

# STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

2nd June, 2019



## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR C

If we do not want the Ascension to be a sad “farewell,” but rather a true feast, then we must understand the radical difference between a disappearance and a departure. With the ascension, Jesus has not departed, he has not become absent; he has only disappeared from our sight. Those who leave are no longer here; those who only go out of our sight, however, can still be near us — it is only that something prevents our seeing them. Jesus does disappear from the apostles’ sight at the ascension but he does so to be present in another more intimate way.

He is no longer outside them but within them. This is similar to the Eucharist. So long as the host is outside of us we see it, we adore it; when we receive the host we no longer see it, it has disappeared, but it has disappeared to be within us. It is present in a new, more powerful way.

But it will be asked: If Jesus is no longer visible, how will men come to know of his presence? The answer is that he wants to make himself present through his disciples! In his Gospel and in the Acts of the Apostles, the Evangelist Luke closely links the Ascension with the theme of testimony: “You are witnesses of these things” (Luke 24:48).

The “you” indicates in the first place the apostles who were with Jesus. After the apostles, this “official” testimony — official because it is connected to their office — passes to their successors, the bishops and priests. But the “you” also regards all the baptised and believers in Christ. “Each individual layman,” says a document of the Second Vatican Council, “must stand before the world as a witness to the resurrection and life of the Lord Jesus and a symbol of the living God” (“Lumen Gentium,” 38).

Pope Paul VI has famously said that “the world needs witnesses more than it needs teachers.” It is relatively easy to be a teacher. It is much less easy to be a witness. In fact, the world is full of both true and false teachers, but has few witnesses. Between the two roles there is the same difference as that between saying and doing. “Actions,” an English proverb says, “speak louder than words.”

The witness is one who speaks with his life. A believing father and mother must be “the first witnesses of faith” for their children. (The Church asks this for them from God in the blessing that follows the rite of matrimony).

Let us give a specific example. At this time of year many children are preparing for first Communion and confirmation. A believing mother or father can help the child review the catechism, explain the meaning of the words to him, and help him memorise the responses. Such parents are doing a beautiful thing and if only there were more who did this!

But what would a child think if after all that his parents said and did for his first Communion, they never go to Mass on Sunday, they never make the sign of the cross and never pray? They have been teachers, but they haven’t been witnesses.

Naturally, the testimony of the parents must not limit itself to the time of the first Communion or confirmation of their children. With the way they correct and forgive the child and forgive each other, with the way they speak with respect of those who are not present, with the way they conduct themselves before a poor person begging for alms, with the comments they make in the presence of the children when they are listening to the news, parents have the possibility of bearing witness to their faith every day.

The souls of children are like sheets of photographic film: Everything they see and hear in the years of childhood leaves a trace and one day the “film” will be “developed” and will bear its fruits — for good or for bad.

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa OFM Cap

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**STS  
PETER &  
PAUL'S  
FEAST  
DAY  
FESTIVAL**

**SUN  
30TH  
JUNE**

### MASS TIMES

Sunday 10am, Saturday 6pm (Vigil)

Mon - Fri: 8am | Saturday: 10am

Confession Times: Sat 10:30am, 5:30pm

### PARISH PRIEST:

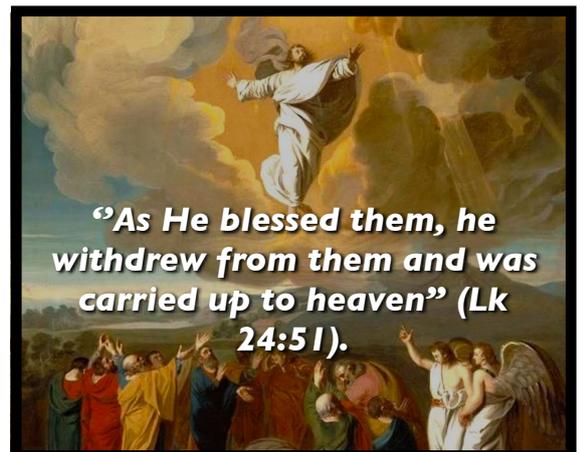
Fr Dean Mathieson OFM Cap

PHONE: 0422 852 273 EMAIL: stspeterandpauls@gmail.com

FB: @stspeterandpauls WEBSITE: stspeterandpauls.com

Emerald Hill Mission: 0409 417 412

Secretary Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:30am - 3pm



**SUNDAY**  
**30 June 2019**  
**10am - 1pm**

# *Sts Peter & Paul's*

FEAST DAY FESTIVAL

377 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne

**ALL WELCOME**

BRING A DISH / PLATE TO SHARE, MEET NEW FRIENDS AND HAVE FUN

★ International Dishes ★ Entertainment ★ Animal Farm ★

For more info call:

**Mal ★ 0416 451 163**



## **PROJECT COMPASSION**

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Project Compassion collection. As a parish, we raised a total of \$1172.60 together.



## **CATECHISM CORNER**

### **THE NATURE OF THE FAMILY**

*A man and a woman united in marriage, together with their children, form a family. This institution is prior to any recognition by public authority, which has an obligation to recognise it. It should be considered the normal reference point by which the different forms of family relationship are to be evaluated. In creating man and woman, God instituted the human family and endowed it with its fundamental constitution. Its members are persons equal in dignity. For the common good of its members and of society, the family necessarily has manifold responsibilities, rights, and duties (n. 2202, 2203).*

## NEW PARISHIONER GATHERING

The next new parishioner gathering will take place in the hall after Mass on Pentecost Sunday, 9 June. All parishioners, especially any new ones, are welcome!

## FIRST COMMUNION 2019

The first Communion Mass will be on Sunday 23rd June, 10am (Corpus Christi). Please keep all the children in your prayers as they prepare.

# THE DISCOURSE

## TRUTH SET FREE

### TUESDAY 18 JUNE, 7PM

The Hall at Sts Peter and Paul's  
A panel discussion about important religious, political, cultural matters  
Tickets are \$10 at [www.trybooking.com/BDAYO](http://www.trybooking.com/BDAYO)

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

### The Good News

In today's First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and He has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies.

The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf (see Hebrews 4:14–15).

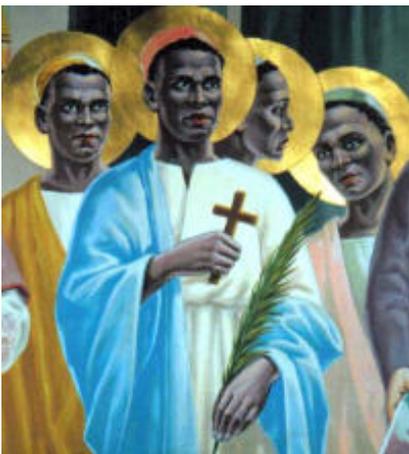
Indeed, His intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the First Reading for the feast of the Ascension: "in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). The Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through Baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord" (Psalm 47). The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace.

The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" because of the light that came with God's saving grace (see, for example, Hebrews 10:32). Saint Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened," he writes, as he looks to the divinization of the believers. Their "hope" is "his inheritance among the holy ones," the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with Him at the Father's right hand.

This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—to the Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.

Scott Hahn



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St Charles Lwanga and his companions, martyrs - 3rd of June

Charles Lwanga was a Ugandan convert to the Catholic Church, who was martyred for his faith. A member of the Baganda tribe, Lwanga was born in the Kingdom of Buganda, the central and southern part of modern Uganda, and served as chief of the royal pages and later major-domo in the court of King Mwanga II. He was baptised by Pere Giraud in 1885. As part of the king's effort to resist foreign colonisation, the king insisted that Christian converts abandon their new faith and executed many Anglicans and Catholics between 1885 and 1887. In 1886, when persecution was at its worst, Lwanga secretly baptised those of his charges who were still only catechumens. The king called a court assembly in which he interrogated all present to see if any would renounce Christianity. Led by Lwanga, the royal pages declared their fidelity to their religion, upon which the king condemned them to death. The *Basilica of the Uganda Martyrs* was built at the site of the executions and serves as their shrine.

Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill:  
 Sr. Annunciata Fcj, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr. Joyce Stewart, Celestine Ressia, Peter Wood, Vandersman Family, Joanne Kilmer, Lilita Bobadilla, Ruby Roxas, Eunice Costa, Richard Fennessy, Giovanna Santarossa, James, Burnes, James Watkins, Bonnie Breen, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Mary Quirke, Ilse Miranda, Neil Baker, Helen Keighery, Alison Fraser, Tony Bailey, Steven Wallace, Elaine Wallace, Richard Grant.

### Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

**Entrance:** 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

#### 1st Reading – Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

We hear the beginning of St. Luke's preface to the Acts of the Apostles. He connects his Gospel, with the mission of the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit after Christ's Ascension to heaven.

#### Responsorial Psalm

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

All people, 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.

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

#### 2nd Reading – Ephesians 1:17-23

We hear a reflection of St. Paul about the completion of Jesus' mission in the world. He draws attention to the power at work in Christ which is now animating the Church, which is His Body.

#### Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

#### Gospel – Luke 24:46-53

We hear the end of the Gospel of Luke when Jesus encouraged the disciples that they were to be His witnesses beginning from Jerusalem, when the Spirit He promised would come down on them at Pentecost.

Next week's reading; 1. Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11  
 2. Romans 8:8-17  
 Gospel. John 14:15-16. 23-26

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray together:

Lord, we pray for our Pope and Bishops as the Shepherds of the flock. May they lead the work of the Church in proclaiming the Gospel to the world.

Lord, we pray for the leaders of all Churches and religious groups. May they be open to the spirit promised by Jesus that all Christians will be one as testimony to God's presence in our world.

Lord, we pray in this week between the Ascension and Pentecost for the local Christian churches. May cooperation and collaboration in common projects be a first witness to the shared life in the Spirit.

Lord, we remember with compassion our family and friends who have gone before us. Hold them in your keeping, especially those who have died recently Ray Bartlett and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Bill Grafen. Jack Mulroony. Doug Miller, Daniel Berger, Albin Rzesniowiecki.**

#### Collections: May 25/26, 2019

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1406

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$1398

Online thanksgiving (April): \$1153

1<sup>st</sup> Collection goes to the Friars, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection goes to the running costs of the Parish.

#### EFT Donations:

Account Name: Parish SS Peter & Paul

BSB: 083 155

Account number: 515577466

	READERS	E.M.E	HOSPITALITY	FLOWERS
Sat 01	Geraldine C			Ann & Priska
Sun 02	Mavis & Brian	Geraldine & Teresa	Donovan Family	
Sat 08	Adrian			Geraldine F & Sue
Sun 09	Andy & Natalie	Teresa & Carmel	Bill & Carol	