



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

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17th OCTOBER 2021

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

First Reading: Isaiah 53:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering.

If he offers his life in atonement,
he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life
and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

His soul's anguish over
he shall see the light and be content.
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,
taking their faults on himself.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Mark 10:45

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Son of Man came to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for all.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the

pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Blessed Franz Jägerstätter (1907-1943)

On Conscience and Freedom

Disney's 1940 classic Pinocchio tells the story of a wooden marionette that is magically brought to life by a blue fairy. Although still a wooden puppet, Pinocchio can move, talk and think. As the Blue Fairy explains: "prove yourself brave, truthful and unselfish and one day you will be a real boy." In order to become a "real boy" Pinocchio must first discover what it means to be truly human. A marionette is a caricature of a real human. A marionette has no freedom: everything it does is controlled by the puppet-master pulling his strings, though in the hands of a truly skilled puppeteer the puppet can almost seem to be acting independently. When the Blue Fairy brings Pinocchio to life the first thing that happens is that the strings fall away. He is now free. Being free, however, comes with its own dangers: being a morally responsible agent means that Pinocchio must learn to do good, and avoid evil. Fortunately he is helped along by his guide Jiminy Cricket. Just as Pinocchio acts as a symbol of the quest for authentic human freedom, Jiminy Cricket functions as a symbol of conscience, as he sings to Pinocchio from the outset, "always let your conscience be your guide." Like Jiminy Cricket, consciences can be followed, but they can just as easily be ignored, to our peril.

Naturally, the Catholic understanding of conscience is a little more nuanced than the voice of a talking cricket. In our Post-Freudian world, many people falsely identify the voice of conscience with the sub-conscious 'super-ego'. In other words, it's assumed that our conscience has no basis other than the sum of our subjective thoughts and feelings. The Catechism offers a more elevated definition: "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human

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

The weekly mass can be found on St Patrick's website under latest parish news

<https://stpatrickslilydale.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

person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed. In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right. It is by the judgment of his conscience that man perceives and recognizes the prescriptions of the divine law" (CCC, 1778). The Second Vatican Council offers this profound description of conscience: "Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment. . . . For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God. . . . His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths." (Gaudium et spes, 16). As Vatican II makes clear, the moral imperative of a well-formed (or correct) conscience comes from God Himself. Following one's conscience is less a case of being 'true to oneself', and more a case of being faithful to God. As St John Henry Newman put it: "Conscience is a messenger of Him, who, both in nature and in grace, speaks to us behind a veil, and teaches and rules us by his representatives. Conscience is the aboriginal Vicar of Christ." (St John Henry Newman, "Letter to the Duke of Norfolk," V, in *Certain Difficulties felt by Anglicans in Catholic Teaching II* (London: Longmans Green, 1885), 248).

Conscience in the precise theological sense of the word can never condone what is objectively sinful, because God can never will us to do what is evil. Those who appeal to 'conscience' to justify their support for abortion, adultery, or other gravely immoral acts do so disingenuously. Hence one of the golden principles of Catholic moral theology is that the end can never justify the means. Conversely, one of the signs that we are acting in accord with a well-formed conscience is our willingness to suffer rather than act against the dictates of conscience. To do so would constitute a kind of spiritual death, an act of violence to our inner core. As the Catechism teaches: "Man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions. He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters." (CCC, 1782).

The Church lacks no shortage of sublime witnesses to the primacy of conscience. One close to my own heart is Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, whose story was told in the 2019 film "A Hidden Life". Franz was an ordinary Austrian farmer and devout Catholic father of three. His saintly hidden life would have been unremarkable were it not for events completely outside his control, beginning with the Rise of Nazi Germany which annexed Austria in 1938. All Austrians were required by law to swear an oath of allegiance to Hitler. Virtually everyone did because even those Austrians who despised Hitler knew the consequences of not swearing the oath. Franz being a

devout man with a rare moral fibre, knew that he could not in good conscience swear an oath in God's name to a man and a regime he knew to be evil. He tried the path of avoidance for as long as he could but eventually he found himself trapped by the authorities and forced to explain himself. Even the friends and acquaintances of Franz did their best to put forward compelling reasons to swear the oath: 'think of your family', 'just say the words and don't mean it', 'think of the good you can do if you just go along with it', 'what difference will you make by not swearing?' What happened to Franz was a truly Christ-like Way of the Cross. He was systematically abandoned by his friends, became hated and ostracised by the villagers, was called an enemy and traitor to his homeland. After various threats he was eventually arrested, interrogated, beaten, and put in solitary confinement. He was tortured relentlessly in a bid to break his spirit and make him sign the oath. But he would not. On 9 August 1943 Franz Jägerstätter was executed by guillotine in the Brandenburg-Görden prison, Berlin, at the age of 36 for the crime of "treason".

Shortly before his death Franz Jägerstätter wrote: "If I must write... with my hands in chains, I find that much better than if my will were in chains. Neither prison nor chains nor sentence of death can rob a man of the faith and his free will. God gives so much strength that it is possible to bear any suffering.... People worry about the obligations of conscience as they concern my wife and children. But I cannot believe that, just because one has a wife and children, a man is free to offend God."

When one contrasts the life of Blessed Franz with the lives of the countless Nazi's who were press ganged into the war, one must ask: who was truly free? Those Nazi soldiers who surrendered their minds, their bodies and their souls to a diabolical regime had in many ways surrendered their humanity. They acted like lifeless wooden marionettes whose puppet masters compelled them to commit atrocity upon atrocity. When at the Nuremburg Trials the Nazi war criminals were eventually put on trial, one after another they repeated the same tired excuse: "We were just following orders." Nazi Germany happened for one solitary reason: the overwhelming majority of people were more inclined to do what was temporarily expedient rather than what was right. The result was a monstrous sea of inhumanity.

By contrast, Blessed Franz Jägerstätter took the hard, thorny, lonely path of a godly conscience. He showed himself to be truly "brave, truthful and unselfish" (as the Blue Fairy had put it) by following the dictates of his conscience and thereby demonstrated the magnificence of his humanity. His life shines with the radiance of an Alter Christus. Although by human reckoning Blessed Franz lost everything, he retained to the bitter end the interior freedom of a spotless conscience in a world that tried to make such a thing impossible. With eerie parallels to our own times we can see everywhere the

rights to personal freedom and the individual conscience being completely steamrollered by a technocratic world of cancel-culture, compelled speech, and the rise of inexorable Government diktats issued in the name of "the greater good." Dare one ask: for the greater good of whom exactly? Assuredly not the millions of people about to lose livelihoods and careers, nor their families. When governments and institutions demand that the price of admission to society is the surrendering of the right to act in accord with the dictates of conscience, then make no mistake, we are headed for dark days.

Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, pray for us!

Yours in Christ,
Fr Francis Denton

Debbie's Thoughts

Have you discovered anything new to enjoy during the past months? Many I speak to have reconnected with the perhaps-forgotten art of the afternoon stroll, or word games with friends over zoom. My neighbour is running a lending library from next to her letterbox, books appear and disappear daily! I have to admit to watching a bit of the old You Tube of late, whiling away the minutes with the wonders of the universe and the lives of surprising people from all over the globe. I watch live streams of the Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights visible from Lapland, and volcanoes erupting in Iceland, La Palma and Hawaii. I can fly through clouds, contemplate the earth from space, or sink to the bottom of the ocean in a submersible with scientists who take me with them on their extraordinary adventures. It has taken a much slower pace to encourage me to find my wings through air, water, space and... With great thanks to God, I have been reminded of what an intricately balanced, magnificent place the earth is, nestled within a universe I can only suspect, and how blessed a generation we are to be able to take in limitless sights and sounds from our own lounge rooms through radio, television and the internet. I think of the big wide world 'out there', beyond my sight, and I feel encouraged to wonder, about all sorts of things. I often wonder what heaven will be like... the fullness of God, fullness that I cannot imagine yet. My small little heart wonders what I will find when my eyes finally open in death. Not scary, exciting! Home. God's earth is amazing, so when my potential is free to explode, where will he take me? In the mean time, when I stop to listen, I hear my children and my grandchildren who live with us chattering and clattering and I am reminded of the miracles that I can see, touch and hear every day.

There is a constant tension in our lives between reality we can touch, and reality that we can't. Through the internet, I can even participate in the miracle of the Mass from my own home, recorded somewhere 'out there' but available to me on my phone, 'right here'. I love to attend Mass outside in my garden, a rare privilege that would never have been necessary or even possible before our lives were changed last year. Heaven and earth collide amongst the living plants, no explosions, just peace I cannot help but feel as I sit in God's cathedral. Clouds of all textures and hues create a vaulted ceiling I can't touch, breezes and gales remind me of God's presence moving constantly and irresistibly through this world, unseen but

very real. I cherish Mass in the garden as perfection that touches me in a whole new way. There is an extraordinary beauty in hearing the familiar words of the Mass whilst taking in rain dripping from our wire balustrade, and noticing wet, grey fence palings contrasting with vibrant green plants climbing wherever they can get a foothold. Let's not get me started on Spiritual Communion! The world seems distant, and yet very close. For instance, I have carried with me in my contemplation the people of the Dandenongs who were belted by storms that are now just a memory, and the volunteers who jump in to help when needed, as I gaze at the free mulch the council produced from all those fallen trees. It now surrounds, protects and feeds the plants, worms, bugs, microbes and wildlife of our back yard. My list of things to notice while I pray goes on and on. No hymns in my online Mass today, only birds busily nesting, twigs in beaks, pausing occasionally to add their own songs to nature's choir, intertwining with other sounds in my neighbourhood to create early morning harmony. Truly beautiful, pure prayer.

Last week, aware of my busy household's clamour, I decided to search for a different peaceful spot to attend Mass. I took my phone to the cemetery, to sit near Dad's grave. It seemed right. I participated in Mass that day in the presence of the earthly remains of thousands of anonymous people who have now gone home to God, remembering the families who love them, and those they affected in living, positively and negatively. My prayers often mention 'those who most need your mercy', which may or may not apply. I don't need to know, because God does. He knows each name, each face. He created each person there as a conscious act of love, loved them in each moment they lived, and then called them to himself at the end of their days, by name. And then? I wonder again, such potential! God does indeed bring good from each disaster. At least for me, my Mass is physically no longer 'limited' to a pew, if it ever was. Such an unexpected gift.

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, 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.

