

St Patrick's Catholic Church, Benoni, South Africa

Priest-in- Charge: Fr David Evans

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For our safety, the Parish remains closed at this time.

My dear friends

16 August 2020

Today we celebrate the wonderful feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. Mary is the patroness of our country and we know she has been holding us all up before the throne of God every day during this time of lockdown and pandemic. Her “yes” to the angel allowed God to be born into this world as a man – she helps us in turn to say “yes” to God in our lives as we seek to love our Lord Jesus and our fellow man and make him present in all the compassionate and caring needs of our country and our world.

Our Lady grieves at the plight of the people of Beirut and throughout Lebanon as they seek her help and the help of the responsible nations of the world in rebuilding not only their capital but the whole structure of Lebanese society. Our Lady suffered the pain of her son's death and came through. With her prayers, the darkness in the world will give way to the light of Christ.

Our time of celebrating Mass together at St Patrick's again draws closer.

Pray for me as I pray for you.

Fr. David.

Pray for all who are ill especially: Carmelo Calvino; Ellen and Graham Fisher; Fr Lemos; Bruce Herholdt; Stephen Zackey; Pat Pollitt; Fr. Malcolm; Cole; Ken; Monique; Lia; Harry; Jenny Murphy; Sharon Jaffar; Mida, Noel, Gemma and Aleyssa; Rose Crammond; Bronwyn Engelbrecht, James, Jordan, Sidney and Madisson and Jamie; and Butch Biggs.

I offer the prayer of anointing for all who are ill.

Give thanks for the continuing recovery of: Maggie Delgado and her parents, and Fr. Malcolm.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Sunday Missal p. 1048

Daily Missal p.1718

“From this day all generations will call me blessed.”(Luke1;48)

In Italy and the Italian-American communities throughout the United States, it is the custom for Catholics to celebrate this glorious feast of our Lady with colourful processions and fireworks displays. In Sao Paulo and other parts of Latin America, decorated canoes float on rivers through villages to spread the joy. In fact, people everywhere – and during this lockdown too – will mark Mary's Assumption as the culmination of her faith-filled “yes” to the angels invitation to become the Mother of God.

As we celebrate Our Lady's faithfulness today, let us also think about our own “yeses” to the Lord – the small ones as well as the big ones.

What are some of the big ‘yeses’? Accepting the call to place our Lord at the centre of our lives is probably the biggest one. So many issues want to occupy that prime location: our careers, our possessions, or our free time, perhaps. God however asks us to place him there and build our lives around him instead. When we are tempted to remove Jesus from the centre, we can remember how Mary continued to say yes, even when Simon prophesied the sword would pierce her heart (Luke 2:35). Her decision to hold fast yielded great blessings for her - and for all of us as well.

What about the small areas? Well, they are just as important. Saying yes to our Lord in our day-to-day dealing's will help us to stay faithful when the big challenges come along. Mary said yes every morning as she cared for her son. She said yes every time she heard of his miracles and when she heard of the controversies swirling around him. Every day, she chose to hold on to her commitment, and so can we.

We can find strength in these daily challenges as we recall the heavenly glory that we can share with Mary as a result of our faithfulness.

So let us decide to say “yes” to God today. Yes, I will forgive when someone hurts me. Yes, I will hold my tongue when I am tempted to gossip. Yes, I will repent for even the small transgressions that I fall into today. Yes, yes, yes!

Each one of these “yeses”, no matter how small, can help you move forward. Nothing is too insignificant in God's eyes.

“Lord, give me the grace to say “yes” to you in every moment.”



We have learnt of the plight of some priests in our Archdiocese, where the poverty of their people has meant that these clergy have found themselves without the bare necessities of life. Our parish's St Vincent de Paul Society, thanks to the ongoing generosity of you parishioners and friends, we have been making up parcels of food for these men.

Donations to the SVDP can be made as follows:

Society of St Vincent de Paul, Branch code: Universal or 19484200	Nedbank, Northmead, Benoni Current Acc.No. 1012534707
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Cash donations can be handed in at the Parish Office on a Thursday between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. or given to Aubrey Young (chairman) or Dave Chennells (vice-chairman.) Please note that a receipt is always given for any cash donations .

The Society has also asked me to stress that no bona fide member of the S.V.D.P. will ever ask you for a cash donation.

Please do phone Aubrey (071 470 6444) immediately if anyone ever approaches you for funds supposedly for St. Vincent de Paul.

The names of the S.V.D.P. members: Denise Bailey , James Belcher, Mike Brady, Dave Chennells (Vice President), Keith Comins, Pat Eldridge (Secretary), Omulu Obiora Lawrence, Anne Lewis, Brendan Lewis, Frank Luizinho, Erroll Pollitt (Treasurer), Gordon Whitefield, Aubrey Young (President).

Thank you all again for your huge and continuing generosity towards our SVDP and our Parish during these months and to the Knights of da Gama for their support of SVDP.

Thank you, all parishioners and friends for your huge and ongoing generosity to our parish, not least your prayerful support of me at this time. We are maintaining the parish, paying wages and preparing now for the day when we shall meet again at the altar of St. Patrick's. Each day brings us nearer to that joyful celebration!

Our banking details are:

St Patrick's Catholic Church
Standard Bank: Branch code 013042
Current Account No. 021095612

Cash can be handed in on Thursday between 9:30 and 11:30am or kept until we return to mass.