

The Ascension of the Lord

By Richard Leonard



Have you noticed how many books, films, television and radio programs harken back to yesteryear? 'Retrospectives' are huge in the art world. Have you noticed when musicians play more romantic classical music in the first half and contemporary music in the second half that people leave at half time? It seems the public likes the art of the 19th Century more than that of today. Nostalgia is big business and we cannot get enough of it.

Nostalgia literally means 'a yearning for home'. And if our artistic tastes reveal anything about who we are at present, maybe the home we yearn for is where things are clearer, roles are more defined, accepted harmony is developed and discord and dissonance is avoided – at least in public.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that as a result of our love for him and fidelity to his word, the Father will come and make a home with us. The image of God as home-maker is, sadly, not very developed in Christian spirituality, maybe because too many undomesticated men have had too much of the say for far too long! But this is an image that holds a lot for how and where we meet God.

The best homes are places where we relax because we are ourselves, we are known and we know the others with whom we live. It's a common experience, for example, that when we have been out from our homes, as soon as we enter our front door we want to go to the loo. There is something intimate and familiar about our home that enables us to relax on many levels as we turn the key. Home is an earthy place where we don't get away with much and our vulnerability can be on display. Christian homes are particularly hospitable places, where Christ dwells in them to the degree that dignity, love and forgiveness are present.

A home, however, is more than a house in which people live. Homes need work and attention. A friend of mine says memories rarely just happen, they need to be created. That's the sort of attention to a family's life that turns a house into a home.

And this is the world in which God enters our lives. God wants us to be relaxed and vulnerable in God's presence. We don't need to put on a show or say what we think God wants to hear, that's a theatre where we preform, not a home where we know each other. Easter faith is about being comfortable and intimate, about being who we are, rather than the persona we would prefer God to see.

As with most of our homes, being at home with God has its ups and downs, days when we think we cannot bear to stay one more moment, other days where we could never imagine being anywhere else and then most days where we are neither up nor down and we just get on with the routine of our lives. God the home-maker remains faithful through it all, offering the gift of Easter peace, sending us out to proclaim Christ's Kingdom, welcoming us home eager to learn how everything went and reassuring us always that while God is at home with us our hearts should never be troubled and we are not to be afraid.

Readings for this week

The Ascension of the Lord - Year C

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. 6-7. 8-9. 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 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 Luke 24:46-53

Communion Antiphon

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

Next Week Pentecost Sunday Year C

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-23

Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am & 5pm

Samoan Mass: 1st Sunday of June at 12noon

Maori Mass: 1st Sunday of each month at 2pm

Filipino Mass: 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.15am

Children's Mass: 5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Weekday Mass

- 9am each day except Thursday;
- Thursday at 7.30pm
- Healing Mass on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9am.

Devotions & Prayer groups

- Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday at 9.30am
- Alliance of the 2 hearts Mass & devotion: 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm
- Divine Mercy Devotion: 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm
- Reconciliation every Saturday at 11am.
- Faith Circles: every Monday at 2pm & 7pm via zoom
- Holy Family Fellowship: every 4th Saturday at 7pm.
- Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.
- Friendship Group is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month
- Bible Study & Reflection group meets Monday at 10am.
- Children's Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm
- Ascent Youth Ministry meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday from 6.30p.
- Bible Study -the Gospel of John every Tuesday at 7.30pm.

Parish Notices

Friendship Group meeting will take place at Carmelite Missionaries Convent on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at . Our theme will be "Jubilee Year". Please bring a plate to share. Please contact the Parish Office for more Information.

Fr. Shane's Birthday on 7th June 2025 in Hall @ 7pm. Fr. Shane is turning 70 and it is time to celebrate this truly great event. Please bring a plate to share. BYO Drinks. So if you have not let the Parish Office know yet that you are coming. Please advise them ASAP.

Rosters have been renewed and will be available on the website now & sent to you by email. There is a desperate need for more volunteers to clean the church on a roster basis (presently once every 4 weeks; If there are more volunteers it will be less often). The 5pm Mass requires additional readers & welcomers. Please consider if you can help out on the roster once every 4–6 weeks. Contact the parish office for more information.

Bible Study & Reflection group meets Monday at 10am and is studying The Gospel of St Matthew presented by Timothy Gray PHD.

Parish Fiesta We're excited to announce that our Parish Fiesta will be celebrated on Sunday, 13th July. In preparation for this joyful occasion, Novena Masses will be held from the 4th to the 12th of July. We invite all parishioners to mark their calendars and join us in prayer and celebration. As we prepare for the Fiesta, we are also looking for volunteers to help with the various activities and arrangements. (set up, pack up, food donations). We are also looking for performers from the Parish community to perform and showcase their talent at the Fiesta.

Come and give a helping hand and share your talents to make this day great! Please see a Fiesta Committee member after Mass to sign up or contact the parish office. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

More details about the Fiesta will be shared in the coming weeks. For now, please save the dates: Novena Masses - 4th July to 12th July
Fiesta Day 13th July Mass at 10 a.m.

We look forward to celebrating together as a parish family.

PARISH FIESTA - SAVE THE DATE

Novenas
4th July - 12th July

Fiesta Day
13th July



**Interested
Volunteers
can contact
Parish office**

Parish Notices

Feedback on Bishop's Vision and Parish Life Fr Shane and our Parish Pastoral Council invites all parishioners in our parish, to take the time to prayerfully reflect on Bishop Brian's vision for renewed parishes, 'In the Parish I see', by completing the online activity @ dow.sh/csgmactivity The activity takes approximately 30-45 minutes and will help you both engage with Bishop's Vision and share your valuable perspectives. The activity itself is a prayerful reflection on a parishioner's current experience of parish life in the light of "In the Parish I see" word picture of a renewed parish. It is approx 40 questions. From this, our parish leadership will be provided with useful and interesting information about your personal perception and experience of parish life, here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, this is a hope-filled and truly synodal opportunity, genuinely designed as a tool to assist you to embrace and bring to life the vision for parishes.

UOW Catholic Society Retreat Day: 9:30am Monday 6 Jun at Carmelite Priory Varroville, \$20 includes light lunch
UOWCathSoc invites students and other young adults (18-30) to our Winter Retreat Day. This is a great opportunity to pause and recentre our busy lives on Christ. On offer are some excellent talks, opportunities for prayer, Holy Mass, Confessions, adoration, and small group conversations. See our social media for more details @uowcathsoc.
To register: shorturl.at/jZd3i

Sanctus Summit: Monthly adoration for youth and young adults of the Diocese. Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday, 18 June 2025, Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Rosemeadow. Eucharistic Adoration from 6.30 – 7.30pm, followed by Dinner at Ambarvale Hotel. Come along to pray before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament- and bring a friend with you!

The Diocese of Wollongong Cursillo Movement is celebrating 25 years of guidance by the Holy Spirit. We would like to invite anyone who has been involved with the CM in the past 25 years to join us for Mass and a reunion luncheon on 21st June at 11am. Mass will be celebrated at St. Paul's Church Camden with lunch in the church hall. Please call Dianne for further details. 0418640373.

The **Pentecost Intensive (June 4–8)** is designed for those who have been Baptised in the Holy Spirit and want to grow in using the gifts of the Spirit. It's a powerful opportunity to deepen your practice, open yourself more radically to the Holy Spirit, and be renewed in your walk with God. We hope you'll consider joining us — it's always a deeply blessed experience. trybooking.com/CZPVZ More information and registration links are below. <https://www.mglsisters.org/events/#carmel-house-retreats>

Prayer intentions



For the sick and homebound:

Mary Ponnappalam, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez.

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently departed:

Peter Presdee, Pope Francis, Reg Bucknell, Marites Vinoya, Adam Daniels, Remedios Fernandez

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Anthony Mangos, Hilda Young, Joe Spinnato, Frank Lopresti

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

Our Rosters

8 June 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Richard & Tracey K	Martin, Voletti & Paul T	Beatrix & Michael
Altar Servers	Andrew, Diane, Sebastian & Eliana	Vu T	Stuart & Nathan
Readers	Loretta & Gerard B	Gabriel & Irene	Niya & Effie
Altar Linen	Ann Maree H	CLOTW:	Sarah L & Janny J
Counters	Louise & Lina	Church Vacuuming	Loretta, Gerard & Maritas

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.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 24: 46-53

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.



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The Gospel of the Lord

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Fr. Michael Tate

Our Risen Lord knew that we are naturally, collectively human-centric. He withdrew His risen mode of appearance (what we call 'the Ascension') to make it clear that the whole Universe, including planet Earth, is filled with the presence and power radiating out from his Risen Humanity.

As St Paul wrote in the Epistle to the Romans: 'Creation still retains the hope of being freed from its slavery to decay, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.' How is the Risen Lord beginning to fulfil this hope?

At Mass, fractions of creation – the Bread and Wine consecrated for Holy Communion – are transformed into the Real Presence of the Risen Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer III begins with: 'You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise...' How can all creation give God praise? As the ancient church used to teach: Each of you is a microcosm of the macrocosm, called to be a priest for the Cosmos. Through your enlightened mind and inflamed heart, the Cosmos knows that it exists and that it is loved by its Creator. It is beginning to share the freedom and glory of the children of God.



We could pause for a moment, stop staring into Heaven, and ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit so as to be what St Paul calls 'the Church which is His Body in whom the *fullness* of creation dwells'.



Contact Us

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