

Prayers of the Faithful
PRIEST: 'God has put all things under his feet and made him ruler of everything.'
 As disciples of Christ rejoicing in his glorious Ascension, we come to our God in prayer recalling our needs and those of God's people everywhere.

1. For a greater understanding of God's plan for salvation.
 (pause)
 May we who are members of Christ's body, the church, grow in understanding the mystery of God's purposes for the world; and may we so live as God's people that we may share the glory that has been promised.
 Lord, hear us.
ALL: Lord her our prayer.

2. For a deep sense of hope.
 (pause)
 The feast of the Ascension teaches us about hope in God's promises.
 May we be confident in our witnessing to the Gospel, comforted by the promise of Jesus for ever.
 Lord, hear us.
ALL: Lord her our prayer.

3. For a desire to be witnesses to the Gospel.
 (pause)
 The authority to teach has been given to the community of disciples.
 May we be faithful witnesses to Christ's teaching so that people everywhere may hear God's good news for the world.
 Lord, hear us.
ALL: Lord her our prayer.

4. For confidence in Jesus' abiding presence.
 (pause)
 Jesus is the Immanuel - God with us - who has promised to be among us for ever.
 May his constant presence in the church encourage us to live by the commandments of God and make disciples of all the nations.
 Lord, hear us.
ALL: Lord her our prayer.

PRIEST:
 God of the promises, we worship you as our ruler and head.
 Be our consolation as we await the coming of the Lord.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.
ALL: Amen.

CATECHISTS NEEDED!
 If you would like to learn more about becoming a Catechist please contact the Parish Office.

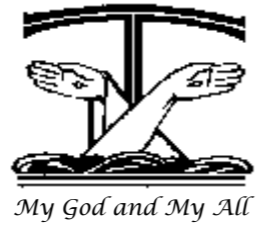
RCIA is a program for those seeking to find out more about the Catholic faith. It takes place within the parish, local faith community. It also offers opportunity to grow in knowledge of Jesus Christ accompanied by others on a similar journey. We welcome all inquiries, and there is no pressure or obligation. Each one has their own special story.

- If you have been baptised but have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation or baptised in another church.
- Have children over the age of five or teenagers (who will be supported through adapted form of the Rite).

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic please contact the parish office on 9331 4043.

(We are looking for parishioners to be part of the RCIA team)

Our faith community acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we worship, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.



Parish newsletter of the communities of St Francis of Assisi Paddington & St Joseph Edgecliff

21st May 2023 – Ascension of the Lord -Year A
In the care of the Franciscans since 1879

St Francis of Assisi Church 463 Oxford St Paddington **St Joseph Church** 12 Albert St Edgecliff
Parish Office: 66 Gordon St Paddington 2021 **Tel:** 02 9331 4043
Email: office@stf-stj.com **Website:** www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com

'You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.'
 We celebrate Easter annually, and the celebration is extended over many days. Eastertide is a time to appreciate the transformative nature of the Easter event. It takes time to fully understand and appreciate what it means to die and rise again and this new life that will never end. Lent is used as a penitential season to prepare for the Paschal Triduum, especially by those preparing for baptism. On the day of baptism, they take on a new identity as disciples of Jesus. For the rest of us, it is a time to renew baptismal promises at Easter Vigil, renewal of commitment. Conversion to God's ways is a lifelong journey. It is not an achievement or a program we faithfully adhere to but a faith journey—a journey to maturity in Christ Jesus, with an active engagement in spiritual life with other disciples. We learn how to respond to the promptings of the Spirit and live the Gospel. Through Christ, we understand what it means to be a son or daughter of the Father. We live with these questions; Who is God? Who is Jesus? What is to become of us? Resurrection affects everyone and everything.

Raising the crucified Jesus points to a new reality breaking into our life and world. As believers, we have put our faith in Jesus, as Lord and Saviour, Jesus who was and who is. The divine life and power of the risen Lord are already breaking through our lives. Others may believe in an afterlife, but for the Christian new life means a share of future glory and a share in God's divine nature. St Paul says, "If Christ has not been raised, then empty too is our preaching; empty too, your faith (1Cor 15:14)". We are still living in a world touched by sin; death is a reality. If there is no resurrection, everything ends at death. Life is too good to end!

We live in hope of a new life! Joy, life, love, friendship, laughter, happiness, all that we feel, think, and experience, including sadness and pain, make life good and exciting. Easter promises a transformed life in Christ. We believe the whole of creation will be transformed into something wonderful and new. It gives meaning to the question of existence. The Risen Lord says, "baptize them...", "teach them to observe all the commands I gave you", and "I am with you always"!

Fr Anthoni Selvaraj ofm

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

We are pleased to invite parents wishing to have their children participate in Reconciliation, Holy Communion or Confirmation to contact the office by email or phone. Details and form can be found on the parish website.

Dates as follows:

First Reconciliation : Preparation 4pm: 3rd and 17th June, **Sacrament Tuesday 25th July**

First Holy Communion: Preparations 12th & 19th August Rehearsal 2nd September **Sacrament Sunday 10th September**

Confirmation: Preparation 21st & 28th October Rehearsal 4th November **Sacrament Saturday 11th November**

**We are still accepting forms for all the sacraments.*

Seasons of Renewal – Corpus Christi
 Join us online as we explore practical ideas to assist your parish to prepare for Corpus Christi and the Walk with Christ. All welcome!

Wed 24 May, 10 – 11 am—Thur 25 May, 2 – 3 pm
 Thursday 1 June, 7:30 – 8:30 pm

Time and Talent Form
 Fr Anthoni is working on a time and talent form, which he hopes will give him necessary information about parishioners and their interest and skills to support parish life into the future. All suggestions will be welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL
Vinnies will be holding their appeal:
St Joseph this week (21st may)
St Francis next week (27th/28th) May.
Receipts can be provided if you tick the box.

Save the Date:

Parish Social bring a plate to share.
 Saturday 27th May after the 5.30pm Mass. Join us at the Parish Meeting room behind the church.



Walk With Christ- Sunday 11 June:
 1pm Festival in Martin Place.
 2:30pm- Procession begins from the corner of Martin Place and Pitt Street.

Reminders:
Project Compassion—please return your envelopes and boxes.

Charitable Works Fund (CWF): Please take an envelope located at both doors to support this project.

"Empowering Youth Appeal": If you are able to donate please go to:
<https://centre-360-empowering-youth-appeal.raisely.com/>
<https://www.centre360.org.au>

WELCOME
 New to the parish? Please come and meet one of the Parish Team after mass to introduce yourself and find out more about our community. We also welcome you to contact our Parish Office.

OUR PARISH

Franciscan community: Fr Peter Clifford ofm, Br John Lourey ofm
Parish Administrator: Fr Anthoni Selvaraj ofm
Parish Secretary: Enza Sinapi, Cate Stivala
Catechist Co-ordinator/Safeguarding Support: Alanna Sparks/ Enza Sinapi
Cantor, Edgecliff: Tanith Bryce
Music Dir. & Organist, Paddington: Noel Debieen & Bransby Byrne
Cantor, Paddington: Nicole Smeulders
Principal, St Francis of Assisi School: Nicole Hudson

St Joseph, Edgecliff

Mass: **Sunday:** 9am, 10.30am & 5.30pm
 Mass: **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday:** 5.30pm
 (Reconciliation: prior to Thursday evening Mass - from 5pm)
 Liturgy of the Word/Communion: **Wednesday, Friday:** 5.30pm

Baptisms: **1st & 3rd Sundays** at 11.45am

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

Mass: **Saturday Vigil:** 5.30pm
 Mass: **Sunday:** 8.30am, 10am with choir
 Mass: **Monday, Tuesday, Friday:** 9am
 (Reconciliation: prior to Saturday Vigil Mass - from 5pm)
 Liturgy of the Word/Communion: **Wednesday, Thursday:** 9am
 Baptisms: **2nd & 4th Sundays** at 11.45am

We remember those in need of our prayers: our deceased, those in hospital, nursing homes, and the homebound.

Recently Deceased: Yvonne Szeto, Helen Torok, Mabel Ana Pacheco Hernandez, Sr Judith Christy RSC, Lucas Ellis, Luke Stephenson, Fr Theodore Gillian ofm, Dermot Ryan, James O'Neil, Philomena Catherine O'Neil, John McLaughlin, Mabel Ana Pacheco Hernandez, Elizabeth Mulhall, Anita Hain, Eva Curran, Densil Corray, Giuseppe Longo, Father John Boyd Boland ofm.

Mass Intentions: Gregory and Patricia McCue, Sr Maria Wheeler R.S.C., Lena Caine, Violet May Keiran, Alma Urbistondo, Mavis Yult, Giuliano family, Alyssa Hedley, Domenico and Nita Casamento, Hector Destro, Geraldine Anne Daley, Geoff and Megan Cliff, Sandy de Souza, Mavis de Rosario, Peg & Paul Kelly, Cindy Berwick, Margaret & Ted Austin, Janice Hui, Lisa Bailey, Families of Tico, Galan, Dia, Salcedo & Delgado, Mrs S O'Shea family and friends, Rosalie Dent, The Ellis Family, Sr Patricia O'Loughlin RSC, Ori Ciochetti, Virginia Hargreaves, Francesco D'Ignazio, James Adamovich, Giuliano family, Cindy Berwick, Margaret & Ted Austin, Janice Hui, Lisa Bailey, Phillip Reid, Anne Clifford, Prof. Pierre Ryckmans, James Evans, Lucia Gania, Edith, Jet, Josefina & Antonio, Elizabeth & Nerio Salcedo, Mavis De Rozario, Cummings & Martin families, Jack & Maureen Brett, Patricia Brett, Hector Destro.

Overview of the Archdiocese's Safeguarding Policy
<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/casys/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Overview-of-the-Policy.pdf>

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY
 Child sexual 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 Ministerial Integrity Office: on 9390 5180 or* safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. 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.

Our faith community demands that the Christian Churches including the Catholic Church provide full and meaningful reparation for those who have suffered clerical and institutional sexual abuse.

 **Archdiocese Franciscan Friars** Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Franciscan Friars Australia

 **Franciscan friars** @OZFranciscan

 **Parish Archdiocese Franciscan friars** www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com www.sydneycatholic.org www.franciscans.org.au

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 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 Mt 28:16-20

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY**PROFESSION OF FAITH** APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OR II OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 28:20

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD**PRESENT IN ALL CREATION**

The resurrection of Jesus was clearly a moment of healing victory and the basis of hope for the early Church. While the victory over sin and death had been won a whole new set of questions arose for the first generation of Christians. Where do we go now? What does the Risen Lord ask of us? How will the Lord continue to be present among us? The early Christians reflected on Jesus' Ascension and used this moment of transition to address these questions for themselves and to instruct future generations of Christians.

Much had already been achieved but the time had come for the Risen Lord to entrust the next stage of the mission into the hands of the disciples. Having been schooled for forty days by the Risen Lord they were now entrusted with the mission of bringing the message of Jesus to the world around them. While they would not have looked forward to the day when Jesus would pass from their midst, they were nonetheless reminded that while the quality of his presence had changed, he would never leave them.

While the letter to the Ephesians does not speak explicitly of the Ascension it does reflect on how the Pauline communities saw this change in Jesus' presence among them. Christians are encouraged to see that by being exalted to God's right-hand Jesus is now able to be present throughout all of creation, no longer limited by space and time. They are called to see that he is not absent but is now even more powerfully present.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

21 MAY 2023

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS. When Christ ascended into heaven he did not abandon his disciples. Matthew's Gospel begins with the angel's words that Jesus will be called Emmanuel, which means God-is-with-us, and it ends with Jesus' promise: 'Know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.' In a special way Emmanuel is with us in this Eucharist for 'where two or three are gathered in my name, I shall be there with them.'

INTRODUCTORY RITES**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Acts 1:11

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.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD**FIRST READING** Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

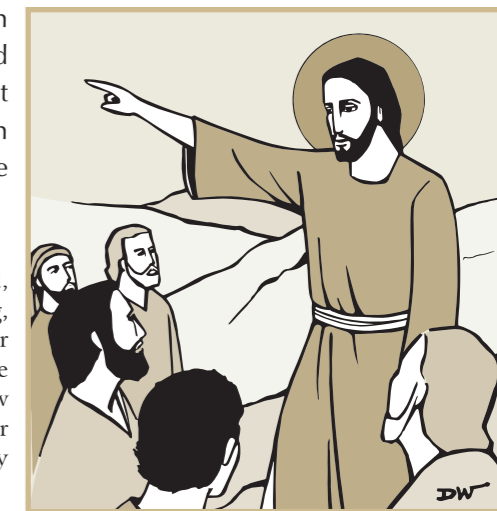
In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for 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 of 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.

R. Thanks be to God.

**RESP PSALM**

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (or Alleluia!)

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

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.

R. Thanks be to God.