



THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / B

12 MAY 2024

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 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,



OUR LADY of MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

The Ascension of The Lord - 12 May 2024

OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL PARISH HILTON

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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9am – 3pm

Thursday: 9am – 12.30pm

MINISTRY TEAM

Parish Secretary: Tereza Camacho

Safeguarding Officer:

Brigette Liddelow 0432 908 980

Avila Retirement Village Secretary:

Judy Rowlands 0448 205 283

OLMC Primary School Principal:

Jayson Peacock 9269 2000

OLMC Primary School RE: Tracey Marsden

Seton Catholic College Website: <http://www.seton.wa.edu.au/olmc-parish>

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.

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

REFLECTION: Ascension - Caught, Heard and Heeded: Some years ago, I attended a seminar organised for clergy, one of many I can assure you. I knew no one. About twenty or so other clerics were also on attendance. By the time the seminar was over many new friendships were forged. A Dominican priest and I became good friends and we spoke from the heart about our ministry and faith journeys. He returned to his community in Italy, and I returned to Perth. But I found when he had left that I really missed him. Yet I continued to be encouraged by his friendship and by the spirit of life which he shared with me and others. I remember the pearls of wisdom that he offered to us. At the same seminar a senior priest shared an instance from his life with us. Like many children from the country, he was used to getting into the driver's seat or whatever truck or car that was around. He boasted that he started this practice when he was a "mature" 8-year-old. Anyway, one day when he was about 10 years of age and thinking he was a man, he thought he might take the family car out of the

garage and give it a little test run. He got it out of the garage alright but skidded on the concrete and while he didn't seem to do any damage to the outside of the car, he could not be sure and had the good sense to put the car safely back into the garage. About half an hour later his parents came home, and nothing was said. Then about an hour before mealtime his father came quietly in the room and said softly "Ah there is a mark on the concrete drive which will need scrubbing off before you sit down for dinner. I have left you a bucket, scrubbing brush and some hand soap." Do you remember what hand soap was? Not a word about how that black skid mark got there. But it was obvious there was no reprimand. The message quietly and unobtrusively delivered was "Caught, Heard and Heeded" when the young lad went out to do the deed, he saw that his father had also put down a mat in the form of an old hessian potato bag so that the young lad would not have to deal with the cold cement as he scrubbed. Is not God like that? You and I assume that we deserve censure for worse sort of whatever it is that we have done. Yet, God, knowing that yes, we do need to something about what we have done He is more concerned about what happens to us in the process. We have the opportunity to think to be like God this week as we take a leap out of God's Book. We can make it easy for someone to apologise and to give

expression to whatever there is within them. We can allow ourselves to assist in paving the way for others to come to Him. We remember Jesus' mandate given to the disciples when he ascended to the Father. That in his name repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations beginning from Jerusalem. When I think of the feast of the Ascension even though it means that we cannot see Christ Jesus in the flesh anymore I know that He is with us and that he is within, and His presence is very powerful and strong. There are many people who will never pick up a Bible and read it or go to Church, but they will meet us and hopefully in that meeting they will meet Christ present in us. I am ever so grateful for the short meeting and sharing with my Dominican friend. Just as Jesus never abandons us, nor are we to forget that His Spirit has been given to us so that we can be an encouragement to others. We are called to do the same for others in the name of Jesus the Lord.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: Jesus you are the Good Shepherd who is always mindful of your Church. Watch over those who are Baptised in your name and grant peace and harmony to all families. We ask you to choose from the families of our Parish many priests, deacons, sisters and brothers who will gladly spend their lives making you known and loved.



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MASS TIMES WEEKENDS: Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 7.30am & 9am.
MASS TIMES WEEKDAYS: Tuesday 9am, Wednesday 9am, Thursday 9am, Friday 9am & Saturday 9am.
RECONCILIATION - Saturday's: 9.30-10am and 5.15-5.45pm or by appointment.
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Wednesday 5.30 – 6.30pm & Friday 9.30 – 10.30am.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS: Christine Rhow, Veronica, Maria, Consiglia Ciavatta, Irwin Beachell, Isabella Da Cunha, Martin, Norma Elliott, Rudi Tassell, Steven, Davina, Elisabetta Paddon, Dermot McKernon, Edward Fortune, Beatrice Fernandez, Lisa Bubb, Romilda Marinelli, Aaron LoCicero, Jacqueline Paul, Lou Collova, Anne & Justine Tonti, Greenville Paul, Christine Schwarten Henry, Fr Joseph Angelo, Fr Anibal Da Cunha, Peter Scanlan, June McGinnity, John Brackovich, Alison, Sofia, Rebecca, Fr Liam Keating SMA, Fr Francis Sundararajan, Graham Lynch.

FLU SEASON IS HERE: Parishioners, Covid variant virus is still with us, and we are approaching Flu Season. If you are unwell, please stay home until you are recovered. We can show care for self and others in the community.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL: The St Vincent De Paul Society would like to thank you all for your ongoing support. As we hear almost daily, the increased cost of living is affecting many of us. Many costs are up significantly, including food, clothing, insurance and especially rent. For some in our local community, it means that they simply don't have enough money to buy food or cloths for their children. Our members continue to visit around 10 households per week and we're able to assist families with food, clothing and furniture from our second-hand store. Without the generous donations from our parishioners, we would not be able to help as much as we do. We really appreciate the generous donations placed in the built-in cash box just inside the church entrance. This an immediate and direct positive impact on our community members in need. Thanks once again for your ongoing support. Ian Digney, SVDP Hilton President, 0428 121 152.

VOTIVE CANDLES: Donations towards the votive candles is always appreciated. To meet our costs each candle is 30c. your generosity is acknowledged.

PARISH INTERNET & PHONES: Parishioners we are happy to advise that our internet has been restored and our parish phone lines are back into operation. We apologise for any inconvenience.

PRIEST and SECRETARY TEMPORARY OFFICE: Fr Michael's and Parish Secretary's Offices are temporarily in the Meeting Room while tradespeople are working through the Presbytery.

HOLY TRINITY CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: Monday night's 7-9pm. Monday 13 May 2023 there will be NO Holy Trinity Prayer Group due to Mass in honour of Our Lady of Fatima at St Patrick's Basilica Fremantle beginning 6pm.

MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday 11 May
9am Mass: Julian Leon in Thanksgiving
Saturday 11 May
6pm Mass: St Joseph in Thanksgiving
Sunday 12 May
7.30am Mass: Mass for the People
9am Mass: Nina & Angelo Bertone (RIP)

Tuesday 14 May
9am Mass: In Honour of Our Lady of Fatima
Funeral Mass: Barbara Sullivan (RIP)

Wednesday 15 May
9am Mass: De Ornelas Deceased Family Members

Thursday 16 May
9am Mass: In Honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Friday 17 May
9am Mass: Alison O'Brien (RIP)



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 Mk 16: 15-20
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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 will be 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.

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Breaking Open the Word

WHAT DOES THE ASCENSION MEAN FOR US?

The ascension of the Lord is the pivotal link between Luke's Gospel and Acts – the story of Jesus and the story of the Church. The accounts of the ascension at the end of Luke's Gospel and the beginning of Acts are not exactly the same but the message is clear: 'they' (the apostles/witnesses) are to stay in the city/Jerusalem until clothed with power from on high/receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and, then 'he' (Jesus) was carried up to heaven/lifted up, and a cloud took him out of sight (Luke 24:49-51 & Acts 1:4, 8-9).

The letter to the Ephesians contains the plea 'to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit' and to build up the body of Christ. This is essential as the one who came down is the same one who ascended, who is calling all, whatever their gift, to work together in their ministry until they become mature in Christ.

Mark's account is thought to be a later addition to the Gospel. 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News', – reminiscent of Matthew's account of the commissioning of the disciples – 'to all creation' (v. 15). This message is vital for us to hear in these times of global ecological crisis. After speaking to the apostles, Jesus was taken up and assumed his rightful place at the right hand of God. In every way the ascension affirms the resurrection, Jesus' return to God and the launch of our mission guided by the Spirit.

Dr Rosemary Canavan