

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.**

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 Mt 28:16-20
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.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS, ... BUT HOPE

Having escaped the clutches of his enemies by rising from the dead, the Lord ascends, like the prophet Elijah, to heaven.

In biblical language and imagery this manner of describing the close of Jesus' earthly ministry signals that the One who had been crucified on the trumped-up charge of being a political Messiah has now entered into his true messianic glory at God's right hand.

This entrance into heavenly glory does not mean that Jesus abandons either his disciples or his saving mission in the world. Rather, he will continue to exercise that mission through the ministry of the Church, empowered (at Pentecost) by the same Spirit that rested upon him.

Just before he departs, the disciples voice an understandable concern: 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' The query betrays a strong sense of 'unfinished business'. Despite the Easter victory, forces hostile to God and to true humanity continue to hold sway in the world – as the disciples, and we ourselves, remain acutely aware.

Jesus does not give a direct answer. The time of the Kingdom's full arrival remains shrouded in the mystery of God. The disciples' task, meanwhile, is to take up the messianic mission of Jesus, bringing the hope of the resurrection to an often despairing world.

The Ascension is not, then, simply something that happened to Jesus. As the Preface of the Mass says so well, he 'has passed beyond our sight, not to abandon us but to be our hope; where he has gone, we hope to follow'.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

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



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Parish Secretary: Mrs Noela Turner—67221103.
Office Hours
 Mon & Fri 8am—1pm; Thurs 8am—12 noon



PARISH SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

We will be printing a number of bulletins for pickup from the presbytery verandah.

If you wish, you can leave your planned giving envelopes at the presbytery in office hours. We have decided the box is not secure enough.
Office hours : Monday 8am—1pm; Thursday 8am-12noon; Friday 8am—1pm.

We are now allowed to have 10 people at Mass. Our upcoming schedule is printed on the opposite page. At this stage we are asking you to limit your mass attendance to once a week, please share. If restrictions are eased further this may change.

Sick calls as usual. Please call 67221103 OR 0428126703 if you would like Fr James to come for confession, communion etc. He is free to do this now with the easing of the restrictions in NSW allowing more visitors.

Baptisms (10 people), Weddings (10 people) by appointment with Fr James

Funerals 20 people are now allowed indoors and 30 outdoors.

OUR VISION AND OUR MISSION:
 We as a PARISH, try to live out our
VISION: To continually form a Christ-centred community based on the Gospel Values expressed through SERVICE in peace, justice and love.
MISSION: To know Christ more, His life and His teachings. To imbibe Christ's message of love and service. To try to share generously what graces and



Holy Souls in Purgatory, Martha & Betros Maroon, Ruby & Shehede Hanna, Joseph and Anthony Hanna, special intention of Bob McGuire

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK
 Baby Isabel Akhil, All those with the Corona Virus, Terry Hopgood, Joan Hiscox, Paul Saint, Debrah Brown, (sister of Margaret Jones) Kerrie O'Keefe, Carmel Hooper, Sr Leo (Josie) Clancy, Alana Goldman, Rhonda Lee Watts (daughter of Phyllis Nichols) John Sanders, David Sanders, Rex Parry, Jeanette Rennie, Danny Dickins, Katrina Newbigin, Bob Kneipp. Brian Barker, Dorothy Ball, Denise Taveira, Joanne Essey, Graham Tom, Fred Boight, Agnes Hannigan **the sick members of our parish whose names are not listed here.**

We Pray for the Recently Deceased & Anniversaries
 Sue Spackman, Stephano Banchong, Sam Asara, Murray Marshall, Patricia Durkin, Yvonne Hawkins, Sr Theresa Noon, Cleo Campagner, Nolene Lane, John Harmon (brother of the Harmon family) Gail King, Teresa (Clancy) Conroy, Fr Bernie Melville, Pat Stewart, Sr Anne O'Brien rsm (aunt of Shayne O'Brien) Eileen O'Brien, Sr M. Bernard Morton, Phil John Moore, Alan Matthews, Thomas Hanley, Mary Robbins, John Lennon, Veronica Hutchins, **Eternal life grant unto them Oh Lord May their souls and all the faithful departed rest in peace.**

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
 O Mary you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and feasting after this time of trial. Help us Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

MAY 24, 2020—FEAST OF THE ASCENSION / YEAR A

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION
 My dearest Jesus,
 I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament .
 I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot, at this moment, receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
 Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

From Friday 15 May, restrictions have been eased and we can now have 10 people at Mass. If you attend on weekdays, this will fulfil your obligation. Please ring or email the office on 67221103 or inverellparish@armidale.catholic.org.au to book in

Mass Schedule May 24 to May 31

Saturday 23/5:	Confessions 8am – 9am Mass 9am Tingha Mass 4pm Inverell Mass 5.30 pm
Sunday 24/5:	Inverell Mass 9am and 5.00pm Ashford Mass 11am
Weekdays 25/5 to 29/5	9am Rosary. 9.30am Mass
Saturday 30/5:	Confessions 8am – 9am Mass 9am Tingha Mass 4pm Inverell Mass 5.30 pm
Sunday 31/5:	Inverell Mass 9am and 5.00pm Yetman Mass 11am

Prayer to the Holy Spirit
 Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.
 O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Prayer of Consecration to Mary Help of Christians
 O Mary Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia, Mother of Mercy, Queen of Heaven and earth, refuge of sinners, we consecrate ourselves to your Immaculate Heart.
 To you we consecrate our country, our families, our hearts, and souls and all that we have. And in order that this consecration may be truly effective and lasting, we renew today the promises of our Baptism and Confirmation; and we undertake to live as good Christians - faithful to God, the Church and the Holy Father. We desire to pray the Rosary, partake in the Holy Eucharist, attach special importance to the first Saturday of the month and to work for the conversion of sinners. Furthermore we promise, O most holy Virgin, that we will zealously spread devotion to you, so that through our consecration to your Immaculate Heart and through your own intercession the coming of the Kingdom of Christ in the world may be hastened. Amen.
Monday, 25th May is the Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians Rosary 9am; Mass at 9.30am

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF YOUR PRIESTS AND YOUR PARISH
 Those who contribute by envelope and would like to convert to direct debit are invited to come during office hours to fill in their forms (social distancing will be observed). If you would like to continue with your envelopes, please leave at the presbytery. If possible leave in office hours. Alternatively you may like to make the transfers yourself: Please make sure you put your name in the reference section
 First Collection: Presbytery for priest upkeep
 BSB 082105 A/C 001023550
 Second Collection: Church for running costs
 BSB 082105 A/C 001001010
 We are sure that you will understand that normal running expenses will have to be met and ask for you usual generous support.
 Thank you to those who have responded already. Your support is greatly appreciated.