

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

*Presider:* '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.

*Reader:* For a deep sense of hope.

**All: 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.**

*Reader:* For the gift of unity.

**All: May we be concerned about the unity of God's people; and by our patience and gentleness and service, may we bear with one another in building up the body of Christ.**

*Reader:* For a desire to be witnesses to the gospel.

**All: 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.**

*Reader:* For confidence in proclaiming the good news.

**All: Jesus promised signs of hope to the faithful disciples. May we who celebrate the Ascension be confident of Christ's saving power to confirm our preaching of the gospel.**

*Presider:* 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. **Amen.**



Parish newsletter of the communities of St Francis of Assisi Paddington, St Joseph Edgecliff and the 8:45am Mass at Double Bay  
In the care of the Franciscans since 1879

St Francis of Assisi Church 463 Oxford St Paddington : St Joseph Church 12 Albert St Edgecliff

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16 May 2021: The Ascension of the Lord Year B

The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary our Blessed Mother. There is no particular structure as to how we celebrate Mary's devotion. But, often times Catholics around the world would pray the rosary, sing Marian anthems, read scriptures and sermons on Mary as a way of honouring Our Blessed Mother.

I remember as a child, I grew up praying the rosary at home as a family. We all took turns to lead a decade of the rosary. This habit of praying the rosary still stays with me till today, even when many people consider this prayer unintelligent, boring and repetitive. But, I have to say, praying the rosary everyday made me feel protected by our Blessed Mother. Reflecting on my past experiences, many tragic things could have happened, but, fortunately it didn't. And so, I'm ever grateful to Our Blessed Mother and will still recommend praying the rosary as a family.

Pope Pius XII in his encyclical 'On Reciting The Rosary' says: "The custom of the family recitation of the Holy Rosary is a most efficacious means. The Rosary, recited in the family, assembled before the image of the Virgin, in an admirable union of hearts, ... unites them piously with those absent and those dead. It links all more tightly in a sweet bond of love, with the most Holy Virgin, who, like a loving mother, in the circle of her children, will be there bestowing upon them an abundance of the gifts of concord and family peace."

So, as Pope Paul VI said May is a time to pray for peace, let us invoke our Blessed Mother's intercession to heal our world from this pandemic. As we also celebrate Our Lord's Ascension today, we trust that Jesus Christ who reign supremely in heaven would bring peace in this world through Mary's intercession.  
**- Fr Francisco**

### PADDINGTON ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL

The Paddington St Vincent de Paul appeal will be held at all Masses this weekend. Envelopes will be available at the door and can be returned on the collection plate or sent into the parish office over the next few weeks. Receipts will be issued if required.



### ORGAN RECITAL: ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, PADDINGTON Sunday 23 May 2021 @ 2:30pm

Admission by programme—Note Donation.  
Featuring James Goldrick the Assistant Director of Music at the Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City & The Choir of St Francis of Assisi Paddington (Director: Noel Debien). All welcome.

### RCIA

**Thursdays, 730pm: Parish Meeting Room, 66 Gordon Street Paddington**  
Are you interested to explore our faith or do you know someone who is? Would you like to accompany someone who is undertaking their own faith journey? We invite you to join our RCIA program. Please join us in the Parish House (located at 66 Gordon St directly behind the St Francis of Assisi, Church).

### WEEKEND MASS COLLECTIONS

The practice of two collections has resumed at Sunday Mass. If you are able to help with the collection today please check in with the volunteers at the door.

**First Collection:** (After the Homily). For the upkeep of the Friars.

**Second Collection:** (After the Prayers of the Faithful). For the support of your parish. (Includes Planned Giving, contact Parish Office for more details on the Planned Giving Program, Planned Giving can be made via cash or via a monthly recurring credit card donation. Tax Deductions available on Planned Giving as requested/required).

**Special Collections:** If you have envelopes to return for recent special collections (CWF, Caritas/Projection Compassion) these can be returned during the second collection or to the parish office.

### SYDNEY CITY PROCESSION FOR THE FEAST OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PATRONESS OF AUSTRALIA Sunday, 23rd May @ 3pm

Commences 3.00pm from St Peter's Surry Hills with a pilgrim blessing and then on to St Mary's Cathedral for the 5.00pm Solemn Choral First Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please contact the Servants of Mary Help of Christians or Steven Buhagiar from the Archdiocesan Life Marriage and Family team if you require more information.

### COME, FOLLOW ME: DISCIPLESHIP RETREAT DAYS WITH THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF ST CECILIA

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus and how can I grow as a disciple? Throughout June and July the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia are working with the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation to offer three one-day retreats on what it means to be a disciple, how to grow as a disciple, and how to respond to the gift of discipleship by serving in the parish and the wider community. These retreats are aimed at providing the people of parishes and Eucharistic communities in Sydney with an opportunity to enter more deeply into their own experience of being a disciple of Jesus, in keeping with the call of the Mission Plan of the Archdiocese of Sydney Go Make Disciples. Cost \$10, light lunch included.  
Dates & Locations

13 June, St Mary's Cathedral

26 June, Regina Coeli Parish, Beverly Hills

17 July, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Fairfield

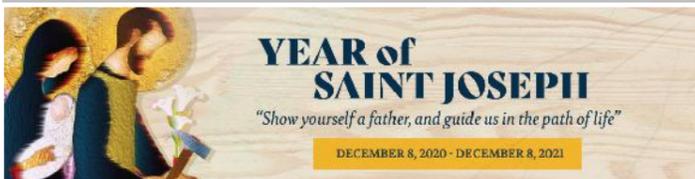
Registration: [www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/)

### THE GENIUS PROJECT MASTER CLASS FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN

The course brings together deep Catholic insights of human behaviour and spiritual growth over 9 weeks of video based lesson content and fortnightly group coaching/strategy sessions.

To find more visit: [www.geniusproject.co](http://www.geniusproject.co)

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** Due to the recent COVID-19 cases there are government restrictions on places of worship this weekend. Masks must be worn at Mass and congregational singing is not permitted. We appreciate your understanding.



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.



## 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

**Anthoni Selvaraj ofm** - Parish Administrator  
**Francisco Basnayake ofm & Joseph Nguyen ofm** - Assistant Priests  
**Ruth Rawlinson** - Parish Manager  
**Alanna Sparks & Cate Stivala** - Parish Secretary  
**Tanith Bryce** - Cantor, Edgecliff  
**Noel Debien & Bransby Byrne** - Music Dir. & Organist Paddington  
**Nicole Smeulders** - Cantor Paddington  
**Emma-Gai Gold & Alanna Sparks** - Safeguarding Support Officers  
**Louise O'Brien** - Principal, St Francis of Assisi Primary School



## WEEKLY SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

No Bookings required. Contact free check-in is required at the door.

### St Joseph, Edgecliff

**Monday to Friday:** 5:30pm

**Sunday:** 7:30am, 9am, 11:00am & 5:30pm

Reconciliation prior to the Friday evening Mass (from 5pm).

### St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

**Monday to Friday:** 9am

**Saturday:** 5:30pm (Vigil)

**Sunday:** 8:30am & 10:00am

Reconciliation from 5pm Saturday prior to Vigil Mass.

Are you or a loved one unable to attend Mass at this time?  
If you would like to receive a visit in your home please contact the Parish Office.

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

**Recently Deceased:** Elvin Richard Newsome, Enid Hampshire, Margaret & Pat Quade, Michelle Robyn Nicholls, Tess Hooper, Emil Jug, Joan Mulligan, Bramwell Wright, Jim Alivia, Marcelo, Marika Gubasci, Jose Herrera, Eva Beck, Wilga Wilscheński, Sue Gherdovich, Ken Finn, Patrick Donovan, Carol Ashford, George Farah, Betty Byrne, Peter-John Young, Maureen Marston, John Ryan, Sandra Soady, Ian Johnstone, Kholofelo Dzvukamanja, Sesarina Bau RSC, Elaine Boys, Aquino Lanojan, Mary Cook RSC, Marie Arakelian, Maria Orner, Tina Chen Visage, Pauline Babicci OSC, Frances Spicer, Bessie Leadbeater, Holy Souls.

**Mass Intentions:** Michael, Jane, James Carnel, Peter Meagher, Trader Falkner, Giuliani family, Maria Luisa Arnaiz, Tino Ordenez, Diane Geffen, Jeanette & John Rawlinson, James Alexander Adamovitch, Penny Hing, Norman Hing, Stan & Rata Hing, Dionisio Solis, Geraldine Levins, Adalgisa Levins, Rev Neville Gawler, Diane Geffen, Shirley Nield, Jim Evans, Jalil Tanous, Marion Orr, Jack & Maureen Brett, Patricia Brett, Nan Kelly, Molly & Herbert Odillo Maher, Terry Bostock, Nell Atkinson, Elizabeth Considine Conley, Jacques Bernard Pienovi, Andrew Georgiou, Giuliano family, Bryan & Ashleigh Paton, Margret Austin, Janice Hui, John McCue, Manfred Lemech, Piper Family, Geoffrey & Patricia Hughes, Suzanne Carver, Conception Family, Marie Therese Whelan, Margaret-Mary Kiernan, Helen Boyd, Richard Connolly, The Kelly Family, Elson & Marie Sang, Eibhlin Killen, Ian Stewart, Holy Souls.

### 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, contact the police. You can also contact the *Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office*: [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or on 93905810. 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.



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Franciscan Friars

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Parish  
Archdiocese

[www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com](http://www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com)  
[www.sydneycatholic.org](http://www.sydneycatholic.org)

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.

## GOSPEL

Mk 16: 15-20

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

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

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.*

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 will be 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.

**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

### CALLED TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS

As I write I'm in a transit lounge and, as it turns out, it's probably the most appropriate place from which to reflect on the feast of the Ascension which was a moment of great transition for the early church. As Jesus ascended the disciples were invited to leave behind what was known and familiar. Now the time had come to begin a new stage of the journey as they continued Jesus' mission. Many questions remained and they were uncertain about their ability to cope with the changes that lay before them. Jesus had proclaimed the coming of the kingdom. Now the task had been entrusted to them.

In a time of transition and change, we can all have the need for a point of reference that helps give direction and a sense of purpose. Paul writes from prison, bound and seemingly powerless, but he knows that the most powerful bonds for the Christian are those of love. For the Christians of Ephesus, the call is to be worthy of the vocation they have received, to grow in their baptism, and in their love and care for one another.

In a sense, the Ascension is something that happens to each and every individual Christian and community when we take up the task of preaching the gospel in our own time and place. We are still called to preach the good news of the kingdom, to carry on the task which Jesus has entrusted to us. There are still many questions in the life of the Church and there always will be.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / B

16 MAY 2021

TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN. The feast of the Ascension assures us that the risen Jesus, who was taken up to heaven, is still very close to us. We are called to recognise the signs of his presence in the goodness, love and forgiveness of the community, in the healing of souls and bodies and in the great and small miracles of life. The ascended Jesus is not an absent Jesus.

## 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.*

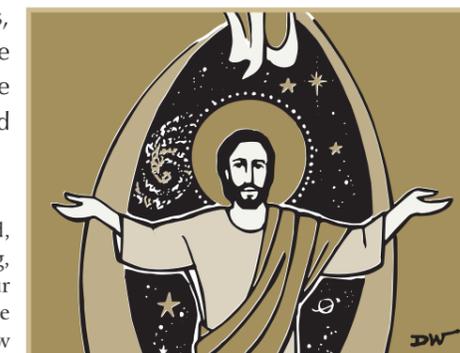
In my earlier work, *Theophilus*, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: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

## 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!**