

The Living Word

The Ascension of the Lord, Year B

12 May 2024

that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

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 Mk 16:15-20

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

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 Fr Michael Tate

Our Risen Lord could have appeared to groups of followers generation after generation until now. But he withdrew his visible bodily presence from us. Why? I think because he needed to wean human beings from our tendency to be self-centred. The Resurrection starts the transformation of the *whole* of creation, not just us.

Ordinary human beings are the heart and mind and voice of non-angelic creation. We love and understand and speak on its behalf. The transforming effect of Our Lord's glorified humanity is much more profound. Every molecule, every quantum of energy, the past, present and future are all in the process of being changed towards 'the fullness of him who fills the whole creation'.

At every Mass, this divine resurrection power is at work. Elements of the universe, wheat-bread, grapes-wine, become the Real Presence of Our Lord's glorified body.

The privilege of a ministerial priest is to be the ritual servant of this divine transformation. Invoking the Holy Spirit and reciting the words of the Last Supper is the priest's role in Our Lord's creative real anticipation of the end of time.

We could take a moment to pray for the grace to let go of our self-centredness, to stop staring into the empty sky as though lamenting Our Lord's absence, and to savour the privilege of receiving his Real Presence in the transformed elements of creation as we and they share in that Holy Communion which is the destiny of the whole cosmos.

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First Reading Acts 1:1-11

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.'

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.*

or

(R.) Alleluia.

- 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.)
- 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.)
- 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

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.

Or Optional Second Reading for Year B

Eph 4:1-7. 11-13 (or longer form Eph 4:1-13)

To the measure of the full stature of Christ.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace



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SUNDAY MASS:

Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm.

Spanish Speaking Mass 12:30pm;

Filipino Mass monthly 4th Sunday at 12:15pm

WEEKDAY MASS:

Mondays - Church open for private prayer

Tuesday 7pm, Wednesday - Saturday 8:30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday - 9:00am to 3:00pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next week Pentecost: Acts 2:1-11; Galatians 5:16-25; John 20:19-23.

Fr Stan writes ...

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, when Jesus was taken to heaven on the fortieth day after Easter. Mark records in the Gospel today that Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of God. In noting this, Mark teaches that Jesus' ascension affirms the glory Jesus received from God after his death and Resurrection. Those who believe in Jesus will be empowered to do what Jesus himself has done. During his ministry, Jesus sent his disciples to preach, to heal, and to drive out unclean spirits. Now they are sent again to do these things and more. From his place with God in heaven, Jesus helped his disciples, and he continues to help us as we try to live as his followers.

A Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, and stepmothers on this special day. We also remember those mothers who are no longer with us.

A Mother's Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, we lift up to you today all mothers.

Bless them with strength to continue to care for their children,

with the same bold, selflessness Mary showed Jesus.

Help all mothers feel our gratitude and truly know their impact.

May we honour them today and on all days as vessels of Your love.

In Your name we pray. Amen.



For Catholics the month of May is set aside for devotions to Mary.

We honour Mary, the first disciple and true model of discipleship, so I encourage you all to do something special during this month. As we honour all mothers on this special day, let us not forget to give thanks to God for Mary, the mother of Jesus and of us.



Next Sunday 19th May we celebrate PENTECOST!

Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is regarded as the birthday of the Christian Church. For us at Holy Spirit Parish, we also celebrate our Patronal Feast



Mass Times for next weekend 18th/19th May

Saturday 18th May 5:00pm

Sunday 19th May 10:30am (one morning Mass ONLY)

Sunday 19th May 5:00pm

The 10:30am Mass will be followed by an International Food Fair.

Lunch will be provided. Parishioners are asked to assist in supplying different food/cakes/desserts to be shared on the day. Please drop off in hall before Mass. To recognise our multicultural parish, food from different Countries/Regions in the world will be served.

If you can assist in supplying different foods or with setting up the hall on the Sunday morning from 8:00am, before Mass begins, please call Jason on 0421 059 858 or Parish Office 9888 2569



In preparation for Pentecost, let us continue to pray this Novena Prayer each day, leading up to the Feast.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen

PRAYERS FOR HEALING: Teresa Talarico, Vianney Brown, Greg Forrester, Joseph Papandrea, Vic & Avonia Moran, Jenny Scully Callaghan, Andrew Chan.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Bishop Peter Ingham, Bernard Higoe, Rosa Marzella, Yolanda Roxas, Giovanni Giaconia recently deceased.

Also, Giuseppe Petrolo, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Angelo & Carmela & Angelo Scicluna, Albert Khoshaba, George Maiolo, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale & Teresa Papandrea, Tony Bietola, Giovanni & Santina Bietola, John & Robyne Bietola, Sam Tedesco, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, the Escalante & Venal families, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Carmela, Angelo, Paul Scicluna, Ignazio (Jim) Torrissi, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Mary & Sam Bietola, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Gianni & Angelina Gualdi, Antonino, Tindara & Vincenzo Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Albert Koshaba, Fr Kevin O'Grady, John Kooyman, Craig Kooyman, Marie & Jim Hyde, Barbara Wonderley, Denis Wonderley, Eleno & Estrello Etor, Natividad & Aurora Dum and the deceased members of the Romagos, Montes, Acosta, Collado families.

message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office 9390 5810/ safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.