

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Ascension of the Lord A

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 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

R. 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.

2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, with praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.

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

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

R. 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

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

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Where is the Body?

Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ could have continued to appear to groups of followers, century after century – until now! But, he didn't, because the disciples had to be weaned of his Risen-mode of appearance among them lest they think that the victory over Death is meant for human beings alone. But, as St Paul says, the Risen Lord is the One who 'fills all creation' with His power radiating out from his Risen Humanity. However, disappearance is not the same as absence. We believe that Our Risen Lord is present in many modes, including as St Paul says '... the Church which is His Body'. That is why the figures in white rebuke the disciples: 'Why do you stand looking into Heaven?' The Disciples had, rather, to ready themselves to be the Spirit-filled body of Jesus Christ in their own time and place. As we do. We might pause for a moment to stop staring into Heaven, to ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost in order to be 'The Church which is His Body.'

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PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving for both the Priest and the Church, the details are as follows:

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R.E.C: Erica Drewsen

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A

Upcoming Events

Choir Practice
1PM Mondays

SATURDAY MASS IS NOW @ 5PM

Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am
Fridays after Mass, and
1st Saturday of the month @ 9.30am

ENJOY THE GOOD NEWS
Wednesdays after 9am
Mass

CROATIAN MASS
SATURDAY 27TH MAY @11AM.
All are welcome

Wrap With Love
Wednesday 31st May
Meeting Room
All are welcome

Craft Group Thursdays
10am

ADORATION TUESDAY @ 8AM

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after Mass
Venue: Corrigan's Cove
All are welcome

The Ascension

"... as they were watching He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him from their sight"

It was time for Jesus to leave!

The disciples, whilst having had time getting to know Jesus and becoming close to Him, also knew that He was going to leave them. Even though they were aware that He would leave, they had also been aware of the power of God revealed when Jesus rose from the dead, and appeared to them on occasions. Even so, with such knowledge they must have felt mixed emotions- sadness and possibly hope as well as a sense of emptiness. *Was He really leaving them?*

If we look carefully, the readings of today provide us with a sequence of events and in essence lead us to believe that there is more to the story of Jesus to be told. **The story does not end with the empty tomb!**

The disciples in the first reading, were told to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the arrival of the helper, companion, Spirit.

The second reading is a request from God that the believers be given spiritual wisdom and knowledge so they may understand the hope and inheritance there is if there is belief in Jesus. There is also a reference to the absolute power of God revealed when Jesus died, was raised from the dead and Who sits at God's right hand - the highest place, above all earthly powers and authorities.

It was His final message *"Go therefore, make disciples of all nations... And know that I am with you always; yes even to the end of time"* that may have made an indent to their sadness, hesitation and doubt.

The event - **the Ascension** - could be regarded as having a transformative effect on the disciples- they would experience a new or different type of life entirely. A life without their friend Jesus.

We all experience a time of "letting go". The disciples had to "let go" of Jesus as they had come to know Him. The new phase of their life/ journey was to be a Spirit led journey. They were to trust, step out, baptise and make disciples of all nations. This was their opportunity to see Jesus through the eyes of Faith.

The Ascension signifies or highlights a new relationship with Jesus for both us and the disciples. For them it was the beginning of the activities required to make disciples of all nations. For us, it emphasises the importance of being prepared to step out of our comfort zone. Jesus with us in Spirit, helps us to be the hands, feet and heart of Him in our world. We need to trust, step out and allow ourselves to respond in Faith, linking our spiritual knowledge and understandings as we take on real discipleship.



Ken and Carolyn Evenden



Masses THIS WEEK
Monday 22nd May
Sunday 28th May

Monday 22nd: Mass 9am
Tuesday 23rd: Mass 9am
Wednesday 24th: Mass 9am
Thursday 25th: Mass 9am
Friday 26th: Mass 9am
Saturday 27th: Mass 5pm
 Reconciliation 3.30-4.30pm
Sunday 28th: Mass 9am

Masses in Aged Care Facilities

- Mass First Wed of Month @10.30am Denhams Beach Community Care (Opal)
- Mass 2nd Wed of the month @10.30am The Glen
- Mass 3rd Wed of month @2pm The Manor
- Mass 4th Wed of month @2pm Maranatha Lodge

ROSTERS

20/21 MAY
Cleaning
 23-26 Favetta/O'Neill/Nugent

5.00PM MASS
 Welcomer B Oerder
 Commentator D Robinson
 Reader: J Mackay
 Eucharistic Ministers M Devine, Y Oerder
 Computer Screen J O'Sullivan

9.00 AM MASS:
 Welcomer L Foran
 Commentator D Robinson
 Reader: A Skinner
 Eucharistic Ministers L Stevens, N Page
 Computer Screen T Priest.

MORNING TEA:
 J Barroman G Berryman

27/28 MAY
Cleaning
 29 May-2 June D & L May

5.00PM MASS
 Welcomer P Jobs
 Commentator P O'Kelly
 Reader: S Ebejer
 Eucharistic Ministers M O'Neill, M Bridges
 Computer Screen K Conway

9.00 AM MASS:
 Welcomer C Connell
 Commentator B Basevi
 Reader: A Brown
 Eucharistic Ministers A Skinner, S Beashel
 Computer Screen D May.

MORNING TEA:
 Volunteer & J Barroman

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>)

CONFIRMATION COMMITMENT MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SATURDAY 20TH MAY @ 5PM & SUNDAY 21ST @ 9AM

CALVARY HOSPITAL

Archbishop Christopher Prowse has sent out a letter detailing the intended acquisition by the ACT government of Calvary Hospital. Copies of the letter can be found in the Church foyer. Please make yourselves aware of the situation and sign the online petition if you are able to. *Many thanks*

CUPPA WITH MARY MACKILLOP

will be at the home of Mary Lowe on Tuesday June 6th @ 10am.

All are Welcome
 Enquiries ring Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

The Bay Theatre Players are holding a fund raising event for the Sisters of Our Lady Queen of Peace Binh Minh Projects in Vietnam.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC
7PM June 9th
Bay Playhouse
 33 Gregory Street, Batemans Bay
 Tickets \$32
 Carol 0405 775 067
 Anne 0402 465 603

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, **"In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop"**

Commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023.

During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. For further information: **Ph: 02 8912 4818**

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND THE WALBUNJA PEOPLE OF THE YUIN NATION. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS, PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING

Reminder:

The St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal will take place on the week-end of June 3rd & 4th.

Vinnies launches its 2023 Winter Appeal with a focus on the number of older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Can you assist us with a \$ donation?

Funds raised through the Vinnies Winter Appeal will be used to provide assistance with food, clothing, household bills, specialist homelessness services and support for people to find and maintain secure housing. With the rising cost of living, times are understandably tough for a lot of people, but we ask that if you are in a position to help then please give generously.

Many thanks.

Remembering the Sick:

Suzanne Hughes, Trent Fisk, Carolyn Burns, Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill, Barry O'Neill Beverley Biglia, Fr John Walter, Lola, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Pam Wilson, Antony and Andrew, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Femia and Mark, Roberto Alivio, Vince Burns, John Dillon, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Allan Odlum, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Janet Thornberry, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, those in hospital and nursing homes.

Death Anniversaries: are listed in the Memorial Book at the front of the Church and names can be added to it if dates are provided.
We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community: Dan Quigley, Maree O'Brien, Rees De Winter, John Dunne, Maria Ivelja, Stjepan Matasin, Peter McGann, Dante Pasqualin, Loretta Jones, Filomena Dela Torre, David Coates, Christopher Horsfall, Dawn Millman, Mara Pranjic, Michael Thornton, Barbara Mills, Travis Basevi, Judith Dewick, Nita Gorzalka, Michael Dove, Wayne Sing, Linda Russell, Ruby Swinton, Anna Backo, Lois White



The Year of Walking Together

The Risen Lord walked together with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, drawing them from anxiety to hope, from confusion to joy.

Jesus, centre of our common Emmaus walk, with You alone to guide us, make Your home in our hearts; as we pour "new wine into fresh wineskins" (Mk 2:22)

Like Mary, imbued by the Holy Spirit, may we give birth to a renewed faith and united pastoral action in this Archdiocese in the years ahead.

St Mary of the Cross, our Great Australian Intercessor, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

All Saints of God, who name and sanctify our parishes, pray for us. *Amen*

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions

MAY

For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

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