

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.

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / B

12 MAY 2024

## 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

## 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,



12 May 2024

Ascension Yr B

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org>

Email: [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



**Parish Priest** Fr Anthony Koppman  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.

**Office Hrs:** Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

**Administration** Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden

**Presbytery** 67658211

**Sacristan** Elaine Smyth

**Pastoral Associate** 0411703608

**School Principals** Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

**St Josephs School** 67654079

**WEEKEND MASSES** Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9.00am Sun: 5pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Mon: 9 am Tues: 9 am St Matthias Wed: 12 noon  
Thurs: 9 am Fri: 12 noon

### CONFESSIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm  
\*Or by appointment

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God: praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens, His majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Christ, offering a single sacrifice for sins, is seated for ever at God's right hand, alleluia.



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Bishop Peter William Ingham (Wollongong), John Nash, Peter Newley, Colin MacPherson, Gary Donaldson.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Sophie Littlejohns (2/5), Peg MacRae (4/5), Hugh O'Brien (18/5), Sandy Murray (22/5).

**DECEASED:** Dalis O'Brien, Margaret Marshall, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

**SICK:** Fr Anthony Koppman, Norma O'Brien, Christine Porters, Shane Davidson, Monica Austin, Terry Dean, Barbara Brennan, Graeme Bussell, John Betts, Kate Harrison, William Bonner, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Fr Bernard Flood.

**VEENA'S VERSION: HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY -**



**Sunday school teacher:** Tell me, Johnny. Do you say prayers before eating?  
**Johnny:** No, ma'am, I don't have to. My mom's a good cook.

**God Bless Our Mothers -** A mother defends herself with a heart filled with love before doing so with words. - Pope Francis

### COMING EVENTS:

**24 May** Memorial Mass for Sr Therese Conroy RSJ and Mrs Kath Davidson, Quirindi

**24 and 25 May** School of Identity Parish Mission—see details on flyers

**15 June** REFLECTION DAY West Tamworth Parish Centre

### CHURCH COLLECTIONS: BSB 082 105

**1st. Collection West Tamworth Presbytery** (Diocesan collection) Acc No: 001023642

**2nd Collection West Tamworth Church** (St Patricks Church ) Acc No:001041198

### WEEK 3 ROSTER: 12/5/24

**Vigil:** R Sr Kathryn Di Bolitho

**9am Sun:** R M Holley A Sartori

**5.00pm Sun:** R J Parrenas J Parrenas

**Counting Team** O & J Whale; A Bowden

**Fri Cleaning** J Hutt J Moran

**Altar Linen:** M Vella

### WEEK 4 ROSTER: 19/5/24

**Vigil:**

**9am Sun:**

**5.00pm Sun:**

**Counting Team**

**Fri Cleaning**

**Altar Linen:**

R P Bamford Sr Kathryn

R S Brown, M Donaldson

R A O'Halloran C Lavell

S Brown A Bowden

M Vella A Jones

E Smyth

*"I would rather be judged for any other sin than uncharitableness.*

**VEENA'S UPDATE - FR ANTHONY'S LEAVE:** Fr Martin will leave us this week, and we continue to keep him in our prayers and thank him for his wonderful pastoral care. We warmly welcome Fr McHugh from Thursday. Please keep Father Anthony in your prayers.

**FRIDAY 24 MAY OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS FEAST DAY:** As the Patron of our Diocese and Patron of our Country this is a very special day to offer prayers of thanksgiving and intentions. You are invited to make all efforts to attend Mass on this day.

**PARISH REFLECTION DAY:** 15 June. Sister Maureen. Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom - Pope Francis invites us to journey with God this Lent. During the day there will be the opportunity to open up the Lenten Message of Pope Francis as we reflect on his words.

**From Pope Francis' Reflection:** *During my visit to Lampedusa, as a way of countering the globalization of indifference, I asked two questions, which have become more and more pressing: "Where are you?" (Gen 3:9) and "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9). Our Lenten journey will be concrete if, by listening once more to those two questions, we realize that even today we remain under the rule of Pharaoh. A rule that makes us weary and indifferent. A model of growth that divides and robs us of a future. Earth, air and water are polluted, but so are our souls. True, Baptism has begun our process of liberation, yet there remains in us an inexplicable longing for slavery. A kind of attraction to the security of familiar things, to the detriment of our freedom.*

**SCHOOL OF IDENTITY PARISH MISSION:** Come experience a two-day intensive to help you grow in your identity as a son or daughter of God! Drawing from the rich tradition of Catholic teaching and Sacred Scripture as well as honoring different Christian faith denominations, our dynamic teachers, transformative content, and uplifting culture will prepare you to walk with Jesus under an open Heaven. **Friday 24 May 5.30—9.30 pm (includes dinner) and Saturday 25 May from 9 am—9.30 pm (includes morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner).** Registration : <https://app.tickets.org.au/ESMbrisbane/EncounterSOI>

**MEMORIAL MASS FOR SR THERESE CONROY RSJ AND MRS KATH DAVIDSON:** A memorial Mass will be celebrated on Friday 24 May 2024, The Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patron of Australia, at St Brigid's Catholic Church, 11 Thomas Street, Quirindi at 10.00am. Morning Tea will follow in the Fr Stan Campbell Hall.

### What My Mother Taught Me

*My mother taught me RELIGION: "You better pray that comes out of the carpet."*

*My mother taught me LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."*

*My mother taught me FORESIGHT:*

*"Make sure that you wear clean underwear in case your in an accident."*

*My mother taught me IRONY: "Stop crying, or I'll give you something to cry about".*

*My mother taught me OSMOSIS: "Close your mouth and eat your dinner."*

*My mother taught me CONTORTIONISM:*

*"Will you look at the dirt on the back of your neck."*

*My mother taught me STAMINA: "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."*

*My mother taught me GRATITUDE:*

*"There are millions of children in the world who don't have  
----- a wonderful mother like you."*



### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations people to this land and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

