

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 Lk 24:46-53
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

■ 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 / C

1 JUNE 2025

AN ETERNAL BLESSING

During Easter our focus has been on John's Gospel. Today we come to the final chapter of Luke and its last scene. Jesus has gathered with his disciples on the day of Easter, dispelled their fears, encouraged them on mission to be his witnesses—thus setting up Luke's second volume, the *Acts of the Apostles* and Pentecost with its gift of the Spirit—and now brings them to Jerusalem's outskirts, to Bethany.

Here, as the Gospel comes to its conclusion, Jesus blesses his disciples (thus completing the priestly blessing which Zechariah was unable to do in the Gospel's beginning) and 'withdraws' from them as he is carried up to heaven. The passive voice of the verb 'carried up' indicates that this is God's act and brings Jesus into the heavenly realm of God's presence. The visual imagery which Luke uses here is not intended as a literal description of a divine elevator that brings Jesus into the heavenly realm. Rather, it is a theology which reminds Luke's audience that Jesus is ultimately and eternally with God and continues, in a priestly gesture, to bless his disciples.

It also identifies that definitive moment when Jesus' earthly presence ceases, but not his divine presence. This presence continues and inspires the disciples' future mission which will unfold in Acts. His blessing continues among us today as we, too, await the coming of his Spirit at our Pentecost, celebrated next Sunday.

Fr Michael Trainer

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

01 June 2025
The Ascension of
the Lord - Year C

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Administrator Fr Sabu Pulimalayil
Pastoral Associate Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.
Office Administration Sheryl Brown, Di Bolitho
Sacristan Elaine Smyth
School Principals Greg O'Toole & Maree Holland

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon: 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Fri: 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Presbytery 67658211
Pastoral Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079

**WEEKEND
MASSES** Sat: 5.30 pm Sun: 9 am & 5 pm

CONFESIONS

* Sat: 4.30-5.00pm
* Before every Mass
* By appointment

**WEEKDAY
MASSES** Mon: 9am Tues: 9am Wed: 12noon (Anointing) Thurs: 9am Fri: 12noon

**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.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Ellen Jackson, Maureen McNeill, Barry Condon, Sr Rosalie O'Neill RSJ, (sister of Fr P J O'Neill).

ANNIVERSARIES: Peg MacRae (4/5), Hugh O'Brien (18/5), Noeline Turner (19/5), Kevin McNamara (21/5), Sandy Murray (22/5).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care, Marie Southwell, Mimi Bennett, Julia Varga, Dalis O'Brien.

SICK: Sienna Baker, May Press, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Cheryl Moloney, Judy Murphy, Monica Austin, Daphne Sweeney (Sr Kathryn's mum), Robyn English, John Haggart, Brian Rodway, Lisa Bond, Noelene Freestone

COMING EVENTS:

27 May - 3 June National Reconciliation Week - "Bridging Now to Next."

03 June First Reconciliation - Tues 5.30pm

04 June Anointing Mass - 12noon

06 June Benediction & Adoration 11.30am (before 12noon Mass)

15 June First Eucharist - Sunday, 9am Mass

28 June Confirmation - Saturday, 5.30pm Mass

COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105 Account Name : West Tamworth Catholic Church

1st. Collection: For Diocesan Priests Acc: 001023642

2nd Collection: For St. Patrick's Church Acc: 001041198

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.



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR C WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.



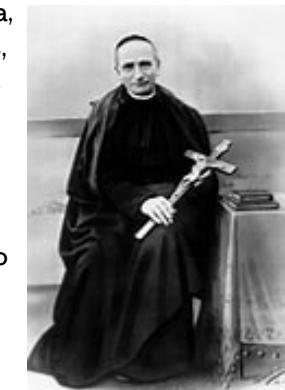
Today our Lord
Jesus Christ
ascended into heaven;
let our hearts
ascend with him.

St. Augustine

PARISH SACRAMENT - FIRST RECONCILIATION: Congratulations to all children who will celebrate their first Rite of Reconciliation on Tuesday evening. We give thanks for their parents, teachers, catechists and families, who continue to support them on their faith journey.

FEAST OF ST HANNIBAL - SUNDAY, 1ST JUNE

Saint Hannibal di Francia, also known as Annibale Maria di Francia, was an Italian Catholic priest who founded a series of orphanages, the Rogationist Fathers and the Daughters of Divine Zeal. He was born on July 5, 1851 in Messina, Italy to an aristocratic family. He is known as the patron saint of seminaries as well as orphanages due to his work with both of these throughout his life. He is also known as the Apostle of Prayer for Vocations. Sunday 1st June is the Feast Day of Saint Hanibal Maria Di Francia. We give thanks to God for his life and ministry, the effects of which continue today even in our own diocese though the life and ministry of Fathers Samson, Deleep and Saji. We join with them in asking for Saint Hannibal's intercession for vocations here and abroad.



WEEK 2 ROSTER: 01/06/25

Vigil:	R: P Bamford	Sr Kathryn	Gifts:	K O'Brien	M Asbury
9am Sun:	R: S Brown,	M Donaldson	Gifts :	B Schipp	C Grima
5pm: Sun	R: G O'Toole	C Lavell	Gifts:	Volunteer	
Counting:	M Vella	A Bowden	Altar Linen:	J Hutt	
Fri Cleaning	J Hutt	J Moran			

WEEK 3 ROSTER: 08/06/25

Vigil:	R: C Ledwos	D Bolitho	Gifts:	A & C Lyons	
9am Sun:	R: J Ryan,	G Clout	Gifts :	A & S Vuetti	
5.00pm Sun:	R: C Lavell	Volunteer	Gifts:	Volunteer	
Counting:	O & J Whale		Altar Linen:	M Vella	
Fri Cleaning	M Vella	I Ullman			