



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 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

*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.'

### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ could have continued to appear to groups of followers, century after century – until now!

But, he didn't, because the disciples had to be weaned of his Risen-mode of appearance among them lest they think that the victory over Death is meant for human beings alone.

But, as St Paul says, the Risen Lord is the One who 'fills *all* creation' with His power radiating out from his Risen Humanity.

However, dis-appearance is not the same as absence. We believe that Our Risen Lord is present in many modes, including as St Paul says '... the *Church which is His Body*'.

That is why the figures in white rebuke the disciples: 'Why do you stand looking into Heaven?'

The Disciples had, rather, to ready themselves to be the Spirit-filled body of Jesus Christ in their own time and place. As we do.

We might pause for a moment to stop staring into Heaven, to ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost in order to be 'The Church which is His Body.'

mtate@bigpond.com

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# The Living Word

The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

24 May 2020

### 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.*

- 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.)
- 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.)
- 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



# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH, North Ryde

191 Cox's Road, North Ryde NSW 2113

Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel  
(Michaelite Fathers)



Tel: 9888 2569  
(24May2020)

Fax: 9888 5076

E-mail: [parish@holyspiritnorthryde.org.au](mailto:parish@holyspiritnorthryde.org.au)

Web: [www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au](http://www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au)

Michaelite Fr Stan Kluk CSMA PP Fr George Gorzkowski CSMA

Community: Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS: Suspended indefinitely. Check website for streamed Masses.

WEEKDAY MASS: Suspended indefinitely.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next Week: Pentecost (A) Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23.

## Fr Stan writes ...

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension. In our Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. The words in this reading are the last words that Jesus says to his disciples in Matthew's Gospel. What does Jesus tell his disciples to do? He implores us to make disciples, to teach, to baptise. We are not that different from those who heard the teachings of the first disciples. We too become members of the Church through Baptism. The teachings of others and the example of their lives and their actions make us want to be members of the Church. Of course, the saints and other holy people are witnesses to Christian discipleship but so are members of our own family and parish community. Everyone who helps us to understand what it means to be a Christian is doing what Jesus told his first disciples to do: go forth and make disciples.

### An Ascension Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,  
right before your Ascension into heaven  
you told your apostles to be His witnesses  
to the ends of the earth  
upon receiving the Holy Spirit.  
May we be similarly inspired  
to spread your Gospel message in word  
and deed,  
according to your will for us.  
May we do so joyfully, with your help,  
your guidance, and your grace!  
And remembering this glorious event,  
help us to seek what is above, Heaven,  
where you are seated at the right hand of God the Father!  
AMEN.



MY JESUS, I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE PRESENT IN THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT. I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS AND I DESIRE TO RECEIVE YOU IN MY SOUL. SINCE I CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT RECEIVE YOU SACRAMENTALLY, COME AT LEAST SPIRITUALLY INTO MY HEART. I EMBRACE YOU AS IF YOU WERE ALREADY THERE AND UNITE MYSELF WHOLLY TO YOU. NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU. AMEN.

SPIRITUAL ACT OF COMMUNION



Come Holy Spirit,  
FILL THE HEARTS  
of your faithful  
AND KINDLE IN THEM  
the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit  
and they shall be created.  
AND YOU SHALL RENEW  
the face of the earth.  
AMEN



### NEXT SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> May we celebrate PENTECOST OUR PARISH FEAST DAY!

Usually our Feast Day is a big event for our parish, celebrated with Mass and an International Food Fair, which has become very popular over the last few years. Unfortunately, it is not possible for this year due to the COVID-19 restrictions. We continue to pray for an end to this pandemic and for all our parishioners that are greatly missed. We will plan for a bigger than ever Pentecost celebration in 2021 – God willing!



Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians will be celebrated on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. This is our National Patronal Feast. Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us and for Australia in this time of pandemic.

CHURCH OPEN FOR MASS from this coming week. A maximum of 10 people ONLY are permitted to attend. All places for each Mass must be pre-booked no more than 5 days in advance by phoning the parish office on 9888 2569. Names must be recorded with contact details and proper hygiene procedures followed. Bookings should be on rotation to give everyone who wishes the opportunity to attend Mass.

### PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Craig Kooyman, Anita Haigh, Ines Greco recently deceased.

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Maria & Nino Rossi, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Vincenzo Surace, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Angelo, Carmela & Paul Scicluna, Gregory Zammit, Christopher Cissie, Pauline Zahra, Lina Maria & Joe Mallia, Natividad Almolor, Noreen French and the deceased members of the Zammit and Zahra families.