



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

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18th & 19th December 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

First Reading: Micah 5:1- 4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives
birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend
his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

**R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. R.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for
sin;

then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the
Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is:
the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the
sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them;
and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey
your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it
with the second. And this will was for us to be made
holy by the offering of his body made once and for
all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she
could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went
into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as

soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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 guidelines from the Archdiocese may be found at
<https://melbournecatholic.org/covid-19-guidelines>

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December

Carols: 4.30pm

Family Mass: 5.00 pm.

Mass will be in the in the church.

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December

Mass 8.30am

New Year's Day Saturday 1st January 2022

Mass 8.30am

Sunday 2nd January 2022

Mass 8.30am

**There will be a special collection for the
Care-Group this weekend**

Thanksgiving – 12th December 2021

St Brigid's Healesville,

Thanksgiving: \$1341.00

Presbytery: \$ 187.25

**St Aloysius, Yarra Glen – 21st November
2021**

Thanksgiving: \$537.20

Presbytery: \$ 599.45

**Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville 18th
November 2021** Thanksgiving: \$48.00

No more bookings for Masses!

It is no longer a requirement that we book for Masses and there is no longer a cap on numbers attending Mass. Please feel free to come along at any time. We do ask that you continue to QR as you enter the church, as per government directives. If your health is vulnerable, please feel free to continue to wear a mask.

Update regarding Christmas Masses

Christmas is a season of hope and it looks like our hope has not been in vain. With one week to go before Christmas, Victorians have been given an early Christmas present. From Thursday 16th December the mandatory vaccination requirement has been scrapped in all places of worship, for all church services, weddings and funerals, etc. There will be no requirement to check vaccination status or to limit the congregation size according to density quotas. Consequently, there will be no longer be any need to pre-book any of the Masses nor to segregate on the basis of vaccination status. Face masks are no longer required to be worn during these ceremonies (though you are free to do so if you wish).

In light of these developments from now on all Masses including all the Christmas Masses will be opened up for all who wish to attend. There will be no checking of vaccination status at any of the Masses. Everyone who wishes to attend Mass is welcome to come. Thanks be to God!

After the stress and anxiety of this past year this is a most welcome development. I want to thank all the

parishioners across Lilydale and Healesville parishes for their patience and forbearance with the constantly changing regulations and restricted access to Masses. I also take the opportunity to thank all those who have so generously assisted the parishes in the implementation of the various booking and check-in processes over the past two years, especially Sharon Jacob, Debbie Edwards, and Rod Hysted. Let's pray that the situation continues to ease up as we strive to rebuild our lives and our communities, with compassion and understanding.

There will be a special 'Christmas appeal' collection for the work of the Care Group this weekend. Please generously support the work of the Care Group – every cent goes to where it is needed, helping the needy know that they are loved and care for. I want to acknowledge and thank all the amazing volunteers with the Care group who do so much great work in our community. This year they have put together and distributed some 70 Christmas hampers for local families and individuals. An incredible achievement to crown another whole year of much needed and appreciated local outreach! Thank you!!!



Yours in Christ
Fr Francis Denton

FROM DEBBIE'S DESK

Each morning I am blessed to receive the world's most beautiful smile. My little granddaughter lights my world. She crawls to me as fast as her stiff little arms and chubby knees can manage, or she ditches whoever is holding her and stretches her arms out to come to me as soon as we see each other at the start of each day. She greets me as if we haven't seen each other in years. She loves me, and I love her so much that there are simply no words! So I can only wonder how much Mary and Joseph loved baby Jesus.

As I prepare for Christmas, the season of wonder, I wonder... about the things Mary treasured in her heart;

I wonder... about Joseph and Mary gazing at their newborn son, smitten, counting his fingers and toes, stroking his hair, kissing his soft little cheeks, melting into his deep, trusting eyes, breathing that soft baby smell, holding him close, knowing with every fibre of their being that their son is the Son of God; I wonder... how they felt when angels, shepherds and foreign dignitaries showed up to visit; I wonder: about their struggles with the realities of parenthood; I wonder... about their fear and desperation in being driven to run, to become refugees in order to escape the soldiers Herod sent to kill Jesus; I wonder... about the responsibility that they felt for him; I wonder... about how much Jesus loved his Mum and his earthly Dad. For Jesus is God, and God is love.

And I wonder... about how much God loves us. Each of us. Me. For God is love. Perfect love. That means that he loves each of us perfectly, infinitely. Can it be that he really does love *me* perfectly, just as much as he loves anyone else, everyone else, even his own mother? Wow! Well that really makes me wonder! So much to think about.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Recently Deceased: Wynn Wilson

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, 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, Annie, Bob Ireland, Val & Michael Christie, Ted & Peter Bowling, Natasha, Mia, James, Mitchell Wilson, Anne Bateman, Veronica Ireland, Lauren, Brooke, Anthony, Laura Baosde Pinto, Michelle, Judy, Annette Fromholtz, John Wray, Lynn Doensen, Elsa Gianforte, Fiona M

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN DECEMBER

Josephine Fassler (06.12.95), Lucy Mahedy (09.12.96), Mark Broomhead (11.12.13), Ilona Huebel (12.12.74), Doris Dennehy (12.12.95), Danny O'Meara (12.12.10), Nora Podesta (14.12.06), Paul Dunlop (14.12.06), Neil Lindorff (19.12.08), Noel Dudgeon (20.12.09), Pietro Bariola (27.12.88), Bishop Joe Grech (28.12.10), Dolly (Florence) Reeves, Dennis Eldred, Dawn Flannaghan, Paul Hansen, Hans Rietbergen, John Burger, Maria Kermac (6.12.18), Silvano Kermac, Tony Grieve (4.12.19)

Young People and Child Safeguarding Update

Congratulations and thank you to our Safeguarding Team who have been working steadily behind the scenes over the past few months, reviewing and updating our Child Protection protocols. Our website is currently being updated with our new Parish Safeguarding Policy, our reviewed Code of Conduct, and the Parish's Commitment Statement to keeping our vulnerable, our young people, and our children as safe as we can make them, plus other resources to keep all of us equipped for vigilance and prepared to take action if need be. Copies of these documents will be displayed shortly on a new news display board to be set up near the confessionals, to the right of the red side door of the church.

Thanks especially to Sharon Jacob, our secretary, who has spent countless hours ensuring that all of our volunteers review and update their Working With Children Checks and Police Checks, as required, helping many parishioners on an individual basis. Sharon is working hard to ensure our record keeping is up to date and complete, in accordance with Archdiocese and Government requirements. Another big commitment!

This is an important issue to our Parish family. Please remember that the team is available for a chat about any concerns you may have around keeping our kids safe. Please speak to any one of the team if you have observations, feedback or questions about safeguarding our vulnerable parishioners, big and small. The team can help with advice, or with reporting any concern at all, no matter how seemingly minor that concern may be. **Child safety is the responsibility of every one of us. If you see something, say something.**

Our Safeguarding Team: John Barrett, Cath O'Halloran, Rod Hysted, Fr Francis, Sharon Jacob and Debbie Edwards

To contact any of the team, please phone: **0448 658 418**



Farewell lunch for our much loved parishioners...

I would like to tell you all about the lovely day we had on Thursday. Because of covid we have been unable to join families to farewell loved ones who were long standing, and much loved members of our parish - Jackie DeKoning, Dorothy Fraser, Jenny Youngberry, Bill Howie, Albert Slovenski and Laurie Field.

It was a lovely mass with each parishioner given a blessed candle and each family participating in the mass in some way. Then it was over to the hall where tables were set up with a beautiful festive theme. Debbie blessed us all and the meal.

It was a lovely meal of roast turkey and all the trimmings followed by plum pudding, custard and cream. Followed up by a welcome cuppa.

I was in the kitchen most of the time. When I came into the hall it did the soul good to see everyone mixing and chatting. I felt proud to be part of such a caring community - it was our opportunity to acknowledge, recognise and say farewell to our friends.

These six beautiful people have been part of our community (some for more than 60 years) But all of them played an integral and active part of our parish. Thank you and bless you.

There were many who made this day possible - thank you all for your tireless work. Special thanks to our teenage waitresses Danni and Gabby.

Maree Campitelli