

The Living Word

The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

21 May 2023

First Reading *Acts 1:1-11*

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. R. Thanks be to God.

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*

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. R. Thanks be to God.



Photo: Fabrizio Conté on Unsplash

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

The Lord be with you. R. And with your spirit.

*A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to
Matthew. R. Glory to you, O Lord.*

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.'

*The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to you, Lord
Jesus Christ.*

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The short gospel passage for today is taken from the final words of the gospel of Matthew. It is known as 'The Great Commission' as Jesus is portrayed commissioning his disciples to go out to the world and spread the good news. They are charged to 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.' This is the basis of much of the missionary work of the Church that has gone on ever since then.

However, the focus of today's feast is much more on the first reading than the gospel. The opening verses of the Book of Acts, from the author of Luke-Acts, describe the final instructions of Jesus to his disciples and then his 'lifting up'. The Luke-Acts writer is the only gospel writer to actually describe the Ascension. The fact that the other gospels don't discuss the Ascension in any detail at all is a good indication that this description should not be taken literally.

However, the message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus, the human incarnation of God on earth, was limited to a specific time and place in history. Despite the physical limitations of his life on earth, Jesus ensured that his message and ministry would continue through those he had taught. Knowing that the disciples would need time to grieve and come to terms with all that had occurred in a relatively short space of time, Jesus promised that the Spirit would come upon them in the days to come. That visiting of the Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost was the motivation to set about doing what Jesus had charged them to do. Without the Ascension, there is no Pentecost.

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HOLY TRINITY

CATHOLIC PARISH

Incorporating the Mass centres and communities of

Holy Family 101 Hitchcock Av Barwon Heads	Our Lady Star of the Sea 68 John Dory Drive Ocean Grove	Holy Trinity 34 Stevens St Queenscliff
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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wathaurong people. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully in the land.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Fr Darien J Sticklen
Parish Secretary: Mrs Daniella Sutura
Safeguarding & Admin Support: Ms Jennie Ryan
Parish Mission Ambassador: Ms Josephine Barnes

Baptism Preparation:

Mrs Bel Campbell, Mrs Margaret-Mary Flynn, Mrs Maria Sammut

Holy Communion to the sick:

Jo Ballard, Sue Condon, Judy Considine, Louise Frances, Genevieve Malone, Eva Millie, David O'Connor, Majella O'Connor, Von Philp

For all other parish ministries, including RCIA, Sacramental Program, Men Alive, Faith Development & Spirituality Group, St Vincent de Paul local Conference, Trinity Aid for Refugees, etc., please visit:

www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au

PARISH OFFICE & PRESBYTERY

34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff 3225

Telephone: (03) 5258 1673

Email: queenscliff@cam.org.au

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10:00am to 1:00pm (excluding public holidays)

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St. Aloysius, Queenscliff
Principal: Ms. Miriam Leahy, Tel: 5258 1736
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
Principal: Ms. Kerry Sells, Tel: 5255 4308

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

BARWON HEADS: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 9:30am, Mass for St Sebastian
Mission, Syro-Malabar Community
(Malayalam language)
OCEAN GROVE: Sunday 9:00am
QUEENSCLIFF: Sunday 11:00am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Please see below: Liturgy in our Parish this week

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

is available prior to each weekend Mass,
and before or after weekday Masses if needed.

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Visit our website for all information or contact Parish office
www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/

COLUMBARIUM

Please visit www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/about-us/parish-columbarium/

Please send in bulletin notices by 1pm on Thursdays

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Recently Deceased: Bernadette McPhee, Russell Healy, Benedict Darby, Nola O'Halloran and Carmelo 'Charlie' Scaffidi.

Anniversaries 21st May to 27th May: Imri Meszaroz, John Brady, Tony Muscat, Les Reid, Nell Coghlan, Phil Deal, Violet Butler, Mick Bourke, Audrey Howie, Valda Zanoni and Coleen Sheehan.

Please pray for those who are Sick: Elly Anwyl, Peg Benham, Naomi Bianco, Mary Blonk, Ron & Helen Carter, Sam Caruana, Joy Conroy, Brian Cotter, Connie D'Amico, Jack Davin, Pat Dickeson, Ian Downing, Robert Drummond & Patti Semler, Margaret Dyer, Gloria Forbes, Nell Fraiseux, Kay Freyne, Ross Gilham, Margaret Gladstone, Martin & Mary Grundy, Peter Harrington, Jeannette Hodgkinson, Gregory Holien, Robert & Lyne Horner, Kerin Hoye, Robert Hurley, Melissa Keogh, Gary Kingsbury, Hilda Koertjes, Margaret Lomas, Toni Lukauskas, George Marshall, Belinda Monterosso, Christine Naulty, Frank Nelson, Helen Pearce, Cecilia Picc, Mavourneen Ray, Margaret Renwick (Snr), Geraldine Richards, Sean Richards, Betty Rushton, Jeannett Stevens, Mary Sullivan, Pam Sullivan, Kevin Teasdale, Aldo Trentini, Deanne Warren, Susan Weston, Michelle Williams, Peter Williams and Shirley Woodruff.

ROSTERS

*If you are unable to meet your commitment on your day,
please arrange a substitute. Thank you!*

COMMENTATOR (C), LECTOR (L), SPECIAL MINISTER (SM),
WELCOMERS (W), PROJECTIONIST (P)

OCEAN GROVE: 28th May at 9:00am:

(C) Michael Kirkman (L) Geraldine Rainey (SM) Luci Quinn, Dan O'Meara (W) Judy Considine, Bev O'Meara.

QUEENSCLIFF: 28th May at 11:00am:

(C) Tony Frizza (L) Shirley Hurley (SM) Terry Philp (W) Trish Frizza.

COUNTERS: Tuesday 23rd May at 10:00am:

Dan Donovan & Sam Sammut.

SAFEGUARDING – IMPORTANT UPDATE – 5TH MAY 2023

The "Safeguarding Essentials" group training has now been scheduled – details below. We strongly encourage volunteers that have not completed the online course to attend. The training session is mandatory for all volunteers who give their time in any capacity. We look forward to seeing you there!

Date: Saturday 8th July **Time:** 1pm to 2:30pm

Location: Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Ocean Grove

Presenter: Rosemary Teed, Safeguarding Office for Western Region of Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

RSVP BY FRIDAY 30TH JUNE to Jennie Ryan at

Queenscliff.Safeguarding@cam.org.au or call the parish office.

Thank you to everyone that has reviewed and confirmed their "Volunteer Contact Information" document. To date, emails have been sent to members of the Pastoral Council Faith Development & Finance Committees and Counters. I would appreciate it if you could check your inbox for an email from Queenscliff Safeguarding, review the document and confirm the details or provide up to date information where necessary. We are still in the process of contacting all volunteers so don't worry if you haven't been contacted as yet.

www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/safeguarding/parish-child-safe/

We appreciate your understanding and support as we work together to comply with our legal requirements. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

** NEWS & EVENTS **

If you need Pastoral care & support, or you are aware of others who may need assistance, please phone our Parish office. Mobile number for emergencies is on the recorded message.

Trinity Aid for Refugees (TAR) thanks everyone who has donated Groceries, Vouchers and Money so far this year. We will resume rotating the collection boxes in a few months. In the meantime anyone wanting to give support could email shirleyhurley@iinet.net.au or donate directly to Wesley Church Welcome Place: BSB 633 000, Account 160 305 066.

Hospitality for Trinity Sunday (4th June): for the celebration of the Most Holy Trinity, a lunch will be provided in the Contemporary Learning Space at St Aloysius school following 11am Mass.

COUNTERS WANTED! If you are interested in joining the counters team, please contact Daniella at the parish office. A National Police Check (arranged via parish office) and WWCC are required.

Together we pray for the children receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend and the Sacramental Program children receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist next week. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

The Faith Development and Spirituality Group is planning three mid-winter reflection group meetings on the following Sunday afternoons at 2.30pm: 25th June, 2nd July and 9th of July to be held in Ocean Grove. More details to follow. Topic: *Reflecting on the Uluru Statement from the Heart.*

Taizé Pray | Peace Gathering: people in the Bellarine Peninsula and beyond are invited to gather to pray and worship for Pentecost at Santa Casa (33 Flinders Street, Queenscliff) on **Saturday 27th May at 2:30pm** (sharp) followed by a cuppa at 3:30pm. Please RSVP to Sr Lizzie Finnerty RSM on 0418 194 261 or santacasa@ismapng.org.au. All welcome. Please see poster in Narthex.

Upcoming Day Programs at Santa Casa, Queenscliff:

- **Tuesday 30th May** – *Self Care: enhancing health and wellbeing.* Presenter: Sr Nicole Rotaru rsm.
- **Wednesday 31st May** – *This Love Called Fire: delving deeper into Teilhard de Chardin's cosmic consciousness.* Presenter: Sr Madeline Duckett rsm.
- **Thursday 1st June** – *Creation in Crisis: responding in the spirit of Laudato Si.* Presenter: Sr Margie Abbott rsm
- **Friday 2nd June** – *God and the Ordinary: exploring through poetry and art.* Presenter: Sr Mary Wicklam rsm.

To register: contact Sr Lizzie at Santa Casa via phone 0418 194 261 or email santacasa@ismapng.com.au.

Full 2023 schedule: <https://holyltrinityqueenscliff.org.au/day-programs-2023-at-santa-casa-retreat-centre/>.

Inner Peace in Divine Love – the First Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola:

Fr. Javier Diaz SJ together with Anne Thomas from Geelong CLC will guide this retreat 'in daily life'. Introductory group session: this Sunday, 21st May, at 5:00pm at the Contemporary Learning Space at St Aloysius Primary School (Queenscliff). For full details, please visit our website: <https://holyltrinityqueenscliff.org.au/jesuit-clc-retreat-in-daily-life-21-05-2023-18-06-2023-inner-peace-in-divine-love-the-first-spiritual-exercises/>.

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LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Monday 22nd May – St Rita of Cascia (Memorial)

Tuesday 23rd May – Tuesday of the 7th week of Easter
9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Wednesday 24th May – OUR LADY, HELP of CHRISTIANS (Solemnity)
9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff
with St Aloysius Years 4-6 students attending
12:00pm Requiem Funeral Mass of Mrs Nola O'Halloran
at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Thursday 25th May – St Bede the Venerable (Feast)
9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
with OLSOS Year 3 students attending
6:00pm First Eucharist Mass for Sacramental Program children
at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Friday 26th May – St Philip Neri (Memorial)
9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Saturday 27th May – St Augustine of Canterbury (Memorial)

Sunday 28th May – PENTECOST SUNDAY (Solemnity)

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Thought for the Week:

*I go to nature to be soothed and healed,
and to have my senses put in order.*

- John Burroughs.

+ + +



Anthony & Letitia Dowling
with the friendly team you know and trust.

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Contact Frank Nelson

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bellarine@npts.com.au



FLETCHERS

LOCAL EXPERTS

74 HESSE STREET, QUEENSCLIFF | 5258 2833

3/80 THE TERRACE, OCEAN GROVE | 5255 1721

bellarine@fletchers.net.au

fletchers.net.au

IT'S A FLETCHERS THING

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General maintenance, gardening, cleaning and tiling. Servicing the Bellarine and Geelong areas. Contact Charlie on 0413 609 170 or email charlie.sutera76@gmail.com.