



Saint Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish

Birkdale · Thorneside · Wellington Point

(This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with Australian Privacy Laws)



The Ascension of the Lord - Year A - 24th May 2020

The feast of "The Ascension of the Lord" that we celebrate this weekend was actually last Thursday exactly 40 days after Easter, but because of its importance and for pastoral reasons it is moved to this Sunday. Everyone is looking for a long and happy life. And we know Eternal life is unending happiness. This is what we all seek. Jesus today tells us how to attain this all-important reward in life. The feast of "The Ascension of the Lord" is the hope of our glorification and a promise to meet our Lord in heaven. It is a reminder of our salvation, because our true home is in heaven. This is the beautiful truth we celebrate today. So we are challenged to look beyond this world to the destiny which we are to share with Christ. Thus, this world can only be a place of temporary refuge; a world of passage and not a world of permanence.

Moreover, this feast of the Ascension is also a reminder, not just of what awaits us, but also what we need to do while we are still on earth. His Ascension is also the start of our mission, the call that Jesus gives to His Church to continue His mission. A big task indeed. But before we can proclaim Jesus to others, our first task is to make sure that we make Jesus the Lord of our own hearts. This we can do by prayerfully reflecting on His words and by living according to His teachings and commandments.

We are to make time to become more and more Christ like in everything. We can write a new page of the gospel each day, through the things that we do and the words that we say. Then we proclaim the Good News to others not only through our words and deeds, but also through our lives. So that Jesus will also reign in their hearts and one day we all will be with Him in heaven.

The Feast of Mary, Help of Christians, the Patroness of Australia is on 24th May, this year because it falls on Sunday we celebrate this feast on 25th Monday. I now ask you to join me in saying the prayer of entrustment of Australia to the care of Mary Help of Christians, on this her feast day especially during this extraordinary situation.

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. Amen.

Blessings,

Fr. Dantus Thottathil.

This Week's Readings:

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11 – *Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

Psalm Response: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading: Eph 1:17-23 – *He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matt 28:16-20 – *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*



QUOTE OF THE DAY:

Your storms are only temporary. But the blessings of God are Forever.

Next week's Readings

First: Acts 2:1-11

Second: 1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Mass Times: Weekend Masses Cancelled until further notice

Reconciliation: Cancelled until further notice

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am to 2pm.

Parish Council Members: Chris Mahoney, Therese Evans, Cathy McGrath, Lorraine Kumar, John Spillane

Pastor: Fr Dantus Thottathil thottathild@bne.catholic.net.au

Associate Pastor: Fr Prem Rethnamony

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Safeguarding Officer: Lisa Knight ☎ 3822 2139

STOPLINE Contact: A0B@stipline.com.au

A VOCATION VIEW:

Through His death, resurrection and ascension, Christ showed us the path to eternal life. Know that the Lord is with you always, through your struggles and triumphs, and that he will hear your prayers.

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Parish Primary School

Principal: Mr John Spillane

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Please be mindful of our sick & all who care for them: Henk Hoonhout, Pat and Jack Cochrane, Kevin Kranz, Patricia Briscoe, Alicia Black, Tessa Gorogo, Mick Gauci, Paul McKean, Geoffrey Whall, Kevin Harrop, Judy Mullan, Charles Lilley, Ann Brown, Sally Legarda, Gemma Paxman, James Thomas, Cindy Cummins, John Bacon, Winifred Linton, Jodie Bromiley, Casey Whitby, Trish Swan, Ian Splatt, Jan Hurst, Steven West, Ava Loda, Joan Thorpe, Patricia Haines, Belinda Wheeler, Cely Salisbury, The Bade Family, Carol Parker, Brian Crimmins, Brian Johnston, Medi Camelli, Hazel Foster, Dan Mullan, Stana Matic, Page Brosnan, Dot Abrahams, Amelia Ramsay, Jeanette Moore, Nola Murphy, Christiana Becker, Cathy Leane, Pauline McNamee, Pat Crimmins, Gina Mather.

May God embrace all who have recently died: Dolour Barnes, Peter O'Donnell.

Anniversaries & Remembrances May: Josephine Romero, Babs Gilhooley, Amber Rose (birthday) daughter of Celina and David McGovern, Michael Czapkowski (birthday), Anastacia Wieland, Bill Cluck, Matha Cluck, Flo Conway, Aristeo Avenia, Denis Glanville, Edward Bartlett, Barbara McGhee, Denise Hodgson, Alma Maclean, Jessie Maclean, Kerry Powell, Norma Cowsell, Simon Bromley, Giovanni Ragagnin, Betty Avenia, Sr Anne Pulling RSH, Dr Salolatore Vitali, Laureen Smith, Maureen McNab, Nell Elliott, Bede Ryan, Aldo Bandiera, James Harrison, Ann Hockings, Nellie Modral, Saul David, Alberto Bandiera, Patricia Watson, Noel & Role Gablonski, Luigi Basso, Irma Moroney, Moira Peterson, Margaret Knights, Jessie Maclean, James King. **Please record any further names in the Anniversaries & Remembrance Diary at the Welcome Desk**

Private Prayer in the Church commencing on Wednesday 27th May the Church will be open for Private Prayer on Wednesdays and Mondays from 10:00am to 10:45am. Numbers will be limited to 9 people (increasing to 19 people on 12th June). You will need to contact the Parish office by email birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au or phone 3822 2139 to register. You will also need to adhere to the same restrictions as with Mass Celebrations (see next item). The number of participants cannot exceed the limit of 9 people so please **ensure you register before you attend!!**

Mass Celebrations We will be able to celebrate Mass with 9 people in attendance (plus the celebrant). People who attend will need to adhere to the following guidelines:-

You must NOT

- have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have a fever or symptoms of a respiratory infection such as a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath

You must

- maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between people
- refrain from handshaking and hugging
- clean your hands with the alcohol-based hand rub provided in the Church when you enter and leave the Church
- Record your name and contact details in the register at the entry of the Church
- Sit in the chairs which are numbered 1 – 9 in the church

Attendance at these Masses will be on a roster basis. If you would like to be included on this roster, please contact the parish office via email birkmmack@bne.catholic.edu.au or phone 3822 2139.

Keep in touch with your parish We are here to support you. If you or someone you know needs pastoral care, help to stay connected with the parish community or more information about sacraments please contact the parish office. **Our planned giving bank account details for direct deposits are as follows:**

BSB: 064 786 Account No: 100017027 Account name: Birkdale Parish Planned Giving

Kindly reference your deposit with your surname and your planned giving number/envelope number if you have one.

Thank you very much for your generous financial support and prayers for our Parish. The Parish Office – open on **Tuesdays and Fridays (excluding Public Holidays) between 9:00am and 2:00pm** until further notice. The preferred contact method is by phone 3822 2139 or email birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au. If you require a priest IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY ONLY please phone 3396 0742

Free Subscriptions to The Catholic Leader: Parishioners can now receive The Catholic Leader digital newspaper straight to your inbox every Thursday morning. This free subscription is available while Masses are suspended and churches are closed across the Archdiocese of Brisbane due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sign up here <https://buff.ly/35j9JsI> to subscribe.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

First Reading: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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 to 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.'

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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.

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.'