

WELCOME

Good morning/ evening, and welcome to St Mary's Parish.

Even in the presence of the risen Christ the disciples stand on the mountain of ascension and still doubt. Doing the work Jesus commands - make disciples, baptise, teach - doesn't require perfect faith. His work - now truly our own - can only be accomplished because he has given us his power and remains with us.

Please say "hello" to those next to you, and if you do not know those seated near you, introduce yourself and say "hello."

We now keep in mind our sick brothers and sisters, especially those in our newsletter.

Our presider this morning/evening is -

Please join us as we begin with the Processional Hymn.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11 (JB)

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.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9 (JB)

R. 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. **R.**

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.**

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

Ephesians 1:17-23 (JB)

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

Matthew 28:19, 20 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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 commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

General Intercessions

Celebrant: Because the risen and ascended Jesus is still with us we confidently continue to make known our needs to him.

Reader:

1. Let us pray for our pope, bishop, priests and pastoral team, that they lead us with creative zeal, (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
2. Let us pray for the leaders of all nations, that they rise above selfish interests to serve their people, (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
3. Let us pray for the members of this parish, that we continue to witness to Jesus by our love for and care of one another, (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
4. Let us pray for all who are weighed down by worry, ill health and other personal problems, that they may look up to the Lord and receive the help they need, (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
5. Let us pray for the end of wars and violence, and the return of peace to all people, (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
6. Let us pray for William Baden Randle who is to be Baptised into the Catholic faith this weekend. May he always be close to God in this life and with Him in eternal joy. (Pause) We pray to the Lord.
7. Let us pray for those who have passed into eternal life, and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time. We also pray for those who have no one to remember them in their prayers. May they find eternal rest and comfort within God's own life and love. *Together we pray* (All) Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord! And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. (Pause) We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: As we lift up our hearts and voices to you, God of glory, never let us forget that you are with us always, We ask this through Jesus Christ our risen and ascended Lord. Amen.