

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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The Living Word

The Ascension of the Lord, Year B

12 May 2024

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.

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

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

OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
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Office Hours: Monday, & Wednesday 10am-3.00pm; Friday 10am-4.00pm.

**Secretary is on leave, please leave a message or email us.*

Sunday Masses: *English:* Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

Mass in other languages: *Chin - Burmese* Sunday 2.30pm; *Tongan* TBC
Vietnamese Saturday Vigil 7pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7pm

Weekday Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am; Friday 11am; Tuesday 7.30pm

Confessions: Saturday 9.30am **Novena:** Tuesday 8.00pm



MASS INTENTIONS 12-18 May

Sat	5.30pm	Sam Strangis RIP
Sun	9.00am	Angela & John Spiteri RIP
	10.30am	Maria & Stefan Varga RIP
	5.30pm	Pro Populo
Mon,	9.00am	Parish Intention
Tues	7.30pm	Sofia & Kazimir RIP
Wed	9.00am	Emma Amati RIP
Thurs	9.00am	Ku Niu Kiung, Lim Nha Moe, Cham Gi Chun RIP
Fri	11.00am	Parish Intention
Sat	9.00am	Sofia & Kazimir RIP



*"Come to me
all you who
labour and
carry a heavy
burden and I
will give you rest."* Matt 11:28-30

INVITATION to spend some
quiet time with Jesus in the
Blessed Sacrament:

Friday 12.00pm-3.00pm
*Come for just a short visit or
stay for as long as you wish.*

DONATIONS

Please support our
parish
Thank you!



National Volunteer Week Cuppa

Past and present volunteers
& those interested in volunteering are
invited to join us for a cuppa.

When: Thursday 23rd May

Time: 7.30 pm onwards

Venue: Parish Office

RSVP: Monday 20th May –

sunshine@cam.org.au or 9401 6344

Happy
Mother's
Day

to all our
Mothers.

Week 3	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	Michael Payne	Mary Rapa	Blaz Karakasic	Celine Rivera
Extraordinary Ministers	Geraldine Williams & Vickie Blampied	Lucy Sgro	Anita Mastroianni	Filipino Choir
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Robert Turczyniak/ Chin Choir	Angie Ramat / Choir
Weekly Counting	John Francis & Vickie Blampied			

The Good News: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Ascension of the Lord

Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20

In today's first reading, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and he has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies. The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf. Indeed, his intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church.



Luke spells out that promise in the first reading for the feast of the Ascension: *"in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit"*.

Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost.

On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children.

To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit.

To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: *"God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord"*. The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace.

The Second Reading strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" because of the light that came with God's saving grace.

St Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: *"May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened,"* he writes, as he looks to the divinization of the believers.

Their "hope" is *"his inheritance among the holy ones,"* the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with him at the Father's right hand.

**This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread
—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem
—at the first Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.**

MASS COUNT— TODAY and during 4 weeks in May. This will assist the Archdiocese with planning.

Child Safety Reminders & Important Notice for Parents

◆ **Please accompany your child if they need to leave the church building.**

◆ **Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you.**

Our parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and the vulnerable.