



Mary Immaculate Church, Waverley

PARISH OF ST CHARLES BORROMEO BULLETIN

TAKE THIS HOME

Waverley Parish will be a sign of God's love for all people by being a welcoming and caring community which embraces the Gospel of Jesus in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We walk on a land once occupied by the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. May we continue to love and respect the land as they have.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A

23 - 24 MAY 2020

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people
of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated
at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord:
*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.*

On the third day
he rose again from the dead,
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING: ACTS 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 46:2-3, 6-9

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.

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.

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.

RESPONSE AT MORNING MASS ONLY:

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 1:17-23

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: MATTHEW 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: MATTHEW 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.



PARISH CENTRE

45a Victoria St, Waverley NSW 2024

Phone: (02) 9369 9399

Office Hours: 9:30am - 2:30pm Tues - Fri

www.waverleycatholic.org.au

www.waverleycatholic.org.au

www.facebook.com/waverleycatholic

www.instagram.com/waverleycatholic

Parish Office is contactable by phone or email with visits only for critical matters.

From 18 May to 31 May, people can "book" in for a Mass. Monday to Saturday 9.15am; Saturday 5pm; Sunday 8am, 9am, 10am & 5pm. You must have booked in with Fr Bernie via phone, text, or email and received confirmation that you have been booked in.

Parish Priest:

Fr Bernie Thomas OFM - (02) 9369 9328
parishpriest@waverleycatholic.org.au

Parish Secretary:

Mrs Carla Korkor - (02) 9369 9399
office@waverleycatholic.org.au

Pastoral Coordinator:

Mr Barry Blake

Music Director:

Mr Kurt Ison
music@waverleycatholic.org.au

ARE YOU CALLED TO BE A FRANCISCAN FRIAR?

BECOME A FRANCISCAN FRIAR!

Join the friars in an online chat about the life of the Franciscan Friars in Australia and New Zealand.

St Francis of Assisi wrote a Rule that leads the friars into a radical Gospel life which places an emphasis on community and humble service. Do you have any questions about the life of the friars? Do you feel called to this life?

The Franciscan vocation is open to single men 18-40 years of age ready to answer God's call to St Francis to "Go, rebuild my Church."

Wednesday June 3rd 2020 at 7:30-8:30pm (Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne)
Zoom Meeting ID: 991 0577 4084
or <https://zoom.us/j/99105774084>

Further info: email Friar Joe McKay:
vocations@franciscans.org.au



FURTHER REFLECTIONS

Only Luke separates out resurrection, ascension, and giving of the Spirit over a fifty-day period. The clear implication in John's Gospel is that the Spirit is given on the day of the resurrection and that the ascension has occurred around the same time since, one week later, Jesus invites Thomas to touch him—something that Mary of Magdala had been forbidden one week earlier because the ascension had not yet occurred. In essence they are all different dimensions of the one reality, and the church, in following Luke's chronology, allows us to reflect on this one reality over fifty days in all its richly different aspects.

In Matthew's Gospel what is interesting is that we have the account of the women at the tomb (Matt 28:1-10), the account we proclaimed at the Easter Vigil, where the angel tells them not to be afraid and instructs them to tell the disciples of Jesus' having been raised and instructs them to go to Galilee. On the way to tell the disciples, the women see Jesus, who also tells them not to be afraid. The encounter between the women and the disciples is not described, and what we hear from the very last lines of the gospel, which we have just heard, is that the disciples are in Galilee. When Jesus appears some hesitate to recognise him.

We have a homily preached by Leo the Great, bishop of Rome between 440 and 461, on this solemn feast early in his episcopate, in 444. Leo saw the hesitancy of some of the disciples having a spiritual significance. His explanation was that it was for our benefit: *The Spirit of Truth would by no means have permitted this hesitation, wavering in human weakness, to enter the hearts of his preachers, if their trembling anxiety and questioning delay were not to have established the foundations of our faith. Consequently, it was our doubts, our danger, that was being considered in the apostles. We, in the guise of the apostles, were being instructed against the slanders of the wicked and the proofs of earthly wisdom. Their 'seeing' instructed us, their 'hearing' informed us, their 'touching' strengthened us. Let us give thanks for the divine plan and the necessary 'slowness' of the Holy Fathers [the apostles]. They 'doubted' so that we need not doubt.*

In Matthew's Gospel, the ascension is the moment of the great commissioning. To be a disciple is to be sent into the world to bear witness to the resurrection, to be a messenger of the good news of hope and promise and of the victory of life over death and of love over sin. We hear no more about the fear of the disciples after this. This is the paradox of Christianity: the one who was dead is alive, the one who has gone remains with us, those who fail are forgiven, those who fear are fortified. This is the mystery of faith, this is the hope God's call holds for us. Would that we allow the eyes of our minds to be enlightened by this promise of the rich glories we are to inherit.

These rich glories are beyond our wildest dreams. Leo the Great concluded that the promise of the ascension is not that we shall be restored to the paradise of our first parents, but we shall be raised to the heights of heaven itself and dwell in the very presence of God: *Since the ascension of Christ is our elevation, and since, where the glory of the head has preceded us, there hope for the body is also invited, let us exult, dearly beloved, with worthy joy and be glad with a holy thanksgiving. Today we are established not only as possessors of paradise, but we have even penetrated the heights of the heavens in Christ.*

In our eucharist we are thankful that the Christ who has left us is still present with us in the bread that is his body and the wine that is his blood. We share in this meal that we may share in the triumph of life over death, in the triumph of love over death. We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song. *By Geoffrey Dunn*

A WORD FROM FR BERNIE

Dear Parishioners,

What a blessing it has been this week to have the church open once again and to have a community gather for prayer in the Eucharist. It is just small steps for now and only 10 people allowed at any one time, (hopefully this will change soon). One of the great blessings for me over the last week is that whilst the numbers are small at Mass it has given me the opportunity to get to know the names of some people who I have never really had the chance to talk to at our larger Masses. With only 10 people it is like a small family gathering very much like the early church when the disciples of Jesus would gather in their homes to pray, read and share about the Scriptures and to break bread together. It has also been quite emotional for those of us who have got to gather for prayer, with one parishioner even to the point of tears of joy for being present at the Eucharist again. The "practice" of registering for Mass may be with us however for some time, as the Government still wishes to be able to contact trace should there be a second wave of infections. So please get the word out to others who may not be aware of this yet. I know some of our older parishioners who do not have access to the internet or able to come to church to get a copy of the bulletin (copies are still available at our Marian Grotto) have missed out on the latest news that the church is open albeit with limitations, so please spread the word.

This week we celebrate with other Christian Churches, a week of prayer for Christian Unity. As we prepare to celebrate this coming week the feast of Pentecost, we are reminded that all our Christian family are united in this same Spirit. This Spirit of God calls each one of us to share the faith with others, to go out and proclaim unity and peace. So much has changed in our churches in the last 50-60 years and whilst we may not worship in the same style, we all worship the same God. I may have shared this with you at times – but my own Dad was baptised 3 times, the last as a Catholic so he could share the same faith with my Mum. This wouldn't happen today, because we now recognise the baptism of many of our Christian family churches. So this week in your family prayer let us pray for our Christian family who are on a pilgrimage together. I leave the final word for today with the introduction to the National Council of Churches in Australia website:

"The National Council of Churches in Australia gathers together in pilgrimage those Churches and Christian communities which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and commit themselves to deepen their relationship with each other in order to express more visibly the unity willed by Christ for his Church, and to work together towards the fulfilment of their mission of common witness, proclamation and service, to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Wishing you God's continued blessings, (Fr) Bernie