



# St Mary's Cathedral

SYDNEY

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**Sunday, 13 May 2018**  
**The Ascension of the Lord – Year B**

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Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

The Ascension of Christ is an occasion of the deepest rejoicing for us. The glorification of Christ in this mystery is likewise our glorification, an elevation of our human nature. In human form Christ, our brother, enters heaven. In his human nature he sits upon the throne of God and will remain there for all eternity. We, of all God's creatures, enjoy a unique distinction: a member of our human race, our Head, is seated at God's right hand, his risen and glorious body still bearing the marks of the crucifixion.

In the liturgy, the Preface of the Ascension 1 expresses it this way:

*Mediator between God and man,  
judge of the world and Lord of hosts,  
he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state  
but that we, his members, might be confident of following  
where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before.*

and, in the Preface of the Ascension 2:

*For after his Resurrection  
he plainly appeared to all his disciples  
and was taken up to heaven in their sight,  
that he might make us sharers in his divinity.*

The Ascension of Christ is therefore a celebration of our hope for eternal life with God. The only thing that will prevent us from following the risen Lord Jesus into heaven is our own unrepented mortal sins, the sort which, as the Compendium to the Catechism succinctly puts it, “destroys charity in us, deprives us of sanctifying grace, and, if unrepented, leads us to the eternal death of hell. It can be forgiven in the ordinary way by means of the sacraments of Baptism and of Penance or Reconciliation. One commits a mortal sin when there are simultaneously present: grave matter, full knowledge, and deliberate consent.” (cf. 395)

So: go to Confession.

Next Sunday, of course, will be Pentecost, when our Cathedral Choir will be at the Vatican singing at the Pope’s Pentecost Sunday Mass. I will be joining them there, God willing, and will pray at the tomb of the Apostle Peter for all of you who attend Mass at the Cathedral, St Columbkille’s Woolloomooloo, Sacred Heart Darlinghurst and St Philip Howard’s Norfolk Island. Please pray for the travellers!

Fr Don Richardson, Dean.



*Liturgy...*

**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.*

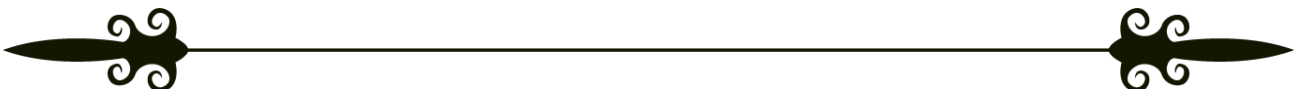
In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for 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, 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.**

**Response: Thanks be to God!**



*Liturgy...*

**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.***

1. 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.)

2. 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.)

3. 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 Eph 1:17-23**

**A reading from the first letter of St John**

***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.**

**Response: Thanks be to God!**

*Liturgy...*

**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 is 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**

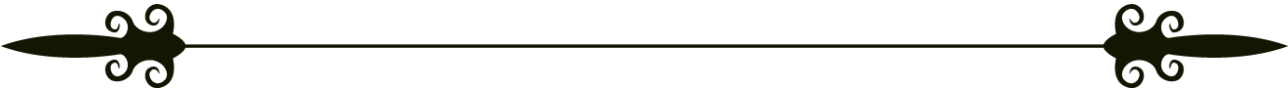
**Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**





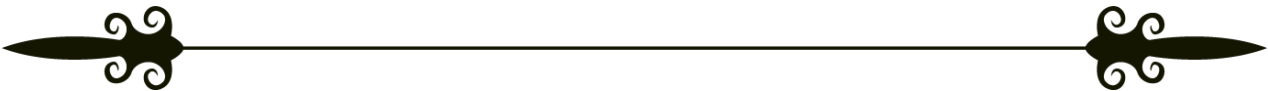
**CATHEDRAL CLERGY**  
*Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP*  
*Father Donald Richardson, Dean*  
*Father Brendan Purcell*  
*Father Emmanuel Yoon Jae Seo*  
*Father Pierluigi Passoni*

**CATHEDRAL STAFF**  
*Chris Backhouse- Cathedral Sacristan*  
*Thomas Wilson – Director of Music*  
*Helen Morassut – General Manager, St Marys*  
*Cathedral Precinct*



**A COPY OF THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY CAN BE PURCHASED FOR \$2**

<b>Weekend Mass</b>	Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm Sunday: 7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am (Solemn High Mass); 12noon Latin Mass in the extraordinary form; 6.00pm Mass
<b>Weekday Mass</b>	Monday to Friday: 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm; Saturday: 9.00am & 12noon Public Holidays: 9am (or as advertised)
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Monday-Friday: 12noon -1.00pm & 5.00pm to 5.25pm Saturday 11.30am- 11.55am, 4.30-5.30pm
<b>Vespers (Evening Prayer)</b>	Monday to Thursday: 5.00pm; Saturday 5.30pm; Sunday 5.00pm (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament)



**\*\*COELIACS:** Special Provision is made for Coeliacs at the Cathedral. Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion either from the Chalice or with a gluten low host. Application should be made to the Sacristan before Mass.

## CATHEDRAL NOTICES .....

### **EMBRACE, YOUNG ADULTS GROUP.**

Embrace is St Mary's group for young people of 18-35 yrs old from all cultures and backgrounds. We meet every **Sunday** after the **6.00pm Mass at St Mary's Cathedral House**, adjacent to the Cathedral. Our activities and youth projects are designed to support spiritual development and encourage active practice of our faith. For **13 May**, Embrace will hold a movie night with the film: 'The 13th Day: Fatima, A Story of Hope', in honour of Our Lady of Fatima. You are welcome to join: please call/text Embrace Coordinator on **0404 008 870** or write to **embrace@stmaryscathedral.org.au**.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY** Join Pope Francis in Panama for the 34th World Youth Day in **January 2019**. Sydney Catholic Youth are inviting you on the pilgrimage of a lifetime to Panama where you will celebrate Mass with Pope Francis and millions of young Catholics from around the world. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will lead the Sydney pilgrimage departing on **15 January 2019, which** will travel from Sydney to Washington DC, then to WYD Panama with the optional extension to travel to Mexico City. Register your interest and find out more by visiting the website **www.sydneycatholicyouth.org.wyd**

**ROAD CLOSURES** The Sydney Herald Marathon will be held on **20<sup>th</sup> May 2018**. **College Street** will have a road closure in place from **4am to 11am** on the day. For more information, please visit **livetraffic.com**

**NO CATHEDRAL TOUR** Please note there will be no public tour of the Cathedral on **27<sup>th</sup> May and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018** as the Eastern Deanery Confirmations will be celebrated at the Cathedral on those days. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience.

**OF LIFE AND LOVE COURSE:** The next marriage preparation course will be held on : **Wednesday 16 May / 23 May 2018 at 7.00pm at St. Joachim's Parish Hall, 3 Keating Street Lidcombe** : More info phone **9307 8404** Register for the course at: **www.trybooking.com/TBUG**

**CHANGE - ST MARYS CATHEDRAL SERVICES** please note that the Latin Mass on **27<sup>th</sup> May and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018** will be celebrated at the **Cathedral Crypt** as the Eastern Deanery Confirmations will be celebrated at the Cathedral on those days. Please note, there will be **NO ADORATION OR VESPERS** held on both these days.

**WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES – 21-26 AUGUST 2018.** Dublin, Ireland, has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018. Guided by the theme "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World". Held every three years, this major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church. The family is essential for the future of the world and the Church. Everyone first learns what love means in their family, as they become aware that they are loved, and learn how to love in return. This is essential so that people can grow into mature individuals. Praying the rosary together, as a family, is very beautiful and a source of great strength! And also praying for one another! The husband for his wife, the wife for her husband, both together for their children, the children for their grandparents praying for each other. This is what it means to pray in the family and it is what makes the family strong. Prayer. (Pope Francis) For further information: **<https://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/>**

**INTRODUCTION TO MEDITATION AND RENEWAL DAY AT ST BENEDICT'S MONASTERY** When: **20 May 2018**. Time: arrival is **10am** for 10:30am. Where: **121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia**. No Cost, Registration is on the day, donations to the monastery are welcome. Enquiries: Ann Bergman: **anniebergman@hotmail.com** or Ann Lomas: **atlomas@bigpond.com**. phone: **9456 4775**. Coffee, tea and biscuits provided, BYO picnic Lunch. There will be presentations, introduction to meditation, periods of meditation and mass. Books and CDs are available for purchase. Accommodation at the Monastery guest house enquiries to Br Terry Cavanagh on **0438 282 318**.

**MOUNT ST BENEDICT CENTRE – CHILDREN’S MEDITATION WORKSHOP** – 19 May. This fun workshop is for children aged 5-12 years, and aims to build a healthy body and mind. By teaching a variety of simple meditation techniques using breath and visualisation, creating mandalas and moving the body in a conscious way, children are encouraged to find that centre of stillness inside. This can help with anxiety, building confidence and understanding emotions. Date: Saturday 19 May 1.30pm-4.30pm. Cost: \$30 BYO Afternoon Tea. Reserve your place by email at [mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au](mailto:mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au) or phone **8752 5390**. Where: **449D Pennant Hills Road. Entrance off Hull Road.**

**CATHOLICCARE SYDNEY.** To help Seniors live independently at home, we support all four levels of Home Care Packages in South West Sydney. Call us on **13 18 19** and we can assist you to arrange an assessment through My Aged Care.

**PRAYER TO PROTECT THE 8TH AMENDMENT OF THE IRISH CONSTITUTION.** On May 25th Ireland will vote in a referendum to repeal the 8th amendment to their constitution. The 8th amendment gives equal rights to the mother and the child during pregnancy. If successful in repealing the 8th amendment the Irish government will bring forward legislation to allow abortions unrestricted up to 12 weeks gestation. Between 12 and 24 weeks gestation, abortion will be allowed if two doctors agree on a physical or mental health risk to the mother. The Irish Catholic Church has reached out to Catholics all over the world to ask us to participate in a prayer campaign to protect the 8th amendment. Parishes are asked remember this intention during Masses, rosaries, prayer vigils, adoration and fasting. More information on the prayer campaign can be found at: [www.massandfastforireland.com](http://www.massandfastforireland.com) or on the facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ir](http://www.facebook.com/ir)

Here is a prayer of intercession that can be read out during Mass in the lead up to 25 May 2018. *Heavenly Father, we ask you to protect the 8th amendment to the constitution in Ireland which protects the innocent lives of the unborn in that country. Please help the citizens of Ireland to remember the dignity and value of all human life, especially vulnerable unborn children when they vote in their referendum on 25 May.*

**WALK WITH CHRIST – 3 JUNE 2018.** All are invited to participate in this year’s Walk With Christ Eucharistic Procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi, **Sunday 3 June 2018.** Participants will gather at the corner of Pitt St and Martin Place in the CBD at 2:30pm. The procession will follow the Blessed Sacrament through the **Sydney CBD, finishing at the St Mary’s Cathedral Forecourt** with Adoration and Benediction. If you are unable to join us for the Procession, you are more than welcome to join us for Adoration and Benediction from approximately **3.30pm in the St Mary’s Cathedral Forecourt.** The event will conclude at approximately 4:30pm. The procession will help mark the 200th anniversary of a little known, but most heroic and faith-filled time in the history of the Australian Church. In 1818, the Government forcibly removed the only Catholic priest in Australia, Fr Jeremiah O’Flynn, from Sydney. Fr O’Flynn’s last pastoral act was to leave the Blessed Sacrament reserved in a faithful Catholic’s home so that the colonists and prisoners could come to adore Christ present there. For two years, the Blessed Sacrament, in this lay Sydney home, was the source and centre of worship and consolation for the priestless Catholics of the Australian colony.

**INTRODUCTION TO MEDITATION AND RENEWAL DAY at St Benedict’s monastery 20 may 2018.** Time: arrival is 10 for **10:30am.** Where: **121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia.** No Cost, Registration is on the day, donations to the monastery are welcome. Enquiries: [anniebergman@hotmail.com](mailto:anniebergman@hotmail.com) or [atlomas@bigpond.com](mailto:atlomas@bigpond.com). or **9456 4775.** Coffee, tea and biscuits provided, BYO picnic Lunch. There will be presentations, introduction to meditation, periods of meditation and mass. Books and CDs are available for purchase. Enquiries to Br Terry Cavanagh on **0438 282 318.**

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT.** For family and friends who grieve and their companions. Understanding and managing life’s changes in Loss, Grief & Bereavement. **Third Wednesday of Every Month 10.00am – 1.00pm** Morning tea provided. For further information, please contact **96466908** or email [bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au](mailto:bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au)