



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

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13th February 2022

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those
who trust in the Lord.

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.

He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.

He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 1:1-4

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night.

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.
If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how
can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the
dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been
raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your
sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have
perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are
the most unfortunate of all people.
But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits
of all who have fallen asleep.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of
level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples
with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from
Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who
had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.
Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:
'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of
God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse
you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of
Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then
your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their
ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation
now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the
way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

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: Val Christie, Sheila Barr, Richard Naisbitt

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, Louise Janse, Rudi Wenhuda

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!

Thanksgiving St Brigid's Healesville,

26th December 2021

Thanksgiving: \$445.90
Presbytery: \$ 170.20

2nd January 2022

Thanksgiving: \$995.85
Presbytery: \$ 171.00

9th January 2022

Thanksgiving: \$406.60
Presbytery: \$ 240.70

16th January 2022

Thanksgiving: \$217.00
Presbytery: \$ 205.00

23rd January 2022

Thanksgiving: \$233.00
Presbytery: \$ 211.50

30th January 2022

Thanksgiving: \$896.60
Presbytery: \$ 135.00

6th February 2022

Thanksgiving: \$396.00
Presbytery: \$195.00

St Aloysius, Yarra Glen – December/January

Thanksgiving: \$250.00
Presbytery: \$ 105.00

Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville 25th January 2022

Thanksgiving: \$45.00

Our Lady of Lourdes



On Friday 11th February we celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Nestled in the foothills of the French Pyrénées Mountains, Lourdes today is among the most popular and well-visited Marian shrines in the world. This beautiful shrine built to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary at her own request has been for over 150 years a sanctuary of prayer and healing for the Catholic faithful. The circumstances behind its foundation are a testament to the mysterious providence of God and his mysterious choice of human instruments.

St Bernadette Soubirous was only fourteen years old when Our Lady appeared to her on 18 occasions between 11th February and 16th July (the Feast of Our Lady of Mount

Carmel) in 1858. St Bernadette's experience of poverty, suffering and sickness had from childhood grounded her in the mystery of the cross and directed her to a profound interior life of prayer in which the rosary claimed pride of place. She carried a rosary with her at all times and practically lived in a continuous state of prayer. Even prior to the apparitions of Our Lady, Bernadette was a living saint. Her natural modesty, humility and shy nature meant Bernadette never sought fame or to win the acclaim of the world, indeed the public attention caused her great suffering. Notwithstanding this, Bernadette showed herself indifferent to the scorn of the scoffers and the sceptics; she sought merely to be obedient to what "The Lady" asked her to do. Although illiterate at the time of the apparitions Bernadette was interrogated at great length by Church and state authorities alike. The following is a first-hand record of what the saint experienced on 11th February 1858.

"I had just begun to take off my first stocking when suddenly I heard a great noise like the sound of a storm. I looked to the right, to the left, under the trees of the river, but nothing moved; I thought I was mistaken. I went on taking off my shoes and stockings, when I heard a fresh noise like the first. Then I was frightened and stood straight up. I lost all power of speech and thought, when, turning my head toward the grotto, I saw at one of the openings of the rock a bush, one only, moving as if it were very windy. Almost at the same time there came out of the interior of the grotto a golden coloured cloud, and soon after a Lady, young and beautiful, exceedingly beautiful, the like of whom I had never seen, came and placed herself at the entrance of the opening above the bush. She looked at me immediately, smiled at me and signed me to advance, as if she had been my mother. All fear had left me, but I seemed to know no longer where I was. I rubbed my eyes, I shut them, I opened them; but the Lady was still there continuing to smile at me and making me understand that I was not mistaken. Without thinking of what I was doing, I took my rosary in my hands and fell on my knees. The Lady made a sign of approval with her head and took into her hands a rosary which hung on Her right arm. When I attempted to begin the rosary and tried to lift my hand to my forehead, my arm remained paralysed, and it was only after the Lady had signed herself that I could do the same. The Lady left me to pray all alone; she passed the beads of her rosary between her fingers but she said nothing; only at the end of each decade did She say the 'Gloria' with me. When the recitation of the rosary was finished, the Lady returned to the interior of the rock and the golden cloud disappeared with her.

The Lady had the appearance of "a young girl, sixteen, or seventeen years old. She wore a white dress drawn in at the waist by a blue ribbon whose ends hung down. On her head she wore a long white veil so as almost to cover her hair. Her feet were bare but nearly covered by the folds of her dress, except at the tip where a yellow rose shone on each. On her right arm she carried a rosary of white beads on a golden chain, shining like the roses on her feet." (sourced from <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/lourdes-and-st-bernadette-5624>)

St Bernadette was permanently changed by the apparitions of Our Lady and her message to offer up prayers and

penances for the conversion of sinners. Our Lady had offered to Bernadette these prophetic words: "I do not offer you happiness in this life but in the next." Bernadette entered religious life with the Sisters of Notre Dame of Nevers, where she would endure much suffering, hidden from the eyes of the world. Although the miraculous spring at the grotto of Lourdes quickly became famous for healing countless pilgrims, Bernadette herself experienced no cure of her many physical ailments. She died at the age of 35 after prolonged suffering which she cheerfully offered up for the conversion of sinners. Her body remains incorrupt to this day. St Bernadette offers us a heroic model of Christian virtue, piety and charity in the face of great suffering and to prefer the eternal happiness of heaven to the passing goods of this world.

Yours in Christ
Fr Francis Denton

From Debbie's Desk

Last week I threw out somewhat of a challenge, to allow those stray wonderings that may cross our minds from time to time to lead us to God, rather than away from him, as we might imagine they may. If we wonder, even quietly to ourselves, we are invited to explore and to discover answers that we may not anticipate. Perhaps the answer is always going to be the same, but the voyage of discovery can be an unexpectedly fruitful part of the exercise. Whichever way it goes, when we enter into any conversation with God, we cannot lose. For instance, those overcome by grief may be really angry with God. This is ok! It is what it is! When has grief ever been predictable, or easy to juggle? God joins us in our frustration and sorrow, Jesus knows, for he has experienced all the emotions that we experience, having lived our human condition, with all its overwhelming emotions, before us. Jesus got angry, just as we do. He lives our human condition with us right now, risen, glorified yet ever-present with us. Jesus knows. Our Blessed Mother knows, from the inside out. So maybe this week we might consider a second 'musing'. For instance, *What happens when I am too overwhelmed, or too underwhelmed to pray? Does God still hear my heart when my voice stops working?* I get like that. Sometimes I feel that there are far too many people and far too many things for me to worry about. Too many fears for me to juggle. Too many situations weighing me down. Too many people for me to pray for. I can't remember them all when prayer time does give me the opportunity to start listing. My brain is good at hiding under the covers, and when I try to pray, it often takes off, nowhere to be seen. How does God receive my squeaks? When things get really tough, there I am making lots of noise, like a frightened child yelling for attention. I know from my heart that my prayers are not just noise to God. Like a caring parent tuned to the cries of a baby in need, when I start yelling, I know he hears and responds to my neediness.

The things we carry around can be really heavy at times. At the Presentation of the Gifts during Mass, along with others in our Parish family, and indeed mankind itself, we offer God the bread and the wine that will be consecrated. Along with these gifts to him, we are encouraged to offer to God

all that we have to give him. In reality, all that we have includes all who we are, his great gift to us at our creation. In times of strength, we can offer ourselves to God with full intention and recollection. At other times, the congregation we worship with may carry us and our prayers, when we are too distracted, or distressed to form words ourselves. Our presence, be it physical or spiritual, allows us to offer to God who we are, with all our faults and our strengths, from deep within ourselves. We can offer all that we don't want but are stuck with. The beauty of the Mass is that every liturgy carries all of humanity, from the greatest to the least, in the perfect sacrifice of praise, thanksgiving, reconciliation and petition. Jesus' offering of himself carries us to eternity and beyond. We don't need to know the destination, for Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. When we are least capable, He offers us the perfect way to seek consolation and courage. Trusting in him allows us to let go. As the bread, and then the chalice of wine, are raised above the altar as our gifts to the Father through Jesus, we can offer him our all. There is no safer destination than to entrust ourselves to God's very heart. My collection of burdens and treasures, my gifts to him, can be spiritually placed into the chalice with my total confidence. God never leaves a gift unopened. When I place my fears and cares, my joys and my sorrows, my love for others, my thanksgiving, my confessions and my distressful millstones into the chalice at the Offertory, there is no possibility that I can come out the loser. A burden shared is so much lighter to carry, and who better to take the weight than God? This is risky business though. If I offer it, he might just take it! Big big bravery required!

Yet, here's the stunning part. The gifts we bring to God at the Presentation of the Gifts literally become part of the bread and wine we offer. The water added to the chalice cannot be reclaimed, it becomes part of the wine, inseparable, just as Jesus' humanity and divinity are inseparable. My own contributions added to the chalice become part of the wine, just like the water, impossible to reclaim once given. *And what happens to the contents of the chalice at the consecration?*

Just some of the things I think about. Who needs tv?

Religious Education for school aged children

Sacramental preparation classes for children who do not attend a Catholic school commenced 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

This weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic Chaplains can continue to be the messengers of God's mercy, love and compassion. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and financial support to help provide continued spiritual and

emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing loneliness, illness, pain, grief and death.

You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

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.



Happy Birthday Fr Francis!
Join us for birthday cake and a cuppa after mass this morning.

Congratulations and thanks to Mollie!

At our St Brigid's Feast Day celebrations last week, Mollie Field was given some flowers, a little gift, and a huge card from our Parish to say thank you for her service to our Parish, which covers more than 40 years. Mollie has generously given hours and hours as our sacristan, the Parish housekeeper, our cleaner, our gardener, our cuppa expert, our sandwich server and generally helped out in a million other ways. Thank you, thank you, thank you Mollie!

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.**

Found: Have you lost a watch? Please contact St Brigid's Primary school ph: 5962 4200

Lenten Discussion Group

If you would like to participate in a Lenten Discussion group, please let Debbie know on 0448 664 731. Possible meeting times are Thursday morning following the 9.15 am Mass, or an evening to be chosen.

