

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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# Reflections on the Gospel



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

# THE SAVING WORD

24 MAY 2020

#### 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

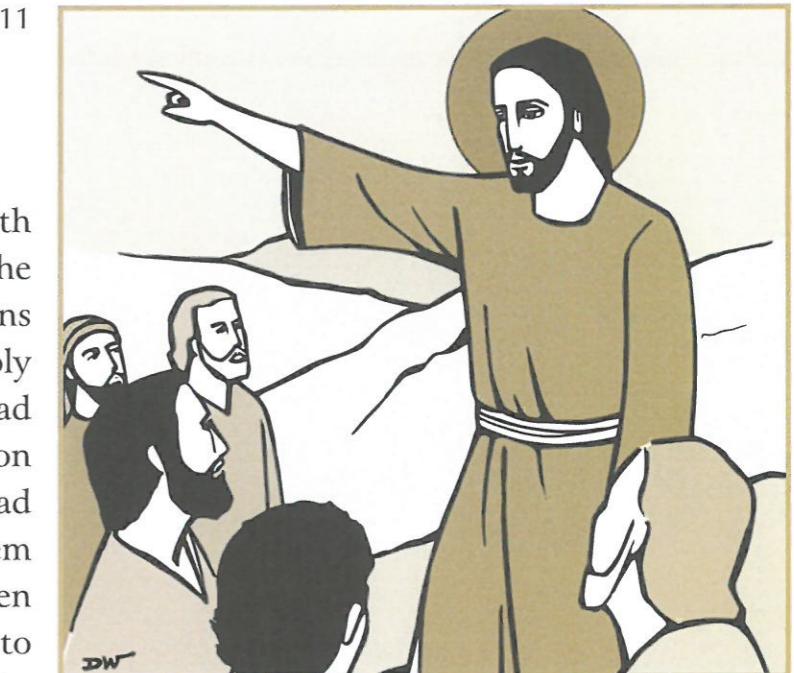
*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?  
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

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

24 May 2020  
Ascension of the Lord

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman  
Deacon Deacon Peter Harrison  
Administration: Ms Di Bolitho  
Ms Anne Bowden  
Mrs Elaine Smyth  
Sacristan

Presbytery 67658211  
Office Hours: Wed 12 noon-4pm  
Thur 10am-2pm  
[westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)  
St Joseph's School  
Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079



**WEEKEND  
MASSES** NO WEEKEND OR WEEK DAY MASSES  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**WEEKDAY  
MASSES** \*\*Weekday Masses are planned to recommence in June upon  
Fr Koppman's return within the strict limitations (\*currently 10 people only)  
\*Feasts this week: Mon: Our Lady Help of Christians Tues: St Philip Neri,

### CONFESIONS

By appointment

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

Recently Deceased: Leopolda Figar, Patricia Mary Holz, Father Bernie Melville.

Anniversaries: Hugh O'Brien (18/5), Sandy Murray (22/5), Rita Sutton (26/5).

Deceased: Dalis O'Brien, Dorothy O'Reilly, Kath Galloway, Gwelonine Moore, Mark Doyle, Anne Conroy, Mavis Day, Joy Morgan, Angela Mapstone, Lola Parsons, Carroll Cavanagh (nee Koppman), Ruby O'Callaghan, Rod Kelly, Peter Lonergan, Gerard Wake, William Coulston, Andrew Tickner, William Grima, John Killen, Eibhlin Killen.

Sick: Deacon Peter Harrison, Jenny Buxury, Margaret O'Callaghan, Aria Lee Hawley, Joy Makepeace, John Joe Kielty, Monica Austin, Joe Lew, Dudley Ryan, Trisha Aquino, Paul Steer, Baby Jack Smith, Noel O'Brien, Bill Press, Karen Guillermo, David Owens, Yvonne Tarrant, Terry Lee, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Greentree, Janice Rizzi, Richard Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Judy Cumins, Brindley Cavallaro, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.



### CRACKERS TAILS:

**Gallagher's Ascension:**

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend Finney. "Did you see the paper ?" asked Gallagher. "They say I died !!" "Yes, I saw it!" replied Finney.

**"Where are ye calling from?"**



### COMING EVENTS:

31 May Pentecost Sunday

1st June \*\*\*\*

Planned resumption of weekday Masses.

Practice Gratitude  
Practice Empathy  
Practice Mindfulness  
Practice Prayer  
Receive Peace



*Bear in mind that you only have to answer for  
your own faults. (1874)*



### A MESSAGE FROM FR ANTHONY:

I would like to share with parishioners of St Patrick's the letter from the Bishops of Australia (see attached), marking the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the first official Catholic chaplains in Australia. I wish to take this opportunity in thanking you for your support of the Clergy especially Deacon Peter Harrison and myself as we celebrate this special milestone with each of you who support us in our vocation to serve the people of Saint Patrick's, West Tamworth. Please read the attached letter from the Australian Bishops Conference.

May God Bless us with more vocations to this most beautiful ministry of the people of Tamworth and Australia. I celebrate this wonderful anniversary with each of you. God Bless us all. Fr. Anthony

**LIVESTREAMING FROM THE CATHEDRAL:** Sunday Mass at 10.00 am will be **livestreamed** on the Cathedral Parish Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Diocese-of-Armidale-103284721332959/>. It is also available on demand via the [Diocesan webpage](#), and [YouTube channel](#). Our Bishop has intentions to continue to use these sites. Please continue to connect.

**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS:** As the Patron Saint of Australia all Australian bishops will today, 24 May, commit Australia to her care. In the Armidale Diocese, Bishop Kennedy will make this commitment following the 10 am mass from the Cathedral. If you are able to access that mass online, you will be part of this re-commitment to our special intercessor. I urge you to pray the prayer Entrusting Australia to her care, which is included with this bulletin.

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** I will be away till the end of May hence St Patrick's will have no additional Masses until June and no weekday Masses during May. More details will be forthcoming on how we will move forward with the improved restrictions. Every day I celebrate the private mass and keep all of you in prayer, and offer special prayers for those who have requested these. Do not forget the other ways to keep the Lord's day holy, including following a Mass online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>); I recommend the ACBC <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus> and Armidale Diocese <http://armidale.catholic.org.au>.

**\*CONTINUING PLANNED GIVING:** Thank you to those generous parishioners who are continuing their planned giving. It assists enormously in managing the ongoing operating costs. The option of electronic transfer or direct debit is always available. Please use your name and/or your envelope number as a reference for the second collection. **Please use the separate accounts as provided for the different collections.** Please ask if you would like assistance.



### Prayer for the time of the Corona Virus Pandemic

Mary, Help of Christians, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of God's holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

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Second Collection goes to St Patrick's : WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH BSB 082105 ACC 001041198