



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

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**27<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)**

**First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus  
Do not praise someone before they have spoken.  
In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,  
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.  
The kiln tests the work of the potter,  
the test of a man is in his conversation.  
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of  
its fruit,  
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.  
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,  
since this is the test of men.  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13**

**R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night.

**R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

**R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

**R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58**

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

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and  
when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the  
words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in  
victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your  
sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from  
the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep  
on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the  
Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation: Philippians 2:15-16**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

**Gospel: Luke 6:39-45**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide  
another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not  
superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be  
like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your  
brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can  
you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter  
that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your  
own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and  
then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is  
in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a  
rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be  
told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor  
gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good  
from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what  
is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of  
what fills his heart.'

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.**

## Latest Guidelines from the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

The key areas of change as of 11:59pm Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February (and including the changes from last Friday) are:

- Face coverings are not mandatory within Places of Worship or workplaces.
- QR code check-in to Places of Worship and particular workplaces (Parish offices) is no longer required. We understand this to also include when the faithful are using other facilities within the Parish (for example; hospitality to visitors following Mass or the celebration of a Baptism, Children's liturgy etc).
- There will not be any vaccination requirements nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status for attendees at Places of Worship for Weddings, Funerals, or general Worship. However, Workers at Places of Worship (staff and volunteers) must still be up-to-date with their vaccinations and have provided evidence of this to their 'employer.'

<https://melbournecatholic.org/covid-19-guidelines>

### 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 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, Veronica Ireland, Lauren, Brooke, Anthony, Laura Baosde Pinto, Michelle, Judy, Annette Fromholtz, John Wray, Lynn Doensen, Elsa Gianforte, Fiona M, Louise Janse, Rudi Wenhuda

### FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN FEB

Laurie Nairn (01.02.13), John Holland (08.02.11), Giobatta Mioni (09.02.49), John Doyle (09.02.17), Leonard Postlethwaite (10.02.09), George Shaddock (12.02.10), Zofia (Sonia) Howie (8.02.16), Dorothy Chan (13.02.07), Claire Keppel (16.02.94), Anton Wolke (20.02.07), Ian Read (22.02.08), Tubby Dennehy (23.02.03), Jan Rijs (23.02.08), Sr Joan McKenna (26.02.16), Patricia Chandler (28.02.92), Des Murphy (29.02.08), Roy Grieve (27.02.93), Anne Huggett, Fr Bernie Hammond, Brian Warton

### 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!

### Thanksgiving St Brigid's Healesville,

**20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Thanksgiving: \$658.55

Presbytery: \$266.35

### Our Lady of the Snows - Marysville 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Thanksgiving: \$48.00

### St Aloysius - Yarra Glen

Thanksgiving: \$40

### Easter Mass Times

**14th April- 7:30 pm.**

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Altar of Repose, Individual Prayer and Adoration.

**15th April, Good Friday.**

**3:00 pm** Passion of the Lord

**16th April, Holy Saturday.**

**7.30pm** Easter Vigil Mass

**17<sup>th</sup> April** Easter Sunday Mass

**10:30 am** St. Patrick's, Lilydale

**8:30 am** St. Brigid's, Healesville

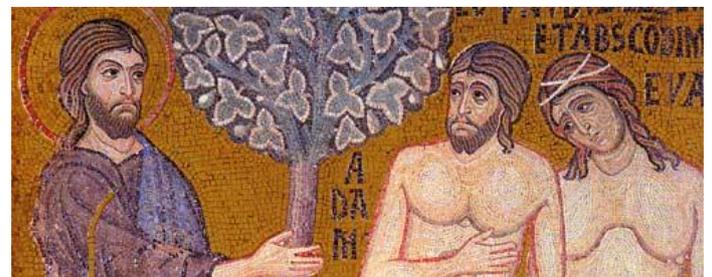
### Ash Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Mass Times

9.15am – Lilydale

12 noon – Healesville

7pm – Lilydale

With Ash Wednesday in the coming week we will begin the season of Lent. Here is a short reflection on the meaning of the ashes.



*"By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."* (Genesis 3:19)

The account of the Fall in chapter three of Genesis grapples with the confronting truth of sin, suffering and death that are a universal part of our human condition. All of us are acquainted with sin; all of us are acquainted with suffering; and all of us will one day experience death. In spite of this fact, our Post-

Christian, Post-Modern and (increasingly) post-rational society doesn't seem to cope very well with all three. The reality of sin is flatly denied or repackaged as something that is good for us. Suffering is medicated away with drugs that numb or desensitise us to pain whether physical or mental. Death is shuttered away from us behind the freshly lacquered wood of the coffin and the stainless-steel vault of the morgue. Few people today think to pray for those who have died, or to have Masses offered for repose of the souls of the faithful departed, or to visit the graves of loved ones at the cemetery. Fewer still are those who spend time pondering their own death. Instead, most of us go busily about our lives with the peculiarly irrational self-deception that we are always going to be here. When the cold reality of death finally does confront us we find ourselves in a state of shock and disbelief. The shrill terror in response to COVID-19 provides a window of insight into Western culture's incapacity to deal with the possibility, however remote, of dying. The paralysing, hysterical, and at times apoplectic fear of death is symptomatic of a culture that has jettisoned belief in the immortality of the soul and an afterlife. Many today, including Christians, live as though this life is all they have. Alas, how many Catholics could say with the detached resignation of St Paul: "If we live, we live for the Lord; if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die we belong to the Lord."? (Romans 14:8)

The liturgical action of the imposition of ashes for Ash Wednesday is a *sacramental*, which is to say, it is like a mini-sacrament: it is 'an outward sign of an invisible reality that confers grace'. The outward sign of the ashes functions a symbol of death and destruction because something that it burnt to ash is completely unrecoverable and dissipates before our eyes. The grace of recognising our own earthly mortality is that we can prepare well for our eternal life. The ashes, from the burnt palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday, are marked on the forehead (or sprinkled on the head) accompanied by the words: "*Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return*", an obvious reference to Genesis 3:19. The imposition of ashes offer us a vivid and poignant reminder of our mortality, as sons and daughters of Adam and Eve. Through life we contend with the trials and burdens of the day, working 'by the sweat of our brow'. In our fallen state, with a weakened will and a faltering judgment, we all too often fall into sin. This too is a burdensome part of our human estate, prompting St Paul to exclaim: "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24).

By his incarnation and Passion Jesus takes the burden of fallen humanity upon himself. Jesus, in his Sacred Humanity experiences physical, psychological and spiritual suffering: sweat, blood, tears, hunger, thirst, fatigue, temptation, pain, betrayal, abandonment and desolation are all clearly attested to in the Gospels. Jesus did not sin, but as St Paul says "God made him who had no sin, to become sin for us" (2Cor 5:21). What does St Paul mean here? Elsewhere St Paul teaches that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), yet Jesus without having sinned himself experiences the penalty of death. Jesus, the sinless one, chooses to atone for the guilty: he dies that we may live. The ashes on our forehead impress upon our mind not only the reality of our own death, but the death of the One who died for us. In this way Ash Wednesday orients us toward Good Friday. As we embark on this holy season of Lent may we strive to use our Lenten disciplines to practice 'dying' to

ourselves daily, so that "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20).

Yours in Christ  
Fr Francis Denton

### From Debbie's Desk

I am always a little amused when an unexpected whisper stops me in my tracks, and grabs my attention. God reminds me he is there! People, places, events and insignificant daily activities can be an occasional jogger to say 'tune in!'. God throws out regular invitations to us all, sometimes serious, sometimes playful, and we need open hearts to catch the whisper, and to find a way to respond. For instance, a line from this week's Responsorial Psalm stopped me and made me think. From a page full of words, '*It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to your name*' caught my attention, and hung on. I had a bit of a chuckle. One of the talents that definitely passed me by is my singing ability. I aim for a note, but I wind up left, right, rarely on centre, as hard as I may try. I could certainly joke that God wouldn't actually want to hear me singing in his direction! This is of course tongue in cheek. But it made me wonder what music I have to make to God's name, as the Psalm suggests I should.

It occurred to me that we are so caught up with what is wrong with the world that it is easy to overlook what is wonderfully right. The world is indeed a beautiful place, and it is great to be reminded to thank God for his goodness to us. In dedicating our lives to God, we praise him by simply being who we are, and we take up 'the song', continuous music made to God's name by our world. If we wander into our own back yard and simply listen, we can identify lots of individual sounds. We can pick out the lawnmower next door, cockatoos in a nearby tree, hammering and sawing going on down the street, multiple birds singing on the roof and at the bottom of the garden, someone's loud tv, etc, etc. For the most part, individual sounds become a symphony, a harmonious melody of life that flows around us, carrying us with it, even when we are not listening. Thinking about this concept allows me to offer the melody of my life to God, just as the Psalm recommends. My activities, my thoughts, my conversations, my emotions all combine as individual notes in an ever building, harmonious symphony. I recognise God's great gifts to me, and thank him for my beautiful family, for my vocation, for my parish, for my place in our beautiful, complex, finely balanced world, and for countless other blessings for which I am deeply thankful, adding notes to 'the song'. My personal notes add to the notes we all contribute to the music that flows around us, drifting heavenwards in a continuous river of relationship with our creator. Beautiful voices, in tune, clear and sweet, carry those of us who sound more like excited geese! When we are too overwhelmed, too sad, too sick, too anything to join in, the choir sings for us. So too does the world's song carry us, absorbing our own squeaks as its own. Watch any documentary, nature cannot help but praise God, its creator, its very life force. Good people care for each other, an expression of being made in God's image. The needy thankfully receive from the hand of one who notices what is lacking and stops to help. Courage, generosity, joyful celebration, encouragement and an understanding heart are offered to others by ordinary people in every street in every land in every country, every day. In every second of every

year, somewhere in the world, the perfect sacrifice of the Mass is offered to God in continuous praise, thanksgiving, penitence and petition, carried to God's throne by angels, the Saints adding their own voices to the song of life. Good people everywhere pray. Just as there is a choir singing in unison in my back yard, the world itself makes constant music to God's name. We just may not notice! And my little song joins with other little songs sung by God's faithful all around the world. 'Music to your name'.

The song of the world is not always joyful. The tragedies of life prompt very sad songs indeed, from individuals, neighbours, whole nations and the human family itself. This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, heralding the Season of Lent. The song we sing as God's people takes on a new tone, sadder than the unbridled joy of the Christmas season, more contemplative than the whirl of Ordinary Time. The world's song changes from season to season, mirroring the continuous revolutions of nature's rhythms. Like the Psalms themselves, written for a Chosen People who experienced war, plenty, persecution, captivity and wonderful freedom, the song of the world changes daily in response to each and every person's experiences right throughout our world. It is still a song that makes music to God's name, as song of relationship with our God who cares infinitely for each of us. Sometimes sad, sometimes joyful, sometimes exasperated, or excited, or worried, or freaked out, in all languages, we all praise the same almighty God, who loves each and every individual.

### Care Group Members

You are invited to a meeting/morning tea with Fr Francis and the parish staff. Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10am after morning mass

### Meeting for "Lookout for the safety of children"

Please join us Monday 28th February 1-3pm at St Brigid's Hall. All very welcome. Cuppa and afternoon tea provided.

### Care Group Meeting

Friday 4th March 1-3pm at St Brigid's Hall.  
All Welcome

### Lenten Discussion Group

Elissa and Phil Roper have kindly donated copies of a beautiful booklet that will enable parishioners to pray the Scriptures through Lent. Thank you! These booklets will be available in the church this week. Please feel free to take a copy, and join our Parish family in praying together in preparation for the wonders of Easter.

### Rosters

If you would like to join the reading roster for Sunday Mass, could spare an hour a month to help clean the church, or could donate a little time to help out with the gardening, please ring the office.

We would also like to hear if you would like to become part of our visitation team. Our rosters are severely depleted as our older volunteers are retiring and we encourage you to consider whether you could be one who is now meant to jump in to help out in whatever way you can.

### Child Safeguarding

Check out the new tab for Safeguarding on our Parish website. It currently displays our Parish Commitment Statement, our Parish Safeguarding Policy, and our Parish Code of Conduct. Further info will be added in the weeks to come.

A reminder that you can chat to members of our Safeguarding team at any time: **Rod Hysted, Cath O'Halloran, John Barrett, Debbie, Sharon and Fr Francis.**



Would you like to play cards on a Thursday mornign after mass? If your a bit rusty or never played before and would like to learn we will teach you! Come and enjoy a game of cards and

morning tea. Please contact the office

