



# St Patrick's Parish

PO Box 547, 65 Clarke St

Lilydale 3140

Ph. 9739 5977 0448 618 418

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

<http://stpatrickslilydale.cam.org.au>

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Francis Denton

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

Secretary: Mrs Sharon Jacob

Pastor Emeritus: Fr John Dupuche

Pastoral Worker: Mrs Debbie Edward

23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

(Year A)

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

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 mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

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 mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

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. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians  
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 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Matthew 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:** Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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 commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**General Intercessions**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**



**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

**Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversaries:** Elaine Postlethwaite

**Sick:** Joan Keuken, Angela Del Guidice, Lynne Fleming, Jo Payne, Kim J, Cherie, Izaak, Anne-Maree Sullivan, Jim Reid, Peter & Aurelia Di Ciero, Tony Cunningham, Claudette & Gilbert, Florens, Luigi Mazzotti, Kate, Tim Lawson, John Hopper, Cassandra, Mary and John Hamilton, Carmel O'Healy, Michelle, Pat Robb, Robert Taylor, Nancy Leonard, Brian Walsh, Michael Paola, Barbara De Vincentiis, Emma, Wayne, Julian Monteiro, Dolly Maher, Salvacion Santos, Ricky, Giovanna Zammit, Michael Jordan, Anne Moroney, Catherine Fields, Sam Lawson, Trish Macpherson, Geoff, Grace Quinlivan, Bianca, , Mary Ovans, Stephen, Gael

Holliday, Rob Meridith, Bill Meyer, Cathie & Jose Grima, Darren McInnes, Rose Roberts, Roman De Angelis, Tedi & Santi

**AN 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.**

**RECONCILIATION**

10am Saturday morning or by appointment

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

by appointment

**Marriages:** Please give at least six month's notice.

**Baptism:** Please contact parish office for details.

**PARISH OFFICE**

Please call 0448 658 418

**PASTORAL WORKER**

Wednesday 10.00am- 3.00pm

Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

If assistance is required please contact the Lilydale Centre on

1800 305 330

Mon-Fri 10.00am – 4.00pm

**CARE GROUP**

Ann McCann, Debbie Edwards,

Sharon Jacob,

Contact Parish Office 0448 658 418



We have recently switched to NBN and having trouble accessing our office phone message bank. If you need to contact the office please call 0448 658 418.

### **Prayer Requests**

Fr Francis and Fr John are continuing to record weekend Masses, which are available to be viewed at any time. The link is <https://bit.ly/StBsHville>. During this time of physical separation, we continue to pray for each other. If you have a prayer request for a special intention, please email the parish, [lilydale@cam.org.au](mailto:lilydale@cam.org.au). Father will remember our special intentions as he says Mass, and we will pray for all parishioners' prayer requests in the Prayers of the Faithful each week. Special intentions will not be publicly mentioned, but we will all be praying together with one voice in support of those big challenges our parishioners are facing. If you would like to chat to Father, or parish staff, please let us know.

### **Masses are back with changes!**

**St Patrick's:**     **Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm**  
                          **Sunday: 10.30 pm**  
                          **Tuesday: 9.10 am**  
                          **Wednesday: 9.10 am**  
                          **Friday: 9.10 am**

**For Masses at St Patrick's, Lilydale, phone: 0448 658 418**

St Brigid's:     Sunday 8.30 am and  
                          Thursdays 9.10 am. (Please note: no  
Wednesday evening Masses)  
To book to attend a Mass at St Brigid's, Healesville,  
phone: 0448 664 731.

Only 10 people, plus Father, a reader and a server are permitted to attend each Mass. Protocols for sanitising and social distancing will be strictly observed. Bookings must be pre-arranged. A waiting list applies for those who would like to attend Mass regularly, and priority will be given to those who have not yet been able to attend Mass since the shutdown began.

### **Money Matters...From Fr Francis**

Stewardship is biblical theme of some prominence in both the Old and New Testaments. Good stewards are well rewarded; bad stewards are roundly castigated (cf. Mt 25:14-30). As every business operator knows, keeping the books balancing is a challenge even in the best of times. The present circumstances of the COVID19 pandemic have placed a virtually unprecedented economic strain upon the nation. Small businesses are generally the worst effected, and in this regard, parishes are no exception. The media has given virtually no attention to the economic impact of COVID19 on

local church communities. With the suspension of all public Masses and Sacraments even the most financially healthy parishes are now feeling the pinch. The longer this situation persists, the greater the strain.

Lilydale parish has been hard hit, with our weekly income down by approximately 40-50%. The costs of church insurance, amenities, wages for parish employees, and the priest's living costs all continue to accrue. Man does not live on bread *alone*, yet he still requires a little food in the stomach to live! The suspension of Masses has meant that for the past eight weeks we have had no regular collections at Mass. At this point we must express our deep gratitude to those who have continued to make their regular contributions either via direct debit or by taking the time to drop in their envelopes to the parish. Given the economic pressures being felt by so many, your sacrificial giving is especially appreciated at this time. If you haven't ever considered making regular contributions via direct debit now might be an opportunity for you to consider making the change. It is convenient for you, and provides far greater economic stability for the parish. Once established it's quick and easy to adjust the amount being given or to cancel the contributions altogether. Please feel free to enquire at the parish office if you would like more information or guidance as to how to go about setting up a direct debit payment option. Thank you once again for your amazingly generous support for the parish! May God bless you!

### **WOULD YOU APPRECIATE A PHONE CALL?**

If you would like to chat to Fr Francis or to Parish staff, please contact the office. Our problems seem lighter when shared! Parish staff are still available by phone to pass on any information you may need, and to care for your family in this time of stress and uncertainty. Debbie's phone number is 0448 664 731 and Sharon's is 0448 658 418.  
Parish email: [lilydale@cam.org.au](mailto:lilydale@cam.org.au)



I opened my computer this morning to find a beautiful scene on the screen, an image designed to keep me busy while the computer is 'thinking' about setting itself up to work. The scenes change regularly, I assume so that I don't get bored and go to make myself a cuppa instead of setting myself up to work! I was impressed by the ruins of a castle on the edge of a pond in which I could see the

foundation stones of an old structure, maybe a bridge, maybe a jetty? The possibilities are numerous, restricted only by my own imagination. Whatever it used to be, its bones were clearly visible through the marshy reeds. The castle itself was only partly standing, but I could still see windows and enough structure to make myself wonder what glorious shape the building took in its youth, and who it had sheltered, or imprisoned, over its long, long lifetime. My musings were then interrupted by my now fast-becoming-famous fat old dog, who insisted I pay attention to him instead, to let him out into the yard for his own musings. Again, while I waited, I took in the sight of my pomegranate tree, like a skeleton in the early morning dark. There are now barely any leaves left on the tree, just big pomegranates, still maturing, one after the other, as we pick the ripest fruit day after day. A bumper crop this year, a bounce back after the tree was hacked to almost a stump several years ago, but summer is long gone, and its shape continues to change dramatically almost every day now.

In the back of my mind, I had been contemplating how Jesus' friends must have reacted to his disappearance into the clouds, as they 'watched' him, with their mouths hanging open no doubt, ascend to his Father. It must have caused a further stir when two angels appeared in their midst to confirm to the crowd, in no uncertain terms, that Jesus would no longer be with them in the way he had been before. We can look back, picking up clues as to 'what was' *before* his Ascension, but how do we imagine Jesus' experience going *forward*? The castle and the pomegranate tree come within my experience base, so I can have a pretty good shot at imagining their pasts, and, in fact, their futures. The Gospels paint the pictures for me of Jesus' past, but how do I imagine what Jesus is experiencing now, the reality of what the clouds were hiding from view on that day of his ascension, through to today, into tomorrow?

Everything that Jesus said and did in his time with us reveals something about his Father to us. The Father calls Jesus his beloved Son, in whom he is well pleased. Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit to remain with us forever continues this revelation. The answer lies in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but how much greater than our

experience or imagination must that answer be? We come closest to guessing through receiving the Holy Eucharist, the dry host shielding truth beyond our capabilities to recognise. Can you imagine the scene that the clouds hid from sight on that specific day in history? Can you imagine that truth today? The truth of Heaven, the fullness of God's presence, is limitless, our perception is constrained only by our humanity, released into eternity by the resurrection of Jesus, our God and our friend. At least a two Tim-Tam cuppa is required!

#### **Caritas Prayer for the COVID-19**

Pandemic May we, who are experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia and are coming to terms with a new reality, remember the words of scripture "Be still and know that I am God". May we, who as adults struggling to process what is happening in our world, remember children who are fearful of a reality they cannot comprehend. May we, who complain about the scarcity of commodities, remember those who are working to maintain the supply chain. May we, who observe the long queues of those seeking support, remember those for whom there is no government assistance or financial aid. May we, who rely on essential services, especially those in the medical profession, remember all those working on the front line. May we, who work to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity, remember those living and working in vulnerable communities. May we, who are working from home, remember those who have no employment or home from which to work. May we, who have access to medical facilities and services, remember those who do not have basic health care. May we, who are beginning to experience border closures, remember refugees who cannot return home. May we give thanks for those who are working to help or bring some kindness, joy or humour to others, showing us the light of Christ lives. During this time of isolation as we close our doors, may we continue to keep our hearts open to our family, friends, local and global communities. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen St Oscar Romero, patron saint of Caritas Internationalis, pray for us. Patron Saints of Australia, Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us St Francis Xavier, pray for us. St Therese of Lisieux, pray for us. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.