

Reflection and Prayers for Ascension Sunday



The entire Easter season engages us with the paradox of Jesus' presence and absence.

On Easter Day, once Jesus revealed himself in the supper at Emmaus he disappeared from the disciples' sight.

On Ascension Day Jesus' appearance to the apostles, heralds both his withdrawal and his constant presence.

As Jesus returned in glory to God's right hand, he commissioned his disciples to proclaim the good news to all. In that spirit may we pray for the needs of the whole world.

We pray for the human family. May the trauma of the coronavirus pandemic fuel our determination to work together for a new world of justice and peace. (Pause for silent prayer)

May we heed Pope Francis' call to tell God's story and our story without ceasing. (Pause for silent prayer)

We pray for all missionaries. May all who have left their homeland to spread the good news be assured of our solidarity and support. (Pause for silent prayer)

We pray for the church in Australia. May Mary, Help of Christians, be our companion and guide through the troubled times in which we live. (Pause for silent prayer)

We pray for the people of Australia. May National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week advance our truthful acceptance of the past and our desire for a new and united future. (Pause for silent prayer)

We pray for the Muslim community celebrating the end of Ramadan today and for the Jewish community preparing to observe Pentecost. May they find joy in their faith. (Pause for silent prayer)

We pray for all who have despaired of life and for those they live in unending grief. May their pain impel us to open our hearts in support of the deeply troubled. (Pause for silent prayer)

We pray for the recently deceased, . . . , and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they inherit the rich glories promised the saints. (Pause for silent prayer)

Father of Jesus and God of glory, your Son promised to be with us to the end of time. May we live by his truth and rejoice in his love. We ask this through Christ, our risen Lord. Amen