



Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 28
28th May 2017

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers

Year A



VERITAS

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest

Fr Kieran Adams OP

Assistant Priests

Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

Holy Rosary Church

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday, Friday

9.00am—12.30pm

Mass times

Wed 5.30pm

Tues & Thurs 6.45am

Fri 5.30pm

Saturday 6pm (Vigil)

Sunday 8am, 10am & 6pm

Saturday & Public

Holidays Mass excluding

Mondays 9am

Pray the Rosary

Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass

Saturday after 9am Mass

Reconciliation

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm

and 5pm—5.30pm

ACU Chapel Signadou

Tues 1.30pm

Wed & Thurs 1.30pm



**If you are in Urgent need of
a Priest Call - 6248 8253**

A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

ENTRANCE	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.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!
COMMUNION	Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.
READINGS	Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23 Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

HELP NEEDED

Each week we enjoy the beautiful flower arrangements in our Church. More help is needed! If you are able to help once a month please phone Ruth 6241 2541 or Heather 6247 7775



PSALM: 2-3. 6-9

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

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.

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.

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.

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

DIGNITY

**Protecting dignity of others
is part of our Christian mandate**

'Christ gives his disciples the responsibility of being the means by which he is to extend his project of leading humanity to the Father. The commission of the disciples is to go out to the nations, baptising all peoples in order that they might die to their old ways and come to share in the new life of Christ. And they are to teach the nations to observe the commands of Christ, so that men and women might live in a way that reflects their God-given dignity. This mission to the nations derives its authority from the risen Christ on account of the universal sovereignty that he now has over both heaven and the whole earth.'

http://torch.op.org/preaching_sermon_item.php?sermon=5626&ref=lit

WELCOME



Welcome to students and parents from our Parish school, (Rosary) who are celebrating the Eucharist with parishioners at the 10am Family Mass. This Mass will be followed by a Sausage Sizzle and refreshments. All are invited.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD

Only one verse in the entire New Testament makes chronological reference to the ascension. In Act 1:3, Luke states that Jesus continued to appear to the disciples for forty days after his resurrection. He goes on to present his account of Jesus being taken up into heaven. In spite of this ancient witness, the first testimony to the celebration of 'Ascension Thursday' in Rome does not appear until around the year 500. Originally the fifty days of the Easter season were celebrated as a single-unit culmination in the feast of Pentecost. Gradually, however, this unity broke down until the season was divided between the forty days leading to Ascension, and the ten days from there to Pentecost. Pentecost itself became a separated feast with an octave. Since Vatican II we have largely recovered the initial unity of the Easter season. But not quite, because the document governing the liturgical year still refers to the weekdays between Ascension and Pentecost as a preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. In Australia, Luke's chronology is not taken literally; the Ascension of the Lord is transferred to the following Sunday.

WHO IS THEOPHILUS?

The author the Gospel according to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles dedicates both books to someone named Theophilus. His identity is a mystery. Some think that he might be a nobleman who is a Christian. Luke may have seen him as a sponsor for his ministry. Others suggest that he might have been a Roman judge. Luke might have been trying to defend Christianity during a persecution, or perhaps during Paul's trial. Many have the opinion that he is not a specific person because "Theophilus" means "lover of God" in Greek. So, in a way, the book may be commended to all who adore the Lord--all of us.

A MOUNTAIN IN GALILEE

The book of Acts tells us that the Ascension of Jesus into heaven took place near Jerusalem. Jesus told them "not to leave Jerusalem". Why then, does Matthew say that the event happened at a mountain in Galilee? The answer may be that there were two different traditions of where Jesus' departure took place. Another possibility is that Matthew interprets the mission of the Apostles as beginning at their homes in Galilee, from where they went forth. Finally, there is a distinct tradition in Jerusalem that the Mount of Olives was home to Galileans while on pilgrimage to the holy city. It would have been a convenient stopping point on the way from Galilee. Hence it might have been a "little Galilee" just as some cities have immigrant sections like "little Italy", etc.

ASCENSION - PENTECOST

Ascension and Pentecost together remain an interesting season in the Church year - understood in so many different ways; offering so many metaphors and images; speaking so loudly of God's work in and among us. They are a time of deep challenge and extravagant joy, calling worshippers to be mindful again of the Christ who is exalted and transcendent, and of the Spirit who dwells within us and in whom we live and move and have our being. May all who participate in these times of worship be touched, renewed, inspired, refueled and re-ignited with God's purpose and passion.

**In Your Prayers
please
remember
those in our
community
who are ill:**

Elizabeth Cronin, Maureen Blood,
Fr Ellis Clifford, Dion Convine,
Edith Jensen, Alexia Harris,
Joe Schimizzi, Trevor Dennis,
Mary Harrigan, Elizabeth Webster,
Philip Bailey, Eileen Liston,
Rosa Maria Santos, Jim Burgess,
Mary Bui, Rosemary Denmead

**Please remember
our deceased:**

Thelma Rusina, Barbara Parker

In Loving Memory: Charles Davidson, Christopher Ford

JESUS ROSE ABOVE FAILURE

Jesus had two chances to say goodbye to his friends - once at his final supper with them and the other when he ascended into heaven several weeks later. If you read the accounts of these two farewells, you are struck by how different they are. The Last Supper farewell is sad and sombre; but the voice at the Ascension is triumphant, full of hope and great expectations.

Let's listen to the actual words of Jesus again. At the Last Supper, Jesus said: "One of you will betray me...all of you will lose faith in me...the prince of this world is on his way...you will be scattered and troubled...those who kill you will think they are doing God's will." It is the voice of someone who is defeated, whose cause failed, who thinks his followers are disappointed in him. Now recall the words of Jesus before he ascended to heaven: "All these bad things happened to fulfil the prophesies...you will be clothed with power from on high...you will be witnesses of my resurrection to all nations...you will preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth and work miracles in the process...full authority on earth and in heaven has been given to me...and I will be with you till the end of time." This is the voice of victory, of accomplishment, of power, of hope.

What happened between these farewells? Jesus sounds like two different people. In a way, he is since victory and defeat deeply affect us. And make no mistake, Jesus was absolutely trounced! Because he took his humanity seriously. Jesus was a homeless, unemployed beggar roaming from village to village until he was killed for being a public nuisance. It was a tragic story. And like all tragic heroes, Jesus had to fail.

Jesus' role as suffering servant was to take our failure on himself. He took all the sins of the world on his back and died a scapegoat. One theologian called the life of Jesus a fiasco. And Jesus must have felt that way as his mission and his life crumbled all around him. Betrayed and deserted, he died. Then his Father raised him to life again. That is when Jesus became a different person. Now he understood why he had to fail and die. Now he saw that his failure was actually a victory because it allowed God to be God. Now he saw that he was only part of a larger divine plan: Jesus was sent to prepare the way of God's Holy Spirit. Jesus was limited to the ancient world, to a scant 33 years, to his Aramaic language and Palestinian thought patterns, by the capacity of his listeners. But his Spirit is boundless, free to traverse continents and eons, able to speak all languages and fathom all human thought. The Spirit knows the Father's will perfectly.

We humans are defective Christs. So his life is a paradigm, a pattern for us. Every defeat is an occasion for victory; death leads to life, earthly limitations will be surpassed by heavenly spaciousness.

Fr James Smith

BAPTISM

Francesca Manu

who will be baptised this weekend.
May her life filled with God's peace,
and her heart with God's love...
on this Baptism day and always.



THE RISEN LAMB

The Ascension of the Lord.

Fr Aidan Nichols OP shows us how Jesus Christ continues to be present to us after His Ascension.

One major reason for the Incarnation was to make our Creator, the divine Origin of the world, visible to us as a human being. *Visible*. 'He who has seen me', says our Lord to Philip, 'has seen the Father'. To look at the humanity the divine Word took to himself at the Incarnation is to see an icon - a living, breathing, walking, talking icon - of what the Father, the ultimate Origin, is like.

Does this policy not fail us, though, when we come to the Ascension? After the forty days (not forty-three days, bishops of England and Wales kindly note), the risen Christ withdraws from what the physicists would call our space-time continuum. He goes to constitute a new set of co-ordinates for reality: the new creation, the cosmos or world-order of the Age to Come which by definition is not yet. He has gone from us, for whatever good reason of his own.

It would be strange, though, if that were all there was to it. Of course Pentecost reassures us that he has not left us in every sense. But he has, or so it would seem, left us in the sense relevant to that reason for the Incarnation from which I started out. God, or so it appears, has now abandoned the educational method he used when the Incarnation began. He has ceased to hold out to us an image of his humanly embodied self.

Or has he ceased? Actually, I don't think so. On the contrary, as soon as the Holy Spirit was released at Pentecost he began re-constituting that same educational method - albeit in a new way. What was the 'new way'? It was when the Holy Spirit inspired the people we call the 'hagiographs', the writers of sacred Scripture and specifically the New Testament: a mixed band of apostles like Peter and Paul and 'apostolic' men like Luke, the co-worker of Paul. The Holy Spirit poured into their minds and hearts the charism of inspiration, and as a result these men, in giving us our New Testament, gave us thereby a stream of revealed images of Christ, the Father's living icon in our midst. Sometimes these images were taken from Christ's own actions, or his own teaching, while he lived on earth, for had he not promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would 'call to mind all' that he had 'said to them'? But sometimes these images were, under the impact of this Pentecostal charism, freshly minted as the Spirit gave them utterance to tell forth how Christ is now in the Father's glory. I think here especially of a book we are often scared away from by its difficulty - a forgivable reaction since for the same reason the Greek church has, historically, not read it publicly to the faithful. It's the Apocalypse, the final book of Scripture which is as climactic for the Canon of the Bible as the solemnity of the Ascension is for the ministry of Jesus Christ. Continuing the educational method begun at the Incarnation, the Holy Spirit poured forth images of God in Christ into the heart and mind of St John the Divine, the Beloved Disciple, the disciple who stands for all other disciples, the disciple par excellence.

This, though dramatic, is not yet, however, 'the revelation', the 'apocalypse' or 'unveiling' from which the book gets its names. The real 'uncovering' comes when, after receiving his initial instructions, a curtain is thrown back. John sees now an open doorway into heaven. It's a door that opens onto the new space-time of the ascended Lord. And there at the centre of heavenly space he sees him again, but this time what he sees is a Lamb bearing the marks of its executioners' blows. The lamb in question is not, however, flat out on an abattoir floor. Rather, it is a lamb that is standing, standing, we are expected to understand, proudly erect.

The message of the Apocalypse, like the message of the Ascension, is the sovereignty of God, the sovereignty of God in Jesus Christ, such that every power that is not yet in thrall to the Lord of love must in the end disintegrate and pass away. In an age of secularism such as our own, it is a message we desperately need to hear and to make our own. <http://english.op.org/torch>

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL OF RELIGION Sunday A year long Faith Education Program including Sacraments for children who do not attend Catholic Schools. Term has now begun. Contact the Parish Office.

BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP meets on **Thursday** evenings in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 Explore today at www.wccm.org

CARDS Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

CARE OF THE SICK If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. Also, if someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

COFFEE GROUP Our monthly coffee group will meet at Wilbur's, Hackett on the **third Thursday** of each month at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, and newcomers most welcome.

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

DOMINICAN LIBRARY will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP Divine Will Prayer Group meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Details Heather 6247 7775.

WEEKLY READER FORMATION Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

PRAY THE ROSARY will be held the First Saturday of every month at 4pm in the Church on a trial basis. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For more information call Letty on 0418 518 033

COELIACS Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

PLEASE NOTE: We have been advised that there are people visiting local churches asking for money. If you are approached by anyone asking for money please do not provide any but refer the person to Samaritan House, 19 Hackett Place, Hackett

NEW PARISHIONERS would you like to join our Parish? If you wish to register as Blackfriars Parishioner please fill out a card which you can find on the entrance tables and place on the second plate or give the card to Father.

Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seating areas by using T- switch on your hearing aid.

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacquie in the office Ph. 6248 5925 Fax.6248 7564 or Email: holyr.watson@cg.catholic.org.au

IMPORTANT

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings and Baptisms.

If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than Tuesday of that week. For all other bookings Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. two weeks notice is required. It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office. Fr Kieran

EVENTS

16 June – Friday – ST THOMAS MORE FORUM - Can Christendom Thrive, Can it Survive? Keynote Speaker: Greg Sheridan Foreign Editor, *The Australian* Newspaper **7 for 7.30 pm. Venue:** Mecure Hotel, Limestone Avenue, Braddon ACT 2618. **Cost:** \$85.00 (Dinner and wine) *Canapes and drinks on arrival followed by a two course dinner with a bottle of red and white wine per table and tea/coffee and cake.* **RSVP:** Noon Tuesday 13 June

17 & 18 - June "Cowra Liturgy Weekend" Speakers include Bishop Pat O'Regan, Dr Laurie Woods, Ms Karla Slaven, Mr Paul Dunn and many more. Enjoy a weekend of music liturgy and fun! Contact Fr Laurie Beath, 6342 1369 or E-mail: office.cowra@cdob.org.au

21 June – Wednesday - Seniors In Networked Communities - Taoist Tai Chi Society Come along and learn how Tai Chi can Reduce stress, Increase balance and flexibility and improve your overall mind, body and spirit. St Brigid's Parish hall 2 Bancroft St Dickson Wednesday 21 June 2017 10 am. Please Contact Poonam on 6163 7683 if you would like support with transport.

Set Pools of Silence in this Thirsty Land: A six part DVD on Christian Meditation in the Catholic tradition featuring Fr Laurence Freeman OSB, Archbishop Christopher, Susan and Francis Sullivan. Fr Laurence Freeman is a Benedictine monk of the Monastery of Christ Our Saviour in England. He leads retreats globally and presents seminars and courses that bring a spiritual approach to key issues of our time. Order at www.faithresources.org.au or phone 6201 9888

Your weekly groan!

- My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning . Can you believe that , 2:30am! Luckily for him I was still up playing my bagpipes.
- Statistically six out of seven dwarves are not Happy.
- I was at an ATM yesterday when a little old lady asked if I could check her balance – so I gave her a push, she fell over.

Weekly Envelopes: The envelopes for 2017/18 will be available in June. Assistance is needed on Saturday 10th June at 10 am in the Parish Centre to put address labels on the new envelopes. If you can assist, please phone the Parish Office. 6248 5925

ROSTERS 3 / 4 June 2017

Saturday 6.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	I. Buckley	
Readers	M. Pentony	J. de Riva O'Phelan
Presentation of Gifts	C. Lewis	
EMOE	G. Collins	

Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	N. McGahey	
Readers	B. Bandle	C. Bandle
Presentation of Gifts	M. Falk	
EMOE	N. Clarke	

Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	J. Wade	
Readers	L. Fardel	A. O'Donnell
Presentation of Gifts	B. Affas	
EMOE	A. Moore	K. Murphy

Sunday 6.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	E. Kralikas	
Readers	M. Proctor	
Presentation of Gifts	R. Walpole	
EMOE	K. Kralikas	C. Mackay