



The Ascension of the Lord

The word 'goodbye' is a word that many of us would regularly use. As parents, at school time, they say it to their child or when we leave home for a holiday. It is difficult when a soldier says it to his loved ones and heads to defend his country.

Today's feast of the bodily ascension of Jesus is about him saying 'goodbye' to his followers. This would not have been their idea at all.

Before he went, he gave them, and now us, his power – to believe that in him no evil will survive. He then gave them his commission to live by, that is also given to us to live by in our particular life vocation. And the third thing he gave was, his enduring presence, now in his Word, Sacrament and Church community. This for us, like the first disciples can be overwhelming, yet not impossible as we're told that we will be given the Holy Spirit to remind us all and to empower us.

The challenge to believe this and to do it is now before us all. *Fr Martin R Maunsell*