

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** Mk 16: 15-20  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*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 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.

# Breaking Open the Word

## CALLED TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS

As I write I'm in a transit lounge and, as it turns out, it's probably the most appropriate place from which to reflect on the feast of the Ascension which was a moment of great transition for the early church. As Jesus ascended the disciples were invited to leave behind what was known and familiar. Now the time had come to begin a new stage of the journey as they continued Jesus' mission. Many questions remained and they were uncertain about their ability to cope with the changes that lay before them. Jesus had proclaimed the coming of the kingdom. Now the task had been entrusted to them.

In a time of transition and change, we can all have the need for a point of reference that helps give direction and a sense of purpose. Paul writes from prison, bound and seemingly powerless, but he knows that the most powerful bonds for the Christian are those of love. For the Christians of Ephesus, the call is to be worthy of the vocation they have received, to grow in their baptism, and in their love and care for one another.

In a sense, the Ascension is something that happens to each and every individual Christian and community when we take up the task of preaching the gospel in our own time and place. We are still called to preach the good news of the kingdom, to carry on the task which Jesus has entrusted to us. There are still many questions in the life of the Church and there always will be.

Christopher Monaghan CP



# THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / B

16 MAY 2021

## 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 heaven,

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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16 May 2021  
Ascension Sunday

# WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswestamworthparish.org/>



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Sacristan Elaine Smyth

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Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9 am and 5.30 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: \*No Mass Tues: \*No Mass  
Wed: 12pm Thur: 9am  
Fri: 9am Sat: 9am

CONFESSIONS  
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm  
\*Or by appointment

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *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*

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

**Recently Deceased:** Fr Peter Liu, Peggy Bussell, Lawrence Hartley, Margaret Barnes, Blagyna Nikolovski, John Parker, Rodney Oatley.

**Anniversaries:** Peg MacRae (2/5), Joseph (5/6), Bill McLean (8/5), Hugh O'Brien (18/5), Sandy Murray (22/5), John Varga (1/6).

**Deceased:** Patrick Valentine McNicholas, Dalis O'Brien, Fay Sims, Steven Walton, Stephanie Cayley, Ronald Dietrich, Patricia Hawes, Norm Moran, Thomas Brown.

**Sick:** Maria Mood, Fr Bernie Flood, Barbara Brennan, Monica Austin, Mimmie Bennett, Bob Worthington, Kim Myers, Judy Cummins, Shirley Hobbs, Elaine White, Erin Hansen, Bill Press, Jenny Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Linda Bourke, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Brindley Cavallaro, Jack & Marge Attard.

## PADDY'S CORNER



*An Irish backpacker went into an Aussie Post Office to see if there was any mail for him. "I'll see sir, what's your name?", asked the attendant. "You're having me on because I'm Irish aren't you"? he said. "Won't you see the name on the envelope?"*

## COMING EVENTS

31 July: Launch of Online Men's Gathering 2021  
24 May: Solemnity of Our Lady Help Of Christians

## CHURCH COLLECTIONS

1st Coll: BSB 082105 ACC 001023642  
2nd Coll: BSB 082105 ACC 001041198



*Let us rejoice and thank God  
for giving us such solid proofs of his love (1877)*



**SOCIAL DISTANCING - \*\* REGISTER TO ENTER USING EITHER QR CODE - OR PAPER REGISTER**  
\*\* SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING  
\*\* KEEP YOUR DISTANCE  
\*\* SPRAY CLEANING PLEASE SPRAY BROADLY ABOVE SEATS AND NOT ON THE SEATS

**SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR CORONA VIRUS:** A special collection will be taken up this Sunday 16th May to send to the Philippines and India to assist with their struggle against the COVID19 pandemic currently causing havoc and despair in those countries. The funds collected will be forwarded to the La Salette Missionary Fathers in the Philippines and the Rogationist Missionary Fathers in India for them to distribute to people on the ground in communities where it is most needed. Our Diocese has a special relationship with both these missionary congregations and are appreciative that they can now help us to aid others in their respective countries with these funds from the parishioners of our Diocese.

**RIP FR PETER LIU:** Fr Peter Lui passed away peacefully on 9 May. His funeral will be held at 11 am on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at St Nicholas Church. May he rest in peace

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST** are being sought for the proposed new Parish Pastoral Committee. The Committee will be formed in the coming weeks to meet many new and exciting challenges as the Parish grows into the future and embraces new and important pastoral opportunities. Please contact Fr Anthony or email the Parish if you feel you can contribute your special gifts to assist.

**THE NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE** will be conducted throughout Australia again this weekend for two more weekends. This week it is a head count of males and females; no other information about attendees will be collected. This is a count of attendance at ALL MASSES celebrated in the Diocese, including all parishes, non-parish centres, hospitals and chaplaincies. Volunteers for counting heads will be gratefully accepted.

**THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING FOR 2021** will be launched online on Saturday 31st July. The Diocese of Armidale will be holding its own Diocesan Catholic Men's Gathering as an in-person event on Saturday 16th October in Tamworth. This event will include the input being prepared by the ACBC for the National Catholic Men's Gathering as well as local input and content. *Aim: To inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world.* Further to come.

**DIMMING IN THE CHURCH:** Replacement of the church lights is imminent and of significant cost. We have seen the improved savings made with updating of lighting in the presbytery and grounds and we would like to see the same in the Church. We hope to be able to address the issue in the not too distant future.

**CRACKER'S TALES:** To assist with the lighting project, we will aim to clear the stock of Cracker's Tales. The bargain price of \$10 will get you all the laughs you need. Please contact the office or speak with Fr Anthony after Mass or at the office if you would like to buy a copy

## WEEK 3 ROSTER: 16/5/21

Vigil: R C Greer P Bamford  
9am Sun: R S Brown A Sartori  
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray  
Counting Team C Lavell; P Shiels  
Sat Cleaning: 22/5 M Vella & R Pace  
Altar Linen: B Flood

## WEEK 4 ROSTER: 23/5/21

Vigil: R D Gowing G Styman  
9am Sun: R R Paull M Donaldson  
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray  
Counting Team O and J Whale; A Bowden  
Sat Cleaning 29/5 B & B Lane  
Altar Linen E Smyth