



THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

24 MAY 2021

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

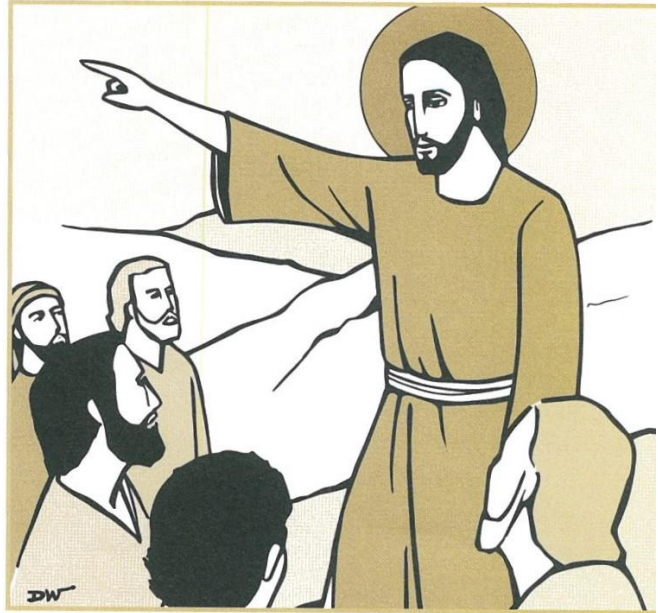
*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

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 of 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.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 1

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy
a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (*or Alleluia.*)

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

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

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.**

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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 commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Reflections on the Gospel

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, ... BUT HOPE

Having escaped the clutches of his enemies by rising from the dead, the Lord ascends, like the prophet Elijah, to heaven.

In biblical language and imagery this manner of describing the close of Jesus' earthly ministry signals that the One who had been crucified on the trumped-up charge of being a political Messiah has now entered into his true messianic glory at God's right hand.

This entrance into heavenly glory does not mean that Jesus abandons either his disciples or his saving mission in the world. Rather, he will continue to exercise that mission through the ministry of the Church, empowered (at Pentecost) by the same Spirit that rested upon him.

Just before he departs, the disciples voice an understandable concern: 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' The query betrays a strong sense of 'unfinished business'. Despite the Easter victory, forces hostile to God and to true humanity continue to hold sway in the world – as the disciples, and we ourselves, remain acutely aware.

Jesus does not give a direct answer. The time of the Kingdom's full arrival remains shrouded in the mystery of God. The disciples' task meanwhile, is to take up the messianic mission of Jesus, bringing the hope of the resurrection to an often despairing world.

The Ascension is not, then, simply something that happened to Jesus. As the Preface of the Mass says so well, he 'has passed beyond our sight, not to abandon us but to be our hope where he has gone, we hope to follow'.

Brendan Byrne, SJ



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ASCENSION SUNDAY YEAR A – 24 MAY 2020

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

CHURCHES OPEN, NO MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE INSIDE AT A TIME (EXCEPT LITURGICAL MINISTRIES)

Mass is available daily online at www.catholicvoice.org.au
Sunday Mass is aired on ten (Channel 05) Sunday mornings at 6am

GUNDAGAI		COUNTRY MASS		SACRAMENTS	
Saturday	5PM VIGIL MASS 6PM VIGIL MASS	Uralba	Suspended	Confession	By appointment
Sunday	NO MASS	Tumut	Sat. Vigil Mass 5PM & 6PM	Marriage	By appointment
Monday	NO MASS		Sun. Mass 10AM	Baptism	By appointment
Tuesday	NO MASS	Adelong	1 st /3 rd Sun. 10AM	To arrange a Baptism please contact:	
Wednesday	NO MASS	Jugiong	2 nd /4 th Sun. 9AM	Fr George or Fr Namora	
Thursday	12NOON MASS	Gobarralong/Adjungbilly	8AM 31 May GOB		
Friday	12NOON MASS				

PRAYER REQUESTS – PLEASE EMAIL OR PHONE THE PRIESTS AND/OR SECRETARY

RECENTLY DECEASED. AND ANNIVERSARIES	THE SICK	MASS OFFERINGS
We pray for Greg Quilty and Pam Goodsall, recently deceased		Remie Field

PARISH DETAILS

PARISH COUNCIL	PRIESTS / PARISH	PARISH BANKING
Fr George, Fr Namora, Peter Gain, Chris Baron, Anne Saunderson, Craig Ferguson, Kate Howe, Liz Knight	Fr George – 0484 604 273 Fr Namora – 0450 438 444 Madeline Ryan – 0478 000 526	BSB 062 786 A/C 14943 ST PATRICKS PARISH GUNDAGAI

A copy of the Church Bulletin is available on our website each week – www.cg.org.au/gundagai
Please send any notices to gundagai@cg.org.au by midday Wednesday each week for inclusion in the bulletin.

BANKING / PLANNED GIVING

We can, and must, continue supporting the priests and the parish through our first and second collections. These can be done through online banking or by a bank deposit in person. Please note the different accounts and references.

FIRST COLLECTION including Mass Intentions

BSB 062-786 A/C 000029248 Acc Name: Central Presbytery Fund

IMPORTANT! Please reference your **SURNAME** and **PARISH** eg. *Smith GUNDAGAI*

SECOND COLLECTION/PLANNED GIVING

BSB 062 786 A/C 000014943 Acc Name: St Patricks Parish Gundagai

Please reference your **SURNAME** and **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE NUMBER** eg *Smith PGENV24*
Please contact the Secretary 0478 000 526 or gundagai@cg.org.au if you need an envelope number.

PLEASE NOTE MASS TIMES AT TOP OF BULLETIN

NOTICES

ROSARY & ADORATION

The Rosary will be said in the church on **Tuesday 26th May at 10:30 AM** – NO MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE PLEASE
"It is through the Rosary that we can bring countless souls back to Christ from whom they have strayed." ~
Servant of God Fr John A Hardon SJ

Consider 'virtual Adoration' - through the following website <https://virtualadoration.home.blog/> or on Facebook through 'Sacred Heart Parish Griffith Perpetual Adoration'.

"Patience, prayer and silence...these are what give strength to the soul" ~ St Faustina Kowalska

THANK YOU

A sincere thanks to those who were able to attend Masses last weekend, either in person or by 'tuning in' in the car park. It has been a difficult period, keeping praying that restrictions will be lifted further.

MASS AT GOBARRALONG 31 MAY

Mass will be celebrated at Gobarralong on **Sunday 31 May at 8AM**

PLEASE BOOK IN TO MASS TIMES

From this point, please ring/email Fr George or the Secretary to book in to a 5PM or 6PM Mass

FREE ONLINE COURSES FOR COUPLES

Free online "Unexplained Infertility Summit" this **Mon 25 to Wed 27 May** Learn how you can uncover and treat the root cause of infertility, avoid invasive, expensive procedures, and have a healthier body and pregnancy.
www.unexplainedinfertilitysummit.com

Free online "Catholic Marriage Summit" **June Thu 11th- Sat 13th** www.joyfuleverafter.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.

FR GEORGE'S REFLECTION – ASCENSION SUNDAY

The Ascension of Jesus is the climax of his victory over sin and death. What happened to him is meant to happen to us. God wants to bring us to the place where Jesus is, so that we can share his glory.

Jesus' departure and ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. While it was the end of Jesus' physical presence with his beloved disciples, it marked the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. Jesus promised that he would be with them always to the end of time (Matthew 28:20). Now as the glorified and risen Lord and Saviour, ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit who would anoint them with power from on high on the Feast of Pentecost, just as Jesus was anointed for his ministry at the River Jordan (Luke 3:21-22, 4:1,18). When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the apostles, they were not left in sorrow or grief. Instead, they were filled with joy and with great anticipation for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Why did the Risen Lord ascend into heaven? The Father raised the glorified body of his Son and enthroned him in glory at his right hand in heaven. The Lord Jesus in his glorified body now reigns as Lord over the heavens and the earth - over all that he has created. The Risen Lord reigns from the throne in heaven as our Merciful Redeemer and Gracious King. He intercedes for us and he empowers us through the outpouring of his Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus gives us new life in his Spirit and he strengthens us in faith, hope and love so we can serve him and carry on his work as citizens of his kingdom here on earth.

Jesus' last words to his disciples point to the key mission and task he has entrusted to his followers on earth - to be his witnesses and ambassadors to the ends of the earth so that all peoples, tribes, and nations may hear the good news that Jesus Christ has come to set us free from sin, Satan, and death and has won for us a kingdom of peace, joy, and righteousness that will last forever.

How can we be effective witnesses for Christ? Jesus told his disciples, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you - and you shall be my witnesses... to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Jesus gives his followers the same power he received when the Holy Spirit came upon him and anointed him at the beginning of his mission (John 1:32-33). The Gospel is the power of God, the power to release people from their burden of sin, guilt, and oppression, and the power to heal, restore, and make us whole.

ENTRUSTMENT OF AUSTRALIA TO OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

The bishops of Australia will entrust Australia during this pandemic to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title of Our Lady Help of Christians. Archbishop Prowse will entrust the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn at the 11am Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral on Sunday 24 May. This entrustment is to be prayed throughout Australia on 24th/25th May. Copies of the prayer are available at the entrance of the church.