

SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO BOX 23) Moruya NSW 2537

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Priest: Fr George Azhakath Secretary: Grace Cirson

Parish Office hours: Wed., Thu., & Fri., 9.00am—3.00pm:

Mass Times: Moruya: (by appointment) Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00 am

Tues: 5.30 pm Wed, Thurs & Fri: 9.15 am

Sat: Reconciliation: 10—10.30am

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 281 Carroll College Broulee 4471 5600

Caring Group: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993



Ascension of the Lord

-YEAR A-

May 23 & 24 2020

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

“I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.” Far from having left us on our own when he ascended into heaven, Jesus is even closer to us now. He is with us at all times and in all places, releasing a new energy upon the earth, the energy of the Holy Spirit to preach his Good News of salvation by bearing witness to him. The readings for the Feast of the Ascension remind us of this fact. In the first reading, Jesus says to us, ‘You are sent to be my witness.’ In the second reading, St Paul amplifies this message by saying, “May God enlighten the eyes of our heart so that we may know the great hope to which we have been called.” Although risen and ascended, he is still with us through the grace of the sacraments. He is present in the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion and in the tabernacle where the Eucharist is reserved for prayer. While Jesus is no longer present in a physical sense (we cannot touch him, feel him or take hold of him) he is accessible now as a life-giving Spirit. We are his new presence.

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8). 2) “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19). 3) “Go into all the world of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19). 3) “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15). These are the last words of Jesus as recorded in Matthew, Mark and Acts. All are in agreement that (a) Jesus gave his disciples a mission to engage in, until He returns in glory, and (b) He assured them of His divine assistance in the carrying out of this mission.

Fr George Azhakath

PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA: Lord you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

PRAYER IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC: Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger to whom we turn in our distress; grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **R**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R**

3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **R**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1. **Be a proclaimer and evangelizer:** In today's gospel Jesus gives his mission to all the believers: "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." This mission is not given to a select few but to all believers. To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and proclaiming. "We preach with words but we proclaim with our lives." We are also reminded that Christianity is not for an elite group but is for everyone. No one is excluded and all are welcome. We are also reminded that, while the Lord gives the mission to all, he does not expect us to rely only on our own resources to fulfil that mission. The mission is to be accomplished with the power that is given to all those called upon to fulfil that mission.

2. **Live a life of Christian joy in the presence of the ascended Lord.** According to Luke, the disciples "returned to Jerusalem with great joy." Apparently Jesus' exaltation and final blessing gave them, and gives us, the assurance that though absent, he is still present, present even in the pain and sorrow we undergo. That is why St. Augustine assures us, "Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' and when he said: 'I was hungry and you gave me food.' while in heaven he is also with us; and while on earth we are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love."

3. **Our teaching Mission:** Jesus taught us lessons of faith, hope, forgiveness, mercy, redemption and love. We cannot put these lessons on a shelf and ignore them. They stand before us in the person of Jesus. Although no longer visibly present in the world, He is present in his words. We must make his words real in our lives. Let us remember that Christianity was never meant to be a merely private religion, a simple communication between the soul and Jesus. It was meant to be a faith in which Jesus' followers help and are for others, just as Jesus had done. This is the reason for the rather stern message given by the angels to the disciples as Jesus ascended: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye here gazing up into heavens?" These words suggest that the disciples must get on with the work Jesus had given them to do by living true Christian lives in deed as well as in word. However, the spreading of the Good News to all nations is not a goal that can be attained by human might and craft. This is why Jesus promises to empower his messengers with His abiding presence and that of the Holy Spirit. The challenge of sharing the Good News with all mankind should, therefore, begin with our admission that we have often been arrogant and overbearing. We must learn to be humble and let the Holy Spirit lead the way.

Food Gifts Wanted

If you are able to cook and donate a cake, soup or casserole would you please phone the Moruya Caring Group on 0431354993. Empty food trays are available from the presbytery veranda, in a white plastic container. The food will be distributed as gifts to parishioners. Thanks

Project Compassion

Please return all Project Compassion boxes and envelopes to the Office by the end of the month.

COVID-19 Latest protocols for NSW Parishes: The NSW Premier has announced changes to COVID-19 restrictions which will bring NSW in line with the ACT effective Friday, 15 May 2020. Please note the following:

1. Churches may now be open but will be restricted to no more than 10 people in the building at any one time
2. Mass may be celebrated for no more than 10 people excluding those conducting the service.
3. Funerals celebrated inside the church buildings are restricted to 20 People, excluding those conducting service.
4. Funerals celebrated outside the church building are restricted to 30 people, excluding those conducting service.
5. Weddings may now be celebrated with 10 people, excluding those conducting the ceremony.

These gatherings are permitted with the physical distancing rule of 1.5 metres. No physical sign of peace is permitted and the current protocols for Holy Communion remain in place. Fr Tony Percy VG

First Collection (Pastoral Revenue)

The Parish Office has many enquiries regarding Direct Deposits during this time of isolation. For those wishing to do Direct Deposits, please deposit as follows

Account Name: Sacred Heart Moruya
Bank Account: 29248 BSB: 062-786
Reference: MORUYA & YOUR SURNAME

Second Collection: Parishioners are encouraged to contribute to the 2nd collection for the upkeep of the church. Please contact the office regarding contributions to the 2nd collection as you will be issued with a new envelope number.



**FEAST OF OUR LADY
HELP OF CHRISTIANS
MAY 24
PATRONESS OF
AUSTRALIA**

**Entrusting Australia
to
Mary Help of Christians**

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you. Amen

The Bishops have entrusted Australia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary seeking her intercessions for the safety of all our people especially in this time of COVID19 Pandemic.

Free Online conferences for Catholic Couples:

Unexplained Infertility Summit Monday 25 - Wed 27 May

<https://www.unexplainedinfertilitysummit.com/>

Catholic Marriage Summit Thursday 11-Saturday 13 May

<https://www.joyfuleveraafter.org/>

Just about every high profile lay Catholic speaker you have heard of (50 in total, mostly US based) along with their spouse, will give a 20 minute presentation on the day to day realities of living out the sacrament of Marriage

Prayers for Speedy recovery

Greeting to Gerry and Diana from Moruya Parish, Hope you both are fairing well and in good spirit. All of us here at Sacred Heart Parish are constantly praying for Gerry's speedy recovery. As active parishioners in the past you are missed very much here and are eagerly waiting for your joining the Community. Wishing you the very best.

Fr George Azhakath

Thanks to Mrs Anne Brown, Coastal Concrete & Quarry - for supplying concrete for our driveway, free of charge. As you are a parishioner of Sacred Heart Moruya, we appreciate you for your generosity. Thanks from Fr George and Parishioners

NOTICE:

SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA IS OPEN DAILY 8AM TO 5PM

DAILY MASS: TUE 5.30PM: WED, THU, FRI 9.15AM

SAT 6PM (VIGIL); SUN 10AM

SATURDAY & SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE BY APPOINTMENT OR FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.

MAXIMUM OF TEN (10) PERSONS TO ATTEND

FOLLOWING STRICTLY COVID 19 PRTOCAL AND SOCIAL DISTANCING