

**ST JOSEPH'S PARISH**  
OUYEN, PATCHEWOLLOCK, TEMPY, WALPEUP, UNDERBOOL



The Ascension of the Lord

21<sup>st</sup> May 2023

### Entrance Antiphon

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.

### 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 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

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

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

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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 Mt 28:16-20**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

**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 commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

## **Communion Antiphon**

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

## **Reflection by Richard Leonard**

When I was a boy, Sir Edmund Hillary came to speak at my school. I can remember the fuss surrounding the visit of the first person to scale Mt Everest. Some of my usually dour teachers were in awe of Sir Edmund. There was more

than a little hero worship going on that day. Rather surprisingly in his address Sir Edmund did not say very much about his adventure to the peak. He was much more interested in what we do to each other on the plains than what he did on the mountain top. He spoke about justice, peace and the dignity of humanity. I can vividly remember him sending us out at the end of his speech to create a better world for all people everywhere. When questions came, there were several about whether he felt closer to God at the top of Mt Everest, and although he said he did, he mentioned there were life and death moments on the way up and down, where God's presence and companionship were much more real to him.

Hillary's visit to my school is not far from what happened to the disciples in today's Gospel. Matthew tells us that the eleven men who worshipped Jesus were commissioned by him to go out to the world and they were promised that he would stay with them until the end of time.

Worship is a word Catholics don't use all that often. We tend to use it in a secular way like in 'hero worship' or 'not an altar at which I worship'. The concept behind this word, however, is an important one. To worship God is to admit that we are not God. We are creatures and our worship is directed toward our Creator, Saviour and Sustainer.

Whether we realise it or not we are commissioned to go out to the world at the end of every liturgy, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' This changes our worship. We are not here just for ourselves. Mass, which comes from a word meaning 'to be sent', indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world in and through us, and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish.

God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is not distant to our lives or impervious to our needs. In this Mass, then, let's thank God for the mountain top of Christ's Ascension that lifts us up out of our everyday life to celebrate that we are creatures, not the Creator. Let us hear again Christ's call to each of us to move away from the complacency of a spiritual cafeteria to a church moving out to change the world. And let's rejoice in Christ's presence which abides before us, behind us, over and in us, within and without, now and forever. Amen.

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**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:**

**Sick:** Cora Jardine, Judi Floyd, John Nihill and Kath Monaghan

May our healing God touch the lives of our sick bringing them comfort & peace. 🙏

**Pentecost Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> May**

**Ouyen: 11:00am**

**Welcomer: Louise Fitzpatrick Leach**

**Reader: Gerald Leach**

**Prayers of the Faithful: Leo O'Callaghan**

**Offertory Procession: Peter & Marie Shaddock**

**Eucharistic Minister: Lorna Keam**

**Projectionist: Marie Shaddock**

**Mass Timetable**

Ouyen each Sunday at 11:00am

Underbool 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9:00am

**Weekday Masses this week:** Friday at 10:00

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** each Thursday from 2pm – 5pm, with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy said at 3pm and the Rosary at 4pm; all welcome.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Father will be available after the 11:00am Mass, or at any other time by appointment.

**Prayer For Australia:** Eternal Father, I offer you the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ offered at all the Masses throughout the world, in atonement, and to protect Australia from the sin of abortion, euthanasia, and from every evil. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Collections 14<sup>th</sup> May**

**Ouyen: \$172.40**

**Planned Giving: \$110.00**

**Church Cleaning:**

**May: Margaret & Leo Collins**

**Presbytery Cleaning:**

**May: Carmel Vallance**

**Pope's Prayer Intention for May: For Church movements and groups** - We pray that church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of the needy in the world.

**Feast Days this Week**

22<sup>nd</sup> May St Rita of Cascia

24<sup>th</sup> May Our Lady Help of Christians

26<sup>th</sup> May St Philip Neri

**Prayer for Religious Freedom**

Heavenly Father, we pray for our politicians to work with faith leaders, teachers, parents and guardians of children, our community of faith, to protect religious freedom within our religious educational institutions. We pray for the pastorally sensitive formation of children in accordance with sound biological anthropology and the traditional teachings of the faith of their families. We ask this through the intercession of Australia's patronesses, Our Lady Help of Christians, and St Mary of the Cross. Amen.

**Beginning in June, our monthly dinners restart**

Father Shaiju has welcomed the opportunity of gathering as a parish with whomever is able or available, to have dinner and discussion. Father is offering to give Benediction and say the rosary of a Thursday afternoon at 5pm followed by dinner at the Club. As noted in our Parish Meeting, we will also look at rotating these events to dinner & lunch options for those who find the night time more difficult. At this stage no date has been set but we will begin in June.

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**The Annual Diocesan Mass Count** continues this weekend and throughout May.

**Many thanks** to all those who helped out with the funeral on Monday. Once again it was beautifully done, and you really have made a difference! 🙌

**The Catholic Charity Aid to the Church in Need** has launched their "**Nigeria: Young. Faithful. Crucified**" global campaign. Did you know that in 2022 a total of **5,014 Christians** were killed for their faith in Nigeria? These were not Nigerians who happened to be Christian, but rather, their allegiance to the Lord saw them face a brutal death. This is a Church being crucified with Christ. Please pray for the people of Nigeria. To watch testimonies and to make an offering visit [www.aidtochurch.org/nigeriaglobal](http://www.aidtochurch.org/nigeriaglobal)

**CWL Day of Reflection, Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>** in Warracknabeal, all welcome. Please see flyer on the tables at the back and see Marie if you would like to go; car-pooling possible.

**What does the word Paraclete Mean?** ‘I will send you **another Paraclete** to be with you forever.’ Our Lord was a *Paraclete*, and he would send *another*. Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, para-llel. They run alongside each other. A paraclete is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case. That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor *par excellence*. Our Lord promises another Paraclete dwelling within us, individually and also as the body of Christ’s disciples. The Holy Spirit advocates our cause and assists us to live Truth-fully. This Paraclete particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth. We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two Paracletes, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy. – Fr Michael Tate

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: May 21-28, 2023** The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2023 is “Do good; seek justice.” In what ways can we promote and foster a deeper relationship with those of other faiths that live around us? What is it we have in common? What myths can we disprove? What can we learn from each other?

**Our Lady Help of Christians** “This is your Mother” Under the title of Help of Christians, Mary was chosen as Patroness of Australasia by the first Provincial Synod convened by Archbishop Bede Polding, in Sydney, in 1844. The fledgling colonies needed Mary’s help at that time, just as we do today! We are helped through Mary’s powerful intercession and through the example of her life in the Gospels. *Our Lady Help of Christians – Pray for us!*

**The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage**, “In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop” commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop’s life and ministry. If you are interested there is a brochure on the table at the back and for any questions please call 02 89124818.

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