



THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / C

1 JUNE 2025

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

THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

Phone: 95238407 / 95285988

Mail: PO Box 664, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

Email St Joseph's: elsternwick@cam.org.au

Email Holy Cross: caulfieldsouth@cam.org.au

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Facebook



Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$630.50 Presbytery: \$650.50

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: J Lam

Lector - Sunday: La Bonne family

Counters: No Counting

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$309.30 Presbytery: \$349.30

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: S McMillan

Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving



ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Tue 3 Jun: Charles Lwanga & companions

Thu 5 Jun: St Boniface

Sun 8 Jun: Pentecost Sunday



We hope to start the RCIA Program early July 2025, so the Catechumens are prepared leading up to Easter 2026.

Please share this with all those who would like to be part of a spiritual journey towards becoming a Catholic.

We also welcome new Facilitators to assist us with the program. Please send us an email to register interest a.s.a.p.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Acts 1:11)

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Mt 28:20)

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina**

** Names will be published for a month, unless otherwise requested.*

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: **Joseph Lew**

Upcoming Special Collection: Catholic Mission

On the weekend of 21-22 June, a special collection will be taken up for the Propagation of Faith.

Please give generously to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope or visiting the Catholic Mission website.

Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.



Parish Celebration!

We will celebrate the amalgamation of our 2 parishes on Sunday, 29 June 2025.

1. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am at Holy Cross and at 10:30am at St Joseph's.
2. A light lunch will be served at 12-noon. For catering purposes, please RSVP using the clipboards at the church foyer by Sunday 22 June.
3. Altar Servers are requested to assist at 10:30am Mass.
4. If you would like to contribute to entertainment during the meal, e.g. to sing a song or read a poem, we are looking for 4 short acts to be a part of the program. Please contact the Parish Office by Friday, 13th June.
5. Volunteers to assist with decoration, set-up and pack-up of the school atrium will be most welcomed. Please indicate availability on the RSVP form.

Parish Social Lunch

All parishioners and friends are invited to a social lunch at The Camden Hotel, 414 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South, on Wednesday, June 11th, 12:30pm.

Please come along for an afternoon of fun and friendship. Transport available if required.

RSVP: Denise - 0410311326 by Monday June 9th.

Legion of Mary - Recruitment

The Legion of Mary Curia/Senatus is planning to start a new Praesidium in our Parish.

To facilitate this, some of their representatives will speak at all Masses next weekend, in hope of recruiting enough members to form a new Praesidium here.

The Feasts of St Aloysius & St Anthony of Padua



A combined celebration of the Patron Saints of the parishes of St Aloysius and St Anthony's will be held on 14th & 15th June



The main Mass will be at St Anthony's Church at 11am on Sunday, followed by a BBQ at Padua Pavilion. After all the other Masses, there will be a cuppa. All welcome!

Novena to St Anthony will begin on 4th June in preparation for the actual Feast Day on 13th June.

Before weekday Mass, Rosary at 8:45am followed by Novena and Mass at 9:15am.

Summary of Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The PPC monthly meeting was held on Thursday 29 May

1. Election of new Chairperson and Secretary - It was decided that the election be deferred to the next monthly meeting to review nominations.
2. New PPC Members - We welcome new members to our Parish Pastoral Council as we work towards a more vibrant parish.
3. Amalgamation Celebration on Sunday, 29 June. Mass at 10:30am followed by lunch at St Joseph's School Atrium - The preparation checklist included invitations, catering, RSVP, volunteers, program for the day and entertainment.
4. Vibrant Parish Formation Series - The first session was very informative. Our parishes have submitted our EOI to receive 12-months of guidance for formation of young disciples. Attendance for the next few advertised sessions are highly encouraged.
5. Australian Catholic Youth Festival - Those interested in attending as participants or leaders are requested to submit their Expression of Interest so that our parishes can register as a combined contingent.
6. Legion of Mary - The necessary process to form a new praesidium for St Joseph's and Holy Cross is underway and a recruitment drive will take place soon.
7. Prayer and Worship - The Young Adults Group will host this new program at Holy Cross Community Hall starting 18 July. More details to be advertised soon.
8. RCIA - Invitation open to candidates and facilitators to commence session by early July.

The Ascension of Our Lord

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Today Jesus is saying goodbye to his dear disciples. For three eventful years they had been together. As an intimate group they had been through good times and bad. Jesus had changed their lives dramatically for the better and in ways they could have never imagined. And now he is taking farewell from them. He is going away. The disciples can't digest the fact that their Master is about to leave their company.

They had always called him their Master, but he was much more of a friend to them; a friend to all, a doctor, a teacher and a wonder worker, in fact he was all to all. But from now on they would never be the same.

It is by the virtue of his Resurrection that Jesus returned to us the divine life we had lost because of our sins.

After Jesus rose from the dead he continued to be with them. During those 40 incredible days their joy was doubled, their hopes raised, their doubts vanished. But now he says he is leaving for his home.

Then he asks them to gather on a mountain top. They realise that Jesus is not joking, he is serious about leaving. They obey. There on the mountain top Jesus gives them a purpose in life, an impossible mission to accomplish, at least it seemed so.

Then he surprises them with a good news! And they are overjoyed to hear him say "I will be with you until the end of time". Oh! What a comforting assurance!

But immediately then he is being lifted up. His leaving was not by walking away, or by getting into some sort of a cart and moving on. He is going up into the skies. As he is going up he does not forget to bless them. But their eyes are welling up. They can't hold back their tears. No one is able to say anything!

Then unexpectedly there appear to them some angels, speaking to them some comforting words, saying that Jesus will return as they saw him go up. Jesus has returned to the Father in order to send us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Let each Holy Mystery be a comfort to us.

Fr Leenus



Why did the melon jump into the lake?
Because it wanted to be a watermelon.

It is by the virtue of his Passion and Death that Jesus forgave our sins and redeemed us from eternal death

It is by his Ascension into heaven that Jesus made it possible for us to enter into heaven.

The Vibrant Parish Formation Series

Local and international guest speakers will share how we can strengthen the characteristics of a vibrant parish with Worship, Evangelisation, Formation, Fellowship, and Service using the TWG Renewal Framework.

Tuesdays: 6:30-9:00pm at Mulgrave Country Club, Corner of Wellington and Jells Roads, Wheelers Hill.

June 10: Worship - I have called you friends

July 1: Hospitality - Transformation for host and guest

August 12: Service - Beyond the church doors

September 9: Evangelisation - Bridging the gap between parish and school

Repeat Sessions: Wednesdays 6:30-9:00pm at Club Italia, 128-132 Furlong Rd, Sunshine. 11/6, 2/7, 13/8, 10/9

Contact the Parish Office if you want to attend a session.



Registration Open!

The ACYF is wonderful opportunity for engagement with other young people while experiencing talks, prayer, workshops, live concerts, games, Mass and much more.

It is right at our own doorstep and an opportunity not to miss! You are encouraged to register with your Parish using the form available at our church foyers.

Parents need to complete the forms for those under 18.

The Parish of St Joseph's & Holy Cross and The Parish of St Anthony's & St Aloysius will register a 'combined contingent' for those who would like to attend or lead.

- Sunday, 30 November - Tuesday, 2 December
- Year 9 - 25 years plus Leaders 25+
- Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre
- \$390-410 per person for the entire Festival. Travel and food at additional cost.



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.

■ 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

Lk 24:46-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

AN ETERNAL BLESSING

During Easter our focus has been on John's Gospel. Today we come to the final chapter of Luke and its last scene. Jesus has gathered with his disciples on the day of Easter, dispelled their fears, encouraged them on mission to be his witnesses—thus setting up Luke's second volume, the *Acts of the Apostles* and Pentecost with its gift of the Spirit—and now brings them to Jerusalem's outskirts, to Bethany.

Here, as the Gospel comes to its conclusion, Jesus blesses his disciples (thus completing the priestly blessing which Zechariah was unable to do in the Gospel's beginning) and 'withdraws' from them as he is carried up to heaven. The passive voice of the verb 'carried up' indicates that this is God's act and brings Jesus into the heavenly realm of God's presence. The visual imagery which Luke uses here is not intended as a literal description of a divine elevator that brings Jesus into the heavenly realm. Rather, it is a theology which reminds Luke's audience that Jesus is ultimately and eternally with God and continues, in a priestly gesture, to bless his disciples.

It also identifies that definitive moment when Jesus' earthly presence ceases, but not his divine presence. This presence continues and inspires the disciples' future mission which will unfold in Acts. His blessing continues among us today as we, too, await the coming of his Spirit at our Pentecost, celebrated next Sunday.

Fr Michael Trainor