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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YR A

**23RD & 24TH MAY,
2020**

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).



Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We

have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

Living the Gospel – You will be my witnesses

A witness in a court of law is called to give evidence about a matter; to 'testify' to the truth of what they have seen or what they know to be true. Some people are very good at being a 'witness' to their faith by testifying to others about what they believe. Many others provide witness to their faith by simply living what they believe. Living a life based on Christian principles, including regular prayer and worship in your life, working for justice in the world and taking time to celebrate the beauty of everyday life is a powerful witness to others.

Greg Sunter

WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MASSES

**Masses & Adoration
have been suspended
until further notice.**

**Fr Christopher is privately
celebrating Mass each day
and will continue to pray
for all parishioners.**

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

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Parish Priest

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Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers
- owen.rogers7@bigpond.com

Mrs Marie Cottee - Parish Secretary
- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary – ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College – ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

The Living Word

The Ascension of the Lord

24th May 2020

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 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

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, 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.

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

Mt 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Where is the Body?

Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ could have continued to appear to groups of followers, century after century – until now!

But, he didn't, because the disciples had to be weaned of his Risen-mode of appearance among them lest they think that the victory over Death is meant for human beings alone.

But, as St Paul says, the Risen Lord is the One who 'fills all creation' with His power radiating out from his Risen Humanity.

However, dis-appearance is not the same as absence. We believe that Our Risen Lord is present in many modes, including as St Paul says '... the *Church which is His Body*'.

That is why the figures in white rebuke the disciples: 'Why do you stand looking into Heaven?'

The Disciples had, rather, to ready themselves to be the Spirit-filled body of Jesus Christ in their own time and place. As we do.

We might pause for a moment to stop staring into Heaven, to ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost in order to be 'The Church which is His Body.'

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Historical Context – To the ends of the earth

In both the gospel passage from Matthew and the passage from the Book of Acts, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to the whole world. In Matthew, it is to 'all the nations' and in Acts it is 'to the ends of the earth'. Both writers make it abundantly clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the people of Israel but for all people everywhere. Within only a very few years, early Christian communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Once Christianity became the religion of Rome it spread to all the corners of the Roman Empire.

Greg Sunter

Scriptural context – Not the only Ascension

The description of Jesus being taken up into heaven is a close parallel to the description of the great prophet Elijah also being taken up to heaven. Chapter 2 of 2 Kings describes Elijah speaking to his disciple Elisha in similar words to those used by Jesus to his disciples. The Jewish tradition had no belief in an individual resurrection and so the idea of Ascension was to recognise the greatness of the prophet. He was to be united with God in Heaven rather than having to wait for the great resurrection of all people at the end of time.

Greg Sunter

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May

For Deacons



We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * Why was it important for Jesus to 'commission' his disciples to continue his work?
- * What is the connection between the coming of the Holy Spirit and the disciples being witnesses?
- * How do you understand 'being a witness to your faith'?
- * How are you able to witness to what you believe in your everyday activities?
- * Who is a person you know who could be described as witnessing to their faith?

Questions for Adults

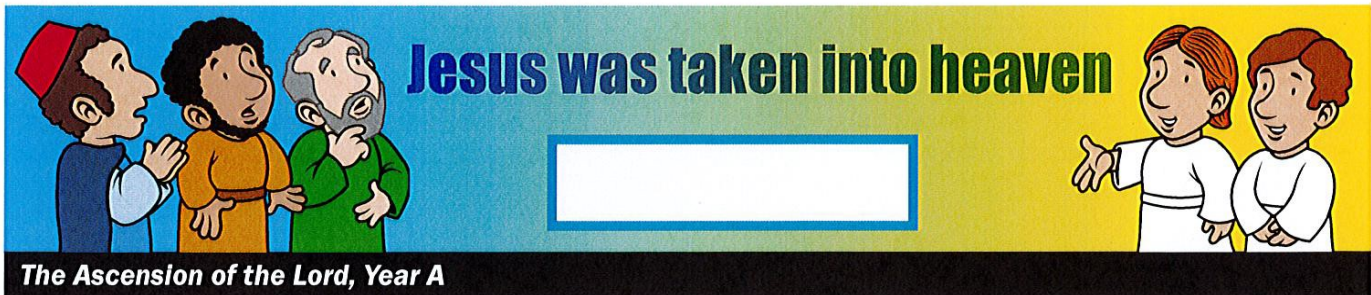
- * In the gospel passage, what is it that Jesus commissioned his disciples to do?
- * What have been some of the 'darker moments' of the history of missionary activity of the Church?
- * How does your local community seek to 'spread the good news' to others?
- * What are some of the actions of being a witness that might speak louder than words?

This is an opportunity for parents to discuss today's Gospel with your children. The following questions and worksheet are a beginning point to assist with the discussion.

- * Who do you know who has gone away and you don't see very often?
- * How do you keep in touch?
- * Jesus went back to his Father but he is still with us.
- * How do we keep in touch with Jesus?
- * We show Jesus is with us by the way we live.
- * How will you show others that Jesus is with you this week?

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Draw Jesus ascending into heaven.



Even though Jesus ascended into heaven he is always with us. Complete the sentences below.

Jesus is with me when....

Jesus is with me when....

Jesus is with me when....



How many words can you make from the letters in the word ASCENSION?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Arrangements for Masses

So as we can follow the rules set by the government Fr Chris will be personally calling parishioners to personally invite them to specific Masses.

This may be a weekday Mass **OR** a weekend Mass.

All parishioners will have the opportunity to attend.

If you have not filled out a Census Form in the last 12 months please email your contact details to the Parish Office so that you can be included on the list.

To help clergy and parishes manage the new legislative requirements, the Archdiocese of Sydney have provided a booking system - MassRegister.com.au - to help parishes collect the contact details of parishioners who visit our churches for prayer, confession and Mass. (This site is currently experiencing technical issues, but should be online shortly.)

Pastoral Support

During this challenging time of isolation many are struggling to cope. If you are in need of pastoral support or care please contact Fr Chris on 0415 505 594.

Parish Office Hours

During this time of church closure the Parish Office will remain open. You are welcome to telephone or email. At this stage, our operating hours have not been formalised, so please leave a message if we don't answer the phone and we'll get back to you. In the case of an emergency please contact Fr Chris on his mobile, 0415 505 594.

Corpus Christi Facebook Page

Our parish Facebook page continues to be updated with relevant information at:

www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiParishCranebrook

**We, the people of Corpus Christi,
seek to grow in living
a Christ-centred mission,
sharing our gifts to foster welcome,
justice and community in today's world.**

**Thank You dear parishioners for your
ongoing financial support to the parish.
Your generosity is helping with the ongoing
running expenses of our parish.**

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

Mass Intentions:

James Vella (02/05), Maryann Azzopardi (14/05/16), Kevin McCormack (04/05/19)

Recently Deceased:

Susan Foster (mother of Jane Fonmanu, 10/05/), Margaret Vella (11/05), Barry (grandfather of Brittany Vella, 28/04).

If any parishioner would like Fr Chris to offer Mass for someone who is recently deceased, a loved one's anniversary or if someone is sick, please email the Parish Office. We can also include the person in The Net so everyone can pray for them.



**Congratulations to Kevin & Mary O'Connor,
who celebrated their 40th wedding
anniversary last Sunday, 17th May.
Please pray for Kevin, Mary and their family.**

PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE WHO ARE STREAMING MASS

PARISH	LOCATION	LINK TO LIVESTREAM
PADRE PIO PARISH	Glenmore Park Parish	Streaming through Facebook – https://www.facebook.com/gsk2223
ST JOSEPHS CHURCH	Kingswood Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjip15JI6H8TrHkEB6lSdw/featured
ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE	Marayong Parish	Streaming through Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/
ST MARGARET MARYS	Merrylands Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6FezbQbHtu-MSyWUSnaAcA
ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA	Penrith Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/SNOMPenrith/
THE GOOD SHEPHERD	Plumpton Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/ https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/videos/163690304720839/
OUR LADY OF LOURDES	Seven Hills Parish	Streamed Mass over weekend to Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/videos/206449013914284/
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY	St Marys Parish	Streamed to Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.

*Since I cannot at this moment, receive you sacramentally,
please come spiritually into my heart.*

I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen



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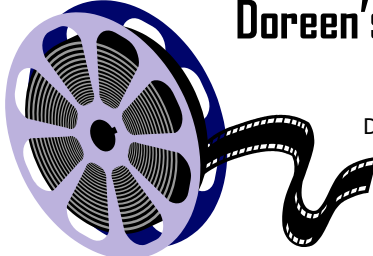
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