Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**Year B**

**SUNDAY 16 May 2021**

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

**45. I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE**

**FROM PARISH SONG BOOKLET**

**GREETING**

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

**THE 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.

**COLLECT**

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.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING** Acts 1:1-11

*Jesus was lifted up while they looked on*

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.’

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 46:2-9

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

**SECOND READING** Eph 4:1-13

*We are all to come to unity, fully mature in the knowledge of the Son of God*

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. It was said that he would:

*When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners,*

*he gave gifts to men.*

When it says, ‘he ascended’, what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? 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.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAM. 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** Mark 16:15-20

*Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News*

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 will be 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.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**HOMILY**

**CREED**

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,

born 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**

**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**OFFERTORYHYMN**

**22. LAY YOUR HANDS**

**FROM PARISH SONG BOOKLET**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you:

fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you:

fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, brethren **(**brothers and sisters**)**,

that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**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 GIFTS**

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. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

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 ACCLAM**

**COMMUNION RITE**

At the Saviour’s command

and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are your now and for ever.

**SIGN OF PEACE**

Lord Jesus Christ,

who said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

**LAMB OF GOD**

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**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

**55. SOUL OF MY SAVIOUR**

**FROM PARISH SONG BOOKLET**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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. **Amen.**

**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

**DISMISSAL**

**FINAL SONG:**

**73. GO TELL EVERYONE**

**FROM PARISH SONG BOOKLET**