, confronting, rewarding, intriguing experience for me, one that has taught me much about being flexible and generously reactive to the real needs of real people. One of the tricks of being effectively pastoral is to offer what others actually need or want, not what I think they should have! There is a great difference, and working this out is a process that needs to be learned, tried and tested, it is something that does not necessarily come naturally to all of us. I am sure that the Care Group will agree with me when I say that sometimes I simply don't know what to say or do. At these times, I listen. I still make big mistakes from time to time. We can all follow this lead when it comes to our ministry to others. Each and every one of us is a Pastoral Worker in God's service, for we do not need to be employed to offer to others in their need. Even if we can't leave our own rooms, we are the living presence of Jesus to all we meet, to those we ring, to those we pray for, loved ones and strangers alike. We are their encouragement, their inspiration to keep going, we are

their strength, even when we feel we have little left in the tank ourselves. What a privilege.

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 OCTOBER

Michael O'Meara (04.10.80), Vincent Jones (05.10.04), Barbara Smythe (05.10.07), William Howie (07.10.94), Andre Smith (08.10.08), Florence Walker (09.10.07), Sarah Field (12.10.58), Ella Morley (14.10.08), Ronald Stevens (17.10.00), Robbie Ireland Jnr (20.10.90), Angelina Pretto (Mioni) (21.10.00), Shirley O'Meara (22.10.10), Christopher Perry (23.10.01), Jacinta Chandler (24.10.01), Sam Galletti (27.10.13), Betty Ireland (29.10.97), Enid Jarrett (28.10.93), Frank O'Halloran (31.10.12), Filippo Mingerulli, Francesca Bellucci, Anne Ashdown

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.

Lockdown Light—week six

A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown

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Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations below.

Podcasts for Christian living: The irreplaceable role of parents

The role of parents cannot be underestimated. And

while parents have a natural role—to protect and provide—we can sometimes forget the irreplaceable role parents have in the spiritual and emotional lives of their children. Find out more here www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving6a

Getting to know your Bible: Understanding Mary in the Bible

Getting Started: Why do Catholics call Mary their mother? Isn't that taking away some of the respect due to Jesus and giving it to Mary? On the contrary, in this video, Fr Mike Schmitz discusses how a relationship with Mary can strengthen our faith life. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted6

Going Deeper: How are Mary and the Ark of the Covenant from Exodus connected? What relevance does that have today? In this video, Dr Brant Pitre explores Mary's role as the new Ark of the Covenant—the dwelling place of the Lord on earth. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper6