



Gospel Mk 1:29-39

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The mother-in-law of Simon (Peter) was sick in bed with a raging fever. When Jesus learned about her distressed state, he 'took her by the hand and helped her up'. He broke the taboo about physical contact with a woman not his relative because he wanted to holistically heal her disease.

Simon's mother-in-law didn't need an aspirin and a cup of tea. She felt quarantined, isolated, and needed a hand reassuring her of sociable relationships. Jesus overcame her fever and her dis-ease with the world.

At every Mass we exchange a physical gesture at the greeting of Peace. This quite often overcomes being ill-at-ease with a family member or just with the neighbour in the pew. We need to take that symbolic action into the world. For somebody, it may be the most touching thing we ever do.

We could pause for a moment to identify that person who needs us to reach out, to take their hand and help them up.

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WELCOME TO ST BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GREYTHORN

St Bridget's Greythorn is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

7 February 2021

First Reading Jb 7:1-4. 6-7

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'how slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. Praise the Lord for he is good; sing to our God for he is loving; to him our praise is due. (R.)
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles, he heals the broken-hearted,

he binds up all their wounds. He fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name. (R.)

3. Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

**He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering
Alleluia!**

ST BRIDGETS CATHOLIC PARISH GREYTHORN
48 Sweyn Street, Balwyn North 3104

Parish Priest: Fr John Salvano Assistant Priest: Fr Lenin Thenamirtham (Contact the Parish Office of St Anne and St Bede on 9401 6355 for pastoral assistance) Priest in Residence: Fr Kevin Lenehan Parish School: Principal: Robyn Thomson Contact : 9857 6394	Parish Secretary: Mario Landini St Bridget Parish Office: Phone: 9857 6395 Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday 9-3. Email: greythorn@cam.org.au Web: www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au Parish Hall Hire: Enquiries – 9857 6395	Child Safety Co-ordinator: Anne Credlin Contact 9848 5389 Sacramental Program: Contact the Parish Office 9401 6355 Refugee Action Group: Chair: Robert Stewart Contact via Parish Office St Vincent De Paul Society President: Anne Hartley Help Line 1800 305 330
NOTE: Baptisms and Weddings by appointment only. Contact the Parish Office for details.		

Mass and Prayer times at our affiliated Churches:

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
St Bridget		Meditation 9.30am			5.00pm	10.00am 5.30pm
St Bede	9.15am		9.15am		9.00am 6.00pm	9.00am 11.00am
St Anne		9.30am		9.30am	5.00pm	10.30am
St Joachim						8.30am

We are now using the State Government QR Code service to register all Mass attendees. Trybooking is no longer used. This allows quick contact tracing in the event it is necessary. Once you have downloaded the QR app, there is secure communication of your details to the database. Any entry is automatically deleted after 28 days. Once you have saved your details on the app, you only need to open and scan the QR Code whenever you come to the church. If you do not have a mobile phone, or cannot download the app, there will be someone available to help you book in. To download the app at home search for Service Victoria. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass so you have time to register.

Door marshals are required to monitor numbers and assist parishioners who may be having registration problems. If you can assist, please make yourself available when at Mass.

Rosters for February 13 & 14:

	Saturday @ 5.00pm	Sunday @ 10.00am	Sunday @ 5.30pm
Lectors	Margaret Stewart	V Brunton	G Khoo
Minister of Holy Communion	V Borg	P Freeman	A Mariampillai
<i>Note: For the time being only one Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is required at Mass.</i>			

Scripture Reflection: The group meetings have commenced and are held each Sunday at 11.15am. Please contact Susi Hii for further information or Zoom connection details on: susiehii.hc@gmail.com

We Remember: We pray for Trish Ford, Giovanna Caruso and Santina Infantino whose anniversaries occur at this time: may they rejoice forever with our Risen Lord. We pray for the sick and housebound; may they come to know the healing power of God's love.

Focus Groups: In response to the Parish Survey last December, two focus groups will be held to provide you with the results of the survey and allow parishioners to have a voice for the way forward. A letter from Fr John is attached.

Date is Monday 15 February:

- Session times are 3.00pm, and 7.30pm

Booking via Trybooking is essential to participate in either group. The link is <https://www.trybooking.com/BOQSJ>.

Bookings open 12.00pm Saturday 6 (tomorrow) and closes 6.00pm Sunday 14.

If you are unable to book, but would like to attend, please advise the parish office.

Transport is available for anyone who would like to attend, please advise the parish office on greythorn@cam.org.au.

Working Bee: Many thanks to the parishioners who helped prepare the church grounds last Saturday. A tremendous effort. Special thanks to Andrew, Kevin, Paul and Frs John and Lenin.

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday 17 February is Ash Wednesday, a day of Fasting and Abstinence. Masses at St Bridget's will be at 9.00am and 7.00pm. St Bede 9.00am and St Anne at 9.30am.

Feast Day: Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita the patron Saint of Sudan and Human Trafficking. Go to www.acrath.org.au for more details, to join in universal prayers or make a donation to the organisation ACRATH that is at the forefront for the elimination of human trafficking. Details are in the narthex.

NEW LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS are needed at all four of our churches. Volunteers are asked to commit for two years. Please contact the parish office by **16 February 2021** if you are interested or for further information.

Training For New Lectors:

A training session for all new and current lectors at our four churches will take place on **Thursday 18 February, 7.30pm, at St Bede's**. A reminder that you will need to provide a Working With Children Check to the office before beginning to exercise this ministry. If you have any difficulty in applying, please contact the parish office.

Training For New Extraordinary Ministers Of The Eucharist:

A training session for all new and current Extraordinary Ministers at our four churches will take place on **Tuesday 23 February, 7.30pm, at St Bede's**. A reminder that you will need to provide a Working With Children Check to the office before beginning to exercise this ministry. If you have any difficulty in applying, please contact the parish office.

LENT 2021 – Lenten Small Groups: The Comfort Lenten Program 2021 from Wollongong contains short daily reflections as well as longer Sunday Scripture readings and reflections, prayers and questions for Lenten Group Gatherings. Monsignor Graham Schmitzer reflects on the Sunday Gospels through art and Susanna Edmonds OP provides extra meaning and insights. The groups are a wonderful preparation for the joy of Easter and also provide opportunities to share different perspectives and ideas with each other. If you are interested in forming/joining a Lenten Group or would like a copy of the Comfort Lenten Program 2021 book for personal use, please register your interest in the clip board provided in the narthex. Books cost \$9 each.

St Bridget's Catholic Church

GREYTHORN



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Sustaining and Growing our Parish Communities

5 February 2021

Dear Parishioner(s),

Thank you very much for taking to time to fill out our parish survey. We have had a very strong response. It is great to see so many parishioners so passionate about their parish community and wanting to understand the recent changes in administration of the parish. I value all the feedback received, both the positive and the critical, as I now have an opportunity to better appreciate the richness of the St Bridget's community and the concerns raised. COVID-19 has certainly made effective communication a challenge and I welcome this opportunity to address some of the issues raised.

St Bridget's is now part of a parish grouping with St Bede's, St Anne's and St Joachim's. We will also be working with a greater grouping with the parishes of, All Hallows, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Our Lady of Victories, Holy Redeemer and the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour as part of the Eastern Churches group. This will enable us to share resources and offer more support to individual parishes.

St Bridget's is a lively spiritual community. Many of you have expressed your love of your community and desire to continue and to deepen your community relationships and spiritual life. As your parish priest I fully support this. The challenge we face is that the Melbourne archdiocese is facing a severe shortage of priests. Many changes will have to be made to deal with this problem. In order to sustain and grow our parish communities into the future we will need to reimagine how we operate. Some of the changes will be painful, however there will also be great opportunities for sharing resources between our parishes to offer new or enhanced ministries that none of our parishes could support individually.

At this point I would also ask you to continue to support the regular calls in the weekly bulletin to support the Eucharistic and sacramental life of the parish. More volunteers are required to assist at weekly celebrations, please help us where you can.

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Fr Kevin Lenehan for his pastoral care of the St Bridget's community as Priest in Residence. Fr Kevin has a very demanding "day job" as master of Catholic Theological College and had been most generous in his care of the St Bridget's community. Fr Kevin is a priest of the Diocese of Ballarat and will likely return to his home diocese when his tenure at Catholic Theological College ends. As a priest in residence he is unable to be held legally accountable for decisions taken in the parish, as such he cannot act as parish priest. Whilst Fr Kevin's tenure at Catholic Theological College lasts, we are very fortunate to have him with us.

Some parishioners raised questions about the future of St Bridget's school. The management of all Parish schools in the Melbourne Archdiocese has transitioned, in early 2020, to Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS). This is a part of a number of changes to improve governance standards in the Melbourne Archdiocese's schools. Parish priests no longer have any authority over parish schools. Decisions about the future direction of all parish schools will be taken by MACS.

Very soon we will be conducting focus groups to help discern how we, as the St Bridget's community, might reimagine our future and our mission. I look forward to meeting you at these sessions. Please watch the parish newsletter for details.

Blessings & Many thanks,



Fr John Salvano

