



To know, love and serve Jesus  
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission

*We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.*

16 May 2021  
THE ASCENSION  
OF THE LORD  
YEAR B



**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.

**First Reading** from the Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11

**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** from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1: 17-23

**Gospel Acclamation**  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according to Mark 16: 15-20

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

**NEXT WEEK**  
**PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
**YEAR B**

**First Reading:** Acts 2:1-11

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34.  
R. v.30

**Second Reading:** 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

**Gospel:** John 20:19-23

## The Ascension of the Lord

Aren't we lucky we don't take the Scriptures literally? If we did it would appear from today's Gospel that only multilingual, snake-wrangling, poison-drinking exorcists, with a gift for healing, would be seen as the genuine Christian article. That would leave most of us out in the cold.

This passage, however, is a dramatic addition to Mark's Gospel to show that even though Jesus is now at the right hand of God, he sends his disciples out to the whole world to carry on his ministry, and that he will protect us when trials come. And even though there have been tragic and shocking chapters in our 2,000 year history, it's good for us to remember what God has done in and through us as we have gone out and proclaimed the saving love of Christ. Today 33% of the world's population are, at least nominally, Christian, numbering 2.1 billion people, making us the largest religion in the world. Our Catholic family accounts for just over half this group. We have around 1.1 billion Catholic brothers and sisters worldwide. Many Christians continue to be persecuted or discriminated for their faith, and some continue to die for their love of Christ which impels them to seek justice for all.

But the feast of the Ascension is not just an opportunity for us to look back on how we have tried to fulfil the command of the Lord to go out to the world. Indeed, this feast is primarily focused on where we are going from here on in. The Ascension promises us that just as the Father raised Jesus from the dead, so too the Father, Son and Spirit will welcome us into heaven as well, to be at Christ's right hand for eternity. This parable demonstrates the point.

In 1939 a father and son were famous art collectors. When World War II broke out, the son volunteered. In 1944 the son died in battle while rescuing another soldier. A year later, a young man came to see the father. 'Sir, you don't know me but I was with your son when he died. I want you to know he didn't suffer.'

'I know you both loved art, and though this isn't much, I want you to have it.' He gave the father a package. Inside was a portrait of the son. It was rough work, but the father welled up with tears. 'It was the least I could do for your son because he saved my life.'

A few months later, the father died. At the art auction which followed, investors gathered from around the world. The first item up for bid was the portrait of the son. The auctioneer tried to start the bidding, '\$200 ... \$100 ... Any bids? Any at all?' The investors called out, 'Skip this one. Where are the Rembrandts?' Just then a man spoke up from the back. 'I'll give you ten dollars for the painting. It's all the money I have.' It was the gardener at the father's estate. So the auctioneer brought down his gavel. 'Sold for ten dollars!' An investor called back, 'Can we now get on with it?'

But the auctioneer continued, 'The auction is over. According to the will, whoever bought this painting would inherit the estate, including all the art.'

No matter what they said the wealthy investors couldn't buy their way into the inheritance. Only the one who had the eyes of love, and knew what he was looking at, inherited everything the Father and Son had to offer.

May we go out from this Feast of the Ascension so confident of our spiritual inheritance to come, that we lavish its riches on all we meet right now. Because when it comes to Christ's kingdom, there's plenty for everyone. © Richard Leonard SJ

## Contact us

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**Office Hours:**  
Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm  
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## Mass times

Sunday Mass times	Weekday Mass times
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday Mass at 9am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm
Reconciliation: by appointment	All Sacramental enquiries: call the parish office

## Rosters

23 May 2021	6pm	9.30am	5pm
<b>Monitor</b>	David Fehlberg	Gabriel & Ofa Mafi	Betty & Boby Thalody
	Ryan & Bev Potter	Gerry & Margaret Connolly	
<b>Altar Server</b>	Ryan Potter	Orly Simbul	Robert Selvaraj
<b>Reader</b>	Russel Binny	Reg Bucknell	Ofa Mafi
<b>Counting</b>	Paul, Merylyn & Margaret	<b>Flowers</b>	Mago Shaheen & Lorraine Bryant
<b>Vacuuming</b>	Binny Family	<b>Foyer</b>	Allan & Anita Roma

## Prayer intentions

**For the sick & homebound:** Elizabeth Moore, Nelia Balingit, John Morgos, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Gabriel Gonzales, Francisco Carmona, Doreen Gribbons, Jenny Bishop, Clayton Diack, Emily Rose Pavicin, Pat & Denise Furner, Claude Fricot, Tracey Bokor, Lily Pereira, Mary & Reg Gardner, Doris Wahhab, John Kajdrys, Erlinda Hermes, Aurelia Vertucio, Ofilia Mawson, Mary & Frances Raithi, Marie Atkins, Jeanna San Diego, Hugo Garzotto, Eileen Butcher, Josephina Duefries, Austin Taylor, Marisa Aguirre, Joan Wilson  
*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.*

**For our recently dearly departed:** Eduvigis Reyes, Iris Wallis, Gaudencia Mendoza, The Nguyen,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Hilda Young, Dolores Sitjar, Anthony Binny,  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



## YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

*"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"*

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021

# Bulletin Notices

**Ministry Appreciation** continues with our focus this week on the Property and maintenance teams.

**There is a property meeting on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm** and all are most welcome to attend the meeting.

## **The National Count of Mass Attendance (May 2021)**

Every 4 years, coinciding with Govt census, we have to provide information about Mass attendance numbers. This weekend we are counting how many men and women attend Sunday Mass. Next weekend we have to count the age of our congregation. You will be asked if you fit into a specific age range; 0-17 years, 18-29, 30-49, 50-69 and 70 years and over.

## **The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus.**

The Chosen is a new 'free to view', television program that creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and is receiving acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen> to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via *The Chosen app download*

**The Journey' Podcast:** On the Journey this week: The Gospel reflection with Fr Daniel McCaughan, Mother Hilda discovers a unique way to see God's glory in cleaning windows, Michelle Vass observes nature teaches us about rising to new life and a powerful faith testimony from Suzanne on how Alpha changed her life. The Journey available as a podcast at [jcr.org.au](http://jcr.org.au)

**LIVE Local** will be moving to Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Eagle Vale for the 21st May only.

LIVE Local is a youth group ran by CYMW in the Macarthur Region every Friday night! 7PM – 9PM during school terms. What to expect? We gather together to meet new people and connect with God through games, live music, and prayer. We look forward to meeting you then!

For more information, visit @live.local.cymw on Instagram

## **Mary Help of Christians Pilgrimage Walk for Australia 2021 Friday 21 May - Saturday 22 May**

We walk to raise PRAYERS for Australia. We walk in a spirit of joy, knowing that prayer united with sacrifice, makes prayer more effective. You are warmly welcome to join us on either day or both days. Support vehicle provided all the way. Shuttle cars return to start on both days. Prayer books provided. Donations gratefully accepted. For information contact Sue Hill: 0435 336 195 or Gabriella De Battista, (02) 4261 2500

**St Joseph Pilgrimage Motor Bike Ride** Join with Catholic motor bike riders who will be undertaking a pilgrimage ride visiting 7 churches and riding 800km over three days in honour of St Joseph, including 2 Churches in our Diocese of Wollongong. The ride will commence from Oatley Parish on Friday the 11 June at 10am and conclude at Camperdown on the 13 June at 6pm, with overnight stays in Moss Vale and Orange. You may simply wish to join the riders for prayer at our St Joseph's Churches on 11 June, with prayer at Bulli for an hour starting at 1.30pm and Kangaroo Valley at 3.45pm. If you would like to join the ride, contact Jim on 0432 487 927 or Branko 0411 281 299. For map of ride go to <https://tinyurl.com/ride4stjoseph>



## **Partnering with the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand.**

This year, we invite you to partner with the essential work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok, Thailand, as they reach out to vulnerable mothers and their babies. These mothers find hope and a new start at the Mother and Babies Home at the Good Shepherd Centre.

By providing a loving home, a community of women from similar backgrounds, parenting skills training and pre- and post-natal medical care, the Good Shepherd Sisters are supporting women and their babies in need.

However, the Home can only continue this work through the generosity of others. Through this appeal, parishioners are given the opportunity to come alongside the Sisters to ensure more mothers in need are given an opportunity at a brighter future.

## **You can help vulnerable women and their babies!**

Sister Chalaad and the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand work tirelessly to ensure vulnerable mothers and their precious babies are given love and care when they need it most. It's only through the faithful support of people like you that they can continue this essential mission work, helping those in most in need.

Thank you for choosing to support the work of Catholic Mission this year, and for sharing the important and vital work of missionaries around the world with your parishioners.

## **menALIVE Men's Weekend** Rediscover God's Presence and Purpose for your Life **12-13 June 2021, St Patrick's Church Catholic Church (Hall) Port Kembla**

The menALIVE Men's Weekend is an opportunity for all men from 18 years of age to explore what makes them feel fully alive. Experienced leaders from menALIVE Team will be running the weekend. Register via brochure or online [www.dow.org.au/events](http://www.dow.org.au/events): Anthony Rewak (Parish Contact) 0488 233 078

**Cursillo 3 day weekend July 1-4** Ladies, are you ready to step back out into life with your Faith community, following the forced Covid hibernation. Join us for a Cursillo 3 day weekend July 1-4 at Hartzler Park, Bowral. Share your stories; increase the depth of your faith; listen to talks from our Spiritual Advisor and lay women; daily Mass. For further info please contact Denise D'Amore 0438254139.

**National Families Week Webinar Series** To celebrate National Families Week, CatholicCare are running a Five-part webinar series to help you grow as a family and get the most out of family life. Topic covered: Family Resilience, Family Values, Family Connection, Family Self Care and Family Mindfulness. Webinars run between Monday 17 to Friday 22 May, 10am-10:30am each day. Visit the events calendar of the CatholicCare website for more information and to register: <https://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/events-calendar/>

*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 is 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.



## Gospel Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Ascension was a turning point in the life of the church. It brought closure to the earthly activity of Jesus and launched the apostles on their own ministry. Jesus tells them that the time of fulfilment is approaching. They question him about the restoration of Israel. Since such restoration was considered a sign of the end time, their question shows that they believed that the endtime had indeed come. Jesus informs them that though he will leave them, they will experience him through the presence of the Spirit. The actual account of the ascension is brief. Jesus is lifted up and concealed by a cloud. The church is now in a liminal state. Jesus has left, but the Spirit has not yet come.

The liturgical celebration described in the psalm is the enthronement of God. This enthronement appears to establish God's sovereign reign. The claim that the Lord rules over all the earth either points to the pre-eminence of the God of Israel over all other gods or it is an assertion of monotheistic faith. The title 'Most High', was the name given to 'the creator of heaven and earth' (Gen 14:19). Israel applied both the title and all of the attributes associated with it to its own God. In their minds, their God was not only king over all the earth and all the peoples that dwelt there, but was also king over all of the powers of heaven.

The passage from Ephesians 1:17-23 is a prayer for wisdom and revelation, gifts that are necessary for insight and understanding. It acclaims the power of God that raised Christ from the dead and seated Christ in the place of honour in heaven; it made all things subject to Christ and exalted Christ as head of the church. It is this same power that is now called upon. The image of Christ is quite exalted. Having been raised from the dead, Christ now sits at God's right hand, high above all of the other heavenly creatures. Exalted by God, Christ is made the head of the church, which is the body of Christ. As members of this exalted body, believers share in Christ's fullness.

The overarching theme of Ephesians 4:1-13 is the unity within the church. It opens with a catalogue of social virtues that foster community harmony and preserve the unity that comes from the Spirit. The body with its many, diverse and interdependent members is an apt image of this living church. Its unity, grounded in membership in the one body of Christ, is expressed in the Christians' allegiance to one Lord, their commitment to one faith, and their practice of one baptism. The diversity within the church need not be threatened by this unity. A church united in its members is an apt manifestation of Christ who, in his exaltation, has matured to his full stature, bestowing grace on all without altering their diversity.

The account of the ascension of Jesus marks a turning point in his relationship with his closest followers. It reports the commission to preach the gospel to all. The salvific nature of this gospel is clear: Those who believe will be saved; those who do not believe will be condemned. Faith in the message of the gospel is crowned by baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Taken from their sight, as exalted Lord, Jesus then takes his rightful place of privilege next to God. The concluding verse succinctly summarises the entire apostolic age: the apostles went into the entire world and preached the gospel; the Lord was with them, confirming their ministry through wondrous signs.



**Catholic Mission Appeal is on this weekend. There will be a leaving collection after all Masses. You can also take an envelope home and return next weekend or donate online.**