



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

15 High Street
Healesville, 3777

<http://www.stbrigidshalesville.cam.org.au>

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Francis Denton
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Parish Office: 03 9739 5977
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9am to 2pm
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4th December 2022
2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Year A)

Mass & Sacrament Times for this week:

Saturday 3rd December – 2nd Sunday of Advent
10:00-11:00am – Confessions at St Patrick's, Lilydale
6:00pm Vigil Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

Sunday 4th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent
8:30am Mass at St Brigid's, Healesville
10:30am Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

Monday 5th November – No Mass

Tuesday 6th November – Memorial of Saint Nicholas
8:00-9:00am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Lilydale
8:30-9:00am – Confession available, Lilydale
9:15am Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale
9:45-10:30am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary, Lilydale

Wednesday 7th November – Memorial of Saint Ambrose
8:00-9:00am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Lilydale
8:30-9:00am – Confession available, Lilydale
9:15am Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale
9:45-10:30am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary, Lilydale

Thursday 8th December – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00-9:00am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Healesville
8:30-9:00am – Confession available, Healesville
9:15am Mass at St Brigid's, Healesville
7:00pm Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

Friday 9th December – Memorial of Saint Juan Diego
8:00-9:00am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Lilydale
8:30-9:00am – Confession available, Lilydale
9:15am Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

Saturday 10th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent
10:00-11:00am – Confessions at St Patrick's, Lilydale
6:00pm Vigil Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

Sunday 11th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent
8:30am Mass at St Brigid's, Healesville
10:30am Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

For details relating to **Baptisms, Marriages & Anointing of the Sick**, please contact the parish office.

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of His voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

First Reading (Isaiah 11:1-10)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless;
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17)

***R. Justice shall flourish in His time,
and fullness of peace for ever.***

O God, give Your judgement to the king,
to a king's son Your justice,
that he may judge Your people in justice
and Your poor in right judgement. R.

In His days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails:
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. R.

For He shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. R.

May His name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in Him,
all nations bless His name. R.

Second Reading (Romans 15:4-9)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may He who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for His mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 3:4, 6)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 3:1-12)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said:
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry His sandals; He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in His hand; He will clear His threshing-floor and gather His wheat into the barn; but the chaff He will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



Christmas BBQ for all parish volunteers and helpers

All volunteers and their families across the parishes of Lilydale and Healesville are warmly invited to an informal Christmas BBQ on the grounds of St Patrick's, Lilydale.

On Saturday 17th December

From 12:00-3:30pm

BBQ lunch and drinks will be provided.

Please RSVP to the parish office by 15th December.

If you have any dietary requirements please notify us in your RSVP.

A message from our HICCI (Healesville Inter Church Care Incorporated) Rep Joy:

HICCI members will be manning the BBQ and Soft Drinks stall at the Christmas Carols on 17th December in Queens Park Healesville. Please come along and enjoy a BBQ tea before an evening of Christmas carols.

Assistance Needed: A parishioner, who lives in Woori Yallock, is in need of a lift to the 8:30am Mass on Sundays. If you can assist, please contact the Parish Office (9739 5977)

Safeguarding children news

For all enquiries regarding child safeguarding, contact Safeguardinghealesville@cam.org.au



PARISH PRAYER LIST

Recently Deceased: Cornelius Doensen & Mary Nolet

Sick: Mia, Babies Emmett, Noah Glen Christie, Tedi and Santi; Roman, Blake Smith, John Snell, Peter Munro, Megan, Bernie Jansen, John, Glenn, Lyn Francis, Dorothy Barber, Fiona, Annie Preuss, Damian, John, Alison, Heather, Julie Bates, Garry Dettman, Bradley Jordan, Jeanette Henkel, Richard Galbraith, Debbie Huby, Geoff Lucas, 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, Lydia, Joyce Slattery, Annie, Michael Christie, Ted & Peter Bowling, James, Mitchell Wilson, Veronica Ireland, Lauren, Brooke, Anthony, Laura Baosde Pinto, Michelle, Judy, Annette Fromholtz, John Wray, Lynn Doensen, Elsa Gianforte, Fiona M, Louise Jansen, Carol Biddiscombe

Those Whose Anniversaries Occur In November:

Moira Burgi, Jim Mahedy, William Hammond, Rihanna Dowler, Elsie O'Connor, Ede Huebel, Leopold Huebel, Mary Langridge, Gavan Pomeroy, Jan Slawinski, Eileen Youngberry, Jim Pomeroy, Jack Brown, Dorothy Thompson, Diosidit Armada, Baby Jean Gotch, Kath Skate, Bill Howie, Jennie Youngberry, Lawrie Field.

The Immaculate Conception



On Thursday 8th December we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The word 'Immaculate' literally means "without stain." It is a common point of confusion, even among Catholics, to wrongly assume that the Immaculate Conception refers to Mary's conception of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit at the Annunciation (cf. Luke 1:30-35). It goes without saying that Jesus Christ was conceived without sin – he was God after all! The more contentious question for the early Church was whether Mary inherited the 'stain' of original sin or not. The nub of the problem was this: if Mary was created with original sin then how could Christ be born of Mary without being 'contaminated' by original sin himself – yet Jesus, being God, could clearly not share in the guilt of sin. On the other hand, if Mary was conceived without original sin then this seemed to present another problem: that Mary being without sin herself would have had no need of Jesus Christ's work of redemption.

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception explains that Mary was indeed redeemed by Christ's atoning merits, however these were applied to Mary by a *preventive* grace. God, in view of Jesus' incarnation, death and resurrection saved Mary, from original sin in anticipation. Thus Mary was herself conceived by her parents Anne and Joachim free from the stain of original sin. The Franciscan, Blessed John Duns Scotus explained this with the simple syllogism: *Potuit, deuit, ergo fecit!* – 'God was able to do it, it was fitting (that he do it), therefore He did it.' God who is not bound by the limitations of time or space granted Mary this singular privilege in order to enable the Second Person of the Holy Trinity to obtain from her a perfect human nature, uncorrupted by sin.

Throughout her life Mary was entirely unassailed by temptation (sin having no attraction for her) and so, unencumbered by sin, Mary was perfectly and flawlessly responsive to God's grace. For this reason the Archangel Gabriel refers to Mary as "full of grace," which can also be translated as "most highly favoured one." Mary is indeed *the* most highly favoured being in the whole of creation. On account of the unique graces bestowed upon her, Mary is exalted not only above the whole communion of saints but even above the highest ranks of angels, as the Queen of heaven. Only Jesus Christ himself in his sacred humanity is superior in the order of creation, and this infinitely so on account of his Divine Nature. Can any other created being claim the honour of being the Mother of God? Is it any wonder that Satan should tremble with terror, indignation and

humiliation before Mary, having been defeated by this young, gentle maiden?

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was kept alive in the devotional life of the Church long before its definitive promulgation by Blessed Pope Pius XI in 1854. Four years later when Our Lady appeared at Lourdes, St Bernadette asked this beautiful Lady who she was. Our Lady responded: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Without even understanding what the mysterious title meant Bernadette reported this to the sceptical priests and bishop who were investigating the matter, much to their astonishment. It was a clear vindication of the Pope's rightful proclamation of this dogma from Our Lady herself!

Within the deep violet night sky of Advent the Feast of the Immaculate Conception shines like a bright star pointing us towards the birth of the Christ-Child at Christmas. How fitting it is that we should prepare for Christmas by reflecting on the unique role of Mary in God's glorious and mysterious plan for our salvation.

O Mary, conceived without sin, intercede for us who have recourse to thee!

Please note: although it is not a holy day of obligation there will be an additional Mass at 7:00pm at St Patrick's Lilydale.

BEING ADVENT ANGELS 2022 – notes from the Care Group

Dear Parishioners,

It is that time of the year when we start preparing for Christmas. We are asking for your help in distributing some Christmas Cheer to families and individuals in our community who have had a difficult year. We are requesting donations of non-perishable festive foods, toiletries or a monetary contribution. We receive no official funding, so your support will enable us to provide hampers, care parcels, gifts, meals and vouchers. We can all be Advent Angels, caring for others and sharing Jesus' love for us.

The Care Group will also have a stall after the 8:30am Mass next Sunday, 11th December. Come and grab a bargain whilst supporting our Care 'Angel's Purse'.

Lastly – **thank you** to all who came along to Mass and the Friendship Luncheon last week. We all enjoyed being together again. There was lots of chatting and laughter whilst enjoying our lunch. A big THANK-YOU to school children and teachers who helped with the welcoming, the waitressing and cleaning; their company brings a smile to our faces and warms the heart. May God continue to bless us.

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING

The Healesville collections for the previous two weekends will be noted in next week's newsletter.

Please note – the collections are counted fortnightly, therefore will be available for the bulletin every second week.

1st Collection is for Presbytery – *Orange envelope* – Fr Francis, plus priests & retired priests of the Archdiocese living expenses.

2nd Collection is Thanksgiving – *Green envelope* – Running expenses of the Church

If you would like to make a donation:

St Patrick's Presbytery Account

BSB: 083-347 Account: 63931 5513

St Brigid's Church Account

BSB: 083-347 Account: 65080 2080

Ref: Surname or Thanksgiving Number

Saint of the Week – St Juan Diego



Name: Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Born: c. AD 1474; Cuauhtitlan, Kingdom of Texcoco (Mexico)
Died: c. AD 1548; Mexico City (Mexico)
Feast Day: 9th December
Patron Saint of: Indigenous peoples of the Americas

Juan Diego was a native Chichimec peasant whose life would have passed into obscurity had it not been for his key role in the extraordinary apparitions of what has become known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin was born in Cuauhtitlan, in the kingdom of Texcoco in about 1474, some twenty years before Christopher Columbus set foot in the Americas. Franciscan missionaries arrived in Mexico in 1524 and shortly thereafter Juan Diego and his wife, María Lucía, converted to Christianity and were baptised. Juan Diego had a particularly strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. His wife is thought to have passed away in 1529. Two years later in 1531 Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego on a total of four occasions.

The first of these apparitions occurred at dawn on Saturday December 9, 1531 as Juan Diego was walking on route to the Franciscan mission station for his regular faith instruction. Our Lady specifically requested that the bishop build a shrine in her honour on the very hill, Tepeyac, of the apparitions. Juan Diego went to the bishop, Friar Juan Zumarraga, who received him kindly but was not convinced that the apparition was authentic. Juan Diego left the bishop, crestfallen that he had failed in the mission from Our Lady, who then appeared to him a second time on that same day as he returned home via the same hill. Juan Diego was convinced that he was the wrong person for our Lady to recruit for such a task, since he was a ‘nobody’ with no power to persuade the bishop. Our Lady assured him that he was her chosen instrument for the task, precisely because he was meek and humble. Juan Diego returned to the bishop the following day (10th December) and the bishop listened attentively, struck by the peasant’s humility, piety and sincerity. The bishop asked Juan Diego for a sign from Our Lady to help him authenticate the message. Juan Diego immediately returned to Tepeyac hill where Our Lady appeared for the third time, instructing Juan Diego to return the next day (the 11th December) to receive the sign for the bishop.

In a strange twist, Juan Diego returned home to find his uncle, Juan Bernardino, gravely unwell. His situation required Juan Diego’s full-time care, such that the latter missed his appointment with the Blessed Virgin. The uncle’s condition deteriorated such that Juan Diego was required to seek a priest for the Last Rites. Embarrassed by his failure to have observed

Our Lady’s request to return to Tepeyac the day earlier, Juan Diego sought out an alternative route to avoid the spot. Notwithstanding, on the 12th December Our Lady intercepted him on route with the fourth and final apparition asking where he was going. He explained his uncle’s desperate situation. Our Lady gently chastised him for failing to trust in her intercession, declaring “Am I not here, I who am your mother?” She assured him of his uncle’s cure and sent him to return to Tepeyac hill where he would find an unseasonable abundance of roses, on the rocky cactus-strewn terrain. He was to fill the mantle of his cloak (the cactus fibre tilma commonly worn by the natives) with the flowers and present them to the bishop as proof. This Juan Diego did and promptly went to the bishop’s residence.

When the bishop received him Juan Diego released the tilma, and the blooms spilled forth before him. To the greater astonishment of all was the fact that upon the surface of Juan Diego’s tilma appeared a remarkable image of the Blessed Virgin, just as she had appeared to him. These signs from Our Lady convinced the bishop to build the Shrine to Our Lady, and today it is the most visited Marian shrine in the world, attracting over 20 million pilgrims annually. The basilica houses the famous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to this day. In recent decades the image has been subjected to forensic analysis and it remains a mystery to science on account of its remarkable state of preservation (cactus fibre would normally disintegrate within 10 years), the mysterious way the image floats above the surface of the fabric (without penetrating the fibres) and the details reflected in the eyes of the Virgin (which were only discovered via microscopic analysis).

Today we can observe a growing movement of anti-Western and anti-Christian sentiment sweeping the world. In particular, Christian missionaries and European colonisers have been a focus of criticism, the argument being that they imposed their own European culture and beliefs. There is a blindness and prejudice in this view that fails to appreciate how willingly many native converts took to Christianity as a relief from the horror of paganism, which included among other things, the daily practice of ritual human sacrifice. St Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe simply continue the apostolic witness that Jesus Christ wants to gather to Himself all nations and cultures (cf. Mt 28:19). In the decades following the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe (at precisely the same time as Christendom was being rent in two by Protestantism) these events, occasioned through the mediation of a poor, native Mexican, precipitated the greatest number of Christian conversions in the entire history of Christianity. By the middle of the 16th century countless millions of natives from Central and South America had converted to Christianity not by force, but by desire. They saw in Our Lady of Guadalupe, that Mary was *their* queen and mother, and that the words addressed to Juan Diego were intended for them also: “Am I not here, I who am your mother?”

St Juan Diego’s feast day is the 9th December, corresponding to the first date of the apparition, and three days later on 12th December we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe the date when the miraculous image was revealed.

Saint Juan Diego, pray for us!
Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

As from the *1st Sunday of Advent, 27 November 2022, the **general dispensation from our Sunday and Holy Day obligations will be lifted.*** As always, the ordinary individual exemptions will remain in place (e.g. for reasons of ill health, family care of the vulnerable, etc.).
If you would like to read **Archbishop Comensoli’s** full pastoral letter, please visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/welcome-home-a-pastoral-letter-from-archbishop-comensoli>