

Welcome to the children attending  
Confirmation Commitment Masses this  
weekend

Prayer for Confirmation

Lord, You send out Your spirit to touch the hearts  
of all people, so that they may believe in You and in  
Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on all  
candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your  
voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to  
fulfilment the good work that You have begun in  
them. As we prepare these children for Confirmation, make each of us an  
Instrument of Your love. Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be  
patient with what we do not understand. Deepen our faith in the Gospel and  
help us to pass it on by our example. We pray you will continue to guide us and  
sustain us. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537  
Phone: 4474 2024 Email: [moruya@cg.org.au](mailto:moruya@cg.org.au)  
Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>  
Priest: Fr Anthony Riosa, SSS  
Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore  
Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm



**Mass Times:**  
Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6:00pm Sun: 10:00am  
Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am  
Tuross: Sun: 8:00am Bodalla: 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/3rd Thursday of the month 9:00am  
**Reconciliation:** Sat @ Moruya: 1st Saturday of the month 8:30am-9:00am before Mass  
5:15pm-5:45pm before Mass  
**Devotions:** Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** 40 mins before weekday Mass  
**Schools:** St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600  
**Caring Groups:** Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

The Ascension of Our Lord - YEAR A - May 20 & 21 2023

The Ascension of Our 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 reminds us of this fact. In the first reading Jesus says to us “You are sent to be my witnesses”. 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, Jesus is still with us through the grace of the sacraments. He is present in the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion and is 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 home 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 witnesses 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 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 the 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.



**Prayer after Communion:** Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

**O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.**

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Paul Croese, Clare Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, John Harnett, Ross Hay, Taine Woodford, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Rick Christensen, John Mehl, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Neil Mason and Pat Anderson.

**PERMANENT MASS TIME CHANGES:** From next **Tuesday, 23 May Tuesday evening Masses will commence at 5:00pm and from 17 June, Saturday Vigil Mass will also be celebrated at 5:00pm.**

**FUNERAL:** Bernard Carroll's funeral will be held at Sacred Heart Church on **Tuesday, 23 May** at 1pm.

**EVANGELISATION PROGRAM:** On **Tuesday, 30 May** following 5:00pm Mass, Parishioners are invited to the Presbytery to watch and discuss an episode of **The Chosen** (a series about the life of Jesus). The meetings will run for 8 weeks and Parishioners are invited to bring a light supper.

NOTICES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

**CALVARY HOSPITAL:** The ACT Government has advised the Archbishop it intends to compulsorily acquire the Calvary Public Hospital in Bruce. The Archbishop's Letter regarding this alarming news is included with this Bulletin. All Parishioners are urged to read the Archbishop's Letter and sign the **'SAVE CALVARY HOSPITAL PETITION'** which was sent electronically to Parishioners on Wednesday. The Petition can also be found on The Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn's website and needs to be signed **before 31 May**.

**WOMEN'S EUCHARISTIC RETREAT DAY CANBERRA—24 JUNE:** Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia for a retreat day. This day will help you grow in your love for and devotion to the gift of the Holy Eucharist. In addition to talks and discussion, the day will include time for silence and prayer during a Holy Hour. An opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Morning tea and lunch are provided. (Cost: \$20) **register here at (<https://www.trybooking.com/CGYGI>)**

# Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading Acts 1:1-11

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.'

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**(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 Eph 1:17-23

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.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mt 28:16-20

P: The Lord be with you

**All: And with your spirit**

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**All: Glory to you O Lord**

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

## THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

**1) Be a proclaimer and evangeliser:** 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 evangeliser. 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 fulfill that mission. The mission is to be accomplished with the power that is given to all those called upon to fulfill 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 care 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 Son 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.

**4) The ascended Jesus is our source of strength and encouragement:** Perhaps some of the nagging doubts which inevitably accompany the journey of faith could be lessened by mediating on the Ascension and its implications. When we are too far from faith to pray on our own, let us remember that we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, praying for us. When the trials of life feel too heavy to bear, we remember that Christ will come again in glory in which he arose from the tomb, the same glory in which he ascended, and the same glory in which he currently abides. Though our limited perception might find him absent, he is fully present, participating in every moment of our lives. By being lifted up Christ has not deserted us but has made it possible for his Spirit to enter all times and places. In this way it is possible for each of us to be transformed by the power of the Spirit into agents or instruments of Christ. We become enlivened with his Spirit. Our actions become animated in a new way by the Spirit of the God we love and serve. We have become Christ's in the world.

