



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

"BE STILL AND KNOW I AM GOD..."

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:30am - 3:30pm

Parish Priest : Fr Peter Taylor

St Mel's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Ascension of the Lord

Sunday 29 May 2022

Readings for
this Sunday:



Acts 1:1-11

Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23

Luke 24:46-53

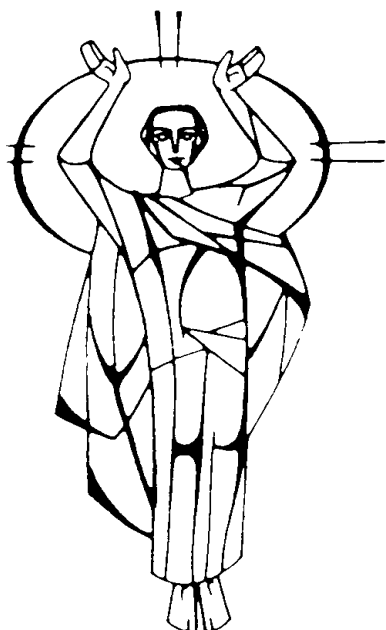
Readings for
next Sunday:



Acts 2:1-11

Romans 8:8-17

John 14:15-16, 23-26



Liturgical Jottings

Symbols of the Ascension

While the event and mystery of the Ascension of the Lord are expressed through the readings, prayers and hymns of the feast, they fall short of expressing the marvellous actions of God and the yearnings of our hearts and minds. We also employ the arts, signs and symbols. Years ago the Paschal Candle was extinguished after the Gospel: a sign of risen Lord ascending into heaven. Now the candle is extinguished at Pentecost, the end of Easter Season. Incense is a sign of our prayers raising up with Christ to heaven. Art depicts Christ rising and seated on the throne surrounded by angels and saints, hands often outstretched both reaching upwards into heaven and embracing the world in prayer.

Looking at the Readings

Today's Gospel ends in the temple at Jerusalem, just where the Luke's Gospel begins. Zechariah was serving in the temple when he received the message that he will have a son, John (1:5-20). The Apostles, after witnessing Jesus' "withdrawal" into heaven, returned to Jerusalem and "were continually in the temple giving thanks to God." (24:51-53). Jesus spent his last week in the temple before his death, Peter and John performed their first miracles in the temple. The First Reading starts in Jerusalem (1:1-12) and ends in Rome (Ch 28). Luke symbolises the journey of Christ and the Apostles from Jerusalem then to go out to all nations (Lk 24:47) and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

The Ascension is more than a historical event, it is a mystery of faith and an extension of Jesus' ministry to bring forgiveness of sins and to admit us into the sanctuary of heaven. We express this in images and rituals: the glory of Christ in heaven, our participation in his new life through Baptism and Eucharist.

Today we rejoice with all peoples the hope of heaven, the guarantee of new life and the commandment to go out into the world with confidence.

Quote of a Saint on the Ascension

"On this day has ascended to heaven the new and spiritual bread, and all the mysteries have been revealed in your Body, raised like an offering. Blest be this bread, O Lord! As light falling from heaven, he was born of Mary, like a divine seed, fell from the cross like a ripe fruit, and was raised to heaven as one raises the first fruits." *St Ephrem, deacon and doctor of the Church (d. 373)*

Prayer for the Day

Lord Jesus, you came to your own people and gave to all who welcomed you power to become children of God. In your merciful love watch over the Church and through her ministry bring salvation to the meek and lowly. May we avoid the snares of the impious, and come to rejoice in glory with your saints.

On the Lighter Side

The army drill instructor yells, "Forward, march!" And the entire ranks move, all except one recruit. He's still standing at attention. The instructor strolls over to him and yells in his ears, "Are these things working?" "Sir, yes, sir!" The recruit yells. "Then why didn't you march when I gave the order?" "Sir, I didn't hear you call my name."

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St Mel's Parish Is...

"A welcoming and caring community that helps all people grow stronger in our Catholic Faith."

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

The feast of the Ascension celebrates the end of Jesus' earthly work and a return he makes to God his Father. Luke's Gospel describes Jesus' rising into heaven. While we in faith make sense of Jesus' earthly ministry as continuing his mission. This coming week sees us in our Church deepening God's call for us to be in a week of NATIONAL RECONCILIATION (which began last Thursday with SORRY DAY). "**Be Brave. Make Change**" is the theme we follow. As with the Ascension we are left with matters in faith to carry out. This year our week of National Reconciliation invites we be brave in our work places, home life, with people close to us.

It's a tradition the week between the Ascension and Pentecost Sunday (next week) we see how the importance of CHRISTIAN UNITY is a source of life in welcoming people from other faith traditions with our own. Christian Unity was a principle strongly encouraged from the Second Vatican Council referred as an ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.

Ours is a time to see others in community mindful of their faith background in all they bring and contribute.

So there is bit going on It's also COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY ! Listening with the ear of the heart, is the call from Pope Francis. In light of the Ascension and in our anticipation of Pentecost, we seek a closer communication God brings into our prayer and faith works this week. Pope Francis makes a point of seeing WORDS lead to listening and IMAGES leading to wonder.

This week is one where the words used and images we see giving relationship for our community to see who we are Sisters and Brothers of God in and through the Holy Spirit our life force in faith. Listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit is always ground breaking. Reconciliation is a voice coming from within. Listening to this voice moves one from the "I" to the "WE", in a moving out to others. In the busyness of our lives this coming week gives us time to put aside a little of our technical devices and to listen from the heart where God is calling us to be

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY is today, Sunday, May 29th. Pope Francis' message this year focuses on the importance of 'Listening with the ear of the heart'. For more on this you access www.catholic.org.au/wcd



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK On 26th May, we celebrated *NATIONAL SORRY DAY* when we commemorate the Stolen Generation and we are now in *NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK* with the theme **BE BRAVE, MAKE CHANGE** – a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

[Home - National Reconciliation Week 2022](#)

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE: DAILY STEPS TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

Today I will treat everyone equally and fairly.
Today I will respect the rights of others no matter who they are.
Today I will be sensitive and thoughtful to those around me.
Today I will see people and not colours or race or clothes labels.
Today I will accept that everybody is unique and special in some way.
Today I will talk to someone I don't usually talk to.
Today I will speak out against racism, discrimination and injustice.
Today I won't shut out someone because they don't fit with my group.
Today I won't laugh at racist jokes.
Today I won't make fun of someone who cannot speak English.
Today I won't be condescending and patronising towards others.
Today I won't judge someone on how they look.
Today I won't start a sentence with "I'm not racist but..."
Today I will speak out against racism, discrimination and injustice.



St Mel's Parish would like to acknowledge the elders past and present of the Yorta Yorta Nation, and pay our respects as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our parish and church is situated.

ST MEL'S WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

"Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do to me". (Matt 25: 40)

This coming Wednesday, June 1st, the GSWNS begins. St Mel's/SSCC first night is this coming Friday, June 3rd. Thank you to all who have volunteered to date - please help find more volunteers (contact Melanie Domaschencz on 0417 217 213). Thank you to those who have offered food and/or financial donations (contact Maree McKenna on 0409 956 464).



Please keep s in your prayers.

Thank you. (Sr Pam)



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT, PARISH OWNED BLOCKS Our committee meets this Wednesday, 1st June at 7pm for our third meeting this year. We have in attendance Mr. Cameron Fraser our Diocesan Business Manager.

ST MEL'S BEING AN EARTHCARE PARISH Our parish was well represented last Monday at Nathalia, where a commissioning ceremony was held and those Parishes represented were given a tree in taking up this invitation through Caritas and in the spirit of Laudato Si. It is a hope that a group will be established in seeing us taking up the call of Pope Francis in enhancing our place in God's creation. Thank you to Margaret and Frank Purcell, Zoe Barbary, with Sr Pam Barlow, in representing St Mel's Parish along with school students from St Mel's Primary School and St Anne's College.



A PARISH SOCIAL EVENT was discussed at our recently held Parish Pastoral Council meeting, and it was decided as a Parish having a gathering would be invaluable considering the disruptions over the past years. Given the patronage of our Church is Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Church year is given in the spirit of Christ the King. So where to from here... Sunday November 20th is the date. A luncheon celebrating the diversity of culture here at St. Mel's is the nature of the event. Getting some to meet with me, will be important. NO one person can do this alone! I'll be calling for a meeting in a couple of weeks to plan. One thought would be having a variety of food styles. Having raffles etc. Any thoughts welcomed.

Fr Peter

ST MEL'S PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM Our candidates are continuing their preparation through the Steps in Faith program, the week beginning their Eucharist sessions at home with their parents and families. Please take time to view their profiles in the narthex and the Church and make them feel welcome. The Sacramental Masses are scheduled for Saturday, June 18th at 4:30pm (group one), and Sunday, June 19th at 11:30am (group two) and 2:30pm (group three).



Group one; Amelia Papallo, Ariana Tassoni, Cooper Paine, Joel Nicholson, Emily Flynn, Zara Ley, Ashton Ley, Daniella Meola and Izabella Meola. *Group two;* Alessio Natalizio, Lachlan Miller, Harry Campbell, Niall McCarroll, Natalie Pennisi, Kyla Walker and Abbey Damianopoulos. *Group three;* Hayley Austen, Kristine Mott, Jett Clarke, Luca Care', Lance Agustin, Braden Walsh and Imogen Walsh.

MASS ATTENDANCE COUNTS continue on Sundays here at St. Mel's, for the 29th of May along with the 5th of June, we need to count each person in attendance at all Masses. The purpose of the counts is to gather an estimated number of people attending Mass throughout the Diocese, in person and online. An important consideration with the counts, is to enable pastoral planning and the workloads of the Priests in the Diocese. Thank you to those who have assisted with this.

A FAREWELL TO MRS DEBBIE ELLIOTT WILL BE HELD NEXT SUNDAY JUNE 5TH where a presentation and gift will be presented to Debbie during the 9:30am Mass. After this Mass a morning tea will be provided to offer Debbie our thanks and gratitude for the past years of her support, here in the Parish Office, through pastoral support and other means of support for our Parish.



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 5th JUNE 2022

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God.

Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.

Jesus said to his disciples 'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever.

If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Weekday Masses this coming week

30th May to 5th June 2022

Monday 30th May - No Mass

Tuesday 31st May - 9:15am

Wednesday 1st June - 9:15am

Thursday 2nd June - 9:15am

Friday 3rd June - 9:15am

Saturday 4th June - 9:00am

Sunday 5th June - 9:30am & 5:00pm



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER

Sunday 5th June 2022

9:30am - Maureen Munro (Commentator) Chris Summers (L1)
Sev Cortese (L2)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Sarah Maloney and Lucy Ciancio

5:00pm - Dom Poppa (Commentator) Luisa Cassise (Lector)

5:00pm - Special Ministers: Helen May & Erin Tanner

Recently deceased: Denis Loverso, Mick Rendina

Anniversaries: Vincenzo Campi, Letizia Salamone, Severina Mammone, Libero Maiolo, Virginia Callveng, Alf Biasi (20 years), Giuseppe Sicilia