

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.

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.

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.

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Reflections on the Gospel

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, ... BUT HOPE

Having escaped the clutches of his enemies by rising from the dead, the Lord ascends, like the prophet Elijah, to heaven.

In biblical language and imagery this manner of describing the close of Jesus' earthly ministry signals that the One who had been crucified on the trumped-up charge of being a political Messiah has now entered into his true messianic glory at God's right hand.

This entrance into heavenly glory does not mean that Jesus abandons either his disciples or his saving mission in the world. Rather, he will continue to exercise that mission through the ministry of the Church, empowered (at Pentecost) by the same Spirit that rested upon him.

Just before he departs, the disciples voice an understandable concern: 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' The query betrays a strong sense of 'unfinished business'. Despite the Easter victory, forces hostile to God and to true humanity continue to hold sway in the world – as the disciples, and we ourselves, remain acutely aware.

Jesus does not give a direct answer. The time of the Kingdom's full arrival remains shrouded in the mystery of God. The disciples' task, meanwhile, is to take up the messianic mission of Jesus, bringing the hope of the resurrection to an often despairing world.

The Ascension is not, then, simply something that happened to Jesus. As the Preface of the Mass says so well, he 'has passed beyond our sight, not to abandon us but to be our hope; where he has gone, we hope to follow'.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

24 MAY 2020

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 of 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.



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. (or Alleluia.)

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 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

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Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood



Weekend Masses: Vigil Sat 5:30pm,

Sun 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12noon (Chinese) & 6:00pm

Weekday Masses: Mon – Thurs. 7:30am, Fri 5:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 5:00-5:20pm

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena: Tue 7-7:30pm

Cenacle Marian Movement of Laity: Thurs 7:00pm

(Holy Family Chapel)

The Ascension of the Lord – 24th May 2020



Our Deceased: Eric and Eileen Smith, Geoff Clarke, Young Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Young Seok Seo, Soo Woog Jin, Maria Hur, Felix Beins, Cecile Beins, Jan Brayan, Mary Duck, Ces Regan, Roy & Bessie Landon and deceased members of Landon, Pigott, Stewart families, John & Bonnie Bowdern, Leslie & Isobel Johnson.

Our Sick: Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan and Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy & Nur Gouw and Henry Rheinberger

Upcoming Feast Day: St Philip Neri 26th May, Pentecost Sunday 31st May

Parish News:

- **Next week is Pentecost Sunday, we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. It is the day when the Church was born.**
- **Following the easing of restrictions on public gatherings, allowing no more than 10 people in the Church at once, we have re-opened our Church for private prayer every day between 8am-9am. Please observe the following when visiting the Church:**
 - Upon entering the church, each attendee should record his/her contact details (name, phone number, email address) on a clipboard provided at Church entrance door. This is in accordance to CovidSafe regulations for contact tracing and also for provision of pastoral care.
 - We ask that you sanitise your hands when entering the Church. Hand sanitisers will be provided at the door. Disinfectant wipes will be available to clean seating areas.
 - Please sit in the padded seating area near the Blessed Sacrament (right-hand side, facing the altar).
 - Spatial distancing must be observed at all times, at least 1½m from each other.
 - The very elderly, those with symptoms, those with a compromised immune or respiratory system are asked to stay at home.
 - Please observe good hygiene practices especially when coughing or sneezing.
- The Blessed Virgin, under the title of “Mary Help of Christians,” has been the official patroness of Australia since 1844. This year, we celebrate her feast day on May 24 or 25
- **The parish office is currently unattended. The best way to reach us is by email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au. For urgent matters ☎ Fr Martin at 0414 841 928.**
- **Thank you to all the parishioners who are still able to support the parish financially.** To donate, visit: <https://www.stkevinseastwood.org.au/> & click on the [SUPPORT US](#) button.

As we celebrate CHILD PROTECTION WEEK, the Safeguarding Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney developed a **5min CyberSafety Survey** to gain an understanding on the knowledge of adults & young people about eSafety. This will help them create helpful resources for the parish community. The survey is anonymous. All parishioners are encouraged to get involved. Click: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TC7CYQ3> to access the survey.

The Ascension of the Lord, Mt 28:16-20 (Gospel commentary provided by Liturgy Brisbane (www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/))



The gospel text consists of the last five verses of Matthew's gospel. It does not contain a description of the ascension, though the commission Jesus gives the Eleven implies his imminent departure. This is the paradox: Jesus is to become absent even as he promises his disciples to be “with you always; yes, to the end of time”.

As is true of many of the stories of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection, there is a tantalising degree of obscurity and ambiguity. Why did Jesus direct them to Galilee (28:10)? On what mountain are they meeting and what significance might this have? Why were some overcome with awe while others hesitated?

For all this uncertainty, Jesus' commission to the Eleven is crystal clear. They are sent on a universal mission, with a mandate to teach and to baptise. The Trinitarian formula is exceptional in the New Testament; its inclusion here may reflect baptismal practice in Matthew's own community. The whole gospel concludes as it began: with the absolute assurance of the enduring presence of Emmanuel, God with us.

METAPHORS-their value!

Perhaps a good description of a *metaphor* is; ‘that it is a figure of speech that reveals a hidden comparison of at least 2 unrelated things.’

During World War 11 there were massive military aircraft called *Flying Fortresses* and they often flew from the USA to the Pacific island of Saipan. It was customary when one of these planes landed there would soon appear a man driving a small jeep with a big sign behind him carrying the words FOLLOW ME. The driver in the jeep would then carefully lead the plane to a place safe and secure. A pilot on one of these planes called the jeep ‘*The Jesus Jeep*’ his logic was that Jesus when he lived was in many ways socially, religiously, and politically insignificant. Yet in time he showed that he had the capacity to lead to safety many of the world's most powerful men and women and will until the end of time itself. If people ignored or defied him like if the pilot of the massive military plane ignored the jeep driver it would be to their peril.

The capacity to use metaphors effectively depends on 2 important factors the 1st is the capacity of people to be very aware of the events in the world around them. The 2nd is the capacity to be aware of life's important principles that then need to be applied to people's lives. Jesus of Nazareth was the master of using metaphors! *Fr Martin R Maunsell*

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