

The Ascension of the Lord (Year B) 16 May 2021

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

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

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 46(47):2-3,6-9

The Response Is:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord..

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.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

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.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

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.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:1-13

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 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. It was said that he would:

When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men.

When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? 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.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 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

Mark 16:15-20

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.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

Parish Contacts: Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124
Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



The Ascension of the Lord (Year B) 16 May 2021

Jesus has no backup plan

A beautiful old story tells of how Jesus, after his Ascension into Heaven, was surrounded by the holy angels who began to enquire about his work on earth. Jesus told them about his birth, life, preaching, death and Resurrection, and how he had accomplished the salvation of the world. The Angel Gabriel asked, "Well, now that you are back in Heaven, who will continue your work on earth?" Jesus said, "While I was on earth, I gathered a group of people around me who believed in me and loved me. They will continue to spread the Gospel and carry on the work of the Church." Gabriel was perplexed. "You mean Peter, who denied you thrice and all the rest who ran away when you were crucified? You mean to tell us that you left them to carry on your work? And what will you do if this plan doesn't work?" Jesus said, "I have no other plan — it must work." — Truly, Jesus has no other plan or backup plan than to depend on the efforts of his followers! Before ascending to heaven He told his disciples: "You will be my witnesses not only Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria and indeed to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Until now Jesus has not changed his plan. Despite the imperfections of his followers, Jesus has a complete trust on them to carry out his mission. Jesus also chooses the imperfect you and me to continue to do his mission. By our Baptism and Confirmation we are called to carry out Jesus' mission. Our Baptism and Confirmation challenges us to do even more. In the Gospel He said: "Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation." Proclaim the Good



News about Jesus is not reserved for priests and religious alone. It's a responsibility we all share by our Baptism and Confirmation. The question is: how can we preach about Jesus in today's world? I recall an old lady who used to take the Sunday bulletin from her parish to a nearby hospital and distributed it to sick. Some of these sick were not Catholics but later in their lives embraced Christian faith because of reading the bulletins distributed by the old lady. I am sure the story of this old lady can inspire you and me to think of new ways of spreading the Good News of Jesus. Let us continue to pray to the Holy Spirit for his guidance and courage to do Jesus' mission.

Office Hours:

Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -2pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD
Ph: 0428 715 282

Italian Community Chaplain:

Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD
Ph: 0478 963 248

Parish Office:

Rachel Costa
School Principal: Mark Tierney
School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Ylenia Useli
shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:

Robert Dullard (Chair), Kay Dufty,
Mary Harb, Teresa Dang and
Pauline O'Day

Parish Council Members:

Gerard Grant (chairperson), Kay
Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,
Ophelia Swai, Anisasio (Pauline)
Veamatahau, Mark Tierney,
Ben Fortuna and Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)
Ph: 0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Stephen Costello (President)
Ph: 0432 405 417

Parish Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 6:00pm
Sunday: 9:00am (*Italian*),
10:30 am, 6:00 pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday to Friday: 9.10am

Healing Mass: 1st Thursday of
the month at 1.30pm

Devotional Practices:

**Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament:** Wednesday after
9.10am Mass

Holy Rosary: Thursday (English)

Reconciliation:

Weekdays: 30 minutes before
Mass or by appointment

Baptisms & Weddings:

By appointment only

“Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. ”

Global Week of Prayer for the Church in China and the peoples of China 23-30 May 2021

As you may be aware, there are reports that the persecution of people of faith in China has increase in recent times. This not only includes Catholics and Christians but also Buddhists, Muslims and other believers who are routinely persecuted, imprisoned and tortured. Please pray that all believers in China are given the freedom to practise their faith and that human dignity is always upheld and respected. (Excerpts from Vicar Joe Caddy's letter to priests)

MAY MASS COUNT.

During the month of May, the Archdiocese organises this survey during the weekends so as to know how Catholics are faring in their church attendance and to organise better the pastoral needs of the parishes.

Weekly Catholic Radio Reflection:

Visit <https://bit.ly/3sNC1W1> where you can listen anytime!



Sacred Heart Primary School 2022 Enrolments

Enrolments for the 2022 school year are closing on Monday 21 June 2021. For a school tour, please contact the school principal on 9487 1001 or via the school website <http://www.shpreston.catholic.edu.au>

At Sacred Heart School, our students are at the heart of every decision we make. Every day is Open Day and prospective students and their families are warmly invited to tour our school.

Registration for Sacramental Program for 2021

Children of our parish who attend other than Catholic schools and wish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Year 3) and First Holy Communion (Year 4) are required to enrol for preparation classes conducted in our parish. Enrolment forms are available in the foyer of our church.



Welcome!

This weekend through Baptism we welcome **Evelyn Rosie Attard** into our Parish family



Last Week's Collection: 95/21

1st Collection for our Church: \$1,253
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$535
Thank you for your kind generosity!

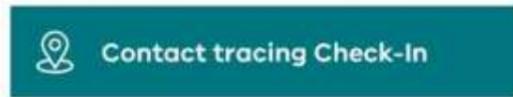


Chaplaincy Appeal 2021

This weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community. Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic chaplains can continue to faithfully meet the emotional and spiritual needs of the vulnerable, isolated and marginalised in our community by providing pastoral and spiritual support. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and a financial donation to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing loneliness, illness, pain, grief and death. You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.ccam.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.

NEW - Electronic sign in by QR code

Sacred Heart church is now using Electronic Sign-in by QR Code for all Masses as directed by the Victorian Government. Paper based record keeping is no longer accepted. To Sign-in when you arrive at church, you can use the QR Code posters in the foyer. Scan the QR Code using the Services Victoria App on your smart phone. Note: You MUST have the Services Victoria App installed. Tip: Install the app now from: <https://service.vic.gov.au/check-in/> When you arrive at church, open the Services Victoria App and tap on the "Contact tracing Check-In" button (as shown below) then scan the QR Code on the posters in the foyer.



Then, you only need to enter your first name and phone number. The parish will not receive this data. The Victorian Government contact tracers will use this data if a Covid-19 outbreak occurs. The data is stored by the government for 28 days. We will have volunteers in the foyer to assist anyone who does not have a smart-phone - please be patient and arrive with plenty of time before Mass.

THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS



The Solemnity of the Ascension lifts our gaze upwards, beyond earthly things. At the same time, it reminds us of the mission the Lord has entrusted to us here on earth. May the Holy Spirit guide us in the good battle we must wage.



LITURGICAL GUIDELINES COVID-19

Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Updated as of 5:00pm Thursday 8 April 2021:
Full guidelines can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3uBL1io>

Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

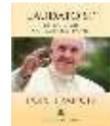
STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A message to Parish Priests

Mandatory use of Victorian Government QR Code Service
Last Friday (7 May 2021) the Victorian Government announced that it is moving to a single QR Code Covid-19 check-in system. This means that by 6pm on Friday, 28 May, all Parishes must use the free Victorian Government QR Code Service and have Covid marshals in place to ensure people are checking in at relevant Parish activities (e.g. Mass, weddings and funerals, and use of Parish spaces for community events). Parishes should continue to proactively encourage parishioners to check-in. Parishes should also make reasonable efforts to provide or use alternative record-keeping systems for people who do not have access to, or cannot use, a personal mobile phone or another device (e.g. iPad) to use the QR Code Service to check in. Manual record keeping (pen and paper) can only be used if electronic record keeping is temporarily unavailable such as during an internet outage. Obviously, I very much regret the additional burden placed on you and your Parishes in relation to QR codes. I wish it were otherwise.
Tim O'Leary
Executive Director Stewardship
(the above letter has been edited for relevance)

CELEBRATING the 6th Anniversary of LAUDATO SI: ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

On the 24th May 2015 Pope Francis published his encyclical on our need as Christians to care for God's Earth. We are all called to be proactive in our individual lives but also in the wider community. This is the great work of our time that Pope Francis argues is part of our social justice commitment to the world. Pope Francis refers to his predecessor Pope Benedict XVI and Patriarch Bartholomew who have had a great deal to say about our need to care for God's Earth. Pope Francis writes in his encyclical:
LS 6: Pope Benedict XVI asked us to realise fully that we have damaged the earth almost beyond repair, both physically and socially. He taught that "the book of nature is one and indivisible." It includes the environment, life, sexuality, the family, and social relations. When we begin to think that we own the world, that the world is simply our property, that God and the family of God have no place in it, then misuse is the result.
LS 7: The various statements from my predecessors reflect the consensus of scientists, philosophers, theologians, and civic leaders. They have all helped shape the church's thinking on these matters. Outside the Catholic Church, others have also raised these issues, especially the beloved Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.
LS 8: Patriarch Bartholomew has called on each of us to take small, personal actions to care for the planet, reversing our own small ways of harming her. We have sinned against creation, he teaches firmly. "To commit a crime against the natural world," he explains, "is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God." The community of Sacred Heart Preston is preparing to celebrate the anniversary of Laudato Si: Care for our Common Home during the 24th May weekend masses. PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE



WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
Anthony, Peter Bourke, Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph Paige Lapenta, John Plum ,and Bronislawa Slobodzian
That they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect



Those who have died recently
Pauline Burr, Giovanni (John) Pizzato

We Commemorate
Filippo Anfuso (1 month) Rae Bourke & John Bourke Vitoria Dromi

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Ministers and Readers

At present, only one Extraordinary minister of the Eucharist has been allocated for each mass if required. This will depend partly on numbers of attendees at each mass and ongoing circumstances related to Covid-19. If you are continuing or are no longer available for these ministries or for a mass time, please advise the office, Jessy or myself as soon as possible and the roster will be adjusted. **The Parish Safe Standards committee is currently updating its record of volunteers who hold current Working with Children Checks, as it is now compulsory for all Clergy, volunteers and employees.** If you need to apply for a WWCC, update your currently held Card or add Sacred Heart Church to your list of organisations in which you work as a volunteer, please ask for clarification by contacting the presbytery office or myself. Teachers who hold current VIT cards will nominate organisations in which they undertake volunteer work via VIT and the Parish will be advised via the WWCC Unit. Thank you for your ministries past and present to our Sacred Heart community.
Pauline O'Day - Parish SS Committee

Roster for weekend of 22/23 May 2021

	Readers	Ministers
Sat 6.00pm	John Kmaid Mary Harb	Charlotte Bainy
Sun 9am (Italian)	Volunteers	Volunteers
Sun 10.30am	Ivana Lo Bello Marilene Fortuna	Pauline Veamatahau
Sun 6.00pm	Margaret Bannan Marijana Jurjevic	Robert Dullard

Cleaning Roster:
Saturday 22 May 2021
Anna and Lizzie
Thank you for your help

