

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

28 May 2017

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS. When Christ ascended into heaven he did not abandon his disciples. Matthew's Gospel begins with the angel's words that Jesus will be called Emmanuel, which means God-is-with-us, and it ends with Jesus' promise: 'Know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.' In a special way Emmanuel is with us in this Eucharist for 'where two or three are gathered in my name, I shall be there with them.'

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Acts 1:11
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.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.
PREFACE I OR II OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
After the Preface, we sing or say:
All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION
P. The mystery of faith.
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

EVANGELISATION IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

The Ascension is Jesus' homecoming. This is especially seen in the Gospel of John. Jesus is 'from above', from God. As the *Logos* (Greek for 'Word') he was with God from the beginning. But the *Logos* became flesh, taking on our human nature to save the world. Jesus was faithful to his mission to the very end by giving up his life. But he took it up again by his resurrection and returned to the Father and to the glory he had before the world began.

The Acts of the Apostles presents him as being lifted up, as a cloud takes him from the sight of his disciples. That is why we imagine heaven as 'up there, beyond the clouds'. Pope Benedict XVI explains that this does not mean that Jesus is transported to another cosmic location; rather, he is taken up into God's very being, participating in God's powerful presence in the world. Jesus' return home does not mean that he has ceased connecting with the believers. The final words of Matthew's Gospel, that we hear today, contain Jesus' assurance to his disciples that he will be with them always, yes, to the end of time.

Connected with the Ascension is the sending of the apostles to all the nations to invite all humanity to enter God's reign and make it 'present' in their lives. While the Apostles preached in synagogues, by riverbanks, and in market places (*agoras*), nowadays people congregate around computers and digital gadgets. Pope Francis points out that one cannot speak to today's people without entering into the culture of communication and the digital networks. That is why today's feast of the Ascension is also *World Communications' Day*.

FR GIL ALINSANGAN SSP

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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
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / Aorn of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OR II OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

 Mt 28:20

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF ROSE BAY AND DOVER HEIGHTS



Issue 3

The Ascension of the Lord

28 May 2017

Shepherd's Message — Fr Chris Slattery



A 'JOY-FILLED CONGRATULATIONS' TO THE NEWLY CONFIRMED MEMBERS OF THE PARISHES!

The celebration of Confirmation each year reminds each of us of the amazing gifts given to us by the Spirit so we worship and witness to the resurrection in our lives. It has been an honour to prepare and journey with the newly confirmed and their families over the last weeks. I thank the newly confirmed for your co-operation during the preparation sessions along with your parents. I pray that you use the great gifts given to you by the Holy Spirit as we continue our journey to our God who is love. Thank you to Dominic for his great ministry as Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and animate our parishes as we are led together to build a community of faith, hope and charity. I pray that the Spirit continues to bear abundant fruit as we encourage each other to bear witness to the Good News.



There is a Parish Finance Committee Meeting on Wednesday 31st May at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre. Thank you to Matthew Scarf and Trish Oliveri who have been invited to join the committee. This week I visited Wentworth Nursing Home with Meg. Please keep the parishioners who reside in our Nursing Homes in your prayers. I thank on behalf of the parish Meg, Jane, Nina and Therese who minister in our Nursing Homes each week. May we experience each day the presence of the Risen Lord who has promised to be with us to the end of time!



Prayer of the Week

Wonderful Lord, as we celebrate Your Ascension into Heaven, may we raise our thoughts and our hearts to You. In reminding us that You are going to the Father to prepare a place for us with Him according to Your Word, you have promised not to let us remain orphans, but to send us the Counsellor. We hope that You will come and take us that we may be with You to praise You, with Your Father, and Your Holy Spirit, forever. Amen.

Ladies Group at St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Rose Bay is holding a fashion parade on Saturday, 3rd June at 2pm. For any enquiries please call 9337 1012 or 9388 8913.

Weekly Liturgies

Sunday Mass
St Mary Magdalene: 8am, 10am, 6pm
St Therese (Sat night vigil): 5pm
Weekday Mass
St Mary Magdalene, Rose Bay: Tue-Fri 9am
Confession
Tues-Fri after 9am Mass (or by appointment)
Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 8:30am-9am

Announcements

Lismore Flood Appeal Archbishop Fisher is supporting the Diocese of Lismore Flood Appeal launched by Bishop Gregory Homering. To donate to the Appeal go to www.dioceseoflismorefloodappeal.org. Our new website www.magdalene.org.au is up and running, with more content to be added in the coming weeks.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Sydney 7-9 December 2017. The event will attract 15,000 young people aged Year 9 to 30 years. Register online today at www.acyf.org.au.

McAuley Primary School is now enrolling students for Kindergarten 2018. Please call 9371 8786 for an appointment.
Spirituality in the Pub: 7th June at 7:30pm Paddington RSL 220-232 Oxford Street Paddington. Mark Lieschke and Debra Snoddy will be talking about the reformation and its continuing influence.

The Sacrament of Confirmation for adults will be held at St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, 4th June 2017 at 10:30am. If theirs is any adult that wishes to be confirmed, please contact the parish office.

On Behalf of our Parish, we would like to Congratulate all those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation! May the Holy Spirit guide, strengthen and direct you always!



Let Us Pray For...

The Sick: Barbara Leslie, Bernice Miles, Ross Clifton, Michelle Jones, Paddy Nolan, Janaya Zohs, Georgia Cleaici, Fr Brian Yates, Natalie Connors, Elaine Oong, Harry Vanda, Alan Backman, John Johnson, Mary Marando, Tom Clark, Fabien Drif, Sarah Walke.
The Deceased: Moira Gannon, Vincent Purcell, Joan Lovegrove, Jack Zucco, John Costello, Mary Ellen George, Bruce Conolly, Domenico & Elena Malzone, Billy Dolan, Adrian Lee, Marie Turnbull, Sonya Lineham, Mark McGowen, Anne Pohlmann, John Fenech, Nell Moylan, Norman and Josephine Slattery, John Chaplian.



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St Therese, cnr Napier St and Dover Rd, Dover Heights NSW
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Weekly Reflection

Eastertide is drawing to a close. Today we reflect on the mystery of Christ's Ascension. He is going back to his Father and entrusts his disciples with the task of continuing his work here on earth. During the course of the day, I think about the moments I am going to spend with the Lord today. What I am going to tell him? What he is going to say to me? When the time comes, I settle down and ask the Holy Spirit to shut out all distractions; I turn to the Lord as I would a trusted friend. I reflect on the significance of this special day. Has its meaning changed for me over the years? In conquering death, the Risen Christ transformed the world for ever into a new creation. Am I prepared and willing to follow him? As I speak to the Lord in my prayer, I ask him to be with me and increase my desire to continue his work. In hope and trust, I listen to what he has to say to me. At the Ascension did Jesus abandon us, or is he with us always? He is no longer present with us in the same way as we meet people today. But he is very present to those who believe in him and love him. I may find it helpful to read the text several times. Although the story is familiar to me, there is often something new to be revealed. Far from an ending, it is a moment of empowering. First, I try to enter into the scene. I place myself there with Jesus and the disciples. Do I bow down in worship...or do I hesitate...? What do I see? What do I hear? How do I feel as He departs? Perhaps I recall partings in my life? Loss of loved ones, coping with illness, being far from home. The times I can feel alone, with no one to listen or talk to; times without hope. Do I hang on to Jesus' parting words: 'I am with you always'? With quiet confidence, I pray to be given God's Spirit of hope - hope in Christ and in his promises... I hear him say: 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations...' Can I pray to realise that the invitation he speaks of is an invitation to me? To me in my weakness to spread the word; to continue his work; to be his witness; to bring hope to people - perhaps starting with my family, with those with whom I work, in my parish, etc. Thanks to the preaching of the Apostles I am here praying. To whom is the Lord asking me to go?

St Mary Magdalene Roster—7th Sunday

4th June	8am	10am	6pm
Welcomer	Elizabeth Moore		
1st Reader	Margaret Mayo	Cecilia Graham	Frances Walsh
2nd Reader	Meg Wild	Hazel Mezger	Margaret Douglas
Eucharistic Minister	Meg Wild Barrie Lum	Jay Gilbert Anthony Gilbert Isabella Zucco	Frances Walsh
Information Desk	Paul, John, Saxon/ Anthony Williams	Tricia/Molly Malouf, Maya Mabee	

St Therese, Dover Heights Roster—7th Sunday

Rosters will be made available on the website once we have received them.

KID'S CORNER!

Each number represents a letter. Substitute the correct letter for each number to reveal the coded words.

X	W	V	D	J	O	R	I	B	S	O	A	E	U	C	P	K	N	H	L	G	M	Y	Z	F	T
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 25-14-20-25-8-20-20-13-4
- 11-16-13-18-13-4
- 22-8-18-4-10
- 10-15-7-8-16-26-14-7-13
- 7-8-10-13
- 7-13-16-13-18-26
- 9-20-13-10-10-8-18-21
- 26-12-17-13-18
- 19-13-12-3-13-18
- 2-11-7-10-19-8-16-13-4

SCRIPTURE MINDS RISE TAKEN REPENT OPENED HEAVEN WORSHIPED BLESSING FULFILLED

A Message from the Holy Father



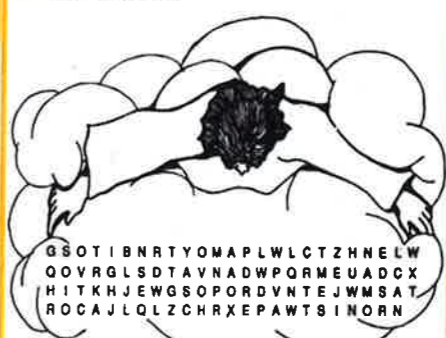
Speaking about "Christian Hope" at his General Audience last week, Pope Francis focused on the figure of St Mary Magdalene. The Holy Father's reflections were based on a passage from the Gospel of St John, which relates how St Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus after His Resurrection. Her visit to Jesus's tomb, the Pope said, mirrored "the fidelity of so many women" who visit cemeteries to keep alive the memory of those who have passed away. "The most authentic bonds," he said, "are not broken even by death." Pope Francis noted that Mary Magdalene's first visit to the tomb was a disappointment: Seeing the empty tomb, she went to the place the disciples were hiding and told them

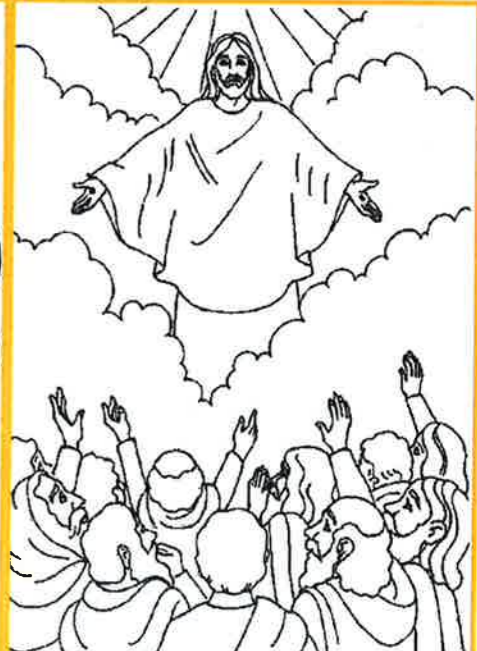
that someone had stolen the body of Jesus. But although she was sorrowful, she returned to the sepulchre. The Pope continued, "It was while she was standing near the tomb, with eyes filled with tears, that God surprised her in a most unexpected way." She hardly noticed the two angels who spoke to her, and at first she did not even recognise Jesus, whom she took to be a gardener. Instead, Pope Francis said, "she discovers the most shocking event in human history" only when Jesus "calls her by name." "How beautiful it is to think that the first apparition of the Risen One - according to the Gospels - should occur in such a personal way!" the Pope said. How beautiful it is "that there is someone who recognizes us, who sees our suffering and disappointment, and is moved for our sake, and calls us by name." Although many people seek God, he said, the "wonderful reality" is that God has sought us first, and sought each of us personally. "Each one of us," Pope Francis said, "is a story of the love of God. God calls each of us by name." When Jesus said Mary's name, her life was changed. "The Gospels describe Mary's happiness for us," the Holy Father said. "The Resurrection of Jesus is not a joy given with an eyedropper, but a cascade, a waterfall that fills our whole life." Pope Francis called for everyone to reflect on that fact that, even with all the "disappointments and defeats" in our life, "there is a God who is close to us and who calls us by name, who says to us, 'Arise, don't cry, because I have come to set you free.'" God, he continued, "is a dreamer: He dreams of the transformation of the world, and has realised it in the mystery of the Resurrection." Saint Mary Magdalene, who, before she met Jesus, was at the mercy of the evil one, became "the apostle of the new and greatest hope." Her life was changed because she had "seen the Lord." Mary's experience is an example for us, too, whose lives are changed because we have seen the Lord. This, Pope Francis said, "is our strength, and our hope."



Jesus Said ...

What did Jesus say before he returned to heaven? The answer is in the cloud below. Starting with the first letter, write every other letter on the lines below.





Mark 16:15