

The Living Word

The Ascension of the Lord, Year B

12 May 2024

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

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 to 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.'

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 (R.) Alleluia.

- 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.)
- 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.)
- 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

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, 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.

or Eph 4:1-7, 11-13

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

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

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 is 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.

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Risen Lord could have appeared to groups of followers generation after generation until now. But he withdrew his visible bodily presence from us. Why? I think because he needed to wean human beings from our tendency to be self-centred. The Resurrection starts the transformation of the *whole* of creation, not just us.

Ordinary human beings are the heart and mind and voice of non-angelic creation. We love and understand and speak on its behalf. The transforming effect of Our Lord's glorified humanity is much more profound. Every molecule, every quantum of energy, the past, present and future are all in the process of being changed towards 'the fullness of him who fills the whole creation'.

At every Mass, this divine resurrection power is at work. Elements of the universe, wheat-bread, grapes-wine, become the Real Presence of Our Lord's glorified body.

The privilege of a ministerial priest is to be the ritual servant of this divine transformation. Invoking the Holy Spirit and reciting the words of the Last Supper is the priest's role in Our Lord's creative real anticipation of the end of time.

We could take a moment to pray for the grace to let go of our self-centredness, to stop staring into the empty sky as though lamenting Our Lord's absence, and to savour the privilege of receiving his Real Presence in the transformed elements of creation as we and they share in that Holy Communion which is the destiny of the whole cosmos.

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Entrance Antiphon: Acts of the Apostles 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

Communion Antiphon: Matthew 28:20
Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia. ©Liturgy Help 2024

GOULBURN MISSION
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DATES FOR THE DIARY
May 15: Taralga Prayer group **10.am**
May 17-19: Catholic School reunion.
May 29: Ex. students of St Joseph's 10 for 10.15 **K&GZ**
June 1&2: First Holy Communion
June 30: Parish Luncheon (Sts Peter & Paul Feast)

WEEKEND MASSES
Saturday ----- 6pm SPP Goulburn
6pm Taralga
Sunday ----- 8am (OLOF), 10 am (SPP)
9am (Crookwell)
Binda -10.30am (1st Sunday)
Marulan - 8.30am (2nd Sun)
Tarago - 8.30am (3rd Sun)
Tuena - Nil until further notice
Bungonia St Michael's: 7pm, Thurs Rosary

Combined Catholic Schools Goulburn Reunion
Rsvp Paul Wales on 0412 676 073.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Volunteers to assist at the **SPP BBQ fundraiser:**
Bunnings on Sunday 9 June between 8am- 4pm.
Monies raised will help meet the Cathedral's heating costs. If you can help please contact:
Dennis Burke on 0415210245.

CONFESSIONS
SPP: 11.30 -12 (Wed /Thurs/Fri), Sat 5.15pm
OLOF: Sat. 9.30am -10am
Taralga: 5.30pm (1st Sat)
Crookwell: 8.30am (2nd Sun)

First Holy Communion: program has begun, lessons Wednesday 3.30pm Crookwell, 4pm **OLOF**
Confirmation Lessons begin on
8th August Goulburn

Men's breakfast
The bi monthly men's breakfast will next meet on the 3rd Saturday in June, just this once. 15/06/24. The Guest speaker is Brian Welsh, A catholic street Preacher. RSVP Michael Lamarra on 0419 019 304

ADORATION & BENEDICTION
SPP 11am Fridays
Holy Hour: 2nd & 4th Tuesday 5.30pm OLOF

Those people interested in helping make Rosary beads please contact the office. We would be grateful for advice on knotting and for any assistance in the creation process.

WEEKDAY MASSES
Tuesday - 5pm (OLOF),
Wed, Thurs, Fri - 12md (SPP)
Sat - 9am (OLOF)



our website:
www.mqagoulburn.com.au
M: 040 363 1797
E: goulburn@cg.org.au

Mass Offerings: Please send to office, or central collection boxes.
ROSTER Coordinator-
judith.stuart11@gmail.com
BAPTISMS: Book through the Parish Office.

The Baptism team invites men and women of the parish to volunteer for service. Please contact the office on 0403 631 797 to learn more about contributing to this ministry.

Recently Deceased: Sue Owen, Stephen Armstrong, Dwain Berggren, Joe Patti, Steven Thorne, Dwain Berggren, Joe Patti, Joseph O'Neil, Violeto Policarpia, Rita Berrell, Carmen Williams, Myra Kanowski, Sr Marie De Porres, Bob Bower,

Anniversaries: Charlie James, Jim Murphy, Phillip Cummins, Rod McCabe, Rosanna Bourd, Florence Anable, William Bourke, Rev. Fr. Peter Murphy, Peter O'Brien, Anne Murphy, Bessie James, Mavis Lee, Stefan Karwowski and family, Zdzislaw Peplowski, Irene Bobrowski, Janet Fisher, Anne Fisher, Frances Owens, Arthur Cracuin, Mick and Ena Webb, Marie and Jack Druett, Nancy Dane, Noel Plumb, Winnie Elliott, Yvonne Hoare, Selby William (BILL) Burgess, Perry McCormack, Pat McCormack, Val Elliott, Pam Lee, Andrezy Bobrowski, Anable, Craciu and Coffey Family deceased,

Prayers: Damien Gleeson, Leslie King, Sue Harris, Karla Zalapa, John Lizzio, Ruth Read, Merrilyn St Aude, Bridget Flannery, Sean Lucas, Justin Cauduro, Gavin McKenzie,