

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508
Contact: St Columbas Ballarat North: 5331 1012

Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825
Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Anne Beer 0417 369 322 / 5349 2168

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830 Anne Beer: 0417 369 322

SUNDAY – 16th May, 2021

Ascension of the Lord

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

On May 7 the Vic Govt made changes re COVIDSafe procedures. These are on the diocesan website “news” section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

RECENT DEATHS:

We continue to remember all those who have died.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Michael O'Connor, Barry Torney, Graeme Taylor, Anthony Hare, Ian Stanley, Dr Cyril Checchi, Nando Rosini, Maurice Mahony, Leon Martin, Barb Grant/Wood, Norm Bain, Jenny Cuthbertson, Geoff Tucker, Fr Barry Stickland & Lorna Pearce.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Roger Molombly, Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Valda Murphy, and all those in need of prayer

ROSTERS

Introduction & Readings

Today: Anne Beer

May 23: Jim Mahony

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: John Jess

May 23: Gerrard Family

Assembly Leader

May 23: Angela Gerrard, Sue Mahony

Special Minister

May 23: Gail Hall

Music

Today: Sue Mahony

May 23: Naomi Gerrard

Church Cleaning, Linen & Flowers

May 23 – June 13: Therese Jess & Bernadette Franc

Church Grounds

May 23 – June 13: John Jess & Bill Franc

Newsletter

May: Bernadette Franc 0427 678830

2021

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from May 16 – 23, 2021 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. The 2021 resources have been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp. The theme that was chosen, “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community’s vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and the human family. Resources are available from

<https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources/2021-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity>

Daily Prayers to St Joseph:

The ACBC have provided daily prayers and a shorter Litany to St Joseph available from

<https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

There is a supply of prayer cards for the ‘Year of St Joseph’ at the back of the church, please feel free to take some for use at home. You will also see available prayer cards celebrating 200 years Catholic Education in Australia.

Vinnies launches 2021 Winter Appeal to support homelessness

The Society provides vital services and support for individuals and families facing financial hardship. With generous support from the public, Vinnies aims to maintain the dignity of those on the edge and restore hope to people who have fallen on hard times. To donate go to

<https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal>

Get vaccinated for the common good – from the Diocese.

Catholics in Australia are encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

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WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE ASCENSION?

On Ascension Sunday we celebrate Christ's final appearance after the resurrection whereby he was taken up into heaven. As Christians, we understand it as a profound affirmation of the fact that Jesus is indeed the Son of God who lives on beyond the material confines of this world. We are led to reflect upon our own humanity from the perspective of the eternal life that is promised us. Christ has shown us God's love, and God's love is forever – unlimited even by death. As Christians, our belief in this 'tomorrow' allows us to live 'today' with hope and courage.

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 Mk 16: 15-20
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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 will be 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.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / B

16 MAY 2021

CALLED TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS

As I write I'm in a transit lounge and, as it turns out, it's probably the most appropriate place from which to reflect on the feast of the Ascension which was a moment of great transition for the early church. As Jesus ascended the disciples were invited to leave behind what was known and familiar. Now the time had come to begin a new stage of the journey as they continued Jesus' mission. Many questions remained and they were uncertain about their ability to cope with the changes that lay before them. Jesus had proclaimed the coming of the kingdom. Now the task had been entrusted to them.

In a time of transition and change, we can all have the need for a point of reference that helps give direction and a sense of purpose. Paul writes from prison, bound and seemingly powerless, but he knows that the most powerful bonds for the Christian are those of love. For the Christians of Ephesus, the call is to be worthy of the vocation they have received, to grow in their baptism, and in their love and care for one another.

In a sense, the Ascension is something that happens to each and every individual Christian and community when we take up the task of preaching the gospel in our own time and place. We are still called to preach the good news of the kingdom, to carry on the task which Jesus has entrusted to us. There are still many questions in the life of the Church and there always will be.

FIRST READING

Acts 1: 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

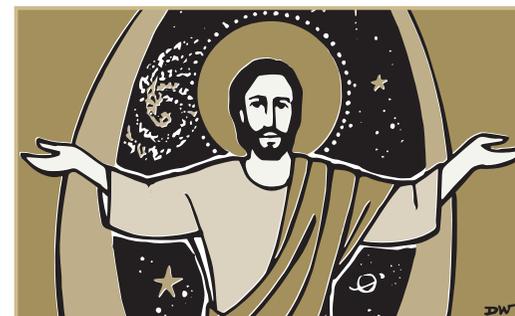
*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

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. 6

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,

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Christopher Monaghan CP