



The Catholic Parish of Bundaberg

Office Hours: 8:30 - 3:30 Monday to Friday

Parish Office: Rossolini Place Level 1, 66 Woongarra St

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Under the Patronage of Mary Mother of the Church

ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

2 JUNE 2019

FoCuS by Fr Peter Tonti

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

We give thanks for the safe and peaceful election of our federal government for the next term. We are most fortunate that in our country the leaders of our major parties are principally Christian and strive to follow the ancient Judaic/Christian virtues of Justice, Freedom and Peace.

The challenge for us is that as our society becomes more and more secular the leaders of our country will also become more and more secular. What is the role of Christianity in political leadership? The Time of the Enlightenment (1685-1815) heralded in a radical reorientation in politics, philosophy, science and communications in the Western World. There were many advancements from which we have greatly benefitted. However, with these benefits came an increase in the idea of colonisation with the mindset that we do it right, so do it our way. In the present, more challenging, post-modern times we see the rise of *Get God out of Politics*. If we keep voting all will be well!

We are challenged today with more and more crises including national conflicts, environmental issues and the hijacking of human rights for the individual focus on My Rights. We continue to draw more political lines on maps and build more and more walls. The increase in secular democracy begins to lose the dignity and respect for all creation and for all people.

As Christians we recognise our God calls us to bring in God's Kingdom for all creation and for all people. We are commissioned to be stewards of creation (Genesis) and to *love your neighbour as I have loved you* (John 13:34). We realise that all time, space and creation is God's, including the public square. We reject the British political understanding, at the time of Tony Blair, that *Downing Street does not do God*.

As Christians we believe in our God who says *I have heard the cry of my people* (Exodus 3:7) and sends Jesus of Nazareth to show us true leadership. Jesus who truly enters the public square, who tackles the empires and those who think they should be, and who enjoys praying, reaching out to those who need healing and celebrating and eating with those who are supposed to be the 'Wrong People'.

Our Gospels provide us with the extraordinary account of the bringing in of God's Kingdom through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The bringing in of God's Kingdom is not, as is often portrayed, souls taking off to heaven somewhere, but the calling of us to continue implementing, through the Jesus Christ Way, God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven. Our Scriptures and prayers continually remind us of the New Heaven and New Earth coming together as one with God ever aware and present. We sing a new song with all the angels and saints the unending hymn of God's praise: *Holy, Holy, Holy...*

Jesus Christ is the ultimate servant leader. He upends and transforms the structures of power. As a Church we must hold our political leaders to account. We must be wise, offer servant leadership amongst ourselves, in our homes, churches, institutions and in the wider market place. We must be challenged to ensure Jesus is in our boat. We must Live, Model, Pray and Prophesise the Good News of God's Kingdom. In a world of cultural, social and political chaos where people struggle for hope, meaning and purpose, perhaps a good political slogan would be: *What would our world look like if we voted God in as our Prime Minister!*

Let us celebrate and tell people the Good News of God living amongst us. Let us use our God given gifts and our imagination to see what God's Kingdom looks like. Let us reach out to those in need, walk with them and together experience the gift of new life. Let us challenge our political leadership to raise their eyes and with us transform our art, music, literature, what is on our television screens, computers, social media and newsreels. Let them see Justice, Freedom and Peace through ever-deepening Christian eyes. Let them see us as people of faith and of hope and of love. Then, I believe, people will come in their thousands to be part of God's Church and our political leaders will have every reason to offer their servant leadership skills for God's Kingdom. Every single one of us, without exception, is created as God's Icons, created in God's image, called to live together, filled with God's Spirit, the Jesus Way, to bring in God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

With me in them and you in me, may they be so completely one that the world will realise that it was you who sent me and that I loved them as much as you loved me. (John 17: 21)

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Peter Tonti PP
Parish Priest

Rev Jomon Poothara
Associate Pastor

Rev Ronaldo Rodriguez SVD
Associate Pastor

Mrs Anne Sheehan
Liturgy & Sacramental Co-ordinator

Mrs Denise Tuzes
Visitation & Bereavement
Co-ordinator

Mr Norm Whyte
Business Manager

Mr Jeffrey Caluag
Administration & Finance
Co-ordinator

Mrs Raquel Arriola
Reception

Bundaberg NET
Youth Ministry

SCHOOLS

**St Joseph's Catholic
Primary School**
Principal: Mrs Kaye Beston
sjbgrok.catholic.edu.au
Ph: 4151 4771

**St Mary's Catholic
Primary School**
Principal: Ms Madonna Davitt
stmarysbundaberg.qld.edu.au
Ph: 4152 2167

**St Patrick's Catholic
Primary School**
Principal: Mr Mark Fox
saintpatricks.qld.edu.au
Ph: 4152 1380

Shalom College
Principal: Mr Dan McMahon
shalomcollege.com
Ph: 4155 8111

CHURCHES

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Barolin & Woongarra Sts

St Patrick's Church
16 Powers St

St Mary's Church
Cnr Barolin & Boston Sts

St James' Church
38 See St Bargara

OTHER CONTACTS

Diocesan Safeguarding
Judy Pidcock: 4887 3080

The Diocese of Rockhampton
Response Line: 1800 830 113

Centacare: 1300 523 985

St Vincent de Paul: 4151 5455

Ozcare: 1800 692 273

Towards Healing: 1800 337 928

AFTER HOURS

**Anointing of the Sick
for Medical Emergencies**
Phone 4151 6666
& follow the prompts.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

I travel a good bit, which means I am away from my wife and children for decent periods of time. But what makes it easier for me, besides being able to share the Good News of Jesus with people all over, is that I know I will not be gone forever. I will return, and then all will be well again. I have been called by God to be away from them at times, but God always brings me back to them.

Each liturgical year, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. The feast speaks much to who Jesus is theologically. But in a very practical way, we also acknowledge that he has gone to be with the Father, but will return someday. Just as I return after a conference or visit with a parish to those God has entrusted to me and I love, Jesus will return to those entrusted to him and whom he loves.

But just like when I am away, there are things to be done. Life goes on for my wife and children with school, work, activities, and the basic responsibilities of family. In good stewardship, they are called to give generously to each other and devote themselves to God. Without them tending to things, upon my return I would find everything in turmoil and disarray. Then when I return, we become one again, and we are about the Lord's work together.

The Lord ascended into heaven, but we are not to sit by quietly awaiting his return. Much needs to be done. He has entrusted much to us, expecting us to be good stewards. If you think that you have all the time in the world to complete the tasks at hand, think again. His return will be when we least expect it. It is time to be about our Father's work.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

FROM POPE FRANCIS "LAUDATO SI"

The continued acceleration of changes affecting humanity and the planet is coupled today with a more intensified pace of life and work which might be called "rapidification". Although change is part of the working of complex systems, the speed with which human activity has developed contrasts with the naturally slow pace of biological evolution. Moreover, the goals of this rapid and constant change are not necessarily geared to the common good or to integral and sustainable human development. Change is something desirable, yet it becomes a source of anxiety when it causes harm to the world and to the quality of life of much of humanity.

LIVING JUSTLY LIVING SUSTAINABLY

This Wednesday 5th June is World Environment Day. It's the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment. The theme for 2019 is Air Pollution. We can all do something to show our care for the Earth, our common home. *We could celebrate God's gift of creation as individuals, families or with a group of friends – by rejoicing in the sunrise/sunset, planting trees, cleaning-up the neighbourhood, etc.*

ADULT FAITH by Fr Peter Tonti

Monday, 3rd June at 1:00 pm and repeated at 5:30 pm at the Parish Centre
Journey the greatest unfolding love story ever told by participating in **Breaking Open the Scriptures**, first Monday of every month, there is the opportunity to deepen our understandings of the biblical texts.

Topic: Introducing the Great Themes of Scripture. Please bring your Bible and Sacred Scripture Pamphlet. All welcome!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Terry Boyle, Eileen Chalmers, Jan Heaton (Perth), Edna Blake, Patricia Eileen McKenzie, Edward Arthur "Ted" Burton

NOTICES

INTERNAL PAINT WORK AT HOLY ROSARY CHURCH: Please note that the usual Tuesday Mass held at 12.15 PM next Tuesday **4th June** will be held at *St. Mary's church*. Our painting contractor advises that he plans to complete his work at Holy Rosary church by Wednesday evening. If all goes to plan, the church will be available for normal usage from Thursday morning.

THE WILD GOOSE DVD SERIES—LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR: The Life in the Spirit Seminar concludes this Tuesday, **4th June** 7pm in the parish conference room. Thank you to all who participated in this amazing 6-week journey. A truly blest time!

PENTECOST "CHURCH CRAWL": Pentecost Sunday, **9th June**, beginning at 2.00pm in the Uniting Church, Barolin Street. Walk or drive to Holy Rosary Church at 2.20pm, finishing at Christ Church Anglican Church, 4.00pm followed by afternoon tea. Don't forget to wear something Red for Pentecost!

CHILDREN'S MASS: Pentecost Sunday, **9th June**, 5.30pm Mass. Music led by the NET Team & young singers; readings and prayer texts geared for young people. We encourage our young families to attend.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE DIOCESAN CONFERENCE: Saturday, **15th June** in the Loyola Centre at Shalom College, beginning with Mass at 9.00am. The conference lunch will be held in the Leprechaun Room, Brothers Club. 12.00 for 12.30 start. Cost of the lunch is \$21.50 to be paid at the Parish Office from May 29th till June 12th, or at the June meeting. For further information contact Maureen 4152 1263 or Dolour 4160 6094.

BUNDABERG CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: All are welcome to attend the June meeting of the Bundaberg CWLA to be held on Tuesday, **June 4th** at 12.00 pm, in the Community Centre. Remember to bring your own lunch. For more information call Maureen 4152 1263

RELAY FOR LIFE HIGH TEA: Saturday, **13th July** 2019 10:30am in St Patrick's Hall. Tickets are \$30/person & will be available from the Parish Office from Monday, 3rd June 2018. (Tables of 10 available). Donations towards the High Tea's Continuous Raffle would be greatly appreciated.

RELAY FOR LIFE: Saturday, **10th** - Sunday, **11th August** 2019 at the Bundaberg Recreational Precinct. Registration \$30. If you would like to register as a member of the Bundaberg Catholic Parish Relay for Life Team please visit the Cancer Council Office at 41 Woongarra Street or register online.

PROJECT COMPASSION RECEIPTS: If you require a receipt for your Project Compassion contributions please contact the office before the end of June.

DATE CLAIMER

⇒ Friday, **15 August** 5.30pm Filipino mass to be celebrated by Fr Ronaldo Rodriguez SVD at St Patrick's Catholic Church.

⇒ Saturday, **31st August** for the St Mary's School Anniversary Fete.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED: From time to time we have inquiries from our cultural groups for assistance with written and spoken English, particularly for those who may be submitting assignments for assessment or understanding written English. This may become a new ministry of people with the skills of teaching and communication, possibly retired teachers, journalists, lecturers, who could voluntarily give their time to help others in our parish. To find out more please phone the office.

LITURGIES

Monday 3 June 2019

9.00am St Patrick's - Mass

Tuesday 4 June 2019

9.00am St James' - LWC
12.15pm St Mary's - Mass

Wednesday 5 June 2019

St Boniface, bishop, martyr
8.00am Shalom - Mass
5.30pm St Patrick's - Mass

Thursday 6 June 2019

6.30am St Mary's - LWC
11.30am Shalom - Mass

Friday 7 June 2019

12.15pm Holy Rosary - Mass
1.00pm Holy Rosary - Adoration

Saturday 8 June 2019

Hours Evening Prayer I of Pentecost

9.00am Holy Rosary - Penance
6.00pm St Patrick's - Mass

NEXT SUNDAY

9 June 2019

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Year C (I)

Hours of the Pentecost

7.00am St James'
8.00am Holy Rosary
9.00am St Mary's
2.00pm Pentecost
5.30pm Holy Rosary

SCRIPTURES for next Sunday

First Reading

Acts 2:1-11

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-17

Gospel

John 14:15-16, 23-26



SCRIPTURE REFLECT & RESPOND

Acts 1:1-11

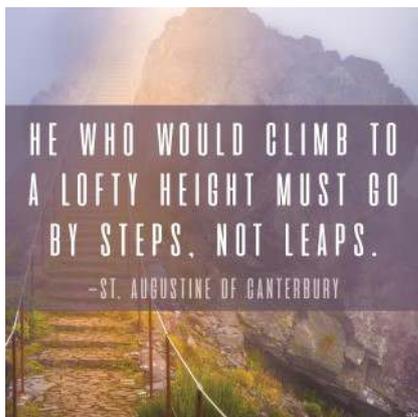
Why do you think Luke opens the Acts of the Apostles by narrating the ascension of Jesus into heaven?

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

Paul speaks of Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven as the source of divine wisdom for the unity of the Church. How do you think Jesus' ascension unifies the Church?

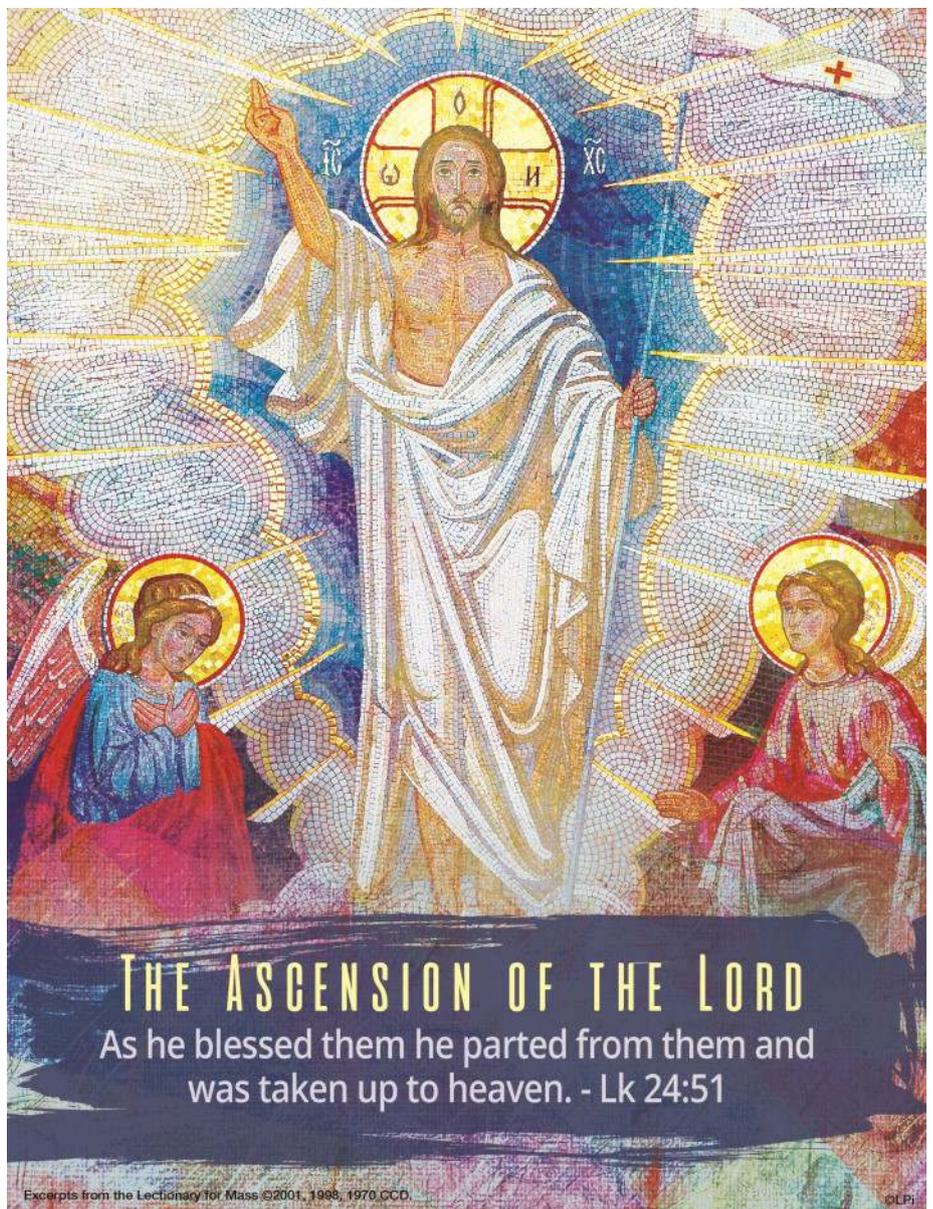
Luke 24:46-53

The final episode in the Gospel of Luke is Jesus' ascension into heaven. Luke tells us the disciples "returned to Jerusalem with great joy" on their way back from Bethany, about 1.5 miles away. What do you imagine the disciples talked about on this brief journey



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

**In relationship with Christ,
empowered by the Holy
Spirit, we serve joyfully as a
people beloved and called
by God.**



GOSPEL REFLECTION

What is the most common image you've seen of the Ascension? It's typically Jesus hovering above the earth surrounded by brilliant light. The Ascension is a beautiful feast, but it's about more than the distant glory of God. It's about the blessing of God and the transformative power of trust.

"You are witnesses to these things." Before he ascends, Jesus reminds the disciples of the basic message of the Gospel and of the disciples' own important role. They are to proclaim the Gospel message by their personal witness to the saving power of God. "I am sending the promise of my Father upon you... clothed with power from on high." Jesus promises to equip the disciples for this important mission. Not only are they receiving a command, but they're receiving the empowerment they need to move. "He... raised his hands, and blessed them." Even now, though the fulfillment of Pentecost is still to come, Jesus gives them a parting gift before he ascends into heaven. Finally, "They... returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God."

The disciples faced an unknown future. Their teacher had left them, and the political and religious authorities weren't exactly thrilled about Jesus and his growing movement. But the memory of our Father's redemptive love, the promise of the Holy Spirit, and the blessing of Christ sustained them. Jesus trusted them to act in his name. They could trust him in return. Do you face uncertainty in your own life? Remember, we are all called to be disciples and witnesses. We have received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at our baptism. We are blessed by Christ beyond imagining in the sacraments. This Ascension feast, we too can trust in God! With this firm trust, we too can return to our daily lives, praising God with great joy!