



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, 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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I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

When reflecting on Jesus' Ascension, our liturgical focus has been heavily influenced by Luke's double version of the Ascension; one set on Easter Day in the concluding scene in Luke's Gospel (24:50-52) as Jesus' blesses his disciples at Bethany and departs from them; the other in the opening chapter of Acts (Acts 1:6-11) as Jesus leaves the disciples and is carried into heaven.

Our Gospel today is quite different. It is the concluding verses of Matthew's Gospel. The Risen Jesus gathers with the Eleven on 'the' mountain, the place of divine encounter, already familiar from earlier in the Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Here, at the Gospel's conclusion, Jesus is with the *Eleven*—not the Twelve, a reminder of the failure of one of the key members of the apostolic leadership group (Judas). It is to this group of failed leaders that Jesus, God's authoritative agent, entrusts his final teaching and missionary endorsement. They are to make disciples of all nations. This is an important injunction, given that Matthew's audience which is predominantly Jewish is now encouraged to move into the gentile world.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus offers a universal vision. Baptism and Gospel ethical teaching will become key notes for incorporating members into this renewed community of Jesus. The Gospel concludes on a promise of divine companionship. Jesus, called 'Emmanuel' ('God with us') in the birth narrative (Matthew 1:23), reminds his audience that 'I am with you always ... to the end of time.' This affirmation of Jesus' eternal presence is comforting to Matthew's audience, and us, dealing with life's struggles and cultural challenges.

Fr Michael Trainor

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

17 May 2026

The Ascension of the Lord
Year A

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

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



Parish Priest Fr Vic Ignacio M.S.
Office Admin Sheryl Brown, Di Bolitho
Sacristan Elaine Smyth
School Principals Greg O'Toole & Maree Holland

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon & Fri: 9.30 am - 1.30pm
Presbytery 67658211
St Josephs School 67654079

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

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: 9am Tues: No Mass Wed: 12noon
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: Beverly Heazlett, Shirley Hill, Bob Silver.

ANNIVERSARIES: Peg MacRae (4/5), Joan Clout (12/5), Hugh O'Brien (18/5), Noeline Turner (19/5), Sandy Murray (22/05), John Haggart (11/6).

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care: Irene Brown, Maurice Bruccoleri, Dean York, Thomas Greentree, Robert Green, Paul Karam, Dalis O'Brien.

SICK: Sienna Baker, May Press, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Judy Murphy, Monica Austin, Brian Rodway, Lisa Bond, Yvonne Tarrant, Bill Dennis, Barry McNamara, Jeanette Whale, Carmel Koppman, Eileen Hudson, Julie Moran, Elizabeth Coroneos, Michael Jones, Elizabeth William, Veronica Frost, Mary Gallaher, Beryl Flood.

The Ascension of The Lord

Forty days after Easter, we lift our eyes with the apostles and witness the Lord's return to the Father.

It is a feast of triumph and a call to live what has been entrusted to us.

Yet the Ascension can feel like a feast of absence. Jesus is gone, and the disciples are left standing and looking up at the sky.

But the Church invites us to see it differently. The Ascension is not an ending.

It is the beginning of everything that is to come.



COMING EVENTS:

May: Fr Vic will be away for the month.

22 May: Adoration 11am, followed by Mass at 12noon

25 May: Our Lady, Help of Christians - Solemnity - 9am Mass

27 May: St Joseph's School Morning Tea, 10:30am in the School Hall. All are welcome!!!

03 June: Mass for the Sick

09 June: First Reconciliation Parent Information Session - 5pm, in the Church

COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105

Account: West Tamworth Catholic - 'Presbytery' for 1st Coll'n **OR** 'Church' for 2nd Coll'n

1st Collection: For Armidale Diocese Clergy : **Ac. 001023642 (Presbytery Acc.) Diocese**

2nd Collection: For St. Patrick's Church : **Ac. 001041198 (Church Acc.) St Patrick's**

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

ARRANGEMENTS DURING FR VIC'S LEAVE: We wish Fr Vic a safe and restful leave period and we thank Fr John Curran for providing weekend and daily masses for us during this time. Please note, there will be no Tuesday Mass during May. Please check the Bulletin for any other changes.

PIOUS GOODS TABLE: There are still a number of beautiful gifts available on the Pious Goods table at the back of the Church. Please feel free to browse, and we thank you for your support.

GROTTO WORKING BEE: Work has begun! The altar in front of Our Lady's statue has been cleared and cleaned. Remaining plants/pots have been relocated to gardens off to the side and the roses will be relocated to a sunnier position. Stage 2 is the cleaning and repainting of the statue and surrounds. Thank you to all those who offered and provided their assistance, so far. How marvelous to see the Grotto being returned to it's former glory.

MACKILLOP ROOM: Named in honour of St Mary Mackillop, an area at the back of the Church will be reconfigured to create an enclosed space that can serve as a reflection refuge and an area where our little ones can move a little more freely during Mass. There will be no loss of current seating, or other usable space, and it is hoped it will create a quiet area for all to utilise and to pray. Feedback on this proposal is welcome and should be forwarded to Fr Vic (upon his return) or the Parish office.

INVITATION TO ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL HIGH TEA: The Staff and Students of St Joseph's extend a special invitation to all Parishioners to join them for High (Morning) Tea on May 27th at 10:30am, to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. All are welcome. Please RSVP to the Parish office by Monday 25th May, for catering purposes. Hope to see you there!

MARY 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, Monday 25th May at 9am.

MEMORARE

Remember, Our Lady of La Salette, true Mother of Sorrows, the tears you shed for me on Calvary. Remember, also, the care you have always taken to keep me faithful to Christ your son. After having done so much for your child, you will not now abandon me. Inspired by this consoling thought, I come to cast myself at your feet in spite of my infidelities and ingratitude. Do not reject my prayer, O merciful Virgin, but intercede for my conversion, obtain for me the grace to love Jesus above all things, and to console you by a holy life, that I may one day see you in Heaven.
Amen

**Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of sinners,
Pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to Thee.**



ROSTER: 17/05/26

Vigil:	R: N Pullman, P Bamford	Gifts:	J & P Bamford
9am Sun:	R: A Sartori, R. Paull	Gifts:	A & S Vueti
5.00pm Sun:	R: A O'Halloran	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting Team :	G & M Thrift	Altar Linen:	E. Smyth
Fri Cleaning	S. Brown, V. Griffiths		
ROSTER: 24/05/26			
Vigil:	R: J. Woodbridge, D. Bolitho	Gifts:	K. O'Brien, M. Asbury
9am Sun:	R: S Nichols, A Sartori	Gifts:	B. Schipp, C. Grima
5.00pm Sun:	R: Volunteer	Gifts:	Volunteer
Counting Team :	P. Sheils, S. Brown	Altar Linen:	H. Reid
Fri Cleaning	M. Brown, K. O'Brien		