



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

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**13<sup>TH</sup> March 2022**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (Year C)**

**Entrance Procession**

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

**First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18**

A reading from the book of Genesis

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,  
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink?

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:  
'Seek his face.'

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;  
you have been my help.

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord!

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

**Second Reading: Philippians 3:17 - 4:1**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 17:5**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel: Luke 9:28-36**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these

were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'. And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

#### 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,

#### FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE IN MARCH

Sr Nell Russell (03.03.16), Ronald Donchi (05.03.83), H. Weda (12.03.03), Rene Chandler (13.03.96), Helen Srafford, (16.03.08), Frank McDonald (12.03.04), John Doensen (17.03.17), Ziggy Nadolski (18/3/11), Claudio Latin (20.03.13), Mary Snell (22.03.12), Antonio Bariola (24.03.99), John Field (23.03.42), Mary Wood (23.03.03), Eva Jansen (2006), Erica Fries (2005), Mavis McKenzie (2006), Harry van de ven, Susan Sosic (25.03.19)

#### 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, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Thanksgiving: \$379.25

Presbytery: \$146.00

#### 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



#### Stations of the Cross

Good Friday 10.00am at

St Aloysius - Yarra Glen



Duccio di Buoninsegna, *Transfiguration* (c.1311) National Gallery, London.

### Ascending and Descending Mt Tabor

Every year the liturgical readings for the second Sunday of Lent focus on the Transfiguration of the Lord. And every year it half takes me by surprise. It seems almost out of place in this season of Lent to focus on the radiant glory of the transfigured Christ. The ascent up Mount Tabor of Christ with Peter, James and John is an important, albeit short-lived, unveiling of Jesus' true Divinity. The blinding glory of Christ, dazzling as lightening, recalls the vision of the 'glory of the Lord' revealed to Ezekiel: "high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking." (Ezekiel 1:26-28). We see essentially the same vision given to John in the Book of Revelation: "[I saw] one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden girdle round his breast; his head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters; ... and his face was like the sun shining in full strength." (Revelation 1:13-16) The transfiguration of Christ is glimpse of the heavenly glory that will be revealed to the whole world at the end of time (cf. Luke 21:27).

The presence of Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets which Christ came to fulfill (cf. Matt 5:17) are shown here unambiguously giving testimony to Christ. They represent the entire work of salvation history throughout the Old Testament which has been awaiting this pivotal moment as the Old Covenant gives way to the New and Eternal Covenant that Jesus will establish by his sacrifice on the cross. Luke's gospel notes specifically that Jesus is speaking with Moses and Elijah "of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem." Ironically, whilst Peter, James and John find themselves in a trance-like ecstatic state at this heavenly vision, Moses and Elijah are discussing with Jesus the details of his impending death. Even in this moment of glory, the shadow of the cross looms large.

Peter's response - "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here!" - seems naively unaware of what Jesus, Moses and Elijah are discussing and what it will mean for the apostles. The desire to build three tents, "One for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah" speaks of a longing to prolong the encounter indefinitely. Later in Luke's Gospel, when on the way to Emmaus the two disciples meet the risen Christ and they too implore Jesus to stay with them: "they urged him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.'" (Luke 24:29) The desire to detain Jesus is later explained by the disciples: "Were not our hearts burning within us while he

talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us" (Luke 24:32). Likewise, Peter, James and John no doubt gazed upon this wondrous apparition with their hearts pounding with awe-filled delight. This is a moment of unique spiritual consolation, a foretaste of future glory. Yet how short-lived it is! The vision dissipates as quickly as the cloud that encompasses them and they are left alone again.

Spiritual ecstasies and consolations are like sugar. They are best enjoyed in small quantities. Too much can create an unhealthy reliance upon the emotional subjective experience they produce – rather than on our encounter with Jesus. Just as there are romantics who enjoy the *experience* of falling in love rather than the actual *person* who is to be loved, so too spiritual novices can prefer the *experience* of spiritual consolation to the actual *person* of Christ who provides the spiritual consolation. A spirituality that consists in the prolongation of 'good feelings' as the measure of one's spiritual progress cannot really be called a Christian spirituality. Tabor is in fact merely a preparation for the true revelation of Christ's glory on Calvary. The true glory of Christ is his willingness to endure the Passion for our sake – it is the definitive revelation of Divine Mercy and of the infinite expanse of Divine Love. Like Peter, James and John, we need to find those moments of spiritual consolation and assurance, which help us face times of trial and desolation – to bear the horror of the Cross. It's interesting that Peter made no such offer to build three tents on Calvary – indeed he was nowhere to be seen. As Christians we can never build permanent spiritual tents on Mount Tabor. Sooner or later the cloud will dissipate and we will need to descend back down the mountain to face the trials of the world. God grants us consolation at those moments when we really need it, but he is (on the whole) quite sparing in the spiritual consolations he offers, and we shouldn't expect it to be otherwise. This is because God wants us to demonstrate a faith based on trust in his promises rather than the need for instantaneous gratification. The spiritual disciplines and acts of self-denial that we undertake in Lent help liberate us from a false spirituality of instant gratification, and hopefully help us to love Christ for his own sake.

Yours in Christ  
Fr Francis Denton

### From Debbie's Desk

Our modern day's technology makes the four corners of our planet very close, no matter where news happens. We hear instantly of trauma and stress assailing our human family all over our world, and we can easily fall victim to sensory overload in a way that previous generations were spared. The news we access day and night is filled with human suffering and trauma, we hear, we know, and we struggle with sadness and frustration at our inability to do anything to help. Yet, if nothing else, we are also given the opportunity to pray for those who most need our help in this world, as soon as they need it. It may be all that we can do, but what help it actually is! The power of our prayers is limitless, infinite, and we need to remember that each of us can unleash God's might with a single prayer! Such potential! After all, God knows that cry of the poor as well as he knows the prayer in our own hearts. He knows each name, each sob, and he loves and cares for that individual person, no matter who or where they may be. Each of us can speak to God, anytime, anywhere, and simply ask with confidence. Every prayer is answered, it may just not be

answered in the way that we can recognise. People have freedom of choice, an incredible gift from God who loves us, and he does not interfere in that gift. Each person alive needs to face him at the end of our days knowing that the choices we made, good and bad, were our own. But he is right there with all who are affected by what we each choose to do, in ways we may not pick up on in our distress. Our world is still an extraordinarily beautiful place, chock-filled with amazing, genuine people, and each day is actually filled with awesome expressions of God's love. God's faithful presence becomes visible when we remember to open our eyes.

This weekend is the second of five Sundays in Lent, a time of stripping ourselves bare to allow for enough quiet to 'be' with God with an uncluttered heart. The Gospel reading is the story of Jesus' Transfiguration, the moment when his friends were allowed to experience his divine glory as he shone like the sun. For a few brief moments, Jesus and his 3 closest friends experienced the potential of pure life, the glory of Jesus, God the Son, who is human as we are human. In hearing of their experience, we too can catch a slight glimpse of glory that pierces our inner sight. We see life as it is meant to be, the truth that is not always obvious. We see our own potential. We can easily lose sight of the truth of human goodness, allowing it to be drowned out by the drama of selfishness and disregard for the dignity of others, and the whirlpool of our own existence. We cannot believe, and don't want to believe what is happening to others, our brothers and sisters throughout this world. Things happen to us that we cannot believe are happening to us – things that happen to 'other people'. We struggle to identify God's hand in our story. Jesus and his friends experienced that glory that awaits those who find the home God prepared for us in the moment our life began, hope itself.

God does not cause bad things to happen, but he certainly holds us close as they do. If we are sick, we are forced to allow others to help us, cultivating goodness and generosity in those who come to our aid, and humility in ourselves as we reluctantly acknowledge our own needs. If we are strong, we have energy in the bank to spend as a force for others, and we may pleasantly surprise ourselves at how much we can actually achieve. When we are sad, terrified, feel ripped off and overwhelmed, and our entire little world feels like it is broken, we know that Jesus knows how we feel, because he has been there too. A line from St Paul's letter to the Corinthians says it all, 'When I am weak, I am strong'. In our incapacity, we are forced to let go, and we find God as our strength if we can only open our eyes. We are encouraged to remember that we are spiritual beings on a human journey, on our road home to God. Today is just a single chapter in our very big, long story. We have been loved into existence by the conscious will of our loving Father, we negotiate life in the living companionship of Jesus, our encouragement and our example, and we love through the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our loving God caters for our every spiritual want, we simply need to open our hearts to receive. We try very hard to live as Jesus asked us to do, to love one another as he has loved us, and we find hope in the darkness. Our world is indeed a beautiful place.



Biru 30, lives in a rural village in Jharkand State in India's east. He lost mobility in one of his legs, after contracting polio as a child, which makes it difficult for him to walk. With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods development program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India. He gained the skills, support and encouragement he needed to establish his own bicycle repair business.

Now, Biru is able to provide a good life for his family – and an essential service to his community. He has discovered a sense of pride, confidence and hope which has inspired others living with a disability and paved the way *For All Future Generations*. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in the foyer or by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.

#### INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVE? The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. COME & SEE! An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on Saturday 2 April 2022, 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), East Melbourne.

For more information: A new Vocations website is under development, however the links below (copy, then paste) are working. Watch: Melbourne's Deacons <https://youtu.be/q2RhNDbtTS0> Watch: Pope Francis' 2020 Prayer Intention for Deacons <https://youtu.be/NuG99HD1LaY> Read More: [Brochure] <https://www.cam1.org.au/permanent-diaconate> Contact: Office of the Permanent Diaconate (Phone) 03 9412 3357 (Email) [diaconate@cam.org.au](mailto:diaconate@cam.org.au)

#### Safeguarding children news

We now have a dedicated email address for all enquiries regarding child safeguarding [Safeguardinghealesville@cam.org.au](mailto:Safeguardinghealesville@cam.org.au)

