

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
Postal Address: PO Box 547, Lilydale, 3140

Parish Office: 03 9739 5977
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9am to 2pm
Email Address: Healesville@cam.org.au

11th December 2022
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Year A)

Mass & Sacrament Times for this week:

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

Monday 12th November – No Mass

Tuesday 13th November – Memorial of Saint Lucy
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
6pm Grade 6 Graduation Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

Wednesday 14th November – Memorial of Saint John of the Cross
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
2pm School Mass at St Brigid's, Healesville

Thursday 15th December – Thursday of the 3rd Wk of Advent
10:30am Mass at Our Lady of the Snows, Marysville

Friday 16th December – Friday of the 3rd Wk of Advent
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 17th December – 4th Sunday of Advent
10:00-11:00am – Confessions at St Patrick's, Lilydale
6:00pm Vigil Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

Sunday 18th December – 4th Sunday of Advent
8:30am Mass at St Brigid's, Healesville
10:30am Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale
5:00pm Mass at St Aloysius, Yarra Glen

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

Safeguarding children news

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



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve – Saturday December 24th:

5pm – St Brigid's, Healesville
7:30pm – St Patrick's, Lilydale
11:00pm – Carols Service followed by
Midnight Mass (12:00am) St Patrick's, Lilydale

Christmas Day – Sunday December 25th:

8:30am – St Brigid's, Healesville
10:30am – St Patrick's, Lilydale



Entrance Antiphon (Philippians 4:4-5)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
He is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 145:6-10)

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is He who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. R.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. R.

Second Reading (James 5:7-10)

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer:
how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until
it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have
to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will
be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers,
so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is
already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example,
brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who
spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18))

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent
his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or
have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go
back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again,
and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and
the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to
the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in Me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the
people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to
see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go
out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear
fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go
out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a
prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going
to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way
before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of
women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet
the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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

Communion Antiphon (Isaiah 35:4)

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and He will save us.

Reading Roster for Sunday 8:30am Mass:

11 th December	-	Anne Lehman
18 th December	-	John Barrett
25 th December	-	TBC
1 st January 2023	-	Anne Lehmann
8 th January	-	Veronica Ireland
15 th January	-	Josh Tilley
22 nd January	-	Andrea/Molly Houlihan
29 th January	-	Maree Jeffcott

TODAY - BEING ADVENT ANGELS 2022

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

The Care Group are also 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.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Recently Deceased: Cornelius Doensen

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 December:

Josephine Fassler, Lucy Mahedy, Mark Broomhead, Iona
Huebel, Doris Dennehy, Danny O'Meara, Nora Podesta,
Paul Dunlop, Neil Lindorff, Noel Dudgeon, Pietro
Bariola, Bishop Joe Grech, Dolly (Florence) Reeves,
Dennis Eldred, Dawn Flannaghan, Paul Hansen, Hans
Rietbergen, John Burger, Maria Kermac, Silvano Kermac,
Tony Grieve, Wynn Wislon, Anne Bateman.

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)

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – please note, the Parish Office
will be closed from December 24th to January 2nd. Normal office
hours will resume Tuesday 3rd of January, 2023.

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.

As from the *1st Sunday of Advent, 27 November 2022*, **the
general dispensation from our Sunday and Holy Day Mass
obligations has been 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](https://melbournecatholic.org/news/welcome-home-a-pastoral-letter-from-archbishop-comensoli)

Christmas BBQ for all parish volunteers!



All volunteers and their families across the parishes of Lilydale and Healesville are warmly invited to an informal pre-Christmas BBQ on:

Saturday 17th December
From 12:00-3:30pm
On the grounds of St Patrick's, Lilydale

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.

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia:

(ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church.)

That Catholic Shop - Christmas orders from Aid to the Church in Need's online store – That Catholic Shop – can still be made all the way up to 19 December! Choose from our broad range of religious gifts and receive free shipping for orders over \$100. Peruse our Christmas range at www.thatcatholicshop.com

Summer School of Evangelisation

Are you a young adult aged 18-35 years old?
Join other Catholic young adults and become **Alive Again** at Summer School of Evangelisation Melbourne, a week-long retreat led by prayer, fellowship, praise & worship, catechesis and sacraments.

There's no better way to start the year than on a retreat spent with the Lord.

Jan 15-22, 2023. Early bird rates now available. Register at ssemelbourne.org.au or follow us on Facebook & Instagram @ssemelbourne for more info and updates.



Reach out. Give life.



Thank You! Your support of this year's Appeal for World Mission Sunday enables Church workers in 1047 mission dioceses to offer Good News to their local communities. Thank you for contributing to the amount of **\$157.90** which was raised by **St Brigid's** community for Catholic Mission. Our partnership with local churches in over 160 countries is dependent upon the prayerful and financial support of many. Through your contribution, communities in Ethiopia look forward with hope, with easier access to health, educational and spiritual resources.

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING

6th November:

St. Brigid's:
Presbytery \$ 229.85
Thanksgiving Collection \$ 519.20

13th November:

St. Brigid's:
Presbytery \$ 327.05
Thanksgiving Collection \$ 356.45
Catholic Deaf Collection \$ 138.60

20th November:

St. Brigid's:
Presbytery \$ 212.05
Thanksgiving Collection \$ 391.60

27th November:

St. Brigid's:
Presbytery \$ 235.40
Thanksgiving Collection \$ 316.05

St. Aloysius':
Presbytery \$ 86.45
Thanksgiving Collection \$ 86.50

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

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

The Parish of Ivanhoe has a couple of vacancies for its Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 11th – 28th April 2023. If you are interested please visit our Parish

Website www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe and click on the News Page or phone Fr. Bill Edebohls 0427 879 733.



Palms Australia
Reach Beyond

You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts.

In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

At Home: Palms' Neighbours Without Borders program (January 7 – 11) will **“focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church”** as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

Overseas: Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the many requests Palms has from communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

Saint of the Week – St John of the Cross



Name: Juan de Yepes y Álvarez (Juan de la Cruz)
Born: 24 June 1542 ; Fontiveros, Ávila, Castille (Spain)
Died: 14 December 1591; Úbeda, Castille (Spain)
Feast Day: 14th December
Patron Saint of: Contemplatives, mystics, and poets.

It wasn't so long ago (15th October) that we featured St Teresa of Avila as our saint of the week, with whom St John of the Cross forged a deep spiritual friendship. Their two lives are closely intertwined, united by their Carmelite spirituality and a desire to plumb the depths of self-renunciation and soar to the heights of mystical contemplation. They are considered the two great reformers of the Carmelites and part of the sixteenth century counter-reformation renewal of the Church.

John's own life was marked by tragedy from childhood. His father died when John was about three and this reduced the family to extreme poverty. John's brother died of malnutrition in childhood, and John was sent to a boarding school for orphans and poor children. In spite of these difficult circumstances he demonstrated a refinement of manners and intellect and in 1563 entered the Carmelite Order. John was ordained a priest in 1567 and some time shortly after he met St Teresa, from which point his life took a new course. Teresa was some twenty-seven years John's senior, and well advanced along the path of reforming the Carmelite nuns; even so, Teresa recognised the spark of genuine sanctity in the young priest and took him as the spiritual director for herself and her convent of 130 nuns.

John recognised the need for a similar work of reform among the Carmelite Friars and was greatly encouraged by St Teresa to take up the task. Perhaps not surprisingly, this was not well-received by the majority of the friars who were quite comfortable, and wanted to remain so! As often happens in the Church, the work of reform became entangled in politics and the opposition to John turned violent. He was effectively taken prisoner by a faction of friars and taken by force to a monastery in Toledo. Imprisoned in a tiny, stifling cell with no windows, and kept alive on starvation rations, John was only taken out weekly to be publicly beaten before the other friars. In spite of this monstrous injustice which he endured from his own religious confreres, during this period John

secretly composed some of his most profound and moving poetry and religious canticles. His imprisonment experience formed the basis of his theology on the 'dark night of the soul', in which he sought to examine how God is able to use suffering to purify the soul from worldly attachments which can prepare the soul to enter the unitive stage, opening up to mystical contemplation.

On 15th August (the feast of the Assumption) in 1578, John managed to escape during the night and immediately sought refuge with Teresa's nuns in Toledo. Much of the next two years was spent recovering his shattered health. In 1580 the Pope sought to resolve the conflict within the Carmelites by separating the Order between the older unreformed Carmelites and the newer, reformed (or 'discalced') Carmelites – so-called because they would not wear closed shoes as a penance. The remainder of John's years were spent continuing the work of reform and in writing. His most systematic treatment of mystical theology is "The Ascent of Mount Carmel", which (like the works of St Teresa of Avila), is largely drawn from his personal experience.

Although John was small in stature and died quite young (aged 49), he is regarded as a giant in the area of mystical theology. In 1926 Pope Pius XI declared St John of the Cross a Doctor of the Church. John 'of the Cross' truly lived up to his name. Suffering in all its forms was a seemingly constant feature of his life: physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual. In spite of this John learned to embrace the cross. Instead of allowing suffering to ruin him by making him cynical, embittered or depressed, he saw in his sufferings the invitation to unite himself to Christ crucified. The furnace of suffering became a means to purify his love for God and neighbour, according to the wisdom of St Paul: "*we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*" (Romans 5:3-5).

Today there is a crisis of spiritual immaturity, whereby many people reduce the value of religious experience to mere 'feelings'. These spiritual juveniles judge the value of everything on the basis of how it makes them *feel*. When they *feel* that going to Mass, or reading the Bible, or praying the rosary, is 'boring' they wrongly conclude that it is therefore of no value. In fact, feelings are a terribly *unreliable* indicator of true spiritual progress or value, which is why the masters of the spiritual life invariably stress the importance of depriving our sensible appetites through fasting, abstinence and the discipline of mental prayer – all of which are difficult and ungratifying in the moment, but which clear the ground for God's grace. Through the example and intercession of St John of the Cross may we learn to tenderly embrace the crosses the Lord sends us, and seek more perfectly that union with God for which we were created.

St John of the Cross, pray for us!