

ST PATRICK'S PARISH

Mass centres: Gunalda, Gympie, Imbil, Kandanga, Kilkivan, Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay, Widgee

As we gather we acknowledge the Gubbi Gubbi people and the Indigenous elders of this area, those who once lived here and into whose sacred space our forebears came, changing forever an older way of life

Parish Staff: **Parish Priest** Fr Adrian Farrelly, **Associate Pastor** Fr Dominic Orih, **Office Administration** Mrs Anne Williams and Mrs Vi Brown, **Parish Associate** Mr Tom Bushell, **Local Safeguarding Representative** Mr Ian Laherty Ph. 0460 573 349, **Pastoral Council Chair** Mrs Maureen Rush, **Finance Council** Mr Ken Garner, **Principals** St Patrick's Primary Ms Sue Geaney, St Patrick's College Mr Mark Newton

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The Ascension of the Lord Year A 24TH May 2020 Sanctity of Life Sunday

Beloved friends,

Sometimes what seems to be a departure is actually an arrival to new ways of being. Sometimes absence becomes presence in a new way. Sometimes disconnection is a trigger for connection in a new way.

When I think of Ascension, I think of the apostles who were downcast at the thought of Jesus leaving them. Jesus has been preparing them for this moment, and in the last few Sundays, we have listened to the long passage of John's Gospel known as the Final Discourse of Jesus, where he was encouraging his disciples not to lose faith because he will be with them every step of the way. But as we know, it's one thing to hear one thing, it's another thing to listen to what you've heard and think of what it meant for you and your being in the world. While the apostles have heard the former, the latter needed to be internalised. So, they felt that Jesus' ascension is a departure of his presence and the absence of his power, while in actual fact, it is the dawn of a whole new presence and power like never before. If only they could see what the future holds for them, and all the great works they would do in the name of a God who promised them in the words of Jesus that they will do greater things than he has done, then they wouldn't have felt so abandoned. But for us who have read what they were able to do by the power of the Holy Spirit in *Acts of the Apostles*, can now understand how much Jesus believed in them that they can do greater things in his name.

In our First Reading from Acts Chapter One, Luke addressed Theophilus about his earlier work (the Gospel of Luke) of all that Jesus had done and of all God continues to do through the apostles. Before ascending to heaven, Jesus asked them to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit and then, they can go and be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. The whole *Acts of the Apostles* is an account of the work God continues to do through the Mystical Body of Christ known as the Church. There is always the tendency to miss the bigger picture when you're suffering *in* the situation you find yourself. For the apostles, it was a feeling of hopelessness and being lost as to what the future holds for them, without having Jesus physically present with them. They forgot that the presence of Christ extends beyond the physical nature of Jesus, to the full presence of Christ that surpasses any bounds or culture or tradition. The kind of presence that is available to us now.

So when St Paul writes in our Second Reading in his letter to the Ephesians and said "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." It is because, it is true. We need our eyes to be opened to see what rich glory awaits us as children of God. Fear can only blind us to this truth, but when we walk by faith and not by sight, we can experience this revelation of God's glory in our lives. Then we will know that ascension tells a greater story than Jesus ascending to heaven. It is a story that includes us too; a story that involves us ascending with Jesus Christ, ascending everything that hinders us from seeing the revelation of the truth that is in us which has been made manifest in us by the power of God working in us, for us and through us. When you think about it, in Christ's ascension, we are given a glimpse of our final earthly destination, which is a beginning of new life in union with God. ***We come from love and we will return to love.*** As Jesus said in John 14:3, "*where I am, you also will be.*" So, in a way, a departure has become an arrival to a new way of being. Absence has become presence in a new way, and disempowerment has become empowerment.

Richard Rohr recounts, *I remember once seeing a painting in a European museum of the Ascension. It was rather huge, and at the very top, right beneath the frame, were the bare feet of Jesus as He ascended into heaven. It almost felt comic. Most of the painting was the apostles looking up in various poses of fear, confusion, and awe. It struck me that the Ascension was the final stage of His human life, and every human life, when the material world returns to its spiritual Source.*

The Ascension is about the final reunion of what appeared to be separated for a while: Earth and Heaven, human and divine, matter and Spirit. They are again one, and it was important that we see ordinary human feet going into heaven! If the Christ is the archetype of the full human journey, now we know how it all resolves itself in glory.

This is what it all means for us all - our perfect union with God. And may God bless you! Amen.

Fr. Dom.

CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD AT HOME

Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be God,
who enables us, through the Spirit,
Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Introductory Remarks

Today, we, the people of God,
gather to hear and respond to God's word,
to return praise and thanks.
We look forward to that day
when we will once more celebrate the Eucharist,
as Christ commanded us to do in his memory.
Our community makes its worship
in union with the Church throughout the world,
with N. our Pope, N. our bishop,
our pastor, Father N., who is unable to be with us,
and with our brothers and sisters in neighbouring
parishes
who keep holy this day
in the celebration of the Lord's sacrifice and supper.

Opening Rite

Before listening to the word,
let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord Jesus, you were sent to heal the contrite:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You came to call sinners:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You plead for us at the right hand of the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect

Let us pray.

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,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Procession of the Word of God

May the Word of God always be heard in this place,
as it unfolds the mystery of Christ before us
and achieves our salvation within the Church.

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

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.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

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

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.**

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.**

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 Ephesians 1:17-23

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Profession of Faith

In union with the whole Church, let us profess our faith.

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**
At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.

**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.**

General Intercessions

Presider: Because the risen and ascended Jesus is still with us we confidently continue to make known our needs to him.

For our pope, bishop, priests and pastoral team, that they lead us with creative zeal, we pray to the Lord:

For the leaders of all nations, that they rise above selfish interests to serve their people, we pray to the Lord:

For the members of this parish, that we continue to witness to Jesus by our love for and care of one another, we pray to the Lord:

For all who are weighed down by worry, ill health and other personal problems, that they may look up to the Lord and receive the help they need, we pray to the Lord:

For the end of wars and violence, and the return of peace to all people, we pray to the Lord:

For all those who are sick, especially Beryl Walker, Bruno Gabbana, Fr Joe McGeehan & Fr Pat Dowd, that God may be their strength and grant them good health and also bless all those who care for them, we pray to the Lord:

For all who have died, especially John McIntosh, that they complete their journey of joy to the glory of God's kingdom, we pray to the Lord:

Presider: As we lift up our hearts and voices to you, God of glory, never let us forget that you are with us always, We ask this through Jesus Christ our risen and ascended Lord. Amen.

Proclamation of Praise

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons forever.

Lord's Prayer

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Sign of Peace

Let us seal our prayer with a sign of fellowship
as we offer one another a sign of peace.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Blessing

May the God of hope fill us with every joy in believing.

May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts.

May the Holy Spirit enrich us with his gifts,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE PARISH

With Sunday masses suspended for the time being, please continue to support the parish financially. The ways to do this are:

Use the envelopes and drop them off at the parish office

Arrange a **direct debit** from your financial institution to the parish

Transfer funds electronically online. To make these transfers the details to use are:

Gympie Parish BSB 064-786 Account Number 6531102 or BSB 064-786 Account Number 100017636.

To make a deposit at a post office or bank branch use these details: BSB 064-000 Account Number 0032 5284.

This is an open account unlike the closed account for electronic transfer.

This is the main account for the Archdiocesan Development Fund (ADF). Ask the staff member you deal with to include an identifier. Experience has shown that some will not accept identifiers (I do not why. Those with banking experience may have an answer.) Staff at the ADF have assured me that even without an identifier they will know which account the deposit goes to. May I suggest you send an email to the parish with details of your deposit – date and amount to ensure our records of your assistance are accurate.

The app for people to use to donate to the parish is being set up. Fr Adrian does not expect people to use this as their ordinary way of giving financial support as the fees reduce the amount the parish receives. The best way of support is direct debit as this works without extra charges.

WEBCAST CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST AND OTHER PRAYERS

ST PATRICK'S Sunday 10.00 am. Live stream: go to the Gympie parish website – www.stpatsgympie.net.au and click on the Facebook item at the top right of the screen.

CATHEDRAL OF ST STEPHEN Live stream. www.archbne.org/bzw.

Weekday mass: 8.00 am

Sunday: 8.00 am and 10.00 am

CATHOLIC LEADER

With the recent announcement to suspend all Sunday and Saturday vigil Masses until further notice, you, our readers, will be unable to buy The Catholic Leader at parishes on weekends. So, we are making our digital newspaper free at our website, catholicleader.com.au.

This [digital newspaper](#) will be free for readers to access until parishes reopen across the Brisbane archdiocese. It is our commitment to ensure that everybody has access to stories of connection, inspiration, and faith.

Catholic Mission

The month of May is typically dedicated to Our Lady, Mary. It is also a time when we are encouraged to pray the Rosary. Our 'boss', Pope Francis (we are a Pontifical agency of the Catholic Church), is encouraging everyone to rediscover the beauty of the Rosary.

Your parish may already have a rosary group running; you might like to invite them, or individual parishioners, to take up the attached prayers, offered by Pope Francis, and say them along with the rosary.

We also would welcome you or any of your parish joining us at Catholic Mission – Brisbane's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/catholicmissionbrisbane/>), at noon each week day, as we pray the rosary on Zoom.

Pope Francis himself will be praying in spiritual union with all, "Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial." (SL) (Agenzia Fides, 27/4/2020)

This **Saturday 23rd May at 7.00pm** the **Cherish Life Candle Prayer Vigil** originally planned for the International Day of the Unborn on March 25 is being presented Online.

Remembered through prayers will be those affected by pregnancy loss and pregnancy difficulties; unborn children lost to abortion, miscarriage and accidents; mothers, fathers and families grieving the loss of their unborn children; and recognising women and couples experiencing fertility and pregnancy difficulties.

From 7.00pm and at anytime after this time the Candle Prayer Vigil can be seen through the Gympie.Church Online YouTube channel that everyone can access using this link below. The link will take you to the Gympie.Church Online YouTube channel and you will be able to see the Candle Prayer Vigil video which you will need to activate.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWnOEcQ6O11w0ylGkAxES3Q>

This link can be posted on Facebook sites, other media platforms or shared with anyone who would be interested. The Candle Prayer Vigil video will remain on the YouTube site to be viewed at anytime after 7.00pm this Saturday.

PRAYER IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS

*If our doors are closed,
let our hearts be open.*

Almighty and all-merciful God,
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,
in whom there is no shadow of death,
save us in this time of crisis;
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;
watch over all medical people
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,
that hope may never die
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,
may shine upon us and the whole world.
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

Most Rev. Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane



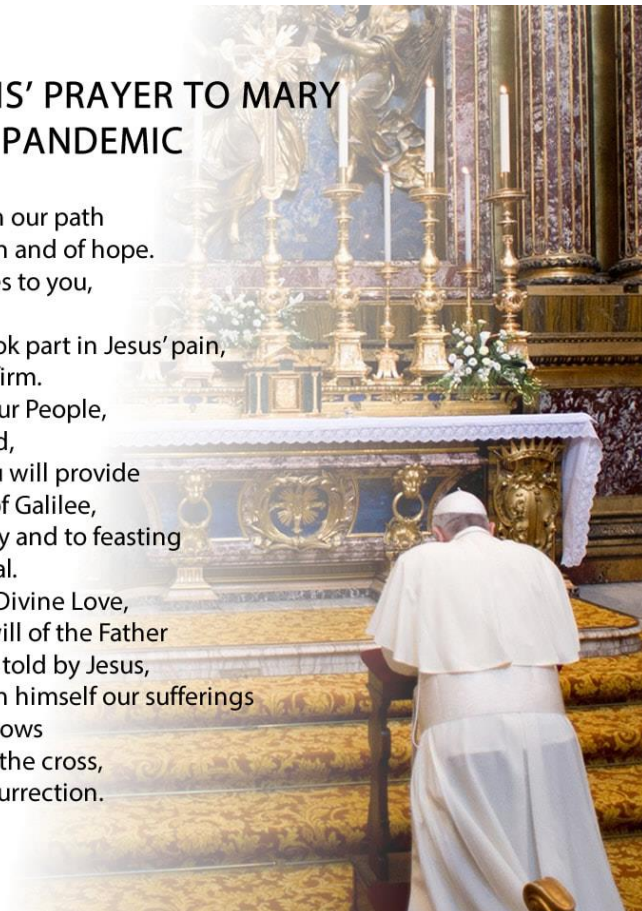
**ARCHDIOCESE
OF BRISBANE**

www.brisbanecatholic.org.au

Churches are
not being
closed.
Buildings are
being closed.
You are the
church! You are
to remain open.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE PANDEMIC

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you,
Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,
keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of Your People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection.
Amen.



TO THE PASTORS AND PEOPLE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

The Archdiocese of Brisbane welcomes the new Roadmap to a COVID Safe Australia released by the government last week. We are now in the process of lifting restrictions as each Parish has had a chance to review the COVID-19 Safe Plan.

The updated Plan states that parishes have the option to open for regularly scheduled Masses (daily and /or Sunday) for up to 10 people effective immediately and provides a framework for confessions that fits with government regulations. I understand that not all Churches will have the capacity to implement the directives and cleaning protocols that are required to open at this time. Opening the Church for private prayer or Mass will be at the discretion of the parish priest and in consultation with his Pastoral Council or similar leadership group.

For those Churches that are in a position to open, I would like to remind you of the requirements below. The following protocols are proportionate and consistent with both the government's "3 Step Framework" and the Catholic Church's duty to protect those who are most vulnerable. Please keep in mind, we have had reports that police are doing spot checks to ensure parishes are in compliance.

- **Each Parish must complete the [Checklist for Church Reopen](#) form and return it to Work Health and Safety at whs@bne.catholic.net.au prior to any visitors entering Churches for Mass or private prayer.**
- Please find an updated [COVID-19 Safe Plan here](#). Some key points include:
 - A limit to the number of people who may enter at any one time.
 - A process for private confessions
 - A designated representative must record contact details (name, address, phone and time of visit) of those who wish to enter. The parish must keep these details, confidentially and securely, for 28 days and then destroy them.
 - Cleaning protocols ([linked here](#)) must be met before and after visitors come into the Church.

Additionally, click on the links below for helpful resources for parish priests and parish staff. Find these and other links on <https://ai.catholic.net.au/>.

- [Graphic for all Phases of Parish COVID Plan](#) - A graphic showing the stages of the Parish COVID plan to share with parish staff and parishioners in the newsletter or on your website.
- [Frequently Asked Questions for Parish Staff](#) –Responses to some of the questions we've received from clergy and parish staff.
- [Fact Sheet for Booking Parishioners for Masses](#): A helpful fact sheet for developing a system to register parishioners for Masses using a template or an online system. The Resource Development Office is available to assist parishes with this as needed.
- [COVID-19 Safe Plan Updated 20 May](#)
- [Checklist for Church Reopen](#)
- [Checklist for Vulnerable and High Risk Workers](#)

Please use your bulletin, emails, school newsletter and other forms of communication to let parishioners know of the new arrangements. If you require any assistance or have further questions please contact whs@bne.catholic.net.au and a member of the WHS team will assist you.

The Australian Catholic Church is adopting a cautious approach to opening churches in order to protect the health and safety of parishioners and the wider community. I do however, realise that the legislation, protocols and paperwork required can be overwhelming for many parishes. I want to thank you for your resilience and patience during this challenging time.

+Ken



Bishop Ken Howell

Auxiliary Bishop - Brisbane

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The resources can be found on the Liturgy Brisbane website at

<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/> and will be updated each week.

1)

SUNDAY READINGS
READ AT HOME

The first document contains the Sunday readings with associated commentaries and prayers. It is suggested that families gather to read the Scriptures aloud together.

2)

FAMILY PRAYER
WEEK BY WEEK

The second resource is designed for families with young children. An extract from the Sunday gospel is provided, along with some reflection questions, a family activity and a worksheet for children.