



**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

**18th December 2022
4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Year A)**

Mass & Sacrament Times for this week:

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

Monday 19th November – No Mass

Tuesday 20th November – December 20
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

Wednesday 21st November – Memorial of Saint Peter Canisius
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

Thursday 22nd December – December 22
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

Friday 23rd December – December 23
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 24th December – The Nativity of the Lord
10:00-11:00am – Confessions at St Patrick's, Lilydale
5:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St Brigid's, Healesville
7:30pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale
11:00pm – Carols Service **followed by Midnight Mass (12:00am)** at St Patrick's, Lilydale

Sunday 25th December – The Nativity of the Lord
8:30am Christmas Mass at St Brigid's, Healesville
10:30am Christmas Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

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



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 (Isaiah 45:8)

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading (Isaiah 7:10-14)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Emmanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 23:1-6)

*R. Let the Lord enter;
He is King of glory.*

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is He who set it on the seas;
on the waters He made it firm.

*R. Let the Lord enter;
He is King of glory.*

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in His holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

*R. Let the Lord enter;
He is King of glory.*

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek Him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

*R. Let the Lord enter;
He is King of glory.*

Second Reading (Romans 1:1-7)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through His prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature He took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in Him, was proclaimed Son of God in all His power through His resurrection from the dead. Through Him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of His name. You are one of these nations, and by His call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 1:23)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 1:18-24)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name Him Jesus, because He is the one who is to save His people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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

Communion Antiphon (Isaiah 7:14)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Reading Roster for Sunday 8:30am Mass:

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

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Recently Deceased: Father Joseph Patrick Hynan

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, Ilona 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)

BEING ADVENT ANGELS 2022

The Care Group 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.

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.

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>



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia:

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

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply in Syria and Lebanon through our Christmas appeal *Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas*. The support we are pledging to them is very much emergency relief to sustain the Christian population in hope. The projects we are supporting are projects such as medical aid, community help and gifts for children in Lebanon, as well as support for lay faithful and accommodation for families in Syria.

It is only with your help that ACN can support Christians in Lebanon and Syria this Christmas!

To watch videos and read stories of the projects we are supporting visit www.aidtochurch.org/christmas2022

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



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.

Safeguarding children news

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



WEEKLY THANKSGIVING

The collections are counted roughly every fortnight, therefore will be available for the bulletin generally 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

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.

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.

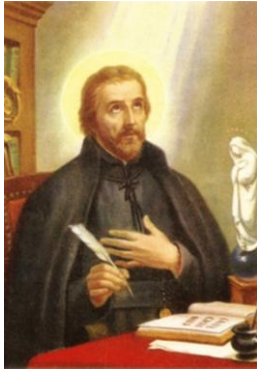
In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad. Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and 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 Peter Canisius



Name: Peter Canisius

Born: 8 May 1521; Nijmegen, Netherlands

Died: 21 December 1597; Fribourg, Switzerland

Feast Day: 21st December

Patron Saint of: Catholic Publishing, Germany

St Peter Canisius was born in Holland in 1521, just four years after Martin Luther had nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg cathedral. His entire life would be lived in the shadow of the Reformation, and he would in due course become a key figure in addressing crisis on German soil.

In 1534 St Ignatius Loyola established the Society of Jesus (popularly called Jesuits). Peter first came into contact with the Jesuits, most notably St Peter Faber, during his years of study at the University of Cologne. He found himself drawn to this extraordinarily dynamic group of priests, who were noted both for their asceticism and for their intellectual rigour, and joined the Society in 1543. His academic gifts were promptly put to good use and he began a gruelling schedule of preaching, writing and public debates in his endeavour to stem the haemorrhaging of the Church caused by the Protestant revolution. He soon emerged as an extremely effective Catholic apologist, and sought to address the problem at its source, within Germany itself. Peter was able to engage with the theological issues raised by Protestantism in a manner that took them seriously, and proposed lucid and coherent responses to the objections raised. Although not a bishop, in 1547 Peter Canisius participated in the Council of Trent, on account of his active part in responding to the Reformers.

Peter was a gifted and articulate speaker, but more than this, he understood the crisis fomented by the Protestants was so destructive largely because the Catholic population was not well-catechised in the basics of the faith. This meant they were more likely to be bamboozled by the theological arguments of the Reformers and swayed by their passionate and emotive rhetoric, rather than being intellectually convinced by their theological ideas. Thus, part of the solution would have to be to catechise the masses. Peter was among the first Catholics of the Counter-Reformation to recognise the potential of the printing press in order to widely disseminate answers to many of the objections raised by the Protestants. He wrote a German catechism in order to help instruct ordinary German Catholics in the essentials of the faith so that they would be in a better position to defend themselves against the arguments of the Reformers. The German Catechism was a great success, and we went on to write a further two Catechisms. He is credited in no small part for restoring

Catholicism to Bavaria and the Rhineland. Ever since, the south of Germany has remained predominantly Catholic. His writings were also hugely influential in Poland, Hungary and Austria. For these reasons, Peter Canisius is the patron saint of both Germany and the Catholic Press. On account of his successes in defending the Faith, in 1554 Peter was offered the prestigious appointment of becoming the Archbishop of Vienna. He refused it, fearing that he would not be able to continue his missionary work if tethered to the administrative demand of a Diocese.

Peter's attitude to the Reformers was always one of civility and where possible, *rapprochement*. The high passions that had erupted with the Reformation meant many people took a side more on the basis of political or social allegiance, rather than any deep intellectual conviction. He presumed that those swept up in the Reformation were acting in good faith and therefore sought to respond to their *ideas* rather than focusing the attack upon the individual persons involved. There is an important lesson here. So much of public discourse (if indeed it could even be called that) is no longer a mutually respectful contest between competing ideas in order to arrive at the truth. Sincerity seems sorely lacking. Instead, we see every issue being divided along tribal lines with sides flinging as much mud as possible. Devoid of any spirit of Christian charity, the primary aim of social discourse now is to seek to discredit (ie. 'cancel') one's opponent, as a lazy alternative to rebutting their ideas. Social media has completely destroyed public discourse for four reasons: 1) the medium is designed to favour rash and impulsive responses; 2) the limited text-space of a tweet or Facebook post means facile slogans and vicious *ad hominem* attacks become a substitute for articulating cogent, rational arguments; 3) The anonymity of the participants means there is virtually no accountability for what is said; 4) since there are no qualitative assessments of the arguments raised, the 'best' argument is decided by the mob that roars the loudest (irrespective of how irrational their position is). Consequently, public debate resembles a screaming match between two rival troops of baboons.

As Catholics we are called to love the Truth. Ours is not an adherence to an ideology, it is adherence to a person, Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. Sadly many Catholics find themselves completely disorientated by the many conflicting voices in our culture. As in the 16th century there is an urgent need for Catholics to become better educated in their faith. Peter Canisius was not afraid to use the new technology of the printing press in the service of evangelisation and catechesis; likewise the internet offers us an almost infinite array of resources at our disposal to help teach us the faith. Perhaps we can be inspired to become more pro-active in seeking to deepen our knowledge of the Catholic faith.

St Peter Canisius, pray for us!

PS. Fr Dave Nix is currently doing a video series on the Catechism of Trent (RCT series) – see link below. This is a great overview of the essential teachings of Catholicism, that so many people feel they have missed out on.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbUseN1dayU&list=PLjsxYSk9VIHf8Hm825hFMEjw9hPuHfIfE>