

Kyabram Catholic Parish

St Augustine's-Kyabram ~ St Patrick's-Tongala ~ St Sebastian's-Merrigum

St Augustine's – Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620

Tel: 03 – 5852 1026 Email: Kyabram@cdos.org.au

Parish Priest – Fr John Paul Pasala

We come to worship we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land

Ascension of the Lord

Sunday 29th May 2022



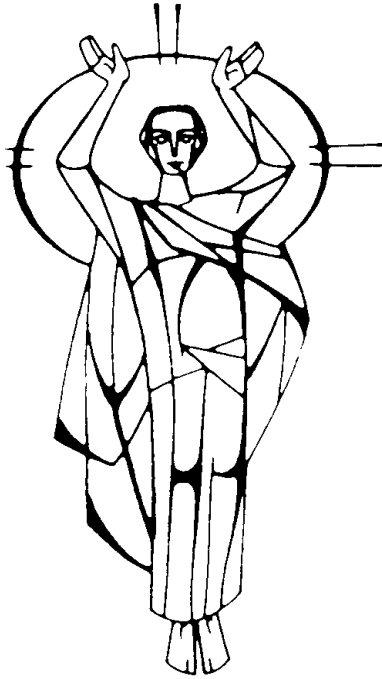
Readings for
this Sunday:

Acts 1:1-11
Hebrews 9:24-28,10:19-23
Luke 24:46-53



Readings for
next Sunday:

Acts 2:1-11
Romans 8:8-17
John 14:15-16,23-26



Liturgical Jottings

Symbols of the Ascension

While the event and mystery of the Ascension of the Lord are expressed through the readings, prayers and hymns of the feast, they fall short of expressing the marvellous actions of God and the yearnings of our hearts and minds. We also employ the arts, signs and symbols. Years ago the Paschal Candle was extinguished after the Gospel: a sign of risen Lord ascending into heaven. Now the candle is extinguished at Pentecost, the end of Easter Season. Incense is a sign of our prayers raising up with Christ to heaven. Art depicts Christ rising and seated on the throne surrounded by angels and saints, hands often outstretched both reaching upwards into heaven and embracing the world in prayer.

Looking at the Readings

Today's Gospel ends in the temple at Jerusalem, just where the Luke's Gospel begins. Zechariah was serving in the temple when he received the message that he will have a son, John (1:5-20). The Apostles, after witnessing Jesus' "withdrawal" into heaven, returned to Jerusalem and "were continually in the temple giving thanks to God." (24:51-53). Jesus spent his last week in the temple before his death, Peter and John performed their first miracles in the temple. The First Reading starts in Jerusalem (1:1-12) and ends in Rome (Ch 28). Luke symbolises the journey of Christ and the Apostles from Jerusalem then to go out to all nations (Lk 24:47) and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

The Ascension is more than a historical event, it is a mystery of faith and an extension of Jesus' ministry to bring forgiveness of sins and to admit us into the sanctuary of heaven. We express this in images and rituals: the glory of Christ in heaven, our participation in his new life through Baptism and Eucharist.

Today we rejoice with all peoples the hope of heaven, the guarantee of new life and the commandment to go out into the world with confidence.

Quote of a Saint on the Ascension

"On this day has ascended to heaven the new and spiritual bread, and all the mysteries have been revealed in your Body, raised like an offering. Blest be this bread, O Lord! As light falling from heaven, he was born of Mary, like a divine seed, fell from the cross like a ripe fruit, and was raised to heaven as one raises the first fruits." *St Ephrem, deacon and doctor of the Church (d. 373)*

Prayer for the Day

Lord Jesus, you came to your own people and gave to all who welcomed you power to become children of God. In your merciful love watch over the Church and through her ministry bring salvation to the meek and lowly. May we avoid the snares of the impious, and come to rejoice in glory with your saints.

On the Lighter Side

The army drill instructor yells, "Forward, march!" And the entire ranks move, all except one recruit. He's still standing at attention. The instructor strolls over to him and yells in his ears, "Are these things working?" "Sir, yes, sir!" The recruit yells. "Then why didn't you march when I gave the order?" "Sir, I didn't hear you call my name."



NATIONAL SORRY DAY

On 26th May, we celebrated National Sorry Day when we commemorate the Stolen Generation and we are now in National Reconciliation Week with the theme **BE BRAVE, MAKE CHANGE** – a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. To find out more, go to: <https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/>.

SOCIAL GATHERING

The Parish Pastoral Council recognise the difficulties and social isolation we have all faced during this COVID pandemic and are offering parishioners an opportunity to gather as a parish community to share a meal and conversation.

The first of these will occur on **Tuesday 7th June** in the Presbytery from 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

You are invited to bring a casserole or hot food to share and BYO own drinks. Tea & Coffee will be available.

HOME COMMUNION

The Parish is commencing Home Communion again. If anyone has a family member or loved one at home requiring communion, please contact the Parish Office (5852 1026).

Also, if anyone would like to be a Home Communion Minister please contact the Parish Office.

CELEBRATING SYNODALITY IN SANDHURST

Video 5: Bishop Shane on Synodality in Sandhurst

Bishop Shane summarises what we have seen and heard on Synodality in Sandhurst, the ways we are listening to the Holy Spirit and how we can create a “dynamism of mutual listening”. The Video can be viewed on the Diocese of Sandhurst YouTube Channel.

MASS TIME & ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND (first weekend of month – Sunday Mass only)

Sunday 5th June at 8.30am:

Commentator – T Hehir; Lector – V Fox;
Special Minister – M O’Shea

GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Grief support groups offer companionship and understanding from others who have experienced a similar loss, and are experiencing the similar challenges that living with grief brings.

If you are on a grief journey and would like to join this group or for further information please contact Kyabram District Health 5857 0200 or Alana Brennan 0427 658 563.

There will be some forms available from the back of the church also. Please pass this information on to anyone who would benefit from this group.

Alanna will be available after Mass this morning if you wish to have a chat.

RCIA – COME AND SEE

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic or know someone who is?

Please call one of our team members – Annette Ryan on 0408 502 858, Mary Zobec on 0427 190 282 or Alma Limbrick on 0417 184 527 for further information.

BECOME AN EARTHCARE PARISH / FAMILY



In 2015, Pope Francis wrote his environmental encyclical Laudato Si' in which he implores us to protect our common home. To escalate the implementation of Laudato Si', Pope Francis has now established the **Laudato Si' Action Platform** with its 7 Goals for 7 sectors over 7 years.

Our Australian Bishops Social Justice Statement 2021-22, 'Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor' reinforces the call to care for all creation and invites us to join them in taking action and committing to the Laudato Si goals.

Catholic Earthcare Australia has made it easy for parishes & families to take up the Bishops' invitation by developing a process to assist you on the journey towards these 7 goals and to becoming living Laudato Si' communities. Become a Catholic Earthcare Parish/Family at <https://catholicearthcare.org.au>.

Before registering our Parish, we are **seeking parishioners who may be interested in forming a little committee** to move this forward. Contact Alma 0417 184 527 or the Parish Office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Sick: Kadyne Mitchell-Treacy, Megan De Pasquale, Julie Shaw, Anne Dodd

Recently Deceased: Fr John Readman

Anniversaries: Leo Cavicchiolo

(Please email the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list.)



DIARY DATES

Mon	30 May	-
Tues	31 May	Rosary 4.45pm Liturgy of the Word with Communion 5.00pm
Wed	1 June	-
Thurs	2 June	Liturgy of the Word (no Communion) 9.15am (St Aug's Years 3 and 4) Sacramental – Baptism/Confirmation Parents Formation Night with children 7.00pm
Fri	3 June	-
Sat	4 June	No Mass
Sun	5 June	Mass 8.30am
Mon	6 June	-
Tues	7 June	Rosary 4.45pm Liturgy of the Word with Communion 5.00pm Social Gathering 6.30pm
Wed	8 June	-
Thurs	9 June	Liturgy of the Word (no Communion) 9.15am (St Aug's Years 5 and 6)
Fri	10 June	-
Sat	11 June	Baptism 4.00pm Mass 6.00pm (and cuppa after Mass)
Sun	12 June	Mass 8.30am Mass 11.30am Tongala

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

In Australia the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is scheduled from May 29th to June 5th. This is the 114th year that Christian Churches across the world have celebrated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Holy Father, Pope Francis is very dedicated to strengthening ecumenism, by frequently traveling and engaging with other Christian Churches. We are challenged to follow his lead.

This year's theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is: *We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him* (Mt 2:2).

The following webpage provides some useful resources for Australian Christian communities to use during the week and over the year:

<https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources>

Parish Administrator

Fr John Paul Pasala
Kyabram Presbytery: 5852 1026
Tatura Presbytery: 5824 1049

Pastoral Associate

Alma Limbrick (available in Parish Office on Thursdays, 8.30 to 5.00pm)

Administration

Leanne, Colleen and Ruth

Parish Office hours –

Tues/Wed/Fri – 8.30am to 12 noon
Thursday – 8.30am to 5.00pm

Parish Office email address

kyabram@cdos.org.au

Parish Office website:

www.kyabramcatholicparish.org.au

Principals

St Augustine's College

Jay Sutton – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary

Jackie Stockdale – Phone 5859 0371

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr John Paul Pasala, Alma Limbrick (Pastoral Associate), Alana Brennan (Chairperson), Maurie Finn, Veronica Fox, Brendon Lane, Finola Price, Jackie Stockdale, Jay Sutton

Parish Finance Committee

Fr John Paul Pasala, Wayne Mulcahy (Chairperson), Leanne Beck, James Harris, Naomi Hehir, Peter Ryan, Terry O'Sullivan, Angela Shaw, Mary Zobec

Mass Times

Kyabram

Week Day Masses (Tuesday and Thursday): see Diary Dates

Saturday (2nd and 4th Saturday of the month): 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.30am

Tongala

Second Sunday of month 11.30am

Merrigum

Fourth Sunday of month 11.30am

Reconciliation – Second Saturday of the month at 5.30pm (before 6pm Mass) in St Aug's Church Kyabram.

Mass of Anointing is held the first Thursday of the month at 10.00am in St Augustine's Church.

Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / C

29 MAY 2022

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

Lk 24:46-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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REFLECTING ON OUR CALL

As we celebrate the feast of the Ascension the words of the angels to the disciples can serve as a useful reminder of the meaning of this feast: 'Why are you standing here looking up at the sky?' The disciples had just witnessed the departure of their Lord and while their immediate reaction was natural there was work to be done: a mission had been entrusted to them. It was no time for standing still but getting down to the work at hand.

Firstly, the Lord had given them the mission of preaching the salvation that Jesus offered to the whole world. Secondly, they had to prepare for the gift of the Spirit which would enable and empower them to undertake their task. As the Gospel of Luke concludes we find the disciples in prayer in the temple waiting for the gift of the Spirit, joyfully pondering on what they had experienced.

The reading from the letter to the Ephesians calls us to share in that journey of reflection into the meaning of not only the life of Jesus but our own life as Christians. As Paul reflected on Jesus' life, death and resurrection, he came to see that it was truly a cosmic event. Jesus was not just Lord of death but all creation. The Ephesians are invited to reflect on the richness of the gift they have all received as Christians. Today's feast of the Ascension calls us to rejoice in, and reflect on, our call and mission.

Christopher Monaghan CP

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 exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in