

# ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

17-23 Stevens Road, Vermont, VIC 3133

Phone: (03) 9412 8499

Email: [foresthill@cam.org.au](mailto:foresthill@cam.org.au)

Website: [www.sttimothys.org.au](http://www.sttimothys.org.au)

# ASCENSION OF THE LORD—YEAR B

15-16 MAY 2021

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

Secretaries: Millicent (Tuesday - 9am-4pm, Friday, 1pm-5pm)

Corrie (Wed-Thurs, 9am - 3pm)



## UP AND AWAY

The significance of the Ascension is fully appreciated in the world of art. Some Ascension art can be underwhelming, such as a pair of feet portrayed on the ceiling of a Church. You are supposed to look up, see these feet sticking out of the ceiling, and realise it is a portrayal of Jesus ascending. It probably works to some extent. More inspiring art though helps us conceive the human and divine Jesus going before us to his Father in heaven. He is going to the divine realm where he belongs, but depictions of his physical ascent remind us that he is human like us, and where he goes we can hope to follow.

Images of Jesus's physical ascent serves as a final declaration of Jesus' humanity. Jesus has real physical presence in this world and in heaven. They say to us that Jesus ascended to heaven with his humanity, and not just his divinity. Jesus is a human being who is already with the Father in heaven. There is a union of God and humanity in heaven. If one human being is in heaven, it is possible for others.

-David M. McLean O.P.

## GONE FOR GOOD

Imagine the emotional turmoil inside the disciples. First he was here. Then he was gone. Then he was here again. And then he was gone for good. Jesus. Let's look.

**Jesus is with us by means of the presence of his Spirit in us.**

• "First he was here. Then he was gone." They had lived with Jesus in his public life and they loved it. They thought it would last forever. Not so. Abruptly he was gone. They were not at all prepared for the enormity of his torture and killing, the destruction of their lives, of their friend and their Lord.

Gone, gone, gone, gone.

• "Then he was here again." We know how difficult his resurrection was for the apostles. They doubted it and rejected it, even as the women welcomed it with full hearts. He appeared many times and kindly helped his followers to accept the fact that he was alive again.

• "And then he was gone for good." When they had gotten used to his new presence, guess what. The Ascension took place. This presented the obvious question. Does the story really end with Jesus being "gone, gone, gone," ascended to heaven? The point of God's taking flesh had been to show how completely present he is to us always, living in our material world. So has he now absented himself forever? Are we back to where we started?

You and I must look for the answer, because it contains the entire Christian reality. We can do it using the readings for this Sunday. Look upon the First Reading as a continuation of Jesus' frequent talks about how he will send the Holy Spirit to us (Paraclete, Teacher, Comforter), after he has ascended to the Father. All who believe and who open their hearts will receive the Spirit.

What is the Spirit? Is it simply a dose of "grace" that we earn or receive in order to be holy? Or that Jesus and the Father sent to give us a break? Or a "help"? Or some kind of power coming from God? Listen well: the Holy Spirit is all of these and none of these. The Spirit is: *GOD*.

Not just a representative of God, not just a descending dove, not even just a point of fire over our heads. It is the complete, true reality of God. And it is marked forever by Jesus' entire life, death and resurrection.

Jesus is with us by means of the presence of his Spirit in us. This Spirit quietly makes us able to say yes to faith. He hopes we will accept his offer of this Spirit. If we do, our souls *mingle* with God's own reality and we become new flesh for the incarnate God.

-John Foley SJ

## A PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

*Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.*

*Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.*

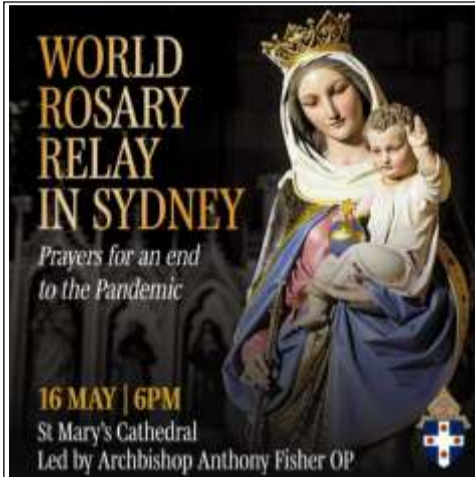
*My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.*



## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

**"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."**  
 – 1John 4:15

How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don't think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to joyfully share your witness with others.



### HOLY ROSARY RELAY IN SYDNEY 16TH MAY 2021

Join the Holy Father, Pope Francis; Archbishop Fisher and the entire Catholic community around the world in praying the Holy Rosary during the month of

May asking for Our Lady's intercession to bring an end to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Holy Rosary will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel via this link: <https://youtu.be/hDteaSywyeI>



### INDIA COVID-19 EMERGENCY APPEAL

COVID-19 is causing widespread devastation across India. The most marginalised communities, many already living in poverty, are being hit the hardest.

Your urgent support today will provide immediate assistance to vulnerable communities impacted by this crisis.



<https://caritas.org.au/donate/india-appeal/>

### Our Thanksgiving Online Payment Portal is PARISH PAY PORTAL



<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=116521&langPref=en-CA>

Gratitude for your continuing support.

You may also opt to use the **direct debit facility**, email or call us to submit or for printed application form or, the Parish bank details.

ROSTERS:	6:00PM	9:00AM
<b>EUCCHARIST MINISTERS</b>		
♦ This Week	Susan Chen	Chin L Tay
♦ Next week	Sr June	Laura Cigana
<b>PROCLAIMERS</b>		
♦ This Week C/P:	Maria Deayton	Stephen Fan
♦ Next week C/P:	Karen Dermietzel	Daphne Hickman
<b>COUNTERS</b>		
This Week: Kelvin Chen / Michael Yii		
Next Week: Mary Choy / Eileen Tam		



### CHAPLAINCY APPEAL 2021

This weekend is the **CHAPLAINCY APPEAL**.

Donations from our parish community will help Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic

chaplains can continue to faithfully meet the emotional and spiritual needs of the vulnerable, isolated and marginalized in our community by providing pastoral and spiritual support. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and a financial donation to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing loneliness, illness, pain, grief and death.

You can donate using envelopes available or online at [www.ccam.org.au](http://www.ccam.org.au) or call (03) 9287 5513.



### NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE (PARISH MASS COUNT)

We are now on our 3rd week of Mass count. For this weekend, the gender of attenders will be counted.



To Michael & Jenny Keel and To Adrian & Maureen Farrell



### MASS ONLINE

#### ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE

Masses are livestreamed daily on our Archdiocesan YouTube channel and on Sundays are available to view on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV).

#### BOX HILL PARISH

Daily Masses: <https://www.facebook.com/GBHparish>

Sunday Masses also on:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GreaterBoxHillParish>

#### MASS FOR YOU AT HOME

Available at Network Ten - 10 Play

### MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 6:00 PM Sunday: 9:00 AM

Mass in Vietnamese : 5:00 PM (All Sundays)

VIETNAMESE ENQUIRIES: AHN LOC 0434 239 212 or  
 ANDY TRAN 04 22 382 109

### WEEKDAYS:

- ♦ Wednesday & Thursday, 9:15 am
- ♦ 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am, Anointing Mass
- ♦ Every Friday, 10:00 am



## Important INFORMATION

### MISSION PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESE

#### UPDATE FROM FR TONY KERIN

At the Clergy gathering on April 28, the Archbishop presented the plan to develop and renew the outreach of the Church in the Archdiocese by bringing parishes together to work as Missions. The shape of the plan will be determined by the people in the parishes for it will be the local factors which decide what sort of mission each grouping of parishes will become. This is not a plan being imposed from above, but a commissioning of local communities to devise their best plan to create these missions.

There are currently 208 parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, but as Archbishop Peter noted, Melbourne is a city of cities, each of them distinct and different. There are larger parishes with Catholic populations like 23,000 in Craigieburn and 20,900 in Laverton. But half the parishes of Melbourne have less than 4,000 Catholics. In the 2019 Mass count 64 parishes had a Mass attendance of less than 300 per weekend. Over 100 parishes have fewer than 100 planned giving contributors. The Mass count this May will prove interesting as the Post Covid impact on attendance will become apparent. Of interest, this year's count will also include on-line views for the first time.

However, this plan for missions rather than individual parishes is not just a matter of Mass attendance and collections. It is also about missionary outreach and improving efficiency in meeting the needs of aged care, hospital chaplaincy, schools and sacramental preparation.

In presenting the missionary plan the Archbishop made it clear he is not talking about parish closures or mergers. It is much more about bringing together 4 – 6 parishes of similar attribute and locality to work as a

team bringing the Gospel message and Sacraments to their local area. The plan is to move from the current 56 independent parishes in the eastern region to around 14 missions.

Which Parishes will comprise which Missions are yet to be decided and this is to be discerned through listening to all stakeholders at a series of local meetings over the next two to three years, but the spiritual economy of scale is based on aspirations for Missions each comprising around 17,500 Catholics by census. In some places this will comprise just one parish (Craigieburn, Werribee, Laverton) whereas in the inner south east it could be up to 8 parishes!

There will of course be anomalies and exceptions, determined by the uniqueness of different demographics. Population growth in Box Hill, Doncaster and Ringwood will be skewed by the high-rise developments which differ markedly from the dual occupancy in-fill of other suburbs. Hospital precincts, transport hubs, aged care homes and Shopping Centres also influence future residency patterns, travel habits and Church proximity. But the most significant change will be wrought by empowering all parishioners to display discipleship and live out the good news of Jesus.

***The next step is a meeting on Saturday 22nd May for lay leadership, one person from each of the 208 parishes. The interesting change brought about by the renewed financial security of St Timothy's is that we may have more than one potential mission seeking our involvement in their grouping.***

~ Fr Tony

### CONFERENCE AIMS TO INSPIRE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES

A national virtual conference to be held in July is aiming to enliven Catholic communities as Australia emerges from the pandemic and approaches the first Plenary Council assembly.

“Alive in the Spirit” will offer keynote addresses, workshops, prayer and worship experiences to strengthen the mission and aims of local Catholic communities.

The conference offers inspiration and support to lay and clergy, staff, leadership teams, finance teams, pastoral councils, pastoral ministers and volunteers, those in education, counselling, pastoral care, youth ministry, family ministry, aged care and chaplaincies.

Three long-standing and wide-reaching Catholic networks have combined forces to host this event: the Pastoral Ministry Network, Christian Initiation Australia Network, and the Mission Planners Network Oceania. Details: [aliveinthepirit.com.au](http://aliveinthepirit.com.au)

### PROCLAIMING SAINTS ‘USEFUL ON EARTH, NOT FOR HEAVEN’

The Church's proclamation of new saints demonstrates that it is possible for men and women to live holy lives and that God is present and at work in the world, said the prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

“It's useful on earth, not for heaven,” said Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, the prefect, when asked, “What is the use of proclaiming saints?”

In an interview published in L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, the cardinal noted how the Second Vatican Council spoke of the “universal vocation of holiness.”

“To proclaim saints helps convince us that this vocation really exists, that the Gospel works, that Jesus does not disappoint and that we can trust in his word,” Cardinal Semeraro said in the interview the day after Pope Francis and cardinals resident in Rome held a consistory to approve the canonisation of seven men and women.

## **INTRODUCTION TO MASS:**

Proclaim the Good News. Our actions and attitudes proclaim our beliefs more powerfully than our words ever do. If we claim to be concerned about justice and compassion and yet behave unjustly and uncaring, then it is our actions, not our words, that will be heard! When we are called to 'proclaim the Good News' we are called to do this first and foremost in action. (Greg Sunter)

## **PENITENTIAL RITE:**

Lord Jesus, you are the way to the Father.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you give us a Spirit of wisdom.

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your message goes out to all earth.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

## **FIRST READING:** *Acts 1:1-11*

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 :**

***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*

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 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 teach all people my gospel and I am with you always until the end of the world.  
***Alleluia!***

## **GOSPEL:** *Mk 16: 15-20*

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.