



**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.stbrigidshealesville.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](mailto:Healesville@cam.org.au)

**5<sup>th</sup> February 2023**  
**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**  
**(Year A)**

**Mass & Sacrament Times for this week:**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

10:00-11:00am – Confessions at St Patrick's, Lilydale  
6:00pm Vigil Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February – No Mass**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Tuesday of the 5<sup>th</sup> week in OT**

8:00-9:00am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Lilydale  
(8:30-9:00am – Confession available)  
9:15am Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale  
9:45-10:30am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary  
(Italian)

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February – St Josephine Bakhita**

8:00-9:00am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Lilydale  
(8:30-9:00am – Confession available)  
9:15am Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale  
9:45-10:30am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary,  
Lilydale  
11:00am – Funeral of Joy Layton (St Patrick's)

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Thursday of the 5<sup>th</sup> week in OT**

8:00-9:00am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,  
Healesville  
(8:30-9:00am – Confession available)  
9:15am Mass at St Brigid's, Healesville

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Memorial of Saint Scholastica**

8:00-9:00am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Lilydale  
(8:30-9:00am – Confession available)  
9:15am Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale  
12:00pm School Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

10:00-11:00am – Confessions at St Patrick's, Lilydale  
6:00pm Vigil Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:30am Mass at St Brigid's, Healesville  
10:30am Mass at St Patrick's, Lilydale  
12:30pm Baptisms at St Brigid's, Healesville

**Entrance Antiphon (Psalm 95:6-7)**

O come, let us worship God  
and bow low before the God who made us,  
for He is the Lord our God.

**First Reading (Isaiah 58:7-10)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,  
and shelter the homeless poor,  
clothe the man you see to be naked  
and turn not from your own kin.  
Then will your light shine like the dawn  
and your wound be quickly healed over.  
Your integrity will go before you  
and the glory of the Lord behind you.  
Cry, and the Lord will answer;  
call, and He will say, 'I am here.'  
If you do away with the yoke,  
the clenched fist, the wicked word,  
if you give your bread to the hungry,  
and relief to the oppressed,  
your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your shadows become like noon.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 111:4-9)**

***R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright.***

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
he is generous, merciful and just.  
The good man takes pity and lends,  
he conducts his affairs with honour. R.

The just man will never waver:  
he will be remembered for ever.  
He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. R.

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
His head will be raised in glory. R.

## Second Reading (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about Him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation (John 8:12)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
the man who follows Me  
will have the light of life.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel (Matthew 5:13-16)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to His disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

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

## Communion Antiphon (Psalm 107:8-9)

Let them thank the Lord for His mercy,  
His wonders for the children of men,  
for He satisfies the thirsty soul,  
and the hungry He fills with good things.

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

## Reading Roster for Sunday 8:30am Mass:

29 <sup>th</sup> January	-	Maree Jeffcott
5 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Anne Lehmann
12 <sup>th</sup> February	-	John Barrett
19 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Ed McGettigan
26 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Luke Houlihan
5 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Veronica Ireland
12 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Josh Tilley



## PARISH PRAYER LIST

**Recently Deceased:** Joy Layton

**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 February:

Laurie Nairn, John Holland, Giobatta Mioni, John Doyle, Leonard Postlethwaite, George Shaddock, Dorothy Chan, Claire Keppel, Anton Wolke, Ian Read, Tubby Dennehy, Jan Rijs, Sr Joan McKenna, Patricia Chandler, Des Murphy, Roy Grieve, Anne Huggett, Fr Bernie Hammond, Brian Warton, Sheila Barr, Elizabeth Beaton, Fr Kevin Mogg.

## St Brigid's Gardening Group

Our first gardening day is **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February**, starting at 9am. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please bring gardening tools etc.

We are also seeking donations for plants or shrubs. If you have any unwanted gardening tools, such as spades, forks, hoes or a wheelbarrow, we can put them to good use.

Any amount of time you can spare to help, we welcome!

If you have any queries, please phone Joy (0419 440 304).

## St Brigid's Parish Hall for Hire

A reminder that the St Brigid's Hall is available for hire: for community groups and/or private functions. It's a great, versatile space with access to industrial kitchen. Very reasonable rates: \$30 per hour or \$250 per day. Make your enquiries via the Parish office.

## **Safeguarding children news**

For all enquiries regarding child safeguarding, contact [Safeguardinghealesville@cam.org.au](mailto:Safeguardinghealesville@cam.org.au)



## Saint of the Week – St Josephine Bakhita



**Name:** Josephine Margaret Bakhita  
**Born:** AD 1869; Sultanate of Darfur (Sudan)  
**Died:** 8<sup>th</sup> February AD 1947; Schio, Veneto, Italy  
**Feast Day:** 8<sup>th</sup> February  
**Patron Saint of:** Human trafficking survivors; Sudan.

There is an old, rhyming Latin saying: *'nomen est omen'* meaning that one's name is an omen of one's future. The word *Bakhita* is Arabic for 'lucky' or 'fortunate.' Josephine's adopted surname of Bakhita was in fact the name given to her by her Islamic slave owners; One might wonder how a maltreated slave could be considered 'fortunate'? Not by earthly standards, but only from the Divine standpoint that we see expressed in the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the poor in Spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven!"

Josephine was born into a comfortable and relatively prosperous family, with three brothers and three sisters. She would later fondly recount her early childhood: "I lived a very happy and carefree life, without knowing what suffering was." Her life took a dramatic turn when in 1877 at the age of seven or eight Josephine was abducted by Arab slave traders and forced to march barefoot the 960 kilometres to the slave markets of El-Obeid. She was sold in succession to a number of slave owners where she worked as a domestic servant. During this time she was forcibly converted to Islam. The life was not always brutal but her owners could be capricious and prone to outbursts of violence. On one occasion Josephine was kicked so severely that she was physically incapacitated for a month.

However, it was in the home of her fourth owner, a Turkish General, where she served his wife and mother-in-law, that Josephine was subjected to the most violent and terrifying experience of slavery. Josephine would later write: "During all the years I stayed in that house, I do not recall a day that passed without some wound or other. When a wound from the whip began to heal, other blows would pour down on me." It was in fact the General's wife and mother-in-law who seemed to take an especially perverse pleasure in inflicting acts of cruelty upon Josephine. The General's wife took to performing deep incisions upon Josephine's back and front that were

filled with salt, so as to cause permanent scarring. The pain was understandably excruciating and the wounds slow to heal. Josephine came to bear a total of 114 of these involuntarily inflicted 'decorative scarrings' over her torso that she carried for life.

In 1883 Josephine's fortunes changed for the better, when the general was required to return to Turkey, and sold Josephine to the Italian Vice-Consul, Callisto Legnani, who had a diplomatic posting in Khartoum. To Josephine's astonishment Legnani and his household never beat or punished her, indeed, they treated her with dignity and kindness. The contrast from the living hell endured under the Turkish general's home to that of Legnani made a profound impression upon her. When two year later in 1885 Legnani had to return to Italy, Josephine begged him to take her with him. When they arrived in Italy Legnani entrusted Josephine to the Michieli family who lived near Mirano, in the Veneto region. There Josephine became the nanny to their young daughter, Mimmina.

In 1888, a strange set of circumstances concerning the delayed sale of the Michieli's Veneto property and the family's plan to move to Sudan, caused Josephine and Mimmina to be temporarily placed into the care of the Canossian Sisters in Venice. The witness of the nuns, their kindness and the beauty and prayerfulness of their way of life captivated Josephine. She had known the God of Islam (of which her sadistic slave-owners had not been the finest ambassadors) but immediately saw that the God of the Christians was radically different. The God that these kindly nuns worshipped hung from a cross and bore wounds and scars all over His divine Body – scars like her own! She sought instruction from the nuns and as a catechumen devoured the faith with an insatiable appetite. Josephine's entire life had been marked by suffering, and here was something new: a God who accepted suffering out of love, whose sufferings became redemptive, and who conquered his tormentors through forgiveness and mercy. In the company of these holy nuns she discovered a happiness on earth that she had never thought possible. When the Michieli family returned to collect Josephine and Mimmina, to their astonishment she made it clear that she had no intention of leaving. The good sisters came to Josephine's defence, and the matter was brought before the civil courts who ruled that because Italy had never recognised the legality of slavery that Josephine had never legally been a slave. Free for the first time in her adult life, able to determine her own future, she chose to remain with the Canossian Sisters. On 9<sup>th</sup> January 1890 she was baptised with the names 'Josephine Margaret Fortunata' (Fortunata being the Latin equivalent of Bakhita), and on the same day she was Confirmed and received Holy Communion, by the Patriarch of Venice, Cardinal Giuseppe Sarto (who was later Pope Saint Pius X). For that reason alone she earned her name 'Fortunata'!

In 1893 Josephine entered the novitiate and three years later was professed a Canossian nun. She was transferred to the convent in Schio, in Vicenza. The remainder of her life was lived as a devout religious sister, working as cook, sacristan and doorkeeper, among other duties.

Although the only sister of African descent in the convent she was greatly loved by her sisters, and moreover by all the townsfolk of Schio, who recognised the kindness and sanctity of 'Sor Moretta' – their 'Little Brown Sister'. Following her death on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1947, Josephine Bakhita lay in state for three days as thousands of faithful came to the convent to pay their respects to the saintly nun. Pope St John Paul II canonised St Josephine Bakhita in 2000.

Léon Bloy once wrote, "the only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint." Which is another way of saying with St Paul, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 18:8). In a culture like our own, where people (usually the most privileged and entitled) are encouraged to view themselves as 'victims' as a matter of social status, St Josephine Bakhita stands as a towering sign of contradiction. For all the trauma, tragedy and suffering she endured, Josephine never viewed herself as a 'victim' to be pitied or requiring compensation. Sr Josephine was once asked what she would do if she were to ever meet her captors. She immediately responded, "If I were to meet those who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands. For if these things had not happened, I would not have been a Christian and a religious sister today." For all the horrific misfortune she suffered, Josephine saw the mysterious working of Divine Providence leading her to the loving arms of Christ. Like St Paul, Josephine could count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus (cf. Phil 3:8), and for this reason understood that she was truly *Bakhita* (Fortunate).

St Josephine Bakhita, pray for us!

### WEEKLY THANKSGIVING

*The previous weeks' thanksgiving will be published once it has been counted.*

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **HOLY SPIRIT PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND AND/OR ITALY**

**(28th August - 19th September, 2023)**

Contact us for more details: FrEmmanueltv

(SpiritualDirector): [fremmanueltv@gmail.com](mailto:fremmanueltv@gmail.com); [holyspiritp@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritp@gmail.com); 0417999553, 0893413079; Coordinators:

Dax: 0420643949; and Didith: 0473246029.

# THEOLOGY

## @ THE PUB

**Theology at the pub** – an opportunity for Catholics aged 18-35 (and religious of all ages) to meet, have great conversations over a meal and a drink and listen to interesting talks by engaging Catholic speakers.

**Never been to a Theology at the Pub (T@P) event before?** Great! We look forward to you joining us for the first time, getting connected with other young Catholics from around Melbourne and learning a thing or two our talks.

### **NEXT EVENT for T@P: On the shoulders of Giants. The Legacies of Pope Benedict and Cardinal Pell. A conversation with Tracey Rowland.**

**Date:** Monday 6th of February 2022

**Talk starts:** 7:30pm (doors open 6pm)

**Location:** The Hop Bar, Top Level of Beer DeLuxe Federation Square, Flinders St, Melbourne VIC 3000  
*(please note change from usual venue)*

**Speaker:** Tracey Rowland

**About the Speaker:** Tracey Rowland is a highly accomplished Australian theologian, professor, and author. She holds degrees in law, government, philosophy, and theology from institutions such as the University of Queensland, the University of Melbourne, Cambridge University, and the Lateran.

She was the Dean of the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family in Melbourne and has published 8 books and over 150 articles, including her award-winning work "Ratzinger's Faith."

She has received numerous honors, including the Archbishop Michael J Miller Award, the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, and the Ratzinger Prize for theology. Rowland is a member of the editorial board of *Communio: International Catholic Review* and was appointed to the 9th International Theological Commission in 2014.

If you have any other questions about the event or future events:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tapmelb/](https://www.facebook.com/tapmelb/)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/tap\\_melb/](https://www.instagram.com/tap_melb/)

Website: [www.theologyatthepub.com.au](http://www.theologyatthepub.com.au)

***Aid to the Church in Need*** is asking for support to aid sisters in Kenya in building a new mother house and formation centre for their local community. Hunger, illiteracy, and lack of medical provision, combined with desperately poor roads and a lack of clean drinking water make life incredibly difficult for many people in Kenya. The diocesan congregation of the "Visitation Daughters of the Immaculate Heart" were established in order to help this needy population - but to continue their work they need your help! The sisters' work includes caring for expectant mothers, acting as midwives, providing counselling, caring for the sick and looking after the elderly and orphans who are frequently abandoned by society. To make an offering and learn more visit <https://aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject>