



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

The Ascension of the Lord - 24th May 2020

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

20 May 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In 1844, Australia became the first country in the world to adopt the patronage of Mary, Mother of God, under the title Help of Christians. For 176 years, Australians have invoked Mary's heavenly intercession, in joyful times and in times of suffering.



It is with confidence in Mary's love and fidelity that the Catholic Bishops of Australia have turned once more to her intercession in a particular way during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, on Sunday 24 May at the conclusion of the 8.30am Mass at our Cathedral, I will entrust the community of the Church of Broken Bay to the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Help of Christians. I will also celebrate the Mass of the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians at the Cathedral on Monday 25 May at 7am. I hope that people all around the diocese will be able to participate in these Masses, as they will be livestreamed.

To assist you in your families and homes, I have asked our Office for Evangelisation to prepare a prayer resource for use in families and in Parish communities. I commend this beautiful resource to you for your use. The link to access the resource in this week's BBNeighbourhoods.

As our children are returning to school, we entrust them in a particular way to the maternal protection of Our Lady. I am conscious too of so many teachers and staff at our Catholic Schools, as well as many who work in our Public Schools. You too deserve our thanks and our prayers.

Finally, I am always conscious of the many women and men from around our Diocese who are involved in essential services. Your ongoing dedication and service to the community during this health crisis is greatly appreciated. I pray that through Mary's intercession, the Lord will guide and protect you.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

+Anthony

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference announced that our Nation would be entrusted to Our Lady on her Feast Day Our Lady Help of Christians.

Entrustment is an invocation of intercession of Our Lady upon a nation, diocese, group, family or individual.

We invite you to use the resource on page 7 to entrust your families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that she may intercede for your family and cover you all with her protective mantle during this time of pandemic and beyond.



Facebook– manlyfreshwaterparish Saturday 6pm Mass

Youtube – access through playlist Saturday 5pm Mass.

Parish Pastoral Council: Paul Pervan (Chair), Ian Press (Deputy Chair), Margaret Dent (Secretary), Ivica Covic; Laurie de Ambrosio; Joanne Druery; Robert Marshall; Michael McGrath
St Mary's Primary School 9977 2225 Principal: Paul McGuire
St John the Baptist Primary School 9939 6699 Principal: Judy Slattery
St Paul's Catholic College 9977 5111 Principal: Chris Browne
Stella Maris College 9977 5144 Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie



Home Delivery – If you know someone who would like a bulletin delivered please call the Parish Office on 9977 5822.

May 2020

Year A

Mon 25/5 – Our Lady, Help of Christians
 Sirach 4:11-18; 1 Cor 1:18-25; Jn 19:25-27
 Tue 26/5 – St Philip Neri Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11
 Wed 27/5 – 7th week of Easter Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19
 Thurs 28/5 – 7th week of Easter Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26
 Fri 29/5 – 7th week of Easter Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19
 Sat 30/5 – 7th week of Easter Acts 28:16-20,30-31; Jn 21:20-25
 Sun 31/5 – Pentecost Sunday Gen 11:1-9; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39

LET US PRAY FOR

24th May 2020

Recently Deceased: Mary O'Shannasse; Nola Croft; Mary Goodwin

Anniversary: June Beninati; Ernesto Go

Prayers for the sick in our parish: Eugenia Cavazzoni, Gavin Greenwood, Zacchaeus Emmanuel Joseph Ratnam; Mark Taylor; Kay Flenady; Leon Cochrane; Robina Dwyer; Prionsias Kearney; Brian Davies; Majella McLoughlin; Debbie Vernon; Desmond Connors; Lauren Hannahan; Rosalba Galuis; Vanessa Squirrel; Judith McKenzie; Jonathan Keil; Les Reilly; Wayne Smedley; Margaret Burridge; John Beninati



Pope Francis Prayer belongs to everyone: to men and women of every religion, and probably even to those who profess no religion. Prayer is born within the secrecy of our being, in that interior place that spiritual writers often call the "heart". #GeneralAudience

Parish Priest: Fr David Taylor

Assistant Priest: Fr Paul Kim

Parish Secretaries: Jenny Beninati & Paula Martin

Pastoral Coordinator: Michelle Ellis

Administration Office:

After Hours Urgent Sick Calls: 0499 910 010

Presbytery: 9977 2100

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

Reconciliation: Manly Sat 10am – 11am

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook:

facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish

YouTube: Manlyfreshwaterparish

Or bit.ly/2EIGEu7 or frpaulkim

(one word with no space). You can view the YouTube videos thru the parish facebook, click on the link

Parish website:

bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

HOLY WATER – Blessed "holy water" is really Easter water, the water of Baptism. Fr David has blessed holy water which is available to anyone who would like to bring a container to collect some. The Urn with the water will be in the foyer of the Parish Centre.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

Now available to everyone online at www.catholicweekly.com.au

Visiting sick at home - If you, or if you know of anyone who are unwell and would like a home visit please contact the parish office 9977 5822 to organise for Communion or Anointing.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Saturdays 10am - 11am
 in the Parish Church at Manly**

Manly Freshwater Parish promotes **SAFEGUARDING** which involves the implementation of proactive, common sense and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our community



St Vincent De Paul Notice during COVID-19 lockdown

For assistance with food, clothing or other emergencies please call St Vincent de Paul Northern Beaches Regional Office 9905 0424.

If you would like to donate nonperishable food, it can be dropped off at 684 Pittwater Road, Brookvale-rear entrance (off the carpark)

If you wish to donate clothing it will be accepted at the SVDP Shop Brookvale, Rogers Street, between 9am – 3pm.



Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Sunday and Weekday Masses...

In response to the NSW Government's announcement of a 3-step plan to ease restrictions imposed due to COVID19, the following adjustments in the Parish are being introduced on a trial basis:

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Mary's Church, Manly – There will be 2 Masses daily from Tuesday to Friday celebrated at 9.15am and 12 noon.

St John the Baptist Church There will be 1 Mass daily from Tuesday to Friday celebrated at 9.15am

WEEKEND MASSES

St Mary's Church, Manly – There will be 4 Masses celebrated over the weekend:

Saturday - Vigil 6pm

Sunday – 8.30am, 10.30am and 6pm.

St John the Baptist Church - There will be 2 Mass celebrated over the weekend:

Saturday Vigil 5pm

Sunday – 9am

SIGN-UP AT OFFICE – Those wishing to attend a particular weekday or weekend Mass please call into the Parish Office or phone (9977 5822) between 9.00am and 4pm to book.

Please note that no more than 10 people may attend Mass at any one time

Please observe the following Guidelines. If you have registered to attend a Mass at Manly or Freshwater we ask that you kindly observe the following guidelines:

- Please arrive no later than 5 minutes before Mass is due to commence.
- When you arrive your name will be marked off the register (a requirement of the NSW Government).
- You must use the hand sanitizer provided and observe social distancing at all time.
- Please sit only on the plastic chairs at the front of the Churches.
- Please observe social distancing at Holy Communion, which will only be given in the hand.
- During the Masses the Church doors will be closed.
- If you are feeling unwell please do not attend the Mass you are registered for and advise the Parish Office, so as to allow someone else on the waiting list to attend.



During the week and this weekend 18 Masses were celebrated in the Parish.



Online Mass will continue to be stream each weekend. Details on can be found on the front page.

PRIVATE PRAYER Churches will be open for private prayer, with a limit of 10 people in the church at any one time. Parishioners will need to 'sign in' each time they visit and print their name, phone number and the time on the sheet provided or advise the Parish Office, follow social distancing rules, and use hand sanitiser on arrival and departure.



The Mass is streamed live each Week here are some suggestions on how to watch the Mass online in a spiritual and fruitful way:

- Prepare yourself and take time out of your Saturday night or Sunday to watch the Mass.
- Create a prayer space:
 - Include symbols such as a Cross, Rosary beads, a Bible or even flowers;
 - Light a candle;
 - Foster an atmosphere that allows for reflection, praise, thanksgiving and intercession.
- Be fully present and participate in the Mass as much as possible
 - Make the Sign of the Cross;
 - Sit down, stand and kneel at the appropriate times;
 - Join in the responses as you would normally;
 - Read the Readings for the Mass;
 - Sing hymns and songs;
 - Recite the prayer for spiritual communion.
 - Remain in silence and reflect prayerfully



As you can see from the pictures the life of the Parish still continues on with Funerals, Baptisms and a Wedding being held this week.

Also, some of the Parish Children made their First Reconciliation with Fr David.

GROUPS MEETING AGAIN

Our Meeting rooms are now able to be used again, with strict guidelines from the Government. Please contact the Parish Office if your group wishes to resume meetings.

During the week the Lectio Divina Groups (Tuesday and Wednesday) met again in the Parish Centre.

Next week the Craft group will be meeting on Tuesday and we will also be holding a Parish Finance Committee Meeting and Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

There are guidelines on each meeting room door detailing how many people are able to be in each meeting room at the same time, within the 1.5m restrictions. Each and every person in your meeting, must sign in with name and phone number, as per Government requirements.

The Requiem Mass for Nola Croft, wife of Larry will be celebrated at St John the Baptist Church on Wednesday 27th May at 10.30am. Family only are able to attend. Please pray for her and Larry her husband. Private Family only Funeral for **Mary O'Shannassey** will be held on Friday 29th May 2020 at Mona Vale. Mass will be said for Mary on Friday 29th May 9:15am at SJB

Learning from Home SRE Lessons The Department of Education has approved the continuation of SRE classes during the COVID-19 period via a Learning from Home model.

Catholic SRE lessons are available online at the following link: [Catholic SRE Online](#)



This Week we welcome all the children at St Mary's and St John's back to school

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL NEWS...

During our time of Home Based Learning, the students of SJB students have been engaging in a variety of prayer forms such as participating in singing [Morning Prayers with Andrew Chinn](#), setting up Home Prayer Spaces and taking time for daily, gratitude reflections. These are powerful ways to strengthen children's faith development and the connection of faith between home and school. As we transition back to face to face teaching, many of our students from Kindergarten to Year Six have been busily working on their entries for the 2020 Bishop's Art Prize. This competition is open to students from Kindergarten to Year 10. In 2020, The Bishop's Religious Art Prize focuses on the medium of film. Students are asked to creatively reflect on and respond to The Gospel of Matthew. We look forward to sharing entries from our finalists later in the term.

Home Prayer Space- Jasmine Franks (Yr 6)

Kind regards, Sharna Taranto, Acting REC



PIETY STORE MANLY

As You are aware the Church is closed but the Piety store will continue to operate. If you would like to purchase any items please call into the Parish Office during working hours. The Piety Store has a

wide range of goods including Bibles, Divine Mercy items, rosaries, CD's and much more

ARE YOU OK? Are you finding it difficult during these uncertain times of COVID-19?

Would you like to have a chat with someone over the phone? Or someone to help you do your grocery shopping?

Please let us know by contacting the Parish Office manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au 9977822

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH DURING COVID-19

Even though the Church are open we are limited to the number on 10 who can gather together at each Mass. Much of the life of the parish is continuing. Most of our parish income comes from your donations given at Mass, either in planned giving envelopes, direct debit or loose on the second collection as well as your generous support of our Priests through the first collection.

During this time we ask those of you who normally make their offerings in cash or through the envelopes on the plate, to please consider using our Planned Giving Program by **Credit Card**. If you would like to contribute by Credit Card please contact the Parish Office on or phone on 9977 5822.

direct deposit

Alternatively, you can make a donation **directly to our Parish Bank Accounts**. (details below)

Parish Bank Account -2nd collection funds the running of the Parish

Acc Name: Manly Freshwater Parish
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Acc# 13958001
BSB: 062 784 Please include your name as reference or envelope number

Parish Bank Account -1st collection Support of our Priests

Acc Name: Manly Freshwater Parish Pastoral
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Acc# 13958002
BSB - 062 784

Your regular donation will give the parish a reliable income so that we can be here to support people who are in need right now, and to be ready for you when we can worship and celebrate the Liturgy again together.

I am very grateful for your continued prayers and support. You are in my daily prayers. *Fr David*

ST MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS...

With many of us working and learning from home at this unprecedented time, we have been exploring new ways to engage with our parents and families to continue to support them in their faith formation and spiritual journey. We have established a Home-Based Spirituality program online for families, consisting of a series of sessions to enjoy at your own leisure.

The teachers and staff of St Mary's are excited to welcome our students back to face to face teaching next Monday. We are so proud of the way the teachers, children and parents embraced Home Based Learning over the past few weeks. We can't wait to see your smiling faces!

Kind regards Alexis Conn (REC)



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND

Thank you for your continued connection.

We are so grateful to our community who demonstrate their love for their neighbours by generously supporting the Charitable Works Fund.

Donations \$2 and over are tax-deductible. Click on this link to give to CWF

www.givenow.com.au/cwf or post your cheque into the Parish Office or deposit into our account

Acc Name: Manly Freshwater Parish

Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank

Acc# 13958001

BSB: 062 784 Please include your name and CWF as the reference



REFLECTION

With the feast of the Ascension of the Lord, we come to the end of Jesus's earthly life. For the Apostles, it has been a journey from suffering and death to the joy of the Resurrection. The Ascension is another huge step in experiencing the Lord's presence as they continue his work.

The **First Reading** gives an account of the Ascension from the Acts of the Apostles. Having been instructed by Jesus for forty days, they now witness his Ascension and are promised the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Psalm exults in praise for the Lord, who is raised on high and is acclaimed as king of all the earth. St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, prays that we may fully realise our own glorious hope. God our Father, in raising Jesus high, bestows on us the hope of sharing in his glory.

The **Gospel** is short and to the point. The eleven receive Jesus's blessing, as they are sent out to spread his word throughout the earth. They are also given the promise that Jesus will be with them always.

Following some demanding and painful months, we too are reminded that the Lord is always with us as we are being continuously sent out in his name.
Pathways to God 2020

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020



**24 – 31 May
2020**

***"They showed us
unusual kindness"***

(Acts 28:2)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed in **the week between Ascension and Pentecost** week to remember our common faith in Jesus Christ and pray for unity with each other through the Holy Spirit.

Our theme is "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2), which is taken from the kindness experienced by St Paul when shipwrecked in Malta and calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. We recognise that we cannot face the storms of life alone. A boat moves forward when all row together. In the face of difficulties, we recognise the need to pull together and to unite our efforts.

We pray that all churches fix their course on Christ, the True Light, and that God will transform the many separations amongst our churches and faiths into harmony and our mistrust into mutual acceptance.

Prayer for Christian Unity

Loving and merciful God,
you hear the cry of the poor and stretch
out your hand to save them.

Look upon our world in its need:
give courage to those facing an
uncertain future;

give hope to those weighed down
by fear and anxiety.

May our churches, by acts of unusual
kindness, be living witnesses to the power
of your love.

May we grow together in unity and peace,
to the glory of your name,
so that the world may believe. Amen.

Further information and resources:
www.ncca.org.au/departments/faith-unity



Marian Theology

Veneration and adoration of Mary goes back to the very beginning of the Church and she continues to hold a special place in the hearts of many. We come to her with great reverence, to honor her as the Mother of God.

We as the faithful, do not worship Mary but invoke her to intercede on our behalf, to her Son, Jesus. We consider her as a true witness of what it is to follow and trust God, understanding that she has a unique relationship with God, is full of grace and shares in the genetic makeup of Christ!

Throughout history during times of uncertainty and difficulty, Mary continually intercedes for her children, and protects us as the loving, compassionate mother that she is.

Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians

Pope Pius VII established the feast in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians in 1815. After being imprisoned by Napoleon Bonaparte, he established the feast in thanksgiving of his release. Australia a new colony at that time, had no Catholic priests and therefore no Mass available. The faithful recited and relied on the Rosary to sustain the Catholic community. In 1844, Australia became the first country in the world to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness.

Mary Help of Christians patroness of Australia and of the Military Ordinariate

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts
our love of Mary Help of Christians.

Through her prayers and under her protection,
may the light of Christ shine over our land.

May Australia be granted harmony, justice and
peace.

Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to
our citizens.

Bless especially the men and women
of the Australian Defence Force and their
families.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.

We invite you to entrust your family to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Create a Sacred Space

As you entrust your family to Our Lady Help of Christians consider creating a sacred prayer pace dedicated to Mary, a place you can return to with your family to ask for intercession through prayer, at this time.

- Find a special place in your home to create a prayer space
- Gather sacraments or sacred objects to place in this space, bible, holy water cantele
- Include a picture of stature of Our Lady, Mother Mary. Consider including some flowers or candle.



Entrusting our Family to Mary Help of Christians

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender mother of all humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our family (name the members of your family here);

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick the disabled and the elderly;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We commit to you, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who around us who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

Reign over our family, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

All: Amen.



A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA

FROM THE BISHOPS OF AUSTRALIA

Dear brothers and sisters,

Grace and peace to you in these Easter days. We write to you from a plenary meeting of the Bishops Conference which is like no other. Unable to meet face-to-face as we normally do, the bishops are meeting online for a week. We are intensely conscious of our isolation – not only from each other but also from you, the people whom we serve in the name of the Risen Lord. As we think of you, we make our own the words of St Paul: “So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

Australia has certainly suffered because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but not as grievously as some other countries. For that we thank God and we congratulate public health authorities and governments on their prompt and prudent responses. Australians in general have also shown the solidarity and good sense, the generosity and kindness needed in such a time. In our healthcare workers particularly we have seen an exceptional spirit of self-sacrifice, and for that we are all grateful.

The Churches and other religious communities have played their part, which has meant the suspension of public worship and the closure of places of worship. This has been a real deprivation, and the bishops understand not only your anxiety about the virus and shutdown but more especially your deep desire to return to the sacraments and to resume public worship. There is a real hunger in this. It is something we all feel, and we long for the time when our hunger will be satisfied as together we return to the feast of the Lord.

Even when our doors are closed, our hearts are still open. The churches may not yet be fully open, but the heart of the Church, which is the heart of Christ, is wide open. The celebration of Mass has never ceased. Though we and our brother priests cannot yet offer Mass with the people, we are still offering Mass day by day for the people – for all of you who are “flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone” (cf Genesis 2:23). The Church which is the Body of Christ still glows with the life of Easter, “thought to be dying, yet we are alive...to be sorrowful, yet still rejoicing...to have nothing, yet possessing everything” (2 Corinthians 6:9-10).

At the heart of the community of disciples, there is always Mary the mother of Jesus (cf Acts 1:14). In this month of May, Pope Francis has urged us to look to her to intercede for us in this time of affliction; and to Mary we will entrust our homeland later this month, looking to a mother’s unfailing love. May she who is Health of the Sick and Help of Christians pray for us now, that we may see Jesus with her eyes, the eyes of Easter, and love him with her heart, which is the heart of faith: “O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not our petitions but in your mercy hear and answer us” (Memorare).

The experience of shutdown has stirred great energy and creativity among people and pastors; this is producing unexpected gifts which we will take with us into the future. No locked door can keep the Risen Lord out; he is everywhere, even in this time of distress. “I stand at the door and knock,” he says. “If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come to you” (Revelation 3:20). We have heard his voice and opened the door to him who has come to us. That is the reason for our hope, even our rejoicing.

One important service which people of faith provide to the wider community in this time is an unceasing prayer of intercession. So we ask you all to continue praying in the power of faith for those who have died, who are sick or at risk from COVID-19, for our healthcare professionals, essential service providers and researchers, for all who are isolated and anxious, and for our civic leaders and health authorities.

In the hope born of faith we look forward to the time when the crisis will pass and we will be able to resume fully the Church’s worship and mission, even in a landscape which may be quite changed. In the meantime, we are talking with the states and the federal government about the reopening of churches and the gradual relaxation of restrictions. We will work with governments and local authorities at each stage of any resumption of Church life. We commit to keeping ourselves and each other safe by observing strictly the advice regarding numbers, distancing and hygiene when the reopening of churches is permitted.

We urge people to abide by the best advice on how to keep themselves and others safe physically, emotionally and spiritually, especially the vulnerable elderly. That is why we recommend the live-streamed Masses and the many other resources offered on diocesan websites, our Catholic counselling services and the COVIDSafe App.

The season of Lent may be behind us, but this time of shutdown has been a kind of long Lent. Now, we pray, Easter is dawning as our country recovers from the pandemic and looks to build the future. There is no room for complacency but there is certainly room for the hope that Easter brings to birth, the hope that “after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen and establish you” (1 Peter 5:10-11). Looking to the God of all grace, we send to you our blessing of peace and all consolation.

From,

The Catholic Bishops of Australia

14 May 2020

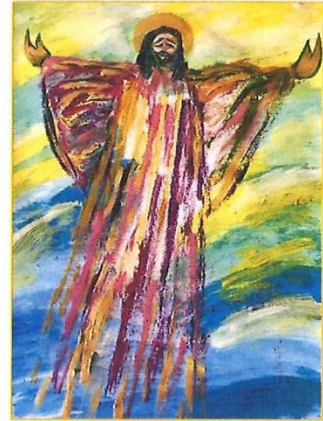
FAMILY PRAYER

WEEK BY WEEK

Ascension of the Lord - Year A

24 May 2020

**“All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me.”**



Something to Think About

Jesus says to the disciples, and to us, “I am with you always”. Think of some ways you know that Jesus is with you in your life. Now it is up to us to continue Jesus’ work on earth through our actions. The Holy Spirit will help us to show love, and let us know what to say.

The Story

In today’s gospel, Jesus takes the disciples to a mountain in Galilee to prepare them for his return to his father in heaven. Jesus does three things for the disciples. **1.** He reminds them of his power: ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth’. **2.** He commissions them to a mission: ‘Go and baptise’ and make disciples! **3.** He tells them that he is not deserting them: ‘I will be with you always, even until the end of time.’

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

28:16-20

Jesus’ eleven disciples went to a mountain in Galilee, where Jesus had told them to meet him.

They saw him and worshipped him, but some of them doubted.

Jesus came to them and said:

“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth!

Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples.

Baptise them in the name of the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

and teach them to do everything I have told you.

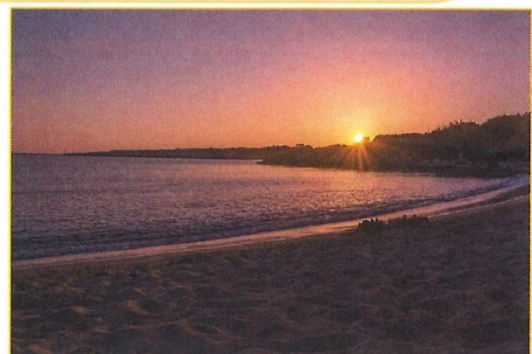
“I will be with you always,
even until the end of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Video

Click to watch the video.

[Jesus’ Ascension](#)



The Ascension of the Lord – 10th May 2020

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11 (JB)

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 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

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9 (JB)

**R. 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. R.

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.

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

Ephesians 1:17-23 (JB)

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, 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.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19, 20 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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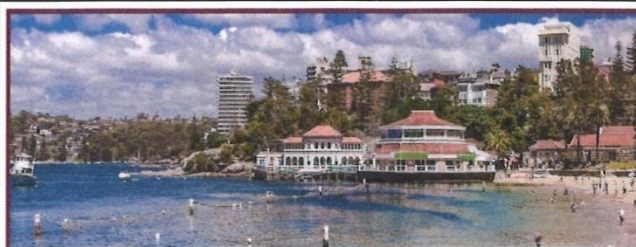
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