

The Ascension of the Lord (Year A) 24 May 2020



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2020 Sacraments Program

Our Sacramental Program has been suspended until further notice.

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK:

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics ninety per cent of households with children under 15 years have access to the Internet, with an average number of seven devices per household; ninety-nine percent of young people aged 15 – 17 years are online averaging 18 hours per week of online activity.

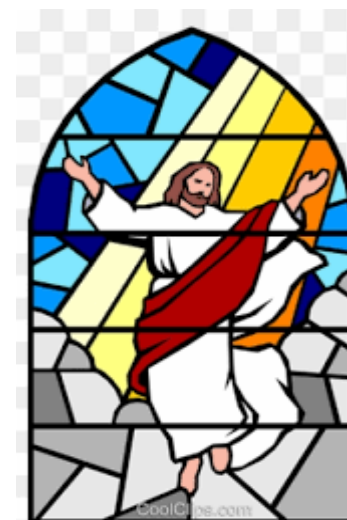
As this is Child Protection Week, the Archdiocese has developed a 5 minute Cyber Safety Survey for adults and children. This survey is made up of 26 questions, 13 of these questions are to be answered by adults and the other 11 are to be answered by children and young people.

The survey is anonymous and will take only 5 minutes to complete. The Archdiocese has asked us if we could please promote this following link as one way of protecting our children and young adults.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TC7CYO3>

Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm
Sunday 9.30am & 5pm
Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)
Tuesday evening 7.30pm
Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm
Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,
Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am
Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am
Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.
Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

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Please remember in your prayers the following
for whom Masses will be offered.



Recently Deceased: Michael Taffa, Gwen Kennedy, Terry Tully, Elvira Bonanno, Fr Peter Morrissey, Fr Paddy McAuliffe, Saniora Antouny

Anniversaries: Nadie Isgro, Santor Rizzo, Harry Dah Dah, Charlie DiSomma, Lauren Hew, Fr John Pearce, Caterina Lorizio, Carmen Cullinan, Rema Flannery, Caterina Lorizio

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betro, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Vladimir Susic, Ruby Madera, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

Please pray for the sick especially:

Veronica Rutherford, Baby Willow Rose Frazer, Paul Dovico, Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Imogen Warner, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther Tully, Gary and Leslie McGrath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, , Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Viteznik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfeoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

Parish Giving - Thank you to those who have donated to the parish via our 'support us' tab on our website. MasterCard or Visa donations can be made securely via BPoint Secure Payment Service.

To make a payment to the Parish click on the drop-down box and select a payment type (Biller code). This will enable us to allocate your donation. (1st collection, 2nd collection, general donation etc)

You may also opt for a monthly debit to your credit card. Please call or email the parish office for an authority form to have this option set up for you.

Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic

The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here-

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

CWL Silver Circle Week 10 Results

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------|---------------|
| 1 st Prize | No. 44 | \$100.00 | Carol Pomroy |
| 2 nd Prize | No. 18 | \$50.00 | Nicky Antonio |

Many thanks to everyone who participated and congratulations to all our winners over the 10 weeks.

**ST AMBROSE CHURCH IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED
DUE TO COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

Act of Spiritual Communion

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 into 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.

Your intentions will be offered to God by us
in our private masses.

Fr. Brian Egan (Parish priest)
Fr. Chaminda Wanigasena (Assistant Priest)



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PROJECT COMPASSION 2020

COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life saving.

**DO YOU HAVE PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES
AND CASH TO HAND IN?**

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes, or cash, to parishes or schools at this time.

Did you know that you can go online at 'lent.caritas.org.au' and securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney, NSW 2001. Alternatively, if you require assistance with your PC Box or cash please call our friendly team on 1800 024 413.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Br Julian's Reflection – The Ascension of the Lord



“You Galileans, why are you just standing here looking into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken up from among you into heaven will return as certainly and mysteriously as he left.” Acts 1, 1-11

“Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations...
And know that I am with you at all times;
even to the end of time.”
Matthew 28, 16-20

Even a cursory look at the Gospels reveals that their authors wrote with purpose and a sense of order, each intent on supporting the communities to which they belonged as they tried to deal with opposition and persecution as they went about living and proclaiming the “kingdom of God” in a world that was reluctant to accept them and their message. So, it was by design, rather than by coincidence, that Matthew, in his very first chapter, identifies Jesus, as the fulfilment of Isaiah’s prophecy and names him as “Emmanuel...God-is-with-us” (Matthew 1, 23 and Isaiah 7, 14), and then, in his concluding chapter, records Jesus’ parting words as “And know that I am with you at all times; yes, to the end of time” (Matthew 28, 29). Matthew is in no doubt that God, in the person of Jesus, has made his home among us and still dwells within us. The challenge, of course, for all of us is to live our lives as disciples of Jesus, ever-conscious of the fact that God is always in and among us.

In this context, I share with you some insights of two contemporary American poets, Christian Wiman and Mary Oliver. In his book, *My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer*, Wiman makes several comments that are very apposite to today’s gospel-reading and echo what we heard in the gospel-reading of the Third Sunday of Easter:

“If every Bible is lost, if every church crumbles to dust, if the last believer in the last prayer opens her eyes and lets it all finally go, Christ will appear on this earth as calmly and casually as he appeared to the disciples walking to Emmaus after his death, who did not recognize this man to whom they had pledged their very lives; this man whom they had

seen beaten, crucified, abandoned by God; this man who, after walking the dusty road with them, after sharing an ordinary meal and discussing the scriptures, had to banish once more in order to make them see.”
(Christian Wiman, *My Bright Abyss*, Macmillan, NY 2013)

Earlier, in the same book, Wiman observes: “...the very act of attention troubles the tyranny of the ordinary”. This is a wake-up call for us to look for God in the ordinary, in the mundane events of life, in the people we meet, in nature, in art, in everything and everyone we encounter. Isn’t it interesting that, in today’s first reading from Acts, the two men in white who appeared to the disciples after Jesus had disappeared from their sight, brought their attention back to the ordinary: “Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky?” The Divine is present in the ordinary experiences of life. The Divine is all around us. Mary Oliver, in her poem, *My Work Is Loving the World* echoes the same sentiments

My work is loving the world.
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—
equal seekers of sweetness.
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.
Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?
Am I no longer young, and still not half-perfect? Let me
keep my mind on what matters,
which is my work,
which is mostly standing still and learning to be
astonished. (September 2013)

What does all this have to do with the liturgy that puts the focus on the ascension of Jesus into heaven? Most cars, these days, are fitted with devices for guiding drivers to destinations with which they are not familiar. These instruments are called Sat Navs or TomToms or Garmins, or have some other commercial name. When we take a wrong turn, the little voice comes to our rescue and announces a need to alter course with the word “recalibrating”. Today’s first reading gives us a glimpse of the disciples engaged in the process of recalibrating after the departure of Jesus has forced them to take measures for plotting new directions in their lives.

The disciples had settled into a level of comfortability. Jesus had been their guide and companion for three whole years. They were used to

having him around. One moment he was with them and, then, suddenly he was dead. Then followed his resurrection and his startling reappearances among them. Finally, with next to no notice, he was taken from them. To make things even worse, two strangers appear and reprimand them, telling them that they have no reason to be surprised at what has just happened. After all, God, the Divine Being is not someone we can hold on to, or someone we can treat as a possession or a security blanket. That's the attitude or mindset that the two mysterious men are intent on shaking out of the disciples. And that's something that's worthy of our reflection. We can easily slip into thinking that we deserve to feel that God is near us because we have done our level best to live good, moral lives, to support the needy and to be faithful to prayer. Yet, there are times when we feel as low as ditch water or as dry as dust when it comes to feeling God's presence.

But Jesus' parting words could not be clearer. He says nothing about looking after ourselves or assuring us that we will feel him or God or the Holy Spirit close to us. Instead, he urges the disciples, and us, their successors, to get out there and be good news to everyone we encounter. Almost another lifetime ago, when I presided at Australian Catholic University graduation ceremonies, I often reminded the graduates that they might well be the only gospel that some people would ever hear, see or encounter. That was a reminder for myself as much as for the hundreds of graduates in front of me. There is nothing particularly unclear, confusing or wishy-washy about the wording Matthew gives to Jesus's parting message to his disciples. Moreover, he took the calculated risk that his disciples would be able to measure up to the task, of course, with the help and guidance of God's Spirit. Jesus envisaged a community made up of all nations, with no peoples excluded. Describing himself as the one with all legitimate authority on earth and in heaven, he sends his followers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to follow all that he has commanded, never forgetting that he is with them at all times. There's a universal ring about that. Yet, even though we live in countries made up of people from all nations. I wonder sometimes if we really make them all welcome in our church and social groups. Perhaps it's more comfortable to exclude those who live life differently.



JRS FOODBANK

During these unprecedented times people seeking asylum in the community need your help now more than ever. Non-perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are desperately needed and appreciated.

| Food items: | Toiletries: |
|---|-------------------------------|
| - Basmati Rice | - Nappies (large sizes) |
| - Cooking Oil | - Toothpaste and toothbrushes |
| - Long life milk | - Shampoo |
| - Tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas and fruit | - Sanitary pads and napkins |
| - Biscuits and muesli bars | - Razors and shaving foam |
| - Oats and cereal | - Deodorant (male & female) |
| | - Soap |

Thank you for walking with us at this critical time! We provide emergency payments and food to hundreds of individuals, including children to pay for rent and life-saving medications. These individuals do not have access to Centrelink, Medicare, the pharmaceutical benefits scheme so your support is critical.

Please contact Amelia.Savage@jrs.org.au to donate.

 **JRS** AUSTRALIA
REFUGEE SERVICE

