

**FIRST READING:** (continued)

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:**

**RESPONSE: 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.

**Response**

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.

**Response**

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.

**Response**

**SECOND READING:** Eph 1: 17-23

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**  
*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

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:** 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:** Mk 16:15-20

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

*The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.*

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

**Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, Alleluia.**

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:**

**Acts 2: 1-11; Gal 5:16-25;**

**Jn 15:26-27, 16:12-15.**

**A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney.**

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office at [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or by calling (02) 9390 5810.

**Mobile phones at Mass.**

To maintain a spirit of reverence and solemnity, please turn off and refrain from using all mobile telephones and other electronic devices during Mass.

*Catholic Weekly is on sale.*

**PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE**



Presbytery and Office

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St Therese's School

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**MASS TIMES:**

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 pm.

SUNDAY: 8:00 am and 10am

MONDAY: No Mass.

TUESDAY through to SATURDAY: 9.00 am Mass.

FRIDAY: 9.00 am Mass.

Exposition & Benediction every Friday after Mass.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 5pm – 5.45pm or by appointment.

Baptism: Every Sunday at 11am or 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.

Marriage: By appointment.

Anointing of the sick: Please give names to Father Roberto Castillo.

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Year B)**

**15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021**



**FIRST READING:** Acts 1: 1-11

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.**

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,

*(continued on back page)*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

**Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?**

**This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will**

**return as you saw him go, alleluia.**

ACOLYTES & READERS	6pm Vigil	8am	10am	
MAY 15 / 16	<b>Acolytes</b> R MORFUNI	D ELLIS	A STANTON	<b>Flowers</b> A NAGANATHAN
	<b>Readers</b> N MORFUNI	S JAYAMANNE	H VAZ	
MAY 22 / 23	<b>Acolytes</b> R MORFUNI	D D'MELLO	M MORELLI	<b>Flowers</b> J KEYSER
	<b>Readers</b> J PERERA	Y LEUNG	VOLUNTEER	
MAY 29 / 30	<b>Acolytes</b> T DABBAH	D ELLIS	G MOODLEY	<b>Flowers</b> N HAHN
	<b>Readers</b> N MORFUNI	S JAYAMANNE	H VAZ	

## PARISH NEWS & NOTICES:

### Request for Mass and Prayers.

We pray for those who have recently died especially Angela Trovato (*Jamelie Morabito's niece*). Also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries at this time especially Vedasto Vasquez and Ersilia Maria Papallo.



### Covid19 update.

Due to the Covid19 outbreak in Greater Sydney we request that for this weekend all people entering the church should:



- wear a mask.
- Continue to sign in using the QR codes or the sign in pages.
- Keep your social distance both within the church.

### First Holy Communion at St Therese.

Pray for the children preparing for their FIRST HOLY COMMUNION.

- **Candidate & Parent Sessions of Instruction:** Sessions continue on **WEDNESDAY on 26<sup>th</sup> May** in St Therese Church commencing at 7pm sharp.
- **Rehearsal for First Holy Communion** will be held in the church on 5<sup>th</sup> of June at 4pm.
- **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will be on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> June at 11.30am.



### Mass Attendance Count for 2021.

The THIRD count will be this weekend and will continue next week.

This Mass attendance count is a very useful tool in helping us to more accurately gauge the impact of COVID on parish attendance.

**If you would like to assist us with this count please see Fr Roberto before Mass.**



### Charitable Works Fund Appeal.

If you missed the opportunity to donate to this appeal then do so this weekend by adding your donation, in the special envelopes, to any of the collection baskets. Your generosity will be appreciated.



### Month of May - Month of Mary.

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to venerate our Lady and we are encouraged to pray the rosary within our families because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. This year pray especially for the end of the pandemic and peace in the whole world.



### Project Compassion donations.

Fr Roberto is so pleased and grateful with your generosity for those suffering in our world as this year our parish collected **\$7,821.40**.



### Wanted: Loving Married Couples to become a Sponsor couple.

SmartLoving is a Catholic marriage ministry and is calling for enthusiastic married couples to journey with an engaged couple as they prepare to be married in the Catholic Church. Find out more at this free information session: Wed, 19 May - 7.30pm AEST | [www.smartloving.org/webinars](http://www.smartloving.org/webinars)



## The Ascension of the Lord.

The question is, if Jesus is the Risen Christ, why does he not continue through the ages to make himself visible as he did to those first followers? Why did Christ 'ascend' at all? ..... Jesus pulls away so that we can take our place in living and spreading the life-giving Word of God, making the Kingdom a reality in the entire world. The linking of the two – Jesus' parting and the commissioning of the disciples can be missed. The feast name itself 'The Ascension of the Lord' draws attention to Jesus' actions and, more importantly, the place that Jesus occupies 'at the right hand of God' (*a notion found in both the Gospel and second readings*). However, both in the Lukan account of similar events (*Lk 22:44-53*) and here, the bulk of the dialogue rests on the responses and activities of the disciples. "Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation" (*Mk 16:15*) is the call. Jesus parting is not an end of the story, but a beginning. Indeed, the Ascension being place at the start of The Acts of the Apostles points to this. Among the various things we celebrate during this feast, Jesus ascends to his place 'with God' to remind us that he is far enough away so that we can take our place in God's plan for creation, but never absent. The Lord's presence takes a particular form in the Holy Spirit which we will celebrate next week, but the place Jesus is said to take, at God's right hand, is a symbol that Jesus is not 'passively absent'. Christ is in a place of dominion and, as we live out our commission to share the Good News in both deed and word, we will find the face of Christ around us; in our worship, our sharing, our prayer and our service to all and especially so in our service to the poor and the weak.



(Reflection by Joe Tedesco, Pastoral Liturgy, 2021)

## Consecration Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, in accordance with your ardent wish made known at Fatima, I consecrate to you myself, my brothers and sisters of the Diocese of Sydney, and the whole human race.

We commit to you all the members of this local Church, beginning with the weakest ones,

from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our children, our young people, the single, the widowed and the lonely.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart especially hurt and broken families, for those who seek the meaning of life but who are getting lost in a world of confusion, immoral influences, and distorted ideas.

Reign over us 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!

Reign over us, dearest Mother, that we may be your children in prosperity and in adversity, in joy and in sorrow, in health and sickness, in life and in death!

O most compassionate Heart of Mary, Queen of Virgins, watch over our minds and hearts, and preserve them from the deluge of impurity which you lamented so sorrowfully at Fatima. We want to be pure like you. We want to atone for the many crimes committed against Jesus and you. We want to call down upon our city, our country and the whole world the peace of God in justice and charity!

Help us as we resolve to live according to the Gospel, to fulfil the Commandments of God and those of the Church,

to receive the sacraments worthily, especially the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist, and to contribute to the building up of the Kingdom of your divine Son, in union with his most Sacred Heart.  
AMEN.

