

## Ascension of the Lord

21 May 2023



Readings for  
this week:

Acts 1:1-11  
Ephesians 1:17-23  
Matthew 28:16-20



Readings for  
next Sunday:

Acts 2:1-11  
1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13  
John 20:19-23



### Liturgical Jottings

#### Ascension *Communicantes*

Eucharistic Prayer I (the Roman Canon) has special insertions for the major solemnities. Called “Proper Forms of the *Communicantes*” the prayer within the Eucharistic prayer which begins with: “In communion with those whose memory we venerate” has a variation for the Feast of the Ascension.

*“Celebrating the most sacred day on which your Only Begotten Son, our Lord, placed at the right hand of your glory our weak human nature, which he had united to himself, and in communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, ...”*

The prayer is addressed to the Father, calls to mind the mystery of Christ’s incarnation, unity with humanity, ascension into heaven and his glorious reign within the Godhead.

There is also a proper form of the *Communicantes* for the feast of Pentecost when using the Roman Canon. These insertions are not in the other Eucharistic Prayers.

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### Looking at the Readings

The first and second readings and the responsorial psalm of the feast of the Ascension of the Lord are the same each year. The new lectionary provides an alternative second reading. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles gives the historical account of the Ascension, the second reading from the Letter to the Ephesians gives a theological insight into the mystery of Christ’s Ascension. The Matthean account (this year, cycle A) presents the final dialogue with the Apostles. Christ gives them instructions and farewell reassurance. There is no mention of the Ascension. The gospels according to Mark and Luke do and the Gospel of John does not mention the Ascension.

Within Luke’s account (Acts 1:1-11) distinct features are included about the Ascension: the Lord instructs them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit and be witnesses to the reign of God. Christ’s ministry began in Jerusalem (Luke 2:41) and ends there (Luke 24:47,53, Acts 1:4) but the Apostles, beginning in Jerusalem are to go out to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

St Paul’s words to the Ephesians are full of encouragement for them and enthusiasm for the glory and power of the risen and ascended Lord. What Christ Jesus has achieved we have the hope to share now and at the fullness of time. This hope must impel us be witnesses to his peace and forgiveness. Come, Lord Jesus!


### Pope Francis’ words on the Ascension

Dear brothers and sisters, the Ascension does not point to Jesus’ absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world as he was before the Ascension. ... We are never alone: the Crucified and Risen Lord guides us. We have with us a multitude of brothers and sisters who, in silence and concealment, in their family life and at work, in their problems and hardships, in their joys and hopes, live faith daily and together with us bring the world the lordship of God’s love, in the Risen Jesus Christ, ascended into Heaven, our own Advocate who pleads for us. Many thanks. General Audience 17 April 2013.

### On the Lighter Side

A drill instructor yells, “Forward, march!” The entire ranks begin to move, except one recruit. So the drill instructor yells in his ear, “Is this thing working?” “Sir, yes, sir!” “Then why didn’t you march when I gave the order?” “Sir, I didn’t hear you call my name.” The great commission given by Jesus at his Ascension is a blanket order. It has everyone’s name on it. He says, “Go! Make disciples! Teach!” It is your mission and my mission.



	<b>Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving</b>	Teresa Muto
	<b>For those whose anniversary occurs at this time</b>	Antonietta Nigro, Jim Curtis, James Kearney, Michael Kearney
	<b>Our sick and their carers</b>	Bernie Maher, Bill Moroney, May Turvey,

DAY, TIME, DATE	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	GIFT PRESENTATION	SPECIAL MINISTERS	SCREEN OPERATOR/ORGAN
Sun 10:30 am 28 May	<b>CONFIRMATION/FIRST EUCHARIST</b>					
Sat 6:00 pm 3 June	Carol Coulston	Peter Crombie	Shelia Gregg	J Caiafa D Hamilton	N/A	Mary Gale
Sun 10:30 am 4 June	Rob Miller	Debbie Worm	Doreen Corrigan	Steve & Simone De Lai	Ross Kelly	TBA Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 11 June	Debbie Worm	Rob Miller	Mary Vraca	A Basile M Sgammotta	Evert Worm	Mary Gale Trish Warnett
Sat 6:00 pm 17 June	Carol Coulston	Mary Vraca	Peter Crombie	J Caiafa D Hamilton	N/A	Mary Gale
Sun 10:30 am 18 June	Rob Miller	Anne Marie Nihl	Connie Serra	Barry & Jan Low	Steve De Lai	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 25 June	Debbie Worm	Dean Filgate	Delphi Hamilton	D Bourke D Turvey	Leo McGrath	Mary Gale Trish Warnett

## Two Week Mass Timetable Week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> May

### Weekday Mass

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> May No Mass  
 Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> May No Mass  
 Wed 24<sup>th</sup> May 9:15 am Mass  
 Thur 25<sup>th</sup> May No Mass  
 Fri 26<sup>th</sup> May 9:15 am Mass

### Weekend Mass

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> May No Mass  
 Sun 28<sup>th</sup> May 10:30 am Confirmation & First  
 Eucharist Mass

### Weekday Mass

Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May No Mass  
 Tue 30<sup>th</sup> May No Mass  
 Wed 31<sup>st</sup> May 9:15 am Mass  
 Thur 1<sup>st</sup> June No Mass  
 Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> June 9:15 am Mass

### Weekend Mass

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> June 6:00 pm Mass  
 Sun 4<sup>th</sup> June 10:30 am Mass

**Reconciliation** 3<sup>rd</sup> June



### Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst Theology Scholarships: Semester 2 2023

Designed to support the mission formation of parishioners through formal theological studies, especially those with or who are seeking pastoral leadership roles in the diocese of Sandhurst. Are you interested in studying theology or spiritual leadership in 2023?

- Scholarships are available for Sandhurst parishioners to study online post-graduate courses in theology at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne
- 50% of the tuition fees will be reimbursed (full cost: credit \$2,882, audit \$650).
- You may study for credit towards a Master's degree/Graduate certificate/Graduate diploma or for audit.
- Also available for Semester 2 2023 CPE opportunities in Shepparton and Bendigo.

## Items for Sale

There is a beautiful assortment of Rosaries for sale in the Narthex. These will make a perfect gift for a confirmation or birthday. We also have rosaries bracelets and Christian medallions.

## Themes for Ascension of the Lord Year A

<https://young-catholics.com>

The feast of the Ascension of the Lord Year A commemorates the day that Jesus Christ ascended into heaven. He also gave the Great Commission, that all of the world should be saved. In the first reading the ascension of Jesus is recounted and the Apostles are told they will receive the Holy Spirit. In the second reading we hear that Jesus Christ rules heaven and earth. And in the gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to preach the Good News to the whole world.

**The Ascension:** The first reading for the Ascension of the Lord Year A tells us that Jesus appeared to his disciples over a period of forty days after his resurrection and taught them about the kingdom of God. Before his ascension, Jesus told his disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promised Holy Spirit to come upon them. The second reading speaks of the ascension as an exaltation of Jesus Christ, who is now seated at the right hand of God in heaven, with power and authority over all things, and is a source of hope and enlightenment for believers.

**The Great Commission:** This is a command given by Jesus to his disciples to go out to the world and make disciples of all nations. The Great Commission requires the disciples to go out into the world and make disciples of all nations. This emphasizes the importance of reaching out beyond one's own community to share the message of Jesus Christ. **Evangelism:** This is the act of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others. The Great Commission in all three passages emphasizes the importance of evangelism as part of making disciples.

**Getting out of our comfort zones:** Making disciples often requires stepping outside of one's comfort zone and engaging with people who may have different backgrounds, cultures, or beliefs. This is emphasized in the Great Commission as disciples are called to go out to all nations.

**Holy Spirit:** In the first reading, Jesus tells his disciples that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. The Holy Spirit is also mentioned in the second reading as the source of wisdom and revelation that helps believers understand the hope to which they have been called. In the gospel, Jesus promises to be with his disciples always, even to the end of the age, indicating that his presence will be with them through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is thus a vital component of the Great Commission and evangelism.

## Reflection Questions for Ascension of the Lord Year A

- How do you feel about the commission to be a witness of Christ? Is it something that you take seriously in your daily life?
- What are some ways that you have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life? How has it helped you to serve others and carry out God's mission?
- How does the promise of Christ's return impact your daily life? Does it give you hope and motivation to live out your faith?
- What does being a disciple maker mean to you? How do you try to embody the love of Christ in your interactions with others?
- Have you ever stepped out of your comfort zone to engage with someone who may have different beliefs or backgrounds? How did that experience impact you and the other person?

## Report - Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council

The Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC) held its inaugural meeting on Friday 28 April (6pm-8:30pm) and Saturday 29 April (8:30am-3pm) at the Pastoral Centre in St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton. As a chair has not yet been appointed, the meeting was expertly facilitated by Mr Dean Mason from Melbourne. Copies of the full report are in the Narthex.

## Funeral Details for Teresa Muto

A Rosary will be held for Teresa Muto on Wednesday 24 May at 7pm and her funeral will be on Thursday 25 May at 11:30am both at Sacred Heart Tatura.

# Baptism



We congratulate the Giovanni Athanasios Lago on his Baptism this weekend and welcome him into our Parish family.

Giovanni is the Son of Georgia and Adrian Lago

## Acknowledgement to Country

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First Nation Australians in truth, justice, and reconciliation.