

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

21 MAY 2023

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.

COLLECT

P. 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.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

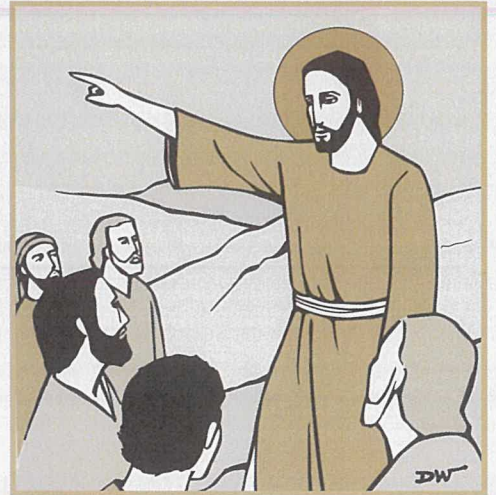
In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for 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 of 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.

R. Thanks be to God.



RESP 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 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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

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, / 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

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. Through Christ our Lord.

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 CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

PRESENT IN ALL CREATION

The resurrection of Jesus was clearly a moment of healing victory and the basis of hope for the early Church. While the victory over sin and death had been won a whole new set of questions arose for the first generation of Christians. Where do we go now? What does the Risen Lord ask of us? How will the Lord continue to be present among us? The early Christians reflected on Jesus' Ascension and used this moment of transition to address these questions for themselves and to instruct future generations of Christians.

Much had already been achieved but the time had come for the Risen Lord to entrust the next stage of the mission into the hands of the disciples. Having been schooled for forty days by the Risen Lord they were now entrusted with the mission of bringing the message of Jesus to the world around them. While they would not have looked forward to the day when Jesus would pass from their midst, they were nonetheless reminded that while the quality of his presence had changed, he would never leave them.

While the letter to the Ephesians does not speak explicitly of the Ascension it does reflect on how the Pauline communities saw this change in Jesus' presence among them. Christians are encouraged to see that by being exalted to God's right-hand Jesus is now able to be present throughout all of creation, no longer limited by space and time. They are called to see that he is not absent but is now even more powerfully present.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2023 No 609. Website: www.stpauls.com.au



WELCOME TO ST GREGORY THE GREAT—DONCASTER

The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

20/21 May 2023

Parish Office:


Hours: **Mon—Fri 9.30am to 3.30pm**

Tel: **9412 8425**

Email: Doncaster@cam.org.au

Follow us on: [@StGregsDonny](https://www.facebook.com/StGregsDonny)

 www.facebook.com/StGregsDonny

 Website: www.stgregs.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Charles Balnaves

Parish Secretary: Mon & Tue: Nadia Bolzonello

Wed-Fri: Vera Arief

Mon: Bernadine De Silva (bookkeeping)

Sacristan: Mary Stocco - Mob: 0412 742 657

MASS TIMES:

Sat: Vigil 6.00pm; **Sun 9:00am, 10.30am & 5.00pm**

Wed 9:00 am & Fri: 9:00am (Tues & Thur 9:15 am St Kevin's)

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9.30-11am

CHILDREN LITURGY: Sunday mornings @ 10.30am

Common sense hygiene please: Masks, sanitising, isolating if testing positive for Covid-19, etc..

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11, 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13, Jn 20:19-23

BAPTISMS: Please ring the Parish Office for bookings

ST GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC PRIMARY

SCHOOL: Principal: Michelle Verna Tel: (03) 9848 4483

Email: principal@sgdoncaster.catholic.edu.au

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

Contact Margaret O'Donnell at DoncasterRE@cam.org.au

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP:

Wednesdays at 9.45am in the church meeting room.

Contact Terry Morton 0402 307 384.

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP: Third Friday of the month from 7.00pm-9.00pm

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: 4th Fridays 7:15pm—9.30pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE: 3rd Mondays 7.30pm in the School Parish Room

ST GREGORY'S TENNIS CLUB: Membership enquiries: Gianna Alessio (President) 0438 410 506

Please pray for:

Those who are **sick** at this time including Michael Mullens, Judy Jones, Nick Morton, Luke Kakoschke, Victor, Natalie, Max Passarella, Teresa Yong, Helen La Manna, Alex Ablaza, Mary Grace Lim Siew Lan, Mr & Mrs Tan Chai Kun, Narsis Tencic, Sio Dewi, Pat McLeod, Gilbert De Claro, Gabrielle Byrne, Brian Croft, Chee Choong Seng, Chianna Sacco, Roy Dos Santos, Lilia Go, Maria Stone, Chee Mee Lian, Eliseo Pardiolo, Siat Lin, Vincent Aloï, Margaret Dobran, Andrew Wilson, Fr Matthew Abraham CSsR, Wang Wei Qiao, Paul Materazzo, Ian Angus, Eliasari, Dennis Clarke, Marisa Rodolfo, Angel Gustavo, Margaret Hansen.

And for those who died recently Father Peter Nhuan, Giuseppe Spera

and for those whose anniversaries occur about now Yoon Fatt Wong, Elisabetta Marcello, Noe Petracca, Concezio & Verina Mosca, Rosa Bartone, John Balnaves.

From the desk of ... the PP,
Well, I am back! Safely!

Indeed, in all my journey the worst travel problem I had was half an hour delay in departure of the plane a couple of times, or maybe having a six hour wait in LA before going on to Chicago, or perhaps taking exit four instead of five on a large roundabout on my way from Igham to Heathrow Airport.

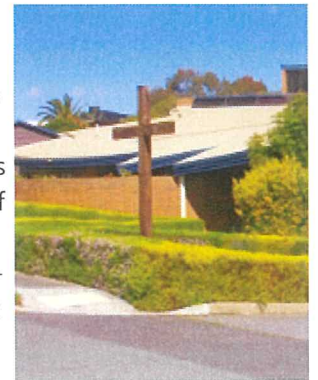
I always find it fascinating that I can walk on to a plane here in Melbourne, fly East to Los Angeles, fly East to Algonquin, near Chicago, fly East to the UK, fly East to Doha on the way to Perth WA, fly East to Melbourne. I never doubled back, never crossed my path, always heading east, and I arrive home.

Along the way, it seems, I meet all sorts of people: family, friends, colleagues. And there is goodness in all of them. They all have their quirks and difficulties, as do I. But they all have their hearts in the right place, or so it seems to me. I know it's a small and maybe biased sample but it says to me that despite all the urgency and doom and gloom we hear about God is close. God's love shines through everywhere given even a half a chance. This always reaffirms the faith, the hope, the trust I have that Jesus Christ journeys with us and helps us and guides us with his Holy Spirit.

I have arrived back as planned: refreshed, energised, and just in time for the beginning of the next phase of initiation for our children: Confirmations and First Communions (as well as some new little people being baptised).

I look forward to celebrating with you and journeying further into Jesus' love with you, God bless, Fr Charles.

The old Red Gum Cross from the entrance to St Greg's has been taken from within the fence around the space for the new gate. The Cross was removed with the intent to put it up elsewhere on the parish grounds. And a few weeks ago it was taken!!! This Cross had been standing at the top of our driveway for decades. It holds great shared sentimental value for parishioners here at St Gregory's. We would love to recover it so it can be put up again in a new location.



MORNING TEA HELP!

We are still looking for Volunteers!

Our small team of morning tea hosts are looking for new hosts to serve Morning Tea after our 10.30am Mass. Hosting Morning Teas is also a form of ministry to extend our welcome to our community and share Jesus love. Each week 2-3 persons are required to assist. So it is also a great way for a small team of families to serve within our church as well. If you could help please email: doncaster@cam.org.au or ring 9412 8425. Thank you for your support.

"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." St. Mother Teresa.



St Gregory's is committed to growing a Child Safety Culture with Love

THIS WEEK 20/21 May

Sat 6.00pm

Sun 9.00am

Sun 10.30am

Sun 5.00pm

CARE OF THE CHURCH**MONEY COUNTERS:** Maria Verrocchi, Maggie Yong**LECTORS**

Ashton Ng, Ashley Ng

Joan Dinneen, Philip Dunlop

Sauro Antonelli, Amanda Stefanovski

Natalie De Silva, Dot Haynes

Mary Wilson, Leth Go

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Noel & Cathy McClelland

Tony Nimmo, Margaret Wallace

Mary Stocco, Tony Ting

Mary Tonti-Filippini, Tina Paolino

MORNING TEA: TBA**COLLECTORS**

Alfred Lee

FLOWERS: Tessa Leung

Irene Dharmawan

NEXT WEEK 27/28 May

Sat 6.00pm

Sun 9.00am

Sun 10.30am

Sun 5.00pm

CARE OF THE CHURCH**MONEY COUNTERS:** TBA**LECTORS**

Ian Barnes, Patrick Soosay

Tony Nimmo, Queenie Wood

Paul Williams, Rita Williams

Mary Tonti-Filippini, Stephanie Ong

Boris Klaric, Stephen Ma

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Robert & Dianna McHugh

Rachel Kay, Katica Puhaj

Maggie Yong, Nuccia La Rocca

Margaret O'Donnell, Viviana Pereira

MORNING TEA: Adeline Wong**COLLECTOR**

Stephanie Ong

FLOWERS: Mary Piccoli

Geraldina Donato

AUTUMN THEN WINTER—more infectious illness (Covid, Flu, ...)! Perhaps our care with masks / sanitising will keep others safe.

For those who are Coeliac, we can provide low gluten (<20ppm) hosts or a separate chalice. Please let the priest of sacristan know your need.

Anointing of the Sick, can be provided before, during or after any Mass. Just let the Sacristan or the Priest know ahead of time.

Transport : Don't leave people stuck at home unable to come to Mass: offer a hand or let us know at the Parish Office.

Welcoming! We have a new **Welcoming Group**: but still: if you see someone you DON'T know? go up and have a chat and get to know them.

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School

Next Open Day **9th Aug 9.30-11am**, or for a School Tour please contact the School Office on 98484483.

Parish Facilities: The Tennis Club Room and Courts and the Hall and the Parish Room are available. Room bookings can be made: st.gregoryhall3108@gmail.com and Jess will get back to you. Tennis club use for tennis playing: contact Gianna on 0438 410 506.

We invite you to pray for St Gregory The Great Primary School children who are making their commitment for their First Communion this Sunday.

**'Passion on the Big Screen – A Day @ the Movies with Peter Malone msc' (in-person event), Saturday 17 June 2023, 10 am – 3.30 pm.**

We often refer to Jesus as the Word made Flesh. But Colossians 1 proclaims Jesus as the Image of the Invisible God. Religious images have always been part of spirituality, The 20th century saw moving images emerging on screens, cinemas, television and new modes of streaming. How can we relate to these images as vision for our spiritual lives? Images, symbols, visual metaphors, Christ-figures? We appreciate Lectio Divina. Here we respond to Visio Divina, movie clips, their challenge. Facilitated by Peter Malone msc ~ author, lecturer, founding member of The Film Critics Association and priest. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost: \$60 (BYO lunch). Book www.heartoflife.melbourne, email info@heartoflife.melbourne or tel 03 9890 1101.

**Awaken
PENTECOST 2023****AWAKE, AWAKE, PUT ON YOUR STRENGTH!
(ISAIAH 52:1)****A REGIONAL GATHERING OF OUR CHURCH
DRAWING CLOSE TO THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF GOD****WORSHIP | PRAYER | TALKS | WORKSHOPS****27TH MAY, 1PM - 4:30PM****AVILA COLLEGE, 35 CHARLES ST, MOUNT WAVERLEY****Schedule:**

12:30pm: Doors open

1pm: Rally

2pm: Workshops & afternoon tea

3:15pm: Closing Rally

Four streams available:

Adults

Youth (Year 7-12)

Children (Year 3-6)

Children (Prep-year 2)

WITH SPECIAL GUEST ROB FALZON (MEN ALIVE, BRISBANE)**Contact:** info@awakenmelbourne.com.au**Free entry, but registration is essential:** www.trybooking.com/CIBCN**REGISTER HERE:****HOSTED BY:**

St Benedict's Burwood | St Scholastica's Bennettswood
Holy Family Mt Waverley | St Christopher's Syndal
Holy Saviour Vermont Sth | St Francis Xavier & St Clare Box Hill
Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community

HEALING MASS**Charismatic Mass
& Eucharistic Adoration
with Healing Prayers**

With the Sisters from Daughters of Carmel, Indonesia

**FRIDAY, 02 JUNE 2023
07.00 - 08.30 PM****ST GREGORY THE GREAT CHURCH
71 WILLIAMSONS ROAD, DONCASTER****INFO Vera:** doncaster@cam.org.au

Supported by

**HOLY
TRINITY
COMMUNITY**