



**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

5th & 6th February 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.
And they cried out one to another in this way,
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
His glory fills the whole earth.'
The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said:
'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost,
for I am a man of unclean lips
and I live among a people of unclean lips,
and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'
Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.
With this he touched my mouth and said:
'See now, this has touched your lips,
your sin is taken away,
your iniquity is purged.'
Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:
'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'
I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-5, 7-8

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways:
'How great is the glory of the Lord!'

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

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

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you - believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats - it was Simon's - and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

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:

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, 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!



Feast of St Brigid

This Sunday Healesville Parish celebrates the transferred feast of St Brigid (1st February) to enable more parishioners to celebrate our Patron saint.

The following is an article from the *National Catholic Register*.

Public Holiday Marking St Brigid's Feast Established in Ireland

DUBLIN, Ireland — The feast of St. Brigid of Kildare, Ireland's female patron saint, will be a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland beginning in 2023, it was recently announced. Her feast is Feb. 1, and the bank holiday will be observed on the first Monday in February, or on Feb. 1 when that day falls on a Friday.

The public holiday was welcomed by the Catholic and Anglican bishops of Kildare. "It is very appropriate that a new public holiday will honour Saint Brigid. As the secondary saint in Ireland to Patrick, for too long she has been lost in his shadow. We warmly welcome the news that Brigid is being rightly, and long after time, acknowledged," Bishop Denis Nulty of Kildare and Leighlin, and Pat Storey, the Church of Ireland's Bishop of Meath & Kildare, said Jan. 27.

Leo Varadkar, Ireland's Tánaiste, said Jan 20 that "From next year, Ireland will have an extra public holiday at the start of February to mark Imbolc/St Brigid's day ... This will be the first Irish public holiday named after a woman. It marks the half-way point between the winter solstice and the equinox, the beginning of spring and the Celtic New Year. The creation of a tenth public holiday will bring Ireland more into line with the European average and it is one of five new workers' rights that I am establishing this year."

The fifth century abbess St. Brigid is one of Ireland's three patron saints, along with St. Patrick and St. Columba. Most historians place her birth around the year 450, near the end of St. Patrick's evangelistic mission. Brigid was born out of wedlock to a pagan chieftain named Dubthach and a Christian slave woman named Broicsech. The chieftain sold the child's pregnant mother to a new master, but contracted for Brigid to be returned to him eventually. According to one of the more credible biographies of Brigid, Hugh de Blacam's essay in *The Saints of Ireland*, the child was probably baptized as an infant and raised as a Catholic by her mother. Thus, she was well formed in the faith before leaving Broicsech's slave quarters, at around age 10, to live with Dubthach and his wife. After this, Brigid's faith grew immensely. She gave generously to the poor and tended to the sick. One story says Brigid once gave away her mother's entire store of butter, which was later replenished after Brigid prayed.

Once she was released from servitude, she was expected to marry. However, Brigid had no interest in marrying. She went so far as to disfigure her own face and prayed that her beauty be taken from her so no one would want to marry her. Because she refused to change her mind about marriage, she received permission to enter

religious life. Brigid, along with seven friends, is credited with organizing communal consecrated religious life for women in Ireland. In 480, Brigid founded her monastery in Kildare, called "Church of the Oak". The monastery sat on top of a shrine to the Celtic goddess Brigid. Throughout the rest of her life, she established several monasteries across Ireland. Brigid rooted her life as a nun in prayer, but she also performed substantial manual labor: cloth making, dairy farming, and raising sheep. She also spent time traveling across Ireland founding new houses and building up a uniquely Irish form of monasticism. When she was not traveling, pilgrims made their way to Kildare, seeking the advice of the abbess. Brigid died around 525.

Bishop Nulty and Pat Storey noted in their statement that "Every school child knows the song of Brigid and how her cloak covered the area we know today as the Curragh, Saint Brigid's Field. Brigid is linked with the earth, with agriculture, particularly ploughing, sowing, milking, butter-making and, of course, vibrant Christian faith. Brigid was extravagant in her hospitality."

<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/public-holiday-marking-st-brigid-s-feast-established-in-ireland>

Yours in Christ
Fr Francis Denton

From Debbie's Desk

God is pretty good value when it comes to quiet conversation, even though there may not exactly be words exchanged. He speaks in all sorts of ways of course, including stray musings that may cross our minds, seemingly from nowhere, in random moments. These musings are prayer, even if we don't seem to come up with discussion points off our own bat. This often happens if we keep quiet and just let time with God happen around us. Giving God space to 'be' with us is a great gift, to him and for us, and can lead to conversation with him that can take us all over the place. At the conclusion of an 'encounter', we may come up with clear answers to our questions and know that something wonderful has happened. We may even get answers to questions we didn't think to ask. I suspect that at other times we may not actually be brave enough to peek at possibilities that may lurk beyond the obvious. God does that, he pulls us towards our potential, sometimes bringing comfort, sometimes stirring us up to something beyond our experience. It is up to us to relax and let him!

So here is a 'musing' to get us started, an example of the sort of thoughts that have run through my mind from time to time. Question: How can I possibly really matter to God? I know each of us does matter to him, of course, but have you ever actually taken the time to think this concept through? God's infinite reality truly stretches beyond our human concept of possibility.

Isaiah 49 tells us that God knows each of us from before he formed us in the womb, including our name, address and phone number. He creates each and every person as a conscious act of creative love, no matter how we may have come into this world. Yet, think of the billions of people alive today. Yes, billions! Think of the best of the living saints and the worst sinners we can imagine, and everyone in between. Think of the millions in India and China, through to those few in the remotest corners of the world. Add them up! So many people, so much noise, so many stories to capture God's attention! How can he possibly pick me out of the line up? Me? In amongst the crowd of all crowds? I could wonder if my prayers really do make it to his heart, or whether they sit in a queue. I could wonder if he really does notice my excitement, my discomforts, and my anxieties, especially if I forget to actually mention them to him? Taking this one step further, God 'is'. He 'is' inside time, and outside of time. Time is in God. (Think that one through!) He is present in each moment of history simultaneously, along with being in the present, and in every moment of our future to come too, now. So add up the billions alive today, the billion billions from every moment past, and the billion billions that may be yet to come... My problems and joys seem huge to me, but they are so little in comparison to the things others have to deal with, and God knows each one just as he knows me! Switch off the head and switch on the heart. I know 100 % that God hears. He hears, he cares, he knows. Yet I matter. How do I know? I just do.

Jesus knew that the woman who had been bleeding for years and years had touched his cloak, one small touch in the midst of the pressing crowd. She knew she had been healed. He knew she knew, etcetera, etcetera. Without one word, the woman and Jesus had a major conversation. This happens to us in just the same way. From my very depths, I know that God loves me perfectly. He knows me perfectly, despite the crowds pressing around us. He knows full well when I reach out to touch his cloak in the hope of being healed. In the midst of so much action, so many stories, I am important to him, and he invites me to trust in him.

Awesome! It actually does make my head spin!

Religious Education for school aged children

Sacramental preparation classes for children who do not attend a Catholic school will commence on **9th February**. If you know someone who would like information about the program, please encourage them to contact Debbie on 0448 664 731 as soon as possible.

Chaplaincy Appeal 2022

Next weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Each year a special collection is conducted in all parishes for the purpose of supporting the vital work of our Catholic chaplains. The Chaplains support thousands of Victorians every year in hospitals,

prisons and youth justice centres, and those living with HIV/AIDS. Your gift can help people find comfort and hope as they go through some of their darkest hours and times of need. **Please give generously.** You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

St Brigid's Feast Day

Happy Feast Day to our Parish! We will celebrate the Feast of St Brigid, our Patron Saint, after mass today, stay for a cuppa afterwards if you can.

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.

Big Band in the Park

Bring a picnic, chairs and/or rug, and settle in for a delightful afternoon at the Sound Shell and be totally entertained. There are plenty of free barbeques available and a great play ground for kids; make a day of it, come on down to the magnificent Yarra Valley.

A sausage sizzle, soft drinks, tea & coffee will be available from a stand run by a local Scout Group.

Where: The Sound Shell, Queens Park Maroondah Highway, Healesville - *Entry via Don Road Entrance*
When: Sunday 20 Feb ,2022 12.30 - 4.30pm.

Cost: FREE

Sunday 20 March 2022 12.34.30pm. Cost:FREE

Check us out on You Tube and Facebook cut and paste this

link http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=opus+21+bigband

