

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – May 12th 2024 The Ascension of the Lord

“So the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken into Heaven and sat down at the right hand of God”

ANNIVERSARIES:

Patricia Kinsman, Thomas Murphy, Catherine Briody, Fr Kevin Smith, Fr Denis McCarthy, Brian Molloy, Lorna Pearce, Michael O'Connor, Barry Torney, Graeme Taylor, Anthony Hare & Ian Stanley.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Tony Collins
and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: John Jess

May 19th: Bernadette Franc

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Genevieve Johnston

May 19th: Therese Jess

Assembly Leaders

May 19: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

May 19th: Therese Jess

Music

Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

May 12th & 19th: Genevieve Johnston

Church Grounds

May 12th & 19th: Clarrie Johnston

Newsletter

May: Carmel Milenkovic 0407 320 759

MASS TIMES

Next week: May 19th LLA 10.00 am

SUNDAY MAY 26

Baptism will be celebrated for Edward Robertson

MASS COUNTS CONTINUE FOR MAY

The Annual Diocesan Mass Counts will take place over 4 weekends in May.

ANNIVERSARY of the BALLARAT DIOCESE:

Please note we will be lighting our Anniversary Candle during our Lay Led Assemblies.

May this anniversary year be a season of renewal for our diocese, our community of communities from the Murray to the sea.

Pope's intention for May – for the formation of men and women religious and seminarians: Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel. Lord, hear us.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us remember that every day is a day to honour, respect, and cherish our mothers. Let us pray for them, express our love for them, and thank them for being the beautiful, loving, and nurturing souls that they are. For as the scripture rightly concludes, "Charm is deceptive, and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." (Proverbs 31:30)

MOTHERS DAY PRAYER

Loving God, we pray for our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, and others who show us a mother's love. We pray for adoptive mothers and for the women who wish to give birth but experience challenges, that they know your care. We pray for mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them. We pray for those who wish to serve as mothers, but are not able to do so, that they know your comfort. We pray for mothers who have died, that God may bring

them into the joy of his kingdom. Amen.



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.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / B

12 MAY 2024

WHAT DOES THE ASCENSION MEAN FOR US?

The ascension of the Lord is the pivotal link between Luke's Gospel and Acts – the story of Jesus and the story of the Church. The accounts of the ascension at the end of Luke's Gospel and the beginning of Acts are not exactly the same but the message is clear: 'they' (the apostles/witnesses) are to stay in the city/Jerusalem until clothed with power from on high/receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and, then 'he' (Jesus) was carried up to heaven/lifted up, and a cloud took him out of sight (Luke 24:49-51 & Acts 1:4, 8-9).

The letter to the Ephesians contains the plea 'to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit' and to build up the body of Christ. This is essential as the one who came down is the same one who ascended, who is calling all, whatever their gift, to work together in their ministry until they become mature in Christ.

Mark's account is thought to be a later addition to the Gospel. 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News', – reminiscent of Matthew's account of the commissioning of the disciples – 'to all creation' (v. 15). This message is vital for us to hear in these times of global ecological crisis. After speaking to the apostles, Jesus was taken up and assumed his rightful place at the right hand of God. In every way the ascension affirms the resurrection, Jesus' return to God and the launch of our mission guided by the Spirit.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

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,