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St Joachim's Church
41 Yuletide Street
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1227 Logan Road
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Parish Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:30am – 4:00pm
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Parish Schools and College
St Agnes' School
07 3349 5130
St Joachim's School
07 3397 9087
Seton College
07 3291-5333

St Vincent de Paul Welfare
1800 846 643

Safeguarding Officer
Dot Lomax 0428 172 224
(Safeguarding purposes only)

The Ascension of the Lord

Year A

23rd/24th May, 2020

'I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS'

We celebrate the Ascension of Jesus this weekend, 40 days after Easter. The Ascension is not about Jesus leaving, departing or abandoning the disciples – or us! It is, rather, a great symbol of the trust and confidence that Jesus has in us – perhaps more than we do in ourselves or others. "Jesus is no longer physically present on earth but He is spiritually with us now as He challenges us to tell others about Him by our words and our actions. What we celebrate is Jesus' exaltation and the end of his earthly existence, as a prelude to the gift of the Spirit. The ascended Jesus is still with us because of his promise, "I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."

He is with us at all times and in all places, releasing a new energy upon the earth, the energy of the Holy Spirit Who enables us to preach his Good News of salvation and to bear witness to him in living out His word. This imparts great courage and confidence into our lives among all the uncertainties and insecurities of our lives. Hence, today's feast is the celebration of Jesus' glory after his suffering and death – the glory in which we also hope to share. The Ascension and Pentecost, together, mark the beginning of the Church.

This week we remember Mary Help of Christians as the official patroness of Australia since 1844. Her feast day is celebrated on May 24, which this year coincides with the Feast of the Ascension.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect Australians' lives, including their worship, the Catholic bishops will entrust the country to the care of Mary Help of Christians on her feast day next week. As stated in the message "A word of encouragement to the Catholic people of Australia", the bishops noted that the country "has certainly suffered because of the pandemic, but not as grievously as some other countries".

"For that we thank God and we congratulate public health authorities and governments on their prompt and prudent responses," the bishops wrote. "Australians in general have also shown the solidarity and good sense, the generosity and kindness needed in such a time. In particular, our healthcare workers.

The bishops urged the faithful to continue to adhere to government and medical advice, noting the collaboration between those authorities and Catholic leaders to support the re-opening of churches and the staged resumption of public worship, for which we eagerly wait as the restrictions, has been lifting up.

"The Australian Bishops entrust Australia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title Our Lady Help of Christians, seeking her intercession for the safety of all our people especially in this time of COVID-19 pandemic." With maternal love for us, Mary wants what is best for us - she wants Jesus for us, so she urges us, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). Then she helps us as we lead others to know and love her Son too. Her feasts not only empower us to turn to her in prayer, but also to love Jesus and others with a greater love.

Be safe, see you soon.

With every blessings, Fr Joson

Readings: Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11

Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

READINGS FOR SUNDAY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

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

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

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.'



PARISH FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/hpmgparish/> Log into the parish Facebook page and see how members of our community are dealing with our current situation. Maybe you can share things that you are doing to keep busy, entertained or spiritually engaged. Check out this week's video from a parishioner.

ABUNDANCE YOUTH

If you would like more information or to get in touch, please reach out on the Abundance Youth Facebook & Instagram pages on the following links!

<https://www.facebook.com/Abundance-Youth-114497676854096>

<https://www.instagram.com/abundanceyouth/>

Continuing on our faith journey during this time of isolation; when our faith will sustain us through challenging times. If our doors are closed, let our hearts be open

Recommencement of Masses and Sacrament of Reconciliation

Dear Parishioners,

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions we will be recommencing masses in the parish next Sunday, May 31st with 9:00am Mass at St Agnes' Church. We will then offer two masses on the Sunday, June 7th commencing 7:30am at St Joachim's and 9:00am at St Agnes'. However, in line with the Government's social distancing guidelines, between now and Friday, June 12th we are allowed a maximum of 10 people in attendance at each Mass (including the Priest and any ministers).

We recognise that many of you have been deeply concerned by not being able to attend Mass and would like to return as soon as possible. To ensure a fair approach to determining who can attend Mass over the coming weeks we are asking you to call the parish office from 9:00am on Monday to register your interest. There will be 8 people allowed at each mass. The first 24 to call will be registered. You will only be given the opportunity to attend 1 mass in the current circumstances. We appreciate your support in implementing a fair and equitable approach and recognise you may be disappointed if you are unable to attend.

From June 12th we can increase the number to 20 people at each mass. If all goes well to this point we may look at including some weekday masses. In Stage 3 from July 10th we are allowed 100 people.

We need to follow a process to manage the number of people attending each Mass and as stated this requires parishioners to pre-register for Masses, you will not be able to attend a Mass un-registered. Registration involves the parish recording the name, phone number and address of all attendees at Mass. Even in circumstances where the maximum number of attendees significantly exceeds your normal Mass attendance, pre-registration and recording of attendees' details must still occur as a legislative requirement for contact tracing purposes.

We are currently looking at ways to implement the registration requirements and as soon as these are finalised further details will be made available.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

I am now also offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation to anyone who is interested. In line with government regulations and protocols put in place to keep parishioners safe you will need to contact the parish office to make an appointment.

Thank you for continued support and understanding as we move forward.

Fr Joson

SUPPORT OF OUR PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

There have been a number of parishioners who have taken advantage of the new Parish Giving Portal. We would like to thank you as well as all others who are continuing to give in ways that suit their circumstances best, for your continued support of the Parish during these difficult times.

NEW PARISH GIVING PORTAL The Parish Giving app is part of the Archdiocese of Brisbane and has been set up specifically for parishioners to be electronically connected to their parish for regular and one off giving. The Parish Giving app allows you to complete your giving on your mobile phone via Android, Apple or Web app.

Our faith sustains us through challenging times. Now, more than ever, your support is needed to help our Parish to continue valuable pastoral activities and to provide ongoing sustainability.

To assist you to support the Parish during this time of isolation, you can now give via

<http://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au>



WE REMEMBER

We remember Millis Townsend, John Langridge, Michael Connors, Allan Tiainen, Nancy Tiainen, Dorothy Bennett and Keith Paren. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT

We are open and available to help you. If you are in need of help for anything during this time please remember that you can call the parish office for assistance.

LIVESTREAMING OF MASSES FROM ST STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL

www.archbne.org/bzw

MASS ON TV – CHANNEL 10

Mass for You at Home - Sunday at 6:00am.

TWO MINUTE HOMILY

Each week there is a 2 Minute Homily, presented by one of our archdiocesan priests: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/>

EVANGELISATION BRISBANE – DAILY REFLECTIONS

For a theological reflection on the gospel of the day go to: <http://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/daily-reflections/>

CATHOLIC LEADER – COMMITTING TO ACCESS OF STORIES

Go to: www.catholicleader.com.au

POSITION VACANT – PARISH SECRETARY

St John Vianney's Manly Parish invites applications for the part-time position of Parish Secretary - 15 to 20 hours over 3 to 4 days per week. For a copy of the position description or any other enquires please email James Herd, HR Coordinator at herdj@bne.catholic.net.au.

To apply for this position, please visit <https://clientapps.jobadder.com/68451/aob-internal-career-opportunities/139287/parish-secretary> and apply through the provided links.

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Mount Gravatt / Holland Park Areas
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Email: jvell247@gmail.com

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Cr Krista Adams
Deputy Mayor
Councillor for Holland Park
Chair of Finance and Economic Development

- (07) 3403 7791
- HollandPark.Ward@bcc.qld.gov.au
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Empty space for additional advertisements.