

St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)

The Ascension of the
Lord
— Year A

24 May 2020

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn
Archbishop: Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD STD
Vicar General: Fr Tony Percy VG
Administrator: Fr Trenton van Reesch
Assistant Priest: Fr Norvin Dias



Masses will be offered with a maximum of 10 people present until further notice. Bookings essential one day prior.

PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 (02) 6239 9846 (bh) Emergency Phone for Priests: 0491 072 304
cathedral@cg.org.au www.cg.org.au/cathedral

Online Payments Link: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp>

Parish Secretary: Michelle O'Connor—Mon-Fri, 8.30am-12.15pm, 12.45pm-4.30pm (Working remotely)

Accounts Officer: Karina Widjaja—Friday, 8am-4pm (Working remotely)

Sunday Mass

St Christopher's

Cnr Canberra Ave & Furneaux Street, Forrest (Manuka) ACT

Sunday: 8.00am, 9am
11.00am (livestreamed),
5.30pm & 6.30pm

St Peter Chanel's

Cnr Weston & Loch Streets,
Yarralumla ACT

No Masses due to maintenance

Weekday Mass

St Christopher's

Monday to Friday: 7.30am,
12.15pm (livestreamed) & 5pm

Saturday: 9.00am
(livestreamed), 12.15pm & 5pm

St Peter Chanel's

No Masses due to maintenance

Reconciliation

St Christopher's

Wednesday: 11.00am—11.30am

Thursday: 6.00 - 6.30pm

Saturday: 11.00am - 12noon

St Peter Chanel's

Sunday: 2.00-3.00pm outside

Adoration

St Christopher's

Monday to Friday: 5.30-6.30pm

St Peter Chanel's

Sunday: 2.00-3.00pm outside

Baptisms

Sundays: 12.30pm

Weddings

St Christopher's: Saturday
1.30pm, 3.00pm and 4.30pm

St Peter Chanel's: By arrangement

Dear Parishioners of St Christopher's Cathedral Parish

THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

'Out of Compassion for us He descended from Heaven and although he Ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in Him by grace' — St Augustine

Today's Feast commemorates the Ascension of Christ into heaven in the presence of His disciples forty days after His Resurrection. We hear Our Lord's Ascension narrated in Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, and in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. Every Sunday too we profess in the Creed: "(Jesus) ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end." Jesus' ascension concluded his work on earth to bring about our redemption, begun on Good Friday.

Christ's body was glorified at the moment of his Resurrection, and yet in these last forty days as he ate and drank with his disciples and taught them about the kingdom, his glory remained veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity. Jesus' final apparition comes now and ends with the triumphal entry of his humanity into divine glory. Jesus' earlier words to Mary Magdalene come to mind here: "...go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." And what these words echo are a profound truth: Jesus has made us God's children — you and I. Jesus, the head of the Body, his Church, precedes us this day into the Father's glorious kingdom so that we, the members of his Body may live in the hope of one day being with him for ever.

We await now the Advocate, the Comforter and the One through whom Jesus is able to echo those last words in our Gospel, words spoken no less to you and I today, than to the disciples in that precious moment: "know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time".

Last week the Australian Bishops announced that they will entrust Australia and her people to the protection of *Mary Help of Christians*, during the COVID-19 pandemic and the period of recovery. *Mary, Help of Christians* has been the patroness of Australia since 1844, her feast celebrated on the 24th of May. This year this feast coincides with the Feast of the Ascension, on this, the 7th Sunday of Easter. The entrustment by Archbishop Christopher will take place following 11am Mass and can be viewed on the Archdiocesan *CatholicVoice* website. More information, as well as the prayer of entrustment can be found at catholic.org.au/entrustment.

The Cathedral continues to be open daily for private prayer. With respect to the current restrictions however, all visitors will be required to record their names and contact details upon entry, you may like to bring your own pen for this purpose.

It is also now possible to attend **daily Mass**. Please simply **call or email the parish office** at least one day prior. The limitation of 10 visitors in the Cathedral building for any service still applies.

From 2-3pm on Sunday we will continue to have Adoration and Confessions at the Rear of Saint Peter Chanel's. Daily Hour Hour will also recommence from 5:30-6:30pm Monday to Friday in the Cathedral's Sacred Heart Chapel. Please note you do not need to call the office prior to this, however only 10 parishioners will be permitted in the chapel at any one time.

Finally, Father Norvin and myself would love to visit you in your homes during this time, for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, reception of the Eucharist or just a chat. These months have been so difficult for many, and it has certainly been agonising as a priest not to be close to you all. Please contact the office if you would like a visit.

Finally, copies of the bulletin continue to be available at the rear of Saint Peter Chanel's. Please take and distribute to family and friends who remain housebound.

In these days let us entrust our country and all her people to our Blessed Mother's care, and let us hand our Mother our worries and burdens as we prepare for the great feast of Pentecost and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit.

Please *always* know of your priests' prayers and closeness to you.

Fr Trenton van Reesch

Jesus' Ascension - by Gebhard Fugel, 1893.



PARISH NEWS

PARISH MINISTRIES

Director of Music: Jaki Kane

RCIA—Fr Trenton van Reesch
Weekly on Thursdays, 6pm

School of Religion

Youth Minister—Chiara Catanzariti
Email: chiara.catanzariti@cg.org.au

Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon 25 May Our Lady, Help of Christians
Tue 26 May St Philip Neri, priest
Wed 27 May St Augustine of Canterbury, bishop
Thu 28 May 7th week of Easter
Fri 29 May St Paul VI, pope
Sat 30 May 7th Sunday of Easter
Sun 31 May Pentecost Sunday

Group gatherings in recess for the moment
Legion of Mary
Wednesday at 6.15pm
Haydon Hall

St Vincent de Paul
Assisting people in need and combatting social injustice in our community

Young Adults
Animating parish and Archdiocesan life through prayer and event participation
Thursday 6.30pm Rosary/Bible Sharing/Fellowship SCC
Geetanjali Rogers

Good Shepherd Prayer Group
Wednesday at 7pm SPC
Parish Room (Feb-Dec)

Christian Meditation
Saturday at 5pm SPC
"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)

Other Communities

Spanish Community
First Sunday of the month at 11.30am SPC

African Community
Second Sunday of the month at 11.45am SPC

Filipino Community
First Sunday bi-monthly at 5.00pm SPC

For details of any of the above, contact the Parish

Cathedral Masses— Mon-Fri, 7:30am, 12.15pm and 5.00pm

In accordance with government restrictions, only 10 people are permitted in the church at any one time. Each Mass **must** be limited to 10 parishioners or less. Please email the parish office to see what Masses might be possible to attend. Bookings are essential at least one day prior to the date you want to attend. Call 6239 9846 or email cathedral@cg.org.au **before** 4.30pm Mon-Fri. *Please consider attending one Mass only per week, that others parishioners may have an opportunity to do the same. Physical distancing rules still apply.

Reconciliation - St Christopher's Cathedral only :

Wednesday: 11.00am—11:30pm;
Thursday: 6.00 - 6.30pm;
Saturday: 11.00am - 12noon.

*Protocols will be reviewed daily, that we might get back to a regular sacramental program as soon as is safe and possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Heart to Heart eSeminar—Join Archbishop Christopher Prowse for this 10 part live-streamed eSeminar as he leads you to enter more deeply into your relationship with Christ during this time of isolation.
<https://youtube/I1Fc0Wc3m8kHeart>

Distribution of bulletins and notices: The parish office has been emailing Parishioners who have supplied their email addresses for the weekend Parish bulletin. Please ask your fellow parishioners if they are receiving the parish bulletin and if not, to contact the parish office with their email address. Anyone not receiving the bulletin can email the Parish office on cathedral@cg.org.au. Hard copies of the bulletin are left each Friday afternoon at St Peter Chanel's inside Our Lady's Grotto. Please take one home and take a copy for someone you know who doesn't have access to the internet.

Planned giving Envelopes: If you can't make financial contributions to the Parish electronically, please call the office to organise dropping off your Planned Giving envelope on 6239 9846.

Saint Christopher's Youth & Young Adults

Primary School Students

- Worksheets are **now** available to print out to reflect on Sunday mass.
- When we return, our youth group will be starting and will be held around Sunday 9:30am Mass at St Peter Chanel's. We would really appreciate your input on this (what time it should run, etc) You can do this here: <https://forms.gle/MqE8V2wpopmqDX8R7>

High School students

- **ALPHA every Tuesday 7pm-8pm on Zoom:** Open to all senior students years 10-12 this is a combined effort with youth ministers and their students from all over Canberra schools and parishes. Want to meet new people, have fun and talk about more of those deeper questions? Here what it's all about: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3NBFJDOil>. Join us on: <https://zoom.us/j/99139267513>, Meeting ID: 991 3926 7513
- **Q&A** – When restrictions are lifted more, make way for an event series for high school students to gather with friends, for the opportunity for Q and A on topics that are important to you. Stay tuned!

Young adults and professionals

- **Bible study** continues every Thursday night 6:30-7:30 on Zoom. New members are always welcome! Join 'Canberra Cathedral Young Adults' on Facebook to keep updated on all events.
- **Q&A with FT:** This month we'll be starting some online inputs and Q & A with Fr Trenton. Stay tuned for more info to come very soon.

OTHER NEWS

Mass will be live streamed daily from the St Christopher's Cathedral. Monday to Friday at 12:15pm, Saturday at 9:00am and Sunday at 11:00am. For daily reminders emails: <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>

QKR! AT SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S CATHEDRAL PARISH

A New, Easier way to donate!

Join us in our trialing of Qkr! Similar to swiping your phone at an EFTPOS Machine you can now use our **purpose-built secure parish app** to contribute to our parish community. Payments for 1st (Clergy) & 2nd Collection (Parish) are listed. Please ensure you include your Planned Giving number for 2nd Collection contributions. Contact the Parish Office if you have forgotten your Planned Giving number on 62399846. Caritas Project Compassion is also currently listed under "Special Appeals". For more information or to set up monthly payments via direct debit, please contact the Parish.

For step by step Qkr! instructions with pictures, please visit <https://cgatholic.org.au/2016/10/something-beautiful-god/>

Entrusting Australia to Mary, Help of Christians

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!



How to still contribute financially to St Christopher's Cathedral Parish

As our churches are not open for Masses due to Corona Virus, our weekend collections are not being taken up. If you would like to contribute to the First Collection, you can make a direct transfer from your bank account.

The First collection is for the support of clergy in the parish and beyond. Each priest in a parish draws a personal stipend from the first collection for living expenses, food and housekeeping. Funds are also directed to Priests in parishes where the first collection is insufficient to meet their stipend; the support of the Archbishop, Vicar General and Chancellor; Priests in remote dioceses across Australia; Clergy Retirement Foundation (in support of sick and retired clergy)

BSB: 062-786
Bank Account: 000029248

Account Name: CATHEDRAL
Reference: FORREST & SURNAME

The Second collection, which includes the planned giving program, is the main source of our parish income. The second collection funds are used for the day to day running of our parish. That is to pay for the repairs, wages, insurance, utilities and the many other expenses incurred to keep our parish functioning. If you would like to give towards the Parish expenses and are not currently registered for Planned Giving, please deposit into the following bank account:

BSB: 062786
Bank Account: 000015080

Account Name: St Christopher's Cathedral
Reference: Planned Giving Number and Surname (only for current Planned Givers); or Donation (by parishioner's not registered Planned Givers).

IN THESE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS PLEASE STAY UP TO DATE ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE

<http://cg.org.au/cathedral/Home.aspx>

Please visit www.catholicvoice.org.au for more resources, prayers and news.



Reach out, We do care and Love you.

So often we can feel isolated and alone, and these days during the lockdown this terrifying feeling can consume us even more. This is important to our parish and wider community, you are not alone, you are loved. **Need to talk? 02 616226100.** Or visit <https://catholiccare.cg.org.au/> Crisis support lines 24/7 Lifeline 13 11 14—Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467—Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800—Men's Line Australia 1300 78 99 78—Family Drug Support 1300 368 186

FREE online courses

"Unexplained Infertility Summit" this Mon 25 to Wed 27 May <https://www.unexplainedinfertilitysummit.com/>

"Catholic Marriage Summit" June Thu 11th - Sat 13th <https://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.

We pray for...

Those who are ill: Lauren Nihill, Arianna Vignale, Anna Vincent, Lucy Duncan, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Anthony, Lisette D'Cruze, David Kibbey, Jacqueline Khin, Mary Brennan

Anniversaries of death: Frank Brennan, Monica Cooper, Carla Pastrello, Peg O'Hehir, Jane Jennings, Stanley & Mollie Jones, Fr Viv Morrison, Alma Sainsbury, Jack Delaney, Kathleen Bennett, Frances Riordan, Allan Read, Max Bradley, Jean Sunner, Mary O'Brien, Mary Hehir, Jennifer Gowing, David Crossin, Sr Leonie Crotty, Peter Xavier, Michael Rheinberger, Marcus Mumford, Anthony Sullivan, Margaret Gillespie, Sandra Altrin, Robert Porra, Carmel Pickard, Thomas Clowry

Recently Deceased: Tony Donohoe, **Katarina Kish**, Sr Mary Agnes, Colleen Cotter, Keith McLaughlin, Peter Becker, Regina Paredes, Hilda Quinones, Shirley Evans, Josip Persic, Don Furner, Henry Tabisz, Mary-Anne McGrath, Rod Frazer, 4 children killed at Oatlands, Roberto Emilio, Bruce Kennedy, Ronald D'Cruze, Brian Kelly,

Readings of the Day – 7th Sunday of Easter —Year A

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.*

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!*

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

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

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.'

Second Reading

Eph 1:17-23

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 Reading

Mt 28:16-20

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.'