



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, 16 MAY 2021 LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

*God our Father,
make us joyful in the ascension of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we follow him into the new creation,
for his ascension is our glory and our hope.
Amen.*

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.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Response: 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.

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 Mark Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Living the Gospel – Proclaim Good News

Francis of Assisi is credited with saying, 'Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use words!' In every interaction we have we say so much about who we are, what we think of the other person and what we believe – even without opening our mouth. Our actions and attitudes proclaim our beliefs more powerfully than our words ever do. If we claim to be concerned about justice and yet behave unjustly then it is our actions, not our words, which will be heard! When we are called to 'proclaim the Good News' we are called to do this first and foremost in action.

Scriptural context – Acts

Throughout this Easter season, the first reading in the Sunday liturgy is taken from the Acts of the Apostles and so both the first and second readings come from the New Testament. (Normally, the First Reading is taken from the Old Testament.) This week's first reading account of the Ascension is the very beginning of the book of Acts. This book and the Gospel of Luke are now recognised as being by the same author. The book of Acts records the events involving the followers of Jesus after his death and the growth of communities of believers who sought to follow Jesus' ways.

Different View – Snake handlers and Faith healers

There are certainly Christians who interpret literally Jesus' description of the signs that will be associated with believers. We have all seen images of old Revivalist meetings where people were called forth to be healed by touch and have evil spirits driven from them. Much of this practice can be traced to this week's gospel. The many evangelical churches and the tele-evangelists who dominate our early morning television screens operate out of this tradition and generally have a very literal interpretation of scripture. It is based in a belief that God acts in the world through miraculous intervention rather than through the slow and steady presence of individuals like you and me.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

1. For all who have been baptised in Christ, that they will use their many gifts to proclaim the good news across the face of the earth. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.
2. For the Christian churches, that they grow ever closer together in faith and become one Body united in one Spirit. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.
3. For international leaders, health authorities and medical suppliers, that they will do all in their power to achieve a just distribution of the COVID vaccine to needy countries and especially India. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.
4. For the countless Australians who offer their time and energy as volunteers, that National Volunteer Week (17-23 May) will recognise their generosity and swell their numbers. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.
5. For those who are sick, that they will be touched by the healing power of Christ, including John Shiels, Tony Riley, Rupert Ermert, Val Biggers and Celia Roach. (pause) Let us pray to the Lord.
6. For the recently deceased, including Kate Glendenning, Helen Goddard, Barbara Camiller, James Clarke,. . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be raised with Christ to the right hand of God. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

CONCLUDING BLESSING

Lord,

as we celebrate the ascension of Christ your Son,

may his gifts help us rise with him to the joys of heaven, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Hello St Bede's Parishioners,

We had 47 attendees at last Saturday for the Vigil. Social distancing, hygiene requirements and recording attendance procedures are still being observed. **Please try to arrive in good time** as all these regulations and requirements will take time. A **national head count** is happening all this month. Brian is counting us ☺

Weekday Masses: No Mass next week (18th May)

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Adoration: Fridays for 1 hour between 9 and 10am. Please call in at any time during that hour to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Araluen Stations of the Cross: 3.00pm First Friday of every month. All welcome.

Social Justice Meeting: Sunday 6 June in the church at 10.30am.

Vinnies Meeting: Friday 14 May at 1.30pm in the Presbytery (following the office)

Krawarree Mass: Sunday 30 May at 11.00am. All welcome.

Markets in Ryrie Park: 8am - 2pm Saturday 22 May.

Our markets bring in around half our annual income so let us support them as well as can. Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure; Monthly Raffle; Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted by the rostered group. Many thanks to those who brought in goodies last month.



Parish gathering: Everyone is invited to a Chinese Banquet to be held at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club following Mass on Saturday, 5 June.

If you are interested in attending, could you please leave your name in the book provided at the back of the Church or reply by email to the office.

Cost per head approximately \$30 (to be confirmed).

Germaine, Social Group Coordinator



The Far East magazine has arrived. If you ever forget we live in the lucky country, just read this issue to change your mind.

DEANERY PLENARY ZOOM MEETING

Register for the Southern Deanery Plenary Zoom meeting with Archbishop Christopher taking place at 1.30pm Friday 14 May 2021. Register at <https://cgcatholic.org.au/plenary/> All participants will need to have read the Working Document "Continuing the Journey" available at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/IL-document-spreads.pdf>

Cleaners:

28 May: Rod and Pauline. **11 June:** Margaret and Barbara. **18 June:** Helen P and Judith

Please note the ceremonies happening in the church when cleaning will be required beforehand will be advised at the beginning of the newsletter.

Readings for next week: Pentecost: 1st: Acts 2:1-11. 2nd: Gal. 5:16-25. Gospel: John 15:26-27, 16:12-15.

Reminder that we have returned to taking up two collections at Mass. It is also important to acknowledge those who give online and by Tap Machine. Thank you for your continued support of our parish and our priests.

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers	PowerPoint
15 May	Geoff	Geraldine	Rod/Bobbie	Helen H
22 May	Felix	Helen P	Wendy H/Germaine	Helen H
29 May	James	Cathy F	Wendy M-B/Ann	Helen H
5 June	Geoff	Geraldine	Michael/Cathy F	Helen H

Please let me know as soon as possible if you won't be attending, so other arrangements can be made.

COVID-19 Links for information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Mass Online Link: <https://catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online>

Take care and keep safe,
Helen Hart