



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

Address: 15 High Street, Healesville, Victoria, 3777
Postal Address: PO Box 73, Healesville, Victoria, 3777
Website: <http://www.stbrigidshealesville.cam.org.au>

Administrator: Fr. Francis Denton
Secretary: Mrs Sharon Jacob 0448 658 418

Pastoral Worker: Mrs. Debbie Edwards 0448 664 731
Email: Healesville@cam.org.au Ph: 5962 4026

30th January 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,
'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.
So now brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them
all I command you.
Do not be dismayed at their presence,
or in their presence I will make you dismayed.
I, for my part, today will make you
into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron,
and a wall of bronze
to confront all this land:
the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priests and the country people.
They will fight against you
but shall not overcome you,
for I am with you to deliver you -
it is the Lord who speaks.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 70:1-6, 15, 17

R. I will sing of your salvation.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
in your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;

for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my help.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to
show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but
speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a
cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy,
understanding all the mysteries there are, and
knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its
fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then
I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess,
piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body
to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no
good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous;
love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude
or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not
resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's
sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to
excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever
comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge - for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: cf Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,

to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the down trodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

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.**

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Recently Deceased: Anne Bateman
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

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN JANUARY

Henny Puschmann (08.01.07), John Gentle (14.01.84), Giuseppe Panozzo (14.01.83), Maria Jansen (14.01.08), Stephen Sotko Snr (20.01.09), Kathy Heath (21.01.07), Stephen Sotko Jnr (28.01.06), Garry Sweeney (21.01.17), Ethel Lalor, Philip Plant, Kathy Heath, Bern Porter, Judy Robertson.

Gardening around the church and presbytery

If you can help out in any way in keeping our gardens looking neat, please contact the office. Our gardening team needs assistance with big jobs and little, from mowing and whipper snipping to weeding. This need not be a big time commitment, we simply need generous parishioners to be available when they can to join a pool of willing hands to help maintain our large grounds. Thanks!

Debbies Thoughts

Close to the top of my list of 'well, this takes the cake' moments from last year was a conversation I had with my just-turned 3 year old granddaughter, who was sitting on my lap in the sun. She looked into my face and suddenly gasped, with an expression of total horror on her own little face, "Your eyes! They're broken!" I eventually worked out that she had never before noticed the black pupil at the centre of someone else's eyes. To her, there was an enormous hole in my green eyes, not usually a good thing in the world of a little who is used to accidentally spilling, tearing or generally wrecking things while her fine motor skills have been developing. It took quite a few conversations to convince her that there is nothing wrong with me, someone she loves, and over our next few meetings she continued to see-saw through her own fears and developing understanding in order to make sure I was safe. It took awhile for her to absorb that everyone shares this anatomical reality, including those with dark brown eyes, the situation in her own little family. I witnessed her seeing something new, and her little mind wrestling for an explanation from her own limited range of possibilities.

I can see why my granddaughter thought as she did, and she and her thinking are both cute! Other people are not always quite so cute. If you are a 'people person', it can be downright fascinating to work out how someone else ticks, to notice how they perceive the world, or shared encounters, to glimpse how they feel, to analyse how their own database of knowledge and experience may have influenced and shaped their 'quirky' thinking, (being generous!). But we do not always have the

energy to be 'people people', and at times it can be a confronting, uncomfortable experience to slam into those who do not think as we do. In our encounters with others, we are instantly attracted to some people, and find others just too hard to take. Those who fall into our too hard basket are not usually people we want to stick with. Often we have the luxury of choosing to keep them at arms' distance for our own peace, the easy and safe way out, but, unfortunately, this approach only works for those who are dispensable to us. We can be stuck with those who do not think as we do, and rejecting their presence may not always be an option. The temptation to judgemental thinking can be overwhelming. As they say, you can choose your friends, but you can't necessarily choose your relatives, for instance, or those who impact on your life in situations you can't avoid. If we force ourselves to resort to that age-old, uncomfortable tactic of considering the question 'what would Jesus do?', we may also have to force ourselves to recognise that those who think and act differently to ourselves still deserve a hearing. We may be repelled by their opinions and wish they could keep them to themselves, but looking past their opinions and behaviour to the person, in order to understand how and why they think and do what they do, can be a rewarding alternative to moving interstate, or becoming a snob or a hermit. The aim is always to respect the person, even if you feel you need to reject their behaviour. That is exactly what Jesus would advise!

Jesus ran across 'difficult people' at every turn. The Gospels speak about how incredibly popular he became, to the point of needing to get into boats to avoid being crushed by his admirers. Where were all these fans when he was hanging on the cross? Jesus knew people from the inside out, and he loved them, despite their 'quirks' and fickle allegiance. Jesus accepted and respected those he met, but he was not shy on telling them to 'sin no more'. Jesus looked steadily at the young man who could not give up his worldly possessions, for instance, and he 'loved him'. Some he met accepted that they needed to change, and opted to try with humility and contrition. Others rejected Jesus' invitation to follow him. Interestingly, the Gospels tell us that demons recognised Jesus as God, recognising him without question, even though they rejected and feared him. Herod was alerted to Jesus' birth by the Wise Men, and knew full-well that Jesus was the baby that had been promised in the Scriptures. He knew him to be the one who was to come. Yet he chose to murder all babies under 2 in the region of Bethlehem in an effort to kill Jesus, the promised saviour, in order to shore up his own power and position. People say and do

what they do for a reason. Sometimes that reason is sin. Sometimes that reason is understandable, even forgivable, when you consider who they are and what they have been through.

Jesus had that uncanny knack of understanding people and their choices, and loving them anyway. How does his example sit with us and with our own choices?

St Brigid's Feast Day

Happy Feast Day to our Parish! We will celebrate the Feast of St Brigid, our Patron Saint, next Sunday, please join us for Mass at 8.30 am and stay for a cuppa afterwards if you can.

Please help if you can The backyard behind the presbytery is now in desperate need of mowing. If you can help with garden maintenance for even an hour, please contact James Nolet, who is our mowing co-ordinator for the month of February.

Visitation Team

If you would like to join our visitation team who visit our elderly friends and sick parishioners, please contact the office.

THANK YOU

Thankyou from the Care Group

Thank you for helping to spread some Christmas Cheer in our community. This year we delivered 83

Christmas hampers to families and individuals in the community - a total of 246 people as well as 53 care parcels and our amazing volunteers prepared 70 Christmas meals. We have been astounded by the generosity of our community in a time when so many individuals and business are struggling. Without your support we would not have been able to reach as many community members nor be able to give them something extra to make their Christmas a little bit special. Contributions were varied, from food products and meal vouchers to hair and nail vouchers and all the gifts in between. Thank you so much for showing just how much you care. The community spirit really thrives in our town with so many contributing however small or large to making a difference. Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous new year From all the volunteers of St Brigid's Parish Care Group As the star shines so brightly, the song of the angel is heard. The lowly shepherds and the oriental kings bow to adore the baby in the crib. In 2021 the work of Christmas continued to retell the greatest of all love stories – that first Christmas Day. 2021 has bought

generous donations of groceries, money, gifts and vouchers from the community at St Brigid's school, parishioners and the wider community, from the generous local businesses – all of whom have opened their hearts. THANK YOU SO MUCH Elves have worked quietly in the background, wrapping gifts, decorating boxes and sorting all the Christmas foods in readiness to stack the hamper bags. Added were the strawberries, vouchers and the children's homemade cards just before being carted to the cars which brimmed from front to back, set off to destinations North, South, East and West to community members in Healesville and the Yarra Valley.

Care Group Co-ordinator: Maree Jefcott Phone 0417 087 199

