



ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

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The Ascension of the Lord

24 May 2020

Today is the 7th and the last Sunday of Easter Season. The feast of "The Ascension of the Lord" that we celebrate today was actually last Thursday – exactly 40 days after Easter, but because of its importance and for pastoral reasons we are allowed to move it to this Sunday, as we have done today.

"The Ascension of the Lord" is a special event in the life of Jesus and an important feast in the Church. What actually is the meaning of Ascension and what is its significance for us today?

Ascension is a glorification of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The feast of "The Ascension of the Lord" is the hope of our glorification and a guarantee to meet our Lord in heaven. It is a reminder of our salvation, a reminder that our true home is in heaven.

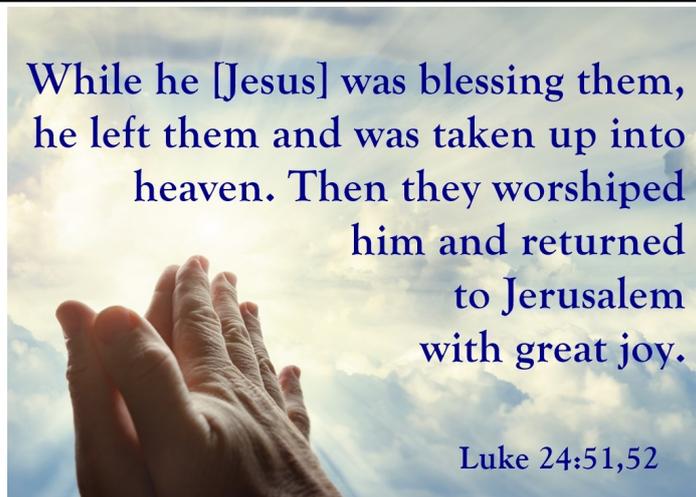
Today, as we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, we rejoice because Jesus has returned to eternal heaven, our real homeland. Heaven is the place, where we experience Jesus, with God the Father, and the Holy Spirit. And it is the ultimate end of our life.

The purpose of Jesus coming down to earth and becoming man is to remind us of our eternal home.

Really, Jesus mission while in this world was to tell about our eternal life with God. Jesus just had to tell people that there is a heaven and they will get there after they die if they are justified.

On next Sunday we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and, we are to wait and keep watch in prayer for the promise of God – the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will also help us to live our lives here on earth so as to prepare for our lives in heaven. So these coming days of prayer are meant for us to renew and reinforce our prayer life as we let our lives be directed by the Holy Spirit. Let us also specially meditate on the Descent of the Holy Spirit in the 3rd Glorious Mystery of the Rosary.

"Lord Jesus, you have ascended to be with the Father and that the real meaning of today's feast is that each of us has been given the status in our Church to be your witnesses throughout the world. Give us your powerful Holy Spirit to enable us to be effective witnesses of your loving concern for all".



While he [Jesus] was blessing them,
he left them and was taken up into
heaven. Then they worshiped
him and returned
to Jerusalem
with great joy.

Luke 24:51,52

From 24th May we can have 10 people at Mass both weekday and Sunday.
If you would love to attend, please contact the Parish Office
(Ph. 3262 2859, email: clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au)
The Holy Mass will be celebrated at 9.00am on
Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Glorious days are coming back... The doors of our church are opening...

Directive was received this week from the Archdiocese of Brisbane, that commencing next week 25 May we can celebrate Holy Masses with 10 people on both weekday and Sunday. If you would love to attend, please inform the Parish Office (Ph. 3262 2859, email: clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au)

We follow the general requirements: the requirements of physical distancing, sanitation and hygiene will still apply.

At the Masses from this Sunday your name, address and phone contacts will need to be recorded and the Church sanitised after Mass.

Social distancing is to be maintained of one person per 4 square metres indoors, 1.5 metres between people.

Use the Hand sanitizer upon entry and exit.

For Mass:

- All Catholics remain dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice.
- Communion is distributed by the presider alone, who should disinfect his hands before and after distributing .
- In the Ordinary Form of the Latin Rite, the Body of Christ should be administered only in the hand and the chalice should be received by the celebrant alone.
- The Sign of Peace should be limited to saying “Peace be with you” with a nod or bow; no hand-shaking or hand-holding should occur here or at the Our Father.
- Hymn books should not be used.
- Collection plates should not be passed from person to person
- Holy water fonts remain empty

Masses will continue to be live-streamed from the Cathedral on Sundays and weekdays.

Funerals may have a maximum of 20 people in attendance indoors or 30 people outdoors in addition to three people to conduct the funeral.

Weddings may have a maximum of 10 people, in addition to the couple and celebrant.

Baptisms may have a maximum of 10 people in attendance.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be offered by appointment with the priest, or during specific hours as determined by each parish.

Communion to the Sick should be taken by priests alone and in general be restricted to Viaticum to the dying, with the current restrictions and precautions to be observed.

Preparation for and celebration of **First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion** should remain on hold.

CAN WE CONTACT YOU If you haven't been receiving our weekly email from the Parish please send an email to the office at: clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au or phone the office with your details.

Next Sunday, 31 May is the Pentecost Sunday

Fifty days after Easter Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and their followers, and the beginning of their Earthly ministry to make disciples of all nations.

Our special prayers this week

We pray that those places which, in the distress of poverty and hunger, now face the presence of the Covid 19 pandemic, not be forgotten by the world, but receive the urgent help which they need.

We pray for those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions.

We pray for our civil leaders during this National Reconciliation Week. May they address the needs of our Indigenous people, showing respect for their customs and beliefs.

We pray for all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery.

We pray for a blessing on our local community, that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for.

We pray for our homes and families, our schools and young people, and all in any kind of need or distress.

CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

O' God, healer of all our ills,
to whom we turn in this time of distress, grant, we pray in the
power of faith, eternal rest to the dead
and comfort to those who mourn,
health to the sick and peace to the
dying, strength to medical workers,
wisdom to our leaders and a spirit of kindness to us all.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

As always in the Lord *Archbishop Mark Coleridge*

In our prayers we remember

Those who have died recently:

Douglas Richard Whittle

Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Elizabeth Whittle, Illa Beckmann

And those who are unwell:

Edward Chan, Duncan Pegg, Charlie Richards, Noreen Martin, Kateri Byrnes, Dhirend Akhil, Patrick (Paddy) Ryan, Nick Newton, Eugene Gaynor, Lauren Carney, Patricia Beveridge, Janice Lewis, Michael Blanchard, Colleen Smythe, Flynn Crowley, Lyndell Sawyer, Ray Pavey, Michael Cashman, Donald Morrisson, Joseph Tam, Bryan Weaver, Alexander Clark, Rosemary Douglas, Danielle Johnson, Gordon Hodge, Maureen Long, James Elliott, Camille Butler-Storms, Mary Ann Marcelo, Isabel Leddick, Carmel Elms, Helen Orosz, Lisa Bowes, Sophia Horrocks, Mario Di Filippo, Norma Fiore, Joan Healy, Dell McHugh, Ken Kipping, Paul White, Edward Clark, Regina Hwan, Deanne Du Bour, Melissa Waka, Agnes Tam, Kerri Smith, El Purwo, Patrick Gallagher, Hellen Passente

Reminder to let us know when names are no longer required to be shown on the sick list.

We give praise and thanks for blessings given and prayers answered. We pray for all our family members, parishioners and benefactors who are in need of prayer and for all those who are facing difficult times. We pray for them and for those who have asked for our prayers.

NO OTHER PLANS...

There is an ancient legend about Jesus' ascension into heaven.

He is met by the angel Gabriel who asks him, "Now that your work is finished, what plans have you made to ensure that the truth that you brought to earth will spread throughout the world?"

Jesus answered, "I have called some fishermen and tax-collectors to walk along with me as I did my Father's will."

"Yes, I know about them," said Gabriel, "but what other plans have you made? "

Jesus replied, "I taught Peter, James and John about the kingdom of God; I taught Thomas about faith; and all of them were with me as I healed and preached to the multitudes."

Gabriel replied, "But you know how unreliable that lot was. Surely you must have other plans to make sure your work was not in vain."

Jesus quietly replied to Gabriel, "I have no other plans. I am depending on them!!"

Let us bring Glory to God by completing His work!

He said, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, (Acts 2:1-11) and you shall be witnesses for me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the very ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - Gospel Reflection

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

...© Dianne Bergant CSA

Parish Administration

Parish Administrator: Fr. Biju Thomas
Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Greer
Family and Sacramental Ministry: Mrs Jane Cameron
Community & Mission Council Chair: Mrs Mary-Caroline van Paassen

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 8.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm, Friday: 8.30am-12.00pm

Facebook: facebook.com/St. Agatha's Catholic Parish Clayfield

Aggies Youth: facebook.com/aggiesyouth

Local Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Representative: Georgia Allan (0456 441 717) lsr.clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au

St. Agatha's Catholic Primary School

6 Hunter Lane Clayfield Qld 4011. Phone: 3326 9222

School Principal: Ms Anne-Marie Maw

APRE: Mr Jake Knowles

Outside School Hours Care Coordinator: Roxanne Grogan