

# The Ascension of the Lord, Year A 23rd - 24th May 2020

**First Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 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.'

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.

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 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 had 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.

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:** Matthew 28:16-20

*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 commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always: yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**After the Resurrection and before the Ascension, Jesus appears to specific people at specific places and times. Now, with the Ascension, Jesus becomes present to all in a profound and deep way. The Ascension reminds us of our faith in One God in Three Persons, an acknowledgment of God-above (Father), God-with-us (Son) and God-within-us (Holy Spirit)**

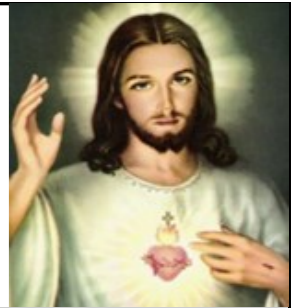


## Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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## The Ascension of the Lord, Year A 23rd - 24th May 2020

### Go, therefore, and Make Disciples...

The Apostles had been with Jesus from the beginning of his ministry. He chose them, called them, and befriended them. They heard him preach and witnessed his miracles. After his death, the Risen Lord appeared to them. Yet even at the time when the Lord ascended into heaven, the Apostles were still not free of confusion and doubt. They were concerned about the liberation of the Kingdom of Israel from Rome; Jesus was concerned about the Kingdom of God which his Apostles were to preach to the ends of the earth. And not only were the Apostles confused, they also had doubts about Jesus. The Gospel tells how the Risen Lord summoned them to a mountain in Galilee, to the place where his mission on earth had begun. After all he had been through with his Apostles, we are told that they worshipped him, yet some doubted.

We may assume that after more than twenty centuries, confusion and doubt about

Jesus would have been eliminated from our midst. Yet, like the Apostles we all too readily substitute our plans and priorities for God's. We easily lose track of what is important in God's eyes, and what is not, as we make our way in a noisy, competitive, and rapidly changing world. And sometimes, in the midst of it all, we too entertain doubts – even though the Lord has drawn near to us in many ways. Perhaps our confusion and doubt is the Lord's way of telling us that, left to our own devices and resources, we are incapable of discipleship. Rather, like the Apostles, we must watch and pray, asking that the Holy Spirit, whom we received in Baptism and Confirmation, to be stirred up in us.



As we look ahead to next Sunday's celebration of Pentecost, let us pray that we will experience the presence and power of the Spirit in our lives, perhaps as never before, with a new depth and vibrancy.

Let us not be afraid of embracing the new future unfolding before us. Through his Resurrection and the Ascension, our Lord empowered the Apostles and also us, to carry out his Gospel dream: to build God's Kingdom on right relationships, peace, justice and love. Let us go forward in our mission to make a difference in the world, confident of the victory of Christ and his promise to be with us till the end of time.

**Office Hours:**

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

**Parish Priest:**

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

**Priest in Residence:**

Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD

**Parish Office:** Cristina Agius

**School Principal:** Mark Tierney

**School Phone:** 9487 1001

**Sacrament Co-ordinator:**

Ylenia Useli

shpcatechists@gmail.com

**Child Safety Officers:**

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212 and

Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

**Child Safety Committee:**

Robert Dullard (Chair)

**Parish Council Members:**

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,

Gerard Grant, Ophelia Swai,

Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,

Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna, Solo-

mon Konchakara, Natalie Baran

**Parish Finance Committee:**

Peter Constable (Chair)

0425 779 831

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:**

Pauline O'Day (President)

Ph: 9484 2445

**This Week's Masses**

**Saturday 23rd May**

Sunday Vigil Mass, 6 pm

**Sunday 24th May**

9am and 11 am (both English)

**Monday 25th May**

9.10am and 6 pm

**Tuesday to Friday**

9.10am

There is a limit of 10 people (including children) to attend every Mass, therefore it is necessary to register by calling Fr Jan on mobile on 0400469540 or 9480 3398.





### Our Lady Help of Christians - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

The feast day to Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day dates back to the start of the 1800's.

Napoleon Bonaparte had jailed Pius VI who died in jail. When Pope Pius VII was elected he too was jailed by Bonaparte, who kept him prisoner at Fontainebleau.

The Holy Father vowed to God that if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honour of Mary.

The military eventually forced Bonaparte to release the Pope and on 24 May 1814, Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome.

Twelve months later the Pope decreed that the feast of Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May.

The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed except for one brief year until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive.

### Prayer to Mary Help of Christians

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts our love of Mary Help of Christians.

Through her prayers and under her protection, may the light of Christ shine over our land.

May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.

Bless especially the men and women of the Australian Defence Force and their families.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### Dates to Remember

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May:** Masses: 9.10am & 6pm

Our Lady Help of Christians

**Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May:** Masses at 9am, 11am & 6pm

Pentecost Sunday

### Online Masses

**St. Patrick's Cathedral - Live Streaming at:**

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday- Friday: 1pm, Saturday: 8am, Sunday: 11am

**Recorded masses can also be viewed at:**

[www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass)

**Or:** <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

### TV Masses

**Channel 44 (31):** Live telecast from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sunday at 11am

**Channel 10:** Mass for you at home, Sunday at 6am.

**RAI:** Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday at 8:30am

### Welcome to Deacon Joe

Deacon Yosef (Joe) Meda comes from Boawae, Flores Island, Indonesia. He was born in 1991 in a small Catholic family. He is the youngest in the family of two sisters and one brother. He entered the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) in 2010. In 2016 he was sent to continue his seminary studies. Yusef professed his perpetual religious vows and was ordained deacon in March this year. Yusef says: "I have been journeying for ten years and I pray that I will have more years journeying with God. My friends often ask me: What makes you survive? On the one hand, I reflect and realise that God is the only one who gives me courage and strength to take part in God's mission. On the other hand, my family, friends and community, the Divine Word Missionaries, have supported me a lot. God has sent them to walk with me in this journey".

We welcome Joe in our Sacred Heart Family. We will pray for him and walk with him during he is among time with us. Selamat datang Joe!



### Prayer to the Holy Spirit



Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

### KEEPING IN TOUCH

Good morning Father Jan Szweda,

I am not sure if you are checking emails during this very difficult and challenging time.

Father I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that you, your staff and all your parishioners are in my thoughts and prayers.

God bless you all.

Margaret Lea  
Parish Liaison Officer

[margaret.lea@marymackilloptoday.org.au](mailto:margaret.lea@marymackilloptoday.org.au)



The new flagship ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph, in the spirit of Australia's first saint

### Collections

1st Collection: \$455.00

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### 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si



Five years ago, Pope Francis issued Laudato Si. That encyclical, on the environment, called for an 'ecological conversion', meaning a deep communion

with all things that surround us. In that prophetic document, we have a blueprint for a sustainable future that is based on respect and love for this beautiful planet. The encyclical is offered to us as timely reminder that we are part of the interconnected cosmic web of creation and we need to live in harmony with it.

Today, we are also challenged to move beyond old patterns of living and behaviour, both individually and collectively. In the light of the ecological crisis that demands a conversion of heart and a change of lifestyle, we must have the courage to align ourselves with God's plan for the world. Only by acting in the best interests of the environment, of the poor and of future generations, can we save this planet from devastation. We cannot continue 'business' as usual and neglect the poor, the afflicted and the ailing planet, the consequences can only be destructive. When we are out of touch with the natural world and our spiritual roots, we deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity.

This ecological crisis we are living through, is a symptom of a deeper malaise, a sign that we have alienated ourselves from the God of life and love; that we have become dull to the cry of God's poor and the cry of God's creation. Therefore, it is an opportunity for us to recognise our own sinfulness that contributes to the suffering of Body of Christ, now, at this moment, in the poor, the dispossessed, the marginalised and our wounded Mother Earth.

It is a kairos (an opportune moment), for us to further God's restorative justice in the world. Laudato Si was and is for Catholics and non-Catholics, domestically and globally to enter into an ecological dialogue and an immediate call to action. The moral imperative, of all Catholics, is to respond to this ecological crisis, one we have witnessed recently through bushfires following on from years of drought.

Go forth, imagine and enact change in a post Covid-19 world, in your circles of influence.

*Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Bishop of Parramatta*

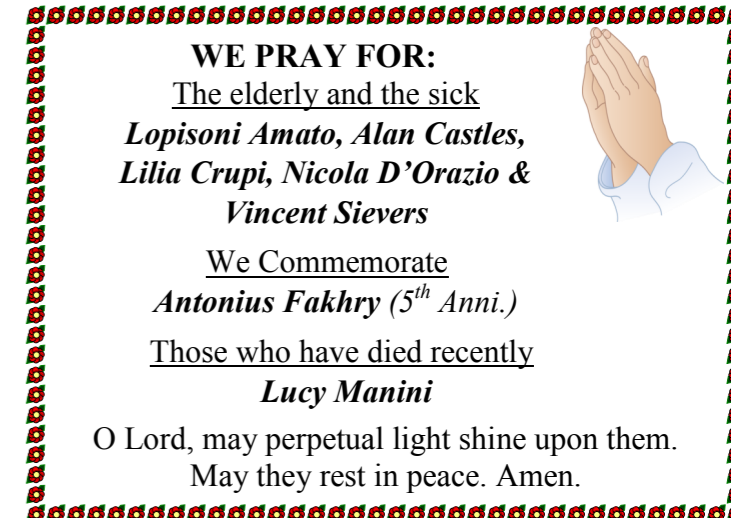
### Resources for The Ascension of the Lord

Please share these online resources with your families.

The [resource](#) is designed for families with young children.

### Praying during the COVID-19 lockdown

I invite you to a meditation prayer with Father Richard Shortall SJ. It takes about 24 minutes. You will find it here: <https://email.jesuitcommunications.com/t/d-l-mijyutk-qituddttu-p/>



### WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick  
*Lopisoni Amato, Alan Castles,  
Lilia Crupi, Nicola D'Orazio &  
Vincent Sievers*

We Commemorate  
*Antonius Fakhry (5<sup>th</sup> Anni.)*

Those who have died recently

*Lucy Manini*

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

### A Prayer to St Joseph

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at the time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:

May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us grow in faith and pray to the Father, *thy will be done.*

Amen



### Meditation & Mindfulness Reflection event via Zoom

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 10am-1pm.

Facilitated by Carol Dyer, this event offers participants theory and practice in meditation and mindfulness.

Please join us! Cost \$20. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BJNSJ>.

For more information, contact [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or phone 9890 1101.

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