



Sunday 12th May 2024

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr Ananda Maddineni MSFS

**Parish Pastoral Associates:** Sandy Starbuck & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

**The Partnered Parishes of:**

**St. Mary's**

204 Grimshaw St.,  
Greensborough, 3088

**Parish:** 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

**Email:** [Greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:Greensborough@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.cam1.org.au/greensborough](http://www.cam1.org.au/greensborough)

**Secretaries:** Lisa & Libby

**Mass Times**

**Tuesday to Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 6.30pm

**Sunday:** Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening  
Mass

**Parish School Principal**

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**  
[principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au)

**Sacred Heart & St Peter's**

25 Gipson Street,  
Diamond Creek 3089

**Parish:** 9401 6361

**Email:** [DiamondCreek@cam.org.au](mailto:DiamondCreek@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek](http://www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek)

**Secretary:** Pat Guatta

**Mass Times**

**Wednesday & Friday:** Mass 9.15am

**St Peter's: 1st Saturday** 7.15pm

**Sunday:** Mass 9.00am

**Reconciliation Times**

**Friday:** 9.45am to 10.15am

**Acting Parish School Principal**

Mrs Gina Murphy **Ph:** 9438 1590 **or Email**  
[principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Thomas the Apostle**

251 Diamond Creek Road,  
Greensborough Nth 3088

**Parish:** 9434 7373

**Email:** [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth](http://www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth)

**Secretary:** Lisa Leahy

**Mass Times**

**Tuesday & Thursday:** Mass 9.15am

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 6.00pm

**Sunday:** Mass 10.30am

**Reconciliation Times**

**Saturday:** 9.30am to 10.00am

**Acting Parish School Principal**

Mrs Jo Nolen **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**  
[principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au)

Please send any bulletin contributions to [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you

On the first Friday of every month, at St Thomas Parish at 7.00pm we will have Eucharistic Adoration along with confession, everyone welcome.



**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: Go Out to the whole world!**

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope.

The Ascension of the Lord Year B, 12 May 2024.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/scripture-ascension-year-b-2024>



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

[www.cam.org.au](http://www.cam.org.au)

St Mary's Facebook page

[facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/](https://facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/)

Our Partnered Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.

## PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

### THURSDAY 16TH MAY

*Next Thursday all Parish Administration staff will be attending a Parish Administration Forum at the Catholic Leadership Centre. There will be no one in our offices next Thursday.*

### THE WAY PRAYER GROUP

You are warmly invited to join us for the first Mass by Candlelight for 2024 on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Creek Rd, North Greensborough.

Celebrated in the spirit of Taize, quiet music will commence at 7.30pm, followed by Mass at 8pm. All welcome.

Enquiries: Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902

### LAMP

LAMP Group invite you to attend **An evening with Sr Kerrin Caldwell SGS**, who will speak on the topic "Ageing and Awakening God's surprising Gifts".

*It will be held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30 pm in St Mary's Gathering Space.*

*There will be a light supper afterwards. If you wish to attend, please ring or text Mary on 0412 813 512 before May 10<sup>th</sup>.*

### SHRINES OF OUR LADY

Fr Ananda Maddineni would like to invite you for a 16-day pilgrimage, departing on 28th of October 2024. This pilgrimage features Fatima, Avila, Loyola, Lourdes, Rocamadour, Nevers, Paris, Medjugorje, Zagreb, for an all-inclusive price of \$8390. The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest +



## A PARTNERED PARISHES EVENT

There is much unrest in the world – Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, the traumatic and senseless stabbings in Sydney, protests across many countries, the lingering presence of COVID and long COVID resulting in ongoing health concerns for our communities, the damage we continue to inflict on our earthly home and the list is growing. The impact of this reality has each of us unsettled, afraid, searching for signs that will bring change – for the common good – signs God has not forsaken his people. Perhaps this feeling of uncertainty and vulnerability is similar to how the disciples were feeling the night of Pentecost.

They too were experiencing a sense of abandonment, their Teacher was gone, what were they to do?

They called upon God to come to their aid – through their prayer God's Holy Spirit came upon them and their whole being filled with a powerful burning desire to go out and reassure people – God is with US! – His Son and our Savior is with us! Let us do the same – beginning with Prayer. With the support of the Partnered Parishes Pastoral Council of Sacred Heart, St Thomas' and St Mary's, I am asking those who would like to join me in planning our local "Fiat" in this Year of Prayer to say YES!. This event will be across our 3 communities and I would welcome an opportunity to meet with MANY! who will bring their creativity, their Spirit filled gifts to plan a wonderful prayer service for Peace.

Please contact me through the Parish Office – 9435 1543 or email me [sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au](mailto:sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au) and we will find a time to meet convenient for all.

### FAMILIES IN SPIRITUAL HARMONY



Calling all tweens, teens, young adults and families with children preparing for First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Are you looking for a place for you and your children to meaningfully connect with other Catholic families? We have the pleasure of introducing Families In Spiritual Harmony (**FISH**). This group has been created by families for families; with the objective of creating a spiritual safety-net for our youth and fostering our catholic community. It is open to everyone, and is for the benefit of all three of our parishes. We will focus on and encourage faith formation, reflection and discussion in these sessions – all whilst having some fun! These sessions will be held every Friday, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.

On the first Friday of every month, we will also have

The First Friday's Devotion, along with confession, and all are welcome to join in.

We hope to see you all soon.

**Fr Ananda Maddineni**

### Join us for Fiat—A Weekend of Prayer Friday 31st May—Sunday 2nd June 2024

For the second year running, our local communities of grace across the Archdiocese of Melbourne will unite for a weekend of prayer from Friday 31 May to Sunday 2 June 2024.

Beginning with the Feast of the Visitation on Friday and concluding with the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday, parishes, movements and communities are invited to host a time of prayer.

In March 2023, over 50 parishes and communities took part in the inaugural Fiat weekend meditating on Mary's 'yes' to the Lord. Inspired by Mary and Elizabeth's example and the immense gift of the Eucharist, Fiat 2024 promises to be a period of great grace and closeness to the Lord, as we ponder our own 'yes' as individuals, as local communities of grace, and as the local Church in Melbourne.

Fiat may be a time to explore various forms of prayer, particularly with Mary and the Eucharist. Click on the link below to find a regularly updated list of ideas and resources to help plan your local community's special time of prayer.

Parishes, communities and movements are invited to register their time of prayer via the link <https://melbournecatholic.org/fiat>

#### Your 'How to' guide to the Year of Prayer

On 24 December 2024, the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in Rome will open, commencing the Jubilee Year. To prepare for this year of celebration, Pope Francis invites us into a Year of Prayer throughout 2024, reflecting on the Jubilee's theme, 'Pilgrims of Hope.'

We have developed a practical guide, drawing on a resource from the Holy See's Dicastery for Evangelisation and our local context, to help parishes celebrate the Year of Prayer well over the coming months.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/documents/Year-of-Prayer-guide.pdf>





# *Towards Wholeness*

## *– From Fear to Love*

Come for a weekend retreat (non-residential) on Jungian psychology and Ignatian spirituality at Campion Spirituality Centre 99 Studley Park Rd, Kew.

**Saturday 25 May (9:30 am – 4 pm)**

**- Sunday 26 May (10 am – 1 pm)**

Jungian psychology helps our understanding of the Ignatian practices of Imaginative Contemplation and the Examen, and Christian Meditation, as ways to discover our deeper, true self and God.

Cost: \$55 for Saturday or  
\$75 for both Saturday and Sunday  
(Saturday lunch provided)

Contact: Susie Hii

Email: [susiehii.hc@gmail.com](mailto:susiehii.hc@gmail.com)

Mobile: 0410 981 080

RSVP: 20 May



Facilitator: **Dr Susie Hii** (spiritual director, master of spirituality, medical practitioner)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** *Tuesday & Thursday 10.00am-1.00pm, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-2.30pm.*

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

**BAPTISMS:** we pray for Andre, Charlotte, Jackson, and Mia who will be welcomed into our community in May.

### **WOMEN'S DINNER:**

A BIG THANK YOU to all who attended our Women's Dinner, our talented musicians, those who donated to the monster raffle, all those who helped set up the hall, helped on the night, and helped clean up on the Saturday morning. All of this contributed to a successful and very social evening. From Margaret, Tonina and Patricia.

*On behalf of Sacred Heart Primary School, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Parish and the organising committee of the Sacred Heart Women's Dinner. What a remarkable occasion for our community to unite, support one another and celebrate the essence of womanhood together. The attendance was nothing short of amazing, a testament to the Parish's courage in revitalising this event after years of absence.*

*The guest speakers left an indelible mark with their inspiring words. As both staff and parents of the School, we cherished the opportunity to gather, connect, and share a meal, of which the food was truly exceptional.*

*The resounding success of the evening is a source of pride for our Parish and we commend everyone involved for their dedication and hard work. Well done and thank you for a truly memorable experience.*

***Mrs Gina Murphy Principal Sacred Heart School***

*Congratulations to the Parish on the success of the Sacred Heart Women's Dinner!*

*On behalf of the School's parent community, I thank you for the uplifting and inspiring evening and the opportunity to come together and celebrate women. Particular congratulations to the organising committee – Margaret Farrell, Patricia Keenan and Tonina Sirianni – for the extraordinary effort in hosting such a large event – I hope you are still basking in the success and joy of the evening.*

*Thank you for welcoming the women of Sacred Heart Primary School so beautifully, what a wonderful feeling we all had and how lucky we are to belong to such an amazing Parish. We look forward to many more moments together!*

***Megan Ioannidis (Harris) President, Parents & Friends Association Sacred Heart Primary School***

**COMMUNION TO THE SICK:** Please contact the Parish Office if you, or anyone you know, would appreciate Communion at home.

**MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE:** prize is a patchwork quilt which is displayed in the church- tickets \$2 each or 6 for \$10.

**SACRED HEART MEMORIAL GARDEN PLAQUES:** The cost of supply and installation is \$350. Please contact Marg Farrell via email at [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com) or leave a message with Pat in the Parish Office if you would like a loved one remembered in this way.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Suggestion box in church or email: [ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com)

**SENIOR MOMENTS:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 12pm Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June Lunch 12pm Diamond Saigon Vietnamese Restaurant

**HALL HIRE:** Sacred Heart Hall is for hire. For all enquiries regarding cost and terms and conditions contact Alison Pieper on 0417571535 or [alisonpieper52@gmail.com](mailto:alisonpieper52@gmail.com)

### **ROSTERS:**

**Cleaning: Week 14<sup>th</sup> May** B. & P. O'Regan

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May Sacred Heart 9am**

**Reader:** C. Fernando      **Commentator:** F. Ledda      **Eucharistic Ministers:** P. Leonard, C. Bell

**St Peter's Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 7.15pm**

**Reader:** A. Perera      **Commentator:** E. Gittins

**Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:**

*Mary O'Dea, Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard, Maureen Jenkins, Tony Watson*

**Recently deceased:**

**We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of May that they may enter**

**joyfully into God's Kingdom:** Dorothy Pittle, Glenn Hurley, Michael Berriman, Peter Beaumont, Frank Perversi, Noela Atkinson, Mary Camilleri, Henry Van Oosterom, Kevin Rogers, Eddie Schellens, Andrew March

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

*Vision Statement "To be a vibrant Christian community engaging with the world"*

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** *Tuesday 11am-3pm, Wednesday 8am-12.00pm, Thursday 9am-3pm, Friday 11am-3pm*

**SANDY'S OFFICE HOURS:** *Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm and Friday 9.00am-5.30pm*

Please send any bulletin contributions directly to [greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au) or [greensborough@cam.org.au](mailto:greensborough@cam.org.au) by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you

*On behalf of Fr Steven, Sandy and myself, we welcome Libby as a new member of our Administration team at St Mary's.*

*Libby will be working on Tuesday: 11.00am-3.00pm, Thursday: 9.00am-1.00pm and Friday: 11.00am-3.00pm*

*If you pop into the office please introduce yourself to Libby and we look forward to working together.*

*Lisa*

**LADIES AUXILIARY:** Thank you to everyone who supported our "Wnter Warmers" sale. Our next stall will be a "Book Sale" on the 1st weekend 1st & 2nd of June.

The next Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th June at 10.30am in the gathering space.

Enquiries to Maureen 9435 5906 or Lucy 9435 6990.

**WANTED:** Plant pots, plastic or other. Any size (not seedling pots) can be left on seat behind Parish House, or phone Phil 9434 4506

**SACRISTANS URGENTLY NEEDED** to set up the altar, offertory gifts and church before Mass and pack up after Mass. If you can help, even occasionally, to provide this service for our priests and our parishioners,

Please contact Marian [mariantacey@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mariantacey@optusnet.com.au)

**WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECKS:** It is important that all volunteers have an up to date WWCC, as our parish records are currently being audited.

**MASS OF ANOINTING:** A Mass of the anointing will be celebrated at St Mary's Parish at 11.00am on Thursday 30th May, followed by a light lunch.

*For catering purposes if are attending could you please contact Geraldine on 0438 148896. All welcome.*

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquiries: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326.

**A LOST PROPERTY BOX** is on the lower shelf of the bench in the gathering space.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

#### **Baptisms:**

***Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:***

Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan , Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr, Garry York

#### **Recently Deceased:**

***We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom:*** Ray Money, Rose Hyland, Andrew March, Barry Cashen, Eldon Hogan, Irene Clarke, Ivan Dennis Martell, Peter Mim, Joan Payne, Aime Sydney Samfat, Jim Rosengren, Angelina Antons, Cyril Alcide, Cherrie Porter, Betty Hill, Thomas Shannon, Johanna Toohey, Melville Carvalho, Margaret Harrison, Doreen Refeves, Peter Bird Snr, Mary Carr, Rose Quigley, Annie May Heath, Mary Dwyer, Candida Acosta, Maria Giovanna Lamberti, Collin Rozario Sr, Andrew Marwick, Harry Gurung, Peter O'Brien, Mary Heagerty, Addie Collins, Mary Hampshire, May Clifford, Joan Green, Denise Baylie, Geoff May, Pat Parker, Fr Bill Dalton, SJ, Marcia Mondon, Jackson Robinson, Michael Leahy, Fr Henry Lambert, Tegan Amber Kennett, Ray Bowler, George Puckeridge, Jack Buchan, Mathew Cullis, Michael Clurey, Lawrence Gleeson, Elizabeth Cull, Leo Dowling, Eunice Steele, Geoffrey Ryan, Alfred Griffin, Arthur Glennon, Ann Chanter, Doris Dalton, Margaret Claassen Teresa Murphy, Mary Josephine C. Gomez, Clydagh Lundie, Umberto Frigo, Inga-Stina Olofsson, Charles Pritchard, Andrea Narnia, Doris Mallia, Max Stewart, Peter Hickey, Tony Nugent, Santina Tosetto, Christine Kliensman, Roberto Milanes

*Be informed, inspired and entertained*

DICTIONARY OF  
MARY

**Book of the week: Dictionary of Mary by John Otto**

This dictionary about the Mother of God explains Mary's place in the Church and in the life of Christians, her titles, her authenticated appearances, her shrines, and her relationship to her Son Jesus and to the Trinity.

Many thanks to those who have donated books and money to the Library recently.

We appreciate your generosity.

[cloud.collectorz.com/247780](http://cloud.collectorz.com/247780)



St Mary's Parish Library



**CHURCHES  
UNITE**

MONDAY, 13 MAY - 7:30 PM

DIAMOND VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH  
(309 DIAMOND CREEK RD, PLENTY)

**"WHERE IS GOD IN ALL OF THIS?" A COMBINED CHURCHES EVENT, BRING OUR GRIEFS AND HOPES TO A GOD WHO DOES NOT ABANDON US.**

This event will focus on women and children, in particular thinking and talking about domestic violence in Australia, war in the Middle East and human trafficking.

These are confronting topics, but they will be handled with sensitivity.

Between each presentation there will be a liturgical prayer, and we will finish the evening with an action, a song, and the lord's prayer.





## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** *Tuesday & Friday: 8.00am-4.00pm Wednesdays 12.30pm,-4.00pm*

Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am (**Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's**)

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

**BAPTISMS:** Please keep in your prayers Olivia, Jude and Harvey who are being baptised later this month.

**BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP:** Thursday 23rd May, 12.30pm.

More information to follow next week.



**THE WAY PRAYER GROUP:** You are warmly invited to join us for the first Mass by Candlelight for 2024 on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Creek Rd, North Greensborough.

Celebrated in the spirit of Taize, quiet music will commence at 7.30pm, followed by Mass at 8pm. All welcome.

Enquiries: Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902

### Roster for Weekend 18th & 19th May

#### Saturday 6.00pm

**Reader:** A. Fernando

**Commentator:** H. Fernando

**Eucharistic Ministers:** M. McKenzie, J. Bohan

**Set Up:** K. Salm

#### Sunday 10.30am

**Reader:** T. Williamson

**Commentator:** M. Bates

**Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Letzia, R. Piccolo

**Set Up:** C. O'Brien

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

This year in August we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of our beloved Church St Thomas the Apostle. This significant milestone calls for a memorable and joyous celebration befitting our shared faith and community spirit.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is seeking interested parishioners to form a small committee to bring together a celebration during and after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 18th August 2024.

This committee will be supported by the PPC and Liturgy Team and will be responsible for planning and organising the small festivities during and after mass on this special occasion. If you are interested and eager to contribute your talents and ideas to create a memorable event, we invite you to put your hand up to assist.

Let us come together as a parish community to honour the rich history and enduring spirit where we gather at St Thomas the Apostle. Please contact Lisa or Tim [stthomasppc@cam.org.au](mailto:stthomasppc@cam.org.au) if you are interested in getting involved.

Please contact Lisa or Tim at: [stthomasppc@cam.org.au](mailto:stthomasppc@cam.org.au) if you are interested in getting involved.

**St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners:**

**Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:**

*Miran Kasalo, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Dawn Ellis*

**We pray for those who have died recently including Maria Golenko and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of May that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:**

*Domenica Picollo, Kath Mumford, Theodora Ellul, Maura McGauran, Stephen Ruzic, Marg Watson, Ray Money, Gaetano Palazzolo, Raymond Bowman*



## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny

Before his Ascension, Jesus advises his closest disciples to proclaim the good news to 'the whole creation'. He places great significance on baptism. It is a brave new world that he is describing, an aura of wonder surrounds the work of those who speak in the name of Jesus.



## 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.*

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

*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.



### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times; a moment when we have left one place in our journey, but have not yet arrived at a second. While the narratives that describe the Ascension fit well into the unfolding story of redemption, the feast itself celebrates one aspect of the resurrection itself, namely, the exaltation of Jesus. The readings help us through this paradox. They allow us to focus on this theological point while we commemorate a turning point in the life of the church. We do this by considering both the enthronement of Christ in the heavens and the new body of Christ on earth.

Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at God's right hand. Today we are overwhelmed by the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Amidst shouts of joy and exaltation, Christ is enthroned in heaven in both his divinity and his glorified humanity. Now he is present with us in a new way, in a new body, in the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists; he ministers through its prophets and pastors. Through us he continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have each other; together we make up the new body of Christ.

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