

## SUNDAY MASS

### 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.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 47.

### RESPONSE:

*God has gone up with shouts of joy. The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.*

- All peoples, clap your hands.  
Cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,  
The 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 reigns over the nations.  
God sits upon his holy throne. **R**

**SECOND READING:** Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Alleluia, alleluia. Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the close of the age. Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL:** Luke 24:46-53.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

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

## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

### Mon 30 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 68; John 16:29-33

Others will always let us down, as Jesus knew, often unintentionally. But Jesus held on to his inner peace, showing us that we are never truly alone. How can you find peace today in a situation that threatens you?

### Tue 31 May VISITATION OF OUR LADY

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 1:39-56

Both Mary and Elizabeth were acutely aware of the presence of God in their lives. Perhaps we can take a moment to treasure a time – or times – in our own lives when we were aware that God had come to us.

### Wed 1 Jun St Justin, M

Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 68; John 17:11-19

When praying with others, have you ever felt the presence of the Spirit surprise you with such an intensity that tears fall from your eyes? Never be embarrassed by these, for they assure us of the Spirit's presence.

### Thu 2 Jun (Ss Marcellinus & Peter, Ms)

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16; John 17:20-26

While all paths are different, whatever path we may discern for ourselves in life, God is with us in all of them. Be joyful that God is with you wherever you are.

### Fri 3 Jun St Charles Lwanga & comps, Ms

Romans 8:31-39; Psalm 124; Matthew 5:1-12

St Charles Lwanga and the 22 Ugandan martyrs had faith so strong that they were willing to undergo death by being burned alive, giving rise to renewed hope and strengthened faith for all who witnessed their choice.

### Sat 4 Jun Liturgy of the Day

Acts 28:16-20.30-31; Psalm 11; John 21:20-25

In today's gospel Jesus reminds Peter, and us, that he calls us to follow him, regardless of what everyone else is doing. I am to keep my eyes on him alone and walk the path on which he has set me.

### Sun 5 Jun PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104; John 14:15-16.23-26

God's Spirit comes to us in might and power, but also in subtlety and silence. Am I open and attuned to God's Spirit in the 'noise' of my life? Am I open to the fire God is lighting in me?

(KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) M=Martyr

# Catholic Link

## ASCENSION

Ascension of our Lord • Year C  
Divine Office: Week III • 29 May 2022

# EXPANDING UNIVERSALITY

**A** Gospel verse most pertinent to the Feast of the Ascension is this: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32). It suggests an expanding sense of universality. Let's explore this in the light of some of the challenges of our time such as growing nationalism and jingoism, unbridled religious fundamentalism (of all kinds) and attitudes of gender and racial superiority.

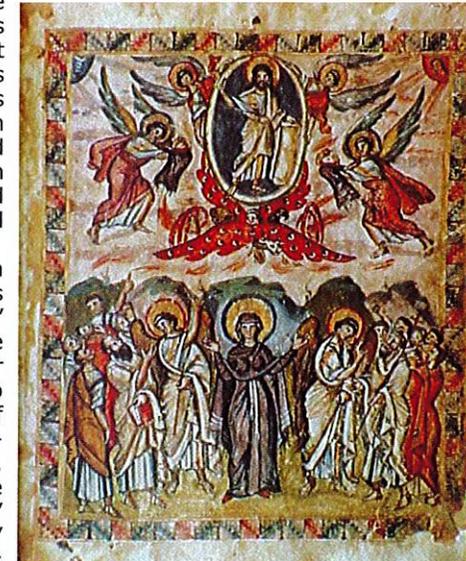
Christ's ascension relativizes all cultures and "-isms". Jesus' departure from the limitations of our earthly existence into the universal realm of his Father creates an all-embracing field of vision. While we cannot see beyond our noses, Jesus' "ascension perspective" sees no boundaries between language, class, gender, culture and race (see Revelation 7:9).

Against this backdrop of pluralism, Pope Francis never tires of calling for dialogue, dialogue and more dialogue. Let's unpack that word. The word dialogue come from the Greek words *dia* and *logos*. *Dia* means "through"; *logos* translated to "word", "discourse" or "meaning". Dialogue is thus a conversation in which people think together in relationship.

But there is more. John's Gospel refers to Jesus "in the beginning" as the "Logos" – the Word. The Logos Incarnate (Word-made-flesh) has become the site, the basis, of *dia-logos* – dialogue with all peoples. We encounter each other "through him". The accomplishment of God's universal purpose is embodied in his birth, death, resurrection and ascension.

Ja-well-no-fine, we might say in South Africa, but what does this mean for us? Quite simply,

that there is hope. Christian hope has a vital mediating role to play in public discourse. To be Christian means never to give up hope, even for enemies and persecutors. God's plan of salvation is inclusive, never exclusive. There is a "breadth and length and height and depth of the mystery" (Eph 3:18) that can never be fathomed. The love of Christ "surpasses knowledge" (Eph 3:19). Yes, we may throw up our hands in despair, whether it be at the micro level of our human relationships, or at the macro level of global tensions. But Christians are trained by their faith to wait on the One "who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine" (Eph 3:20).



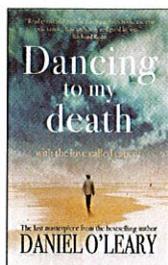
The Ascension of our Lord in the Rabbula Gospels, 6th century Syria

The Feast of the Ascension is a celebration of plurality and diversity yet at the same time of universality and inclusivity. Our mission to promote dialogue, rooted in prayer, begins with the Ascension of Christ, who, as he ascended, instructed us: "Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News."

That is not to say that it will be a walk in the park. Jesus warned his followers that his call to love, to forgive, and to renounce oneself (Lk 6:27-31) would not always be easy and could result in misunderstanding and rejection. Nevertheless, Christian hope can never give up on the limitless range of God's mercy. Despite our fears (and remember the first disciples locked themselves up in a room "out of fear") the crucified and risen Jesus promised to remain with us till the end of time. All authority is his and he is the Lord of all nations and all times (Mt 28:18).

Priest, teacher, and bestselling author Daniel O'Leary journals his thoughts and feelings during his cancer journey. Completed just before his death in January 2019, this book is an incredibly raw and courageous account. It pulls no punches when describing his struggle with the diagnosis of cancer, the treatment, and the emotional rollercoaster of facing his death.

During his final illness Daniel found great clarity about what is important in life. There is a tough honesty here, encouraging people to explore what Christianity means to them.



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Parish Priest: Fr David Evans  
 Secretary: Judy Joseph  
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St Patrick's Parish: Mass Times	Tues 09h30	Wed No mass	Thurs 18h00	Fri 08h00	Sat 08h00 17h30	Sun 07h30 10h00 17h30	Confessions Thurs 17h30 Sat 08h30
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Baptism of children: Book with the parish secretary and collect the form. Attendance of one short instruction is required.

Catechism co-ordinator Mike Ward 083 300 7473

Please support your parish: "St Patrick's Catholic Church" Benoni, Standard Bank. Current Account number: 021 095 612 (Branch code: 013042). To join our monthly Dedicated Giving contact Tanya; bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za or on 060 327 2998.

Our "Society of St Vincent de Paul" helps the poor – on our behalf – irrespective of race, colour or creed. Please support them: Society of St Vincent de Paul, Nedbank, Northmead, Account no. 1012534707 (Branch: 19484200).

Pray for all who are ill especially; Cedric Spencer; Ken; Russell Johnson; a parishioner in need of prayer; Dave Hook; Grant Pooley; Edna Passmore; Sharon Towee; Wendy Hayward; Dave Williams; Tanya Jarvis; Beth Cronje; Rita Lawson; Schivonne Pretorius; Wendy; Brandon Osthuizen; Graham Jones; Naomi; Megan; Lorna Cochran; Michael Lamont; Michelle Gordinho; Margaret Johnston; Monica Geral; Simon Eldridge; Leonard Seetal; Alex Jabour; Laurence Weber; Fr Martin; Kayle Naidoo and Pat Pollitt.

**The Ascension of our Lord**  
**Sunday Missal page 849 Weekday Missal page 563**

*As they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. (Acts 1:9)*

At the Last Supper, when Jesus told the apostles that he was leaving, they were deeply disturbed (John 14:1). Yet after the Ascension, they were filled with joy (Luke 24:52). Why the change?

The apostles' sadness gave way to joy because of two promises Jesus had made to them: that he would be with them always and that after returning to his Father's house, he would prepare a place for them (Matthew 28:20; John 14:2-3). It's this second promise that we celebrate today. Jesus has ascended to heaven, and through his Spirit, he is preparing us for the day when he comes again in glory.

When Jesus ascended, he made all the angels subject to him (1 Peter 3:22; Ephesians 1:21). This means not only those angels who had already submitted to Jesus; it also means the fallen angels who serve the devil. Enthroned in heaven, Jesus has the power to restrain their malice and protect us from them. That's why he taught us to pray, "Deliver us from the evil one" (Matthew 6:13).

When Jesus ascended to heaven, his intercessory work for the Church continued. He is our advocate before the Father (1 John 2:1). This is no small task. It means that Jesus is always going to his Father on our behalf. It means that we will always have access to God's presence-whether we are doing well or not so well.

The ascended Christ has also empowered his Church to fulfil its mission. Paul said that God has made Jesus "head over all things," including "the church" (Ephesians 1:22). This means that we can trust Jesus and have great confidence in him, no matter how bleak things look. Jesus is in heaven. He is interceding for us. He has overcome even the demons. He is supreme over all creation. And best of all, he will never, ever abandon us. Isn't that comforting?

*"Jesus, I put my hope and my trust in you."*

Given the gift of eternal life in Baptism: **Chibuikem Onyekelu and Khulani Nwamba.**

Pray for all those who have died especially **Lidia Pereira.** May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

This coming Friday 3 June, is 'First Friday' and mass is at 8.00am as usual.

**Saint Vincent de Paul** will be taking their monthly collection, after all masses this coming Sunday 5 June.

