

Ascension of the Lord

24 May 2020



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



Entrusting Australia to Mary Help of Christians

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

© Diocese of Sandhurst 2020

Looking at the Readings

Each of the Synoptic Gospels concludes with Jesus' departure from earth and from the company of the Eleven. This year, Year A, Matthew's Gospel does not mention the Ascension. It gives the account of the Apostles last meeting with Christ, his command to preach, teach and baptise and his promise that he will be with them to the end of time. The first reading from Luke's Acts of the Apostles gives us a detailed account of the Ascension of Christ, of Jesus word's to them and their actions at the time of his departure and afterwards.

The Second reading, (Ephesians 1:17-23) provides a deeper insight to the event and mystery of the Ascension. It is St Paul at prayer. While a great missionary in action, he is also a theologian and man of contemplation. He is sharing his hope and trust in his Saviour and his words of praise and blessing with us.

Galilee

Jesus grew up in Nazareth in Galilee, where he started his ministry (Luke 4:14); his first disciples were Galileans; the women of Galilee were the first witnesses to the empty tomb (Luke 23:55-24:8). The Risen Lord said he will meet the Apostles in Galilee (Matt 28:16, Mark 16:7). At the Ascension the angels addressed them as "You men from Galilee" (Acts 1:11). The Apostles feet were firmly on the ground, their eyes were fixed upward into the sky when Christ was lifted up. The Apostles started in Galilee, the border region to the Gentiles, preached and baptised in every land but remained lifted up in spirit to the heavenly realm. We, too, here on earth have our spirits and hearts lifted up to the Lord.

Mary Help of Christians

At the videoconference of the Australian Catholic Bishops last week they passed the motion: "That the Australian Bishops entrust Australia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title Our Lady Help of Christians, seeking her intercession for the safety of all our people especially in this time of COVID-19 pandemic." Mary Help of Christians has been the official patroness of Australia since 1844. Her feast day is 24 May. But this year it coincides with the feast of the Ascension and so is transferred to Monday 25 May. See prayer in left column.

On the Lighter Side

Meeting with my new priest, I asked if I could have vigil prayers and a requiem Mass when I eventually die. "Of course," he said, grabbing his diary. "What date do you want?"



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	
	Our sick and their carers	Sandy O'Sullivan, Dixon's Family, Cecilia Bannan



STAYING CONNECTED

In recent interviews with two noted writers, because both had recently been diagnosed with cancer, the subject of faith and death was raised, one was asked whether he shared the faith of his ancestors:

"No. I feel that as a burden. It must be fantastic to have a faith but I don't. My father was a good Presbyterian. But no. I think it's all over when it's over. I think it's a beautiful thing. But sadly fallacious ... I still like the sound of a good hymn, though, you know. That can still move me ... and I still read the Bible a lot. Not for any religious reason. I just like the sound of the King James version. I am interested in religion you see. And that'd be the thing about dying now – I wouldn't mind reading more about religion. There's all those things I haven't read enough about yet."

You can download the full article from

http://www2.ceosale.catholic.edu.au/Along_the_Tracks.aspx



Saint Corona was the wife of an Imperial Roman soldier stationed in Damascus, Syria.

Corona took care of Saint Victor the Martyr when he was arrested for his beliefs.

As a Christian, she was arrested and killed in 165 AD.

St. Corona is considered as one of the patron saints of pandemic sufferers.

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Sacred Heart Church is open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Time: 11:00 am until 12:00 noon.

A maximum of 10 people are allowed in the Church at any one time.

A door attendant will ask you to fill in the attendance form and they will clean where you were sitting after you leave.

Please be understanding if you need to wait a little while before you can enter the Church.

MUST BOOK IN FOR MASS

Fr John Paul is currently celebrating Mass for 10 people on Saturday and Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am. For bookings call Mary on 0484 332 397.

It is essential that you book in with Mary by Wednesday each week. If you have not booked in unfortunately you not be able to attend.

Please be understanding that at this time, you can only attend one Mass service, unfortunately at this stage you cannot attend every week, as we have many people who would like to come to Mass.

Hopefully we will all be celebrating Mass together as a whole Parish soon. In the meantime we will continue to upload the Mass service on a Sunday Morning to our website and Facebook page.

Notre Dame College's enrolments for prospective 2021 students are now open.

Prospectus, Enrolment Information and Applications for Enrolment are available from Sacred Heart School reception, Notre Dame College Knight Street Reception or via: <https://www.notredame.vic.edu.au/our-college/enrolment-information>

For further information please email enrolments@notredame.vic.edu.au or phone the College on 5822 8400.