

**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.'

**Responsorial 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.

**Second Reading Eph 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.

**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!

**Gospel Mt 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 commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

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St. John the Baptist

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH**

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St. Monica

The Parish has been entrusted to the Salesians of Don Bosco since 2000

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – YEAR A - 23 & 24 MAY, 2020**

**PARISH MASSES**  
**St. John's and St. Monica's**  
**Weekend 23rd and 24th May 2020**

Keeping in mind that we have a responsibility for allowing a congregation of ten people at any Mass, we are providing the following Mass Programme for the weekend.

**SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY**

9.00 am—St John's  
(usual Saturday Mass)  
6.00 pm—St John's  
6.30 pm—St Monica's

**SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

7.30 am—St Monica's  
8.30 am—St John's  
9.00 am—St Monica's  
10.00 am—St John's  
10.30 am—St Monica's  
2.00 pm—St John's  
4.00 pm—St John's  
5.30 pm—St John's

We are very grateful to the Salesian Priests for their generous support.

**PARISH DIARY  
MAY 2020**

**(10 Parishioners (max) for each mass)**

**23 Saturday,**

- 9.00am Mass at St John's 9.30am & 5.15pm Reconciliation
- 6.00pm Mass at St. John's
- 6.30pm Mass at St. Monica's

**24 Sunday, THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

- 7.30am Mass at St. Monica's
- 8.30am Mass at St. John's
- 9.00am Mass at St. Monica's
- 10.00am Mass at St. John's
- 10.30am Mass at St. Monica's
- 2.00pm Mass at St John's
- 4.00pm at St. John's
- 5.30pm at St John's

**25 Monday, OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS**

- 9.00am Mass at St John's 9.30-10.00am Reconciliation
- 12.00pm Mass at St John's 12.30-1.00pm Reconciliation

**26 Tuesday, St Phillip Neri, priest**

- 9.00am Mass at St John's 9.30-10.00am Reconciliation

**27 Wednesday, St Augustine of Canterbury, bishop**

- 8.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 9.00am Mass at St John's 9.30-10.00am Reconciliation

**28 Thursday,**

- 12.00pm Mass at St John's 12.30-1.00pm Reconciliation

**29 Friday, St Paul VI, pope**

- 9.00am Mass at St John's 9.30-10.00am Reconciliation

**30 Saturday,**

- 9.00am Mass at St John's 9.30am & 5.15pm Reconciliation
- 6.00pm Mass at St. John's
- 6.30pm Mass at St. Monica's

**31 Sunday, PENTECOST SUNDAY**

- 7.30am Mass at St. Monica's
- 8.30am Mass at St. John's
- 9.00am Mass at St. Monica's
- 10.00am Mass at St. John's
- 10.30am Mass at St. Monica's
- 2.00pm Mass at St. John's
- 4.00pm at St. John's
- 5.30pm at St John's

**Dear Friends,**

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives His final instructions to His close followers on a mountain top. Then He ascends to heaven with His human and divine nature. It was also on a mountain top where Jesus first taught them His Beatitudes based on non-violence and mercy: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the merciful..." Now, before He leaves them, He reminds them to "observe all the commandments He gave them" while He was with them. With His ascension into heaven Jesus becomes the Lord of time and history. But His Lordship does not enslave anyone. Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations is an invitation for people to acknowledge Him as Lord and to serve Him alone because to acknowledge Him as Lord and serve Him is the source of true freedom. The good news of Jesus' resurrection and ascension is that anyone who puts their trust in Jesus has eternal life. But, Jesus' final instructions to His Apostles are a commissioning of all believers to invite all people of good will to know, love and serve Jesus. All are called to be part of the Kingdom of heaven. And this free gift of God is through Baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and the observance of Jesus' commandment to love one another as He has loved us. (Fr Guy)

**SAFETY PLAN FOR MASS ATTENDANCE**

18<sup>th</sup> May—14<sup>th</sup> June

1. Our attendance week is Monday-Sunday (incl)
2. Please sign the Register in the church foyer with your full name and phone number. (This fulfils our government obligation)
3. Someone at the door may have the unhappy duty of explaining that there are already 10 people in.
4. We know that this will create inconvenience but we are bound by law, and we know you will all understand.
5. Social distancing to be maintained.

(Fr Guy)

**St. Vincent De Paul— Beanies for Loui's Van**

If you have some spare wool and feel like knitting, I am sure beanies will be well received again in winter to support those who are in need. Please leave any finished products at the parish office for me to collect. (Roberta Puckett)

**Fleecy blankets – Vinnies Winter Appeal**

To my fellow Parishioners, Every year about this time we begin to collect fleecy blankets and take them to Vinnies who distribute them from Loui's van. This year it is not possible to do so. But the need is still there for those who need some extra support particularly in winter. May I suggest you consider donating the amount you might have spent on a blanket and give it to the Vinnies Winter appeal? <http://www.vinnies.org.au/home-tas>. Hopefully next year, we will see our usual colourful display of blankets gathering in the Church when we too can gather as a community. In the meantime, keep well. (Mary Parsissons)

**Our Lady, Help of Christians, Patron of Australia**

Two Masses will be celebrated at St John's to mark this important feast day: 9.00 am and 12.00 pm on Monday 25 May.

**Weekly Collection (16 / 17 May)**

Envelopes: \$310.00 |  
Direct Deposit: \$490.00  
TOTAL: \$800.00 | Weekly Budget:  
\$2,500.00 | Difference: -\$1,700.00  
*We thank you for your ongoing support!*

**Our Sick - Please remember in your prayers**

Maila Beekmeijer, Lani Baron, Alida Beric, Nell Smith, Eileen Sherrin, Don Ambler, Doreen Street, Fr Bob Curmi, Frances Direen, Anne Hansch, Tom Carty, Judy Pigden, Ian Irvine, Robert Campbell, Mary Dowd, Monique Matzner, Amy Matzner and Patricia Leamey.

**Ministers of the Word and Communion**

In the hope that we will soon be able to gather together again new rosters will be drawn up. If you know you will be unavailable between 1 June and 30 August could you please let Theresa or Jo (0419 510 014) know before 24 May.

**Thank you to all priests**

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) has sent a letter to the priests of Australia on the bicentenary of the arrival of the first official chaplains to Australia. Thanks to all priests for their self sacrifice and commitment to the Australian Church. May many young people through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians, be inspired to answer the call to the priesthood and religious life.

**Catholic LOVELIFE Conference—FREE**

The virtual conference will be available nationwide between Friday May 22 at 12PM EST to Sunday May 24 at Midnight. More than 70 speakers will offer free, short and impactful presentations for teens, young adults, singles, married couples and parents. Tomasz Juszcak our Director of Youth Evangelisation will be presenting among the 70 other speakers. Fortify your home and rediscover the beauty and goodness of God's plan for human love in your life. Brought to you by Chastity project.

**Register today!**

**Prayers for the Deceased**

Please remember in your prayers our deceased parishioners, family and friends especially Patrick Dowd, Silvana Paternoster, Peter Drake, Raeleene Di Martino, Ken Young and Frank Hesman. Eternal rest grant unto their souls O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.