



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

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4th & 5th December 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch
Jerusalem - God will show you splendour.
Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation
under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through
devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has
remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide
shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125

**R. The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

R. The Lord has done great things for us;

we are filled with joy.

The heathens themselves said:
'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

**R. The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

**R. The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

**R. The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy,
remembering how you have helped to spread the Good
News from the day you first heard it right up to the
present. I am quite certain that the One who began this
good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day
of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you
all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that
your love for each other may increase more and more
and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening
your perception so that you can always recognise what is
best. This will help you to become pure and blameless,
and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will
reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces
in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:1- 6

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke
All people shall see the salvation of God.
In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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.**

Booking is still required for our weekend Masses.

Please note each mass is limited to 43 people with
VACCINATION STATUS UNKNOWN.

Sunday 5th December.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BVPBM>

Wednesday 8th December

Immaculate Conception

<https://www.trybooking.com/BWCVV>

Sunday 12th December

<https://www.trybooking.com/BVPBO>

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

The weekly mass can be found on St Patrick's website
under latest parish news
<https://stpatrickslilydale.org.au/>

The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception.



In the coming week we will celebrate the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (8th December). The following text is an extract from Ineffabilis

Deus – the Apostolic Constitution of Pope Bl. Pius IX that proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854.

From the very beginning, and before time began, the eternal Father chose and prepared for his only-begotten Son a Mother in whom the Son of God would become incarnate and from whom, in the blessed fullness of time, he would be born into this world.

Supreme Reason for the Privilege: The Divine Maternity

And indeed, it was wholly fitting that so wonderful a mother should be ever resplendent with the glory of most sublime holiness and so completely free from all taint of original sin that she would triumph utterly over the ancient serpent. To her did the Father will to give his only-begotten Son — the Son whom, equal to the Father and begotten by him, the Father loves from his heart — and to give this Son in such a way that he would be the one and the same common Son of God the Father and of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was she whom the Son himself chose to make his Mother and it was from her that the Holy Spirit willed and brought it about that he should be conceived and born from whom he himself proceeds.

Testimonies of Tradition

And indeed, illustrious documents of venerable antiquity, of both the Eastern and the Western Church, very forcibly testify that this doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of the most Blessed Virgin, which was daily more and more splendidly explained, stated and confirmed by the highest authority, teaching, zeal, knowledge, and wisdom of the Church, and which was disseminated among all peoples and nations of the Catholic world in a marvellous manner — this doctrine always existed in the Church as a doctrine that has been received from our ancestors, and that has been stamped with the character of revealed doctrine. For the Church

of Christ, watchful guardian that she is, and defender of the dogmas deposited with her, never changes anything, never diminishes anything, never adds anything to them; but with all diligence she treats the ancient documents faithfully and wisely; if they really are of ancient origin and if the faith of the Fathers has transmitted them, she strives to investigate and explain them in such a way that the ancient dogmas of heavenly doctrine will be made evident and clear, but will retain their full, integral, and proper nature, and will grow only within their own genus — that is, within the same dogma, in the same sense and the same meaning.

The Definition

Wherefore, in humility and fasting, we unceasingly offered our private prayers as well as the public prayers of the Church to God the Father through his Son, that he would deign to direct and strengthen our mind by the power of the Holy Spirit. In like manner did we implore the help of the entire heavenly host as we ardently invoked the Paraclete. Accordingly, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, for the honour of the Holy and undivided Trinity, for the glory and adornment of the Virgin Mother of God, for the exaltation of the Catholic Faith, and for the furtherance of the Catholic religion, by the authority of Jesus Christ our Lord, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own: “We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”

Let all the children of the Catholic Church, who are so very dear to us, hear these words of ours. With a still more ardent zeal for piety, religion and love, let them continue to venerate, invoke and pray to the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, conceived without original sin. Let them fly with utter confidence to this most sweet Mother of mercy and grace in all dangers, difficulties, needs, doubts and fears. Under her guidance, under her patronage, under her kindness and protection, nothing is to be feared; nothing is hopeless. Because, while bearing toward us a truly motherly affection and having in her care the work of our salvation, she is solicitous about the whole human race. And since she has been appointed by God to be the Queen of heaven and earth, and is exalted above all the choirs of angels and saints, and even stands at the right hand of her only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, she presents our petitions in a most efficacious manner. What she asks, she obtains. Her pleas can never be unheard.

Mary, conceived without sin, intercede for those who have recourse to thee!

Yours in Christ
Fr Francis Denton

FROM DEBBIE'S DESK

This week, 2 candles on our Advent wreath will be lit, the light they share with us building steadily as more candles are lit week to week, leading us slowly but surely to the fullness of Christmas wonder. Traditionally, the first candle represents 'hope', the second 'faith', the third, a pink candle in amongst the purple, 'joy', and then finally the fourth candle is lit, representing 'peace'. The Christmas candle that sits in the centre of the wreath, lit on Christmas Day, is white. Without fanfare, quietly through symbolism, they lead us step by step to the miracle of 'Emmanuel', 'God is with us'. They serve as a gentle reminder that no matter how bamboozling life seems to get around us, we are never alone, the light of Christ overcomes darkness of all descriptions, dispelling fear and lighting our way forward. We are ordinary people, yet we are gifted with a sense of the extraordinary in God's love. We can reflect that our heritage stretches back throughout the entire history of the unfolding faith of God's people. We are born into the story, we receive our inheritance in our Baptism, baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire, as Jesus promised. We are encouraged to pass on the faith we have inherited to our children, and they in turn to theirs. Like John the Baptist, we are to be witnesses in faith to those we encounter. We are not passive participants on our faith journeys, we are called to actively witness to God's love and commitment to us. No soap box on the corner of Flinders Street required, our call to witness is quite simple: we are called to live as Jesus asked us to live. We are called to do as he did, learning from Jesus' own example of how to treat others. We are called to proclaim God's love through our daily lives. We are called to 'be' God's love to others.

Last week I threw out a challenge for Advent, the project of opening myself to God with generosity and trust, allowing him to use me to draw others to himself. There are no strings attached to such an offer, once we invite God to use us, we can expect miracles! We have no idea where to start in such a mind-bending project, our willingness to offer all to him is enough. We offer God our talents and our potential, and he works with us and through us in ways we may never identify or realise. If we can simply give him the gift of who we are, the gift of freedom to 'be' his love to others, he does the rest. Have you ever met someone who instantly raises your heart to the sky, simply by being with them? Grandparents and grandchildren often have this connection with each other. Thinking back over the years, I know that our parish has been privileged to be touched by a myriad of wonderful people who have gently drawn us to find God in their very presence. I know that I have been inspired and encouraged by many wonderful individuals whose paths have crossed mine, even if it were only for a short time, friends who have been the instrument of inspiring me to soar, encouraging me to follow their lead.

As social beings, each of us has great power to bring good to the world, and each of us has great power to be a negative influence on others. We are well-familiar with those who misuse that power, unfortunately, and the misery that can follow in their wake. By contrast, there is something inspiring and uplifting about meeting someone who just oozes goodness that makes others feel special. As God's witnesses to the world, we recognise that goodness as God's love shining through that special person to touch us, and others. We don't need to say anything particularly religious or prophetic to be a witness, we just need to let God love through us. This week we are called to take up the example of those special people we have known who have filled this role so naturally. St Francis' Prayer says it all. 'Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, let me bring pardon, and where there is doubt, true faith in you.' The key word in each of these aspirations is 'me'. We are the ones who need to own our responsibility to be God's witnesses, simply by being the best 'me' we can be. Those inspirational people who touch us with that special presence we cannot even name, invariably, have taken that responsibility on. Throughout their journey, they walk in hope, and in faith, they spread joy and peace. They are witnesses to God's love simply through being God's instrument. May God grant us the grace to follow enthusiastically in their footsteps.

Thompson, Diosidit Armada, Baby Jean Gotch (29.11.18),
Kath Skate, Moira Burgi, Barbara Ireland



PARISH PRAYER LIST

Recently Deceased: Lawrie Field, Jean (Jennie)

Youngberry

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, Richard Adams, Mitchell & Wynn Wilson, Anne Bateman, Veronica Ireland, Lauren, Brooke, Anthony, Laura Baosde Pinto, Michelle, Judy, Annette Fromholtz, John Wray, Lynn Doensen, Elsa Gianforte

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN NOVEMBER

Jim Mahedy (02.11.67), William Hammond (04.11.95), Rihanna Dowler (07.11.13), Elsie O'Connor (08.11.06), Ede Huebel (11.11.84), Leopold Huebel (11.11.86), Mary Langridge (11.11.96), Gavan Pomeroy (12.11.71), Jan Slawinski (13.11.86), Eileen Youngberry (25.12.60), Jim Pomeroy (26.11.02), Jack Brown (27.11.13), Dorothy