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## ***The Ascension of the Lord —Year C - 1 June 2025***

***Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,***

**Let us be “Christ’s Witness to all Nations.”**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus appears to His disciples one final time before ascending into heaven. He opens their minds to understand the Scriptures, reminding them that “the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.

This is a turning point—not only in the life of Jesus but also in the life of the Church. The Ascension marks the completion of Jesus’ earthly ministry, yet it is not a farewell in the ordinary sense. Rather, it is the beginning of a new phase: the disciples are now called to carry the mission forward. Jesus entrusts them—and us—with the responsibility of being His witnesses “to all nations.”

We can notice the transformation in the disciples. Just days earlier, they had been fearful, uncertain, and hiding behind locked doors. But after encountering the risen Christ and receiving His blessing, they return to Jerusalem “with great joy” and spend their time in the temple, praising God. They are no longer afraid or confused; instead, they are filled with purpose and hope.

The Ascension challenges us to reflect on how we live our faith today. Jesus is no longer physically among us, but His presence remains through the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, the sacraments, and the community of believers. We, like the first disciples, are called to be His witnesses—to proclaim the Good News, to live lives rooted in mercy and love, and to be signs of hope in a world often marked by division and despair.

Importantly, the Ascension is not a story of absence but of presence in a new form. Jesus ascends not to abandon us but to be with us in an even more profound way. From His place at the right hand of the Father, He intercedes for us, empowers us, and calls us to a life of mission. He also reminds us that our true home is in heaven and that our lives on earth are a journey toward that eternal promise.

As a parish community, let us be encouraged by this Gospel message. In our worship, let us find strength. In our fellowship, let us discover unity. In our service to others, let us be the hands and feet of Christ. And in our daily lives, let us bear joyful witness to the hope we have in the risen and ascended Lord. Amen

***Fr Vinco Muriyadan***

***Dear Parishioners,***

The Month of June is traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and thus this month we will be celebrating a number of special events with regards to the liturgical calendar.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June** – Pentecost Sunday

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June** – Confirmation Mass for Sacramental Children @ 5pm, Sacred Heart Church, Newstead.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June** – Solemnity of the Holy Trinity.

Today I would like to present to you a Catechetical reflection on the Ascension of our Lord. (Refer article in page 3)

***Fr Leonard***

### **WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

**Saturday 5pm** Sacred Heart Church, Newstead

**Sunday 7.30am** Carmelite Monastery

9am St Patrick’s Chapel, Prospect

9am St Finn Barr’s Church, Invermay

10.30am Church of the Apostles, Launceston

**5.30pm** Church of the Apostles, Launceston

### **WEEKDAY MASSES 2—7 June**

**7.30am** Monday-Saturday Carmelite Monastery

Tuesday 12noon Mass Newstead

Wednesday 12noon Mass Apostles

Thursday 12noon Mass Invermay

Friday 12noon Mass Apostles

### **RECONCILIATION**

Reconciliation 9.30am-10.30am, Apostles

4.15pm– 4.45pm Newstead

### **MASS LIVE-STREAMED**

**Every Sunday at 9am**

Facebook @catholicparishlaunceston or:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/)

[CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/)

Sunday Mass is also televised every Sunday Morning on WIN and WIN HD, 6.00am - 6.30am.

### **SACRAMENTAL BOOKINGS**

Baptisms, Wedding and Funeral Enquiries

Please contact the Parish Office

### **Interested in becoming Catholic**

**(RCIA Programme)**

**Enquiries: Parish Office**

### **CHILDREN’S LITURGY**

1st and 3rd Sundays –9am Invermay

2nd and 4th Sundays –10.30am Apostles

### **FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Teens Group: Gr 6-12**

**2nd and 4th Thursdays, Pastoral Centre**

**4pm-6pm**

**YAS (age 18-35) 2nd and 4th Sundays in the Pastoral Centre**

**Enquiries: Parish Office**

*We are located on the country of the Tyerenotepanner, the Panninher and the Litarimirina people of the Stoney Creek Nation. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners, who have cared for land, sea, waterways and sky, as the ongoing custodians, for thousands of years. We honour Elders, past and present. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.*

## PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS

**ONE HOUR WITH JESUS** *This Sunday, 1st June at the Carmelite Monastery.* You are welcome to join the Carmelite nuns in spending some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: 2.00pm Office of None (afternoon prayer of the Church); 2.15 - 3.00pm Silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament; 3.00pm Benediction

**MONDAY NIGHT ROSARY** *Every Monday in Church of the Apostles at 7.30pm.* Come along and offer your thanks to "Our Blessed Mother Mary" for the Blessings she bestows on us each day. **All Welcome.**

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** *National Council of Churches in Australia* Luncheon Prayer and Reflection, **Wednesday 4 June 2025, 1pm.** Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/DBQDG>

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION** will be held in the **Nano Nagle Room, Presentation House (behind the Pastoral Centre)** on **Wednesdays at 11am and at 5pm.** Christian Meditation is a method of prayer to help us set our eyes on God, in silence and grow closer to Him with Gratitude and Love. All are welcome. **Enquires: Tina: 0417305546**

**LECTIO DIVINA** Every Friday morning 10.30 am for 1 hour, at the Pastoral Centre, Lectio Divina - Contemplating and praying the scriptures for the upcoming weekend Mass readings. A time to slow down, to listen with the ears of your heart. Everyone is welcome.

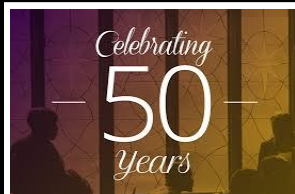
**FRIDAY HOLY HOUR** Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place for one hour every Friday when the 12noon Mass is held at the Church of the Apostles.

**HEALING MASS** for all the sick and aged in our parish for all those who are in need of Our Good Lord's anointing and mercy. **Every First Friday at Church of the Apostles at 12 noon.**

**THE CARMEL SHOP:** The Carmel Shop, 7 Cambridge St, West Launceston is open between 11am—4pm on Wednesdays.

**St Vincent de Paul Leaving Collection at all Masses this weekend.**

**Please collect the latest edition of Australian Catholics**



### **CARMELITE MONASTERY 50 YEARS IN LAUNCESTON**

All are welcome to join the Carmelite nuns for a Mass of Thanksgiving on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30am at 7 Cambridge Stret, West Launceston** to mark the 50th anniversary of the blessing and opening of the monastery on this date in 1975.



# Pentecost Sunday

## Firepot & Soup Night

### SUNDAY 8 JUNE

after the 5:30 pm Mass  
at Church of the Apostles

**ALL WELCOME**

Donations accepted to support our Parish Youth Group

Annual Procession of the Blessed Sacrament  
for the Feast of The Body & Blood of Christ

## SUNDAY 22 JUNE 2025

St Joseph's Church, Hobart, 12.45pm

Celebrate the Feast of the Body & Blood of Christ by walking with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament through the City of Hobart.

Enquiries: Vincent Parr on 0487 132 429

For further details go to: [hobart.catholic.org.au](http://hobart.catholic.org.au)



Archdiocese of Hobart

### **YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY**

**FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTISED** especially **Frankie Taggart-Berwick (Sean and Gemma), Parker Carey (Kaleb and Madison)** and **Arlo Summers (Kyle and Emily)** who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism within our parish this weekend.

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Dale Luck, Christina Waiss, Kath Aldred, Elsie Saltmarsh, Ruth Adams, Angela Medwin, Joanne Foley, Margaret Grossmith, Therese Brennan, Irene La Palombara, Kees Moolenschot, Egidio Tosello, Brigitte, Pat McCarthy, Shirley O'Byrne, Cheryl Dawtrey, Kevin Quadros, Will Smith, Merril Thompson, Tina La Palombara, Noelene Bye, Peter Brumby, Maria Holton, Louisa Buttazzoni, Alex Thrower, Alida Moolenschot, Sharon Manzone, Suzy Fenton, Elizabeth Nettlefold, Shirley Ambrose, Bev Callahan, Helen Wright, Alfred Weeding, Maureen Saunders, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Jennifer Dowell, Andrew Campbell, Bill Lewis, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Beardwood, Jane Gillard, Joel Wilkinson, Jesse Moore, Elaine Blake, John Walsh, Clare Maddox, William Siegrist, Anne Harris, Jane Savaro, Amelia Eckert, Allison Thambugala, Ava Woolley, David Lewis, Christian Barrett, Xavier Banks, George Donovan, and we remember all those anniversaries which occur at this time.

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED** Anna Parsons, Daniel Currie, Lino and Maria Rossi, Mario and Angelina Colla, Robert MacLaine, Angelo De Guglielmo, Bob Kiely, Mary Bennett, Kathleen Maloney, Keitha Bennett, Maria Furfaro, Judith Hollingsworth, Peter MacMichael, Peter Bird, Rex Boxhall, Barbara Mary Barrett, Wanda Tighe and we remember all those anniversaries which occur at this time.

**FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY:** We continue to pray for the gift of healing and peace for all who contract the virus, especially for those who are in hospital, and for their families.

## **FAITH AND CATHECHIS Ascension of Jesus and what it means to us**


The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord commemorates the fortieth day after the Resurrection when Jesus ascended body and soul into Heaven and took His seat at the right hand of His Father. Traditionally, the location of the Ascension is believed to be less than a mile east of the Old City of Jerusalem, and that spot is marked by the Chapel of the Ascension, which is said to contain a miraculous imprint of the footprints of Christ before He ascended. The event of the Ascension is found in the Gospels and Acts (Mark 16:19–20; Luke 24:50–53; Acts 1:6–12). It is also alluded to in various other passages (John 6:62; Ephesians 4:7–10; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 3:21–22). Only Jesus and His Blessed Mother have entered into the glories of Heaven, body and soul. Jesus' Ascension implies that He did so by His own authority and power. The Blessed Virgin Mary's Assumption implies that she entered Heaven, body and soul, by God's power, and not her own.

The final stage of the salvation of humanity will take place when Jesus returns to judge the living and the dead. At that time, every human body will rise, will endure the final purification and transformation, and will share in the new and resurrected state in which the faithful will be able to stand, body and soul, before the Most Holy Trinity and experience the fullness of the Beatific Vision forever. What Jesus has already accomplished in His human form is what we look forward to in hope at the end of time.

The Feast of the Ascension was celebrated annually from as early as apostolic times. Saint John Chrysostom, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, and Saint Augustine all attest to this fact. When the Council of Nicaea set the date for the celebration of the Resurrection in 325, it chose to keep Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox in spring. This decision also set the day for the Ascension being forty days after Easter, on a Thursday. Today, many ecclesiastical provinces transfer the Thursday celebration to the following Sunday to provide for a wider celebration.

Though every aspect of Christ's life is shrouded in mysteries which will only be fully understood by the faithful when they stand before Him and behold the Beatific Vision, today we especially ponder this beautiful and profound mystery of our faith. As we celebrate the Ascension, try to prayerfully meditate upon the perfect unity of Jesus' human and divine natures. Ponder further the truth that because the Son of God is both God and man, and He beholds His Father and the Holy Spirit as both God and man, He invites each of us to begin to share in that glorious vision. Only after we fully die in and with Him and rise to new life in and with Him will we be able to know Him clearly and share in His glorious resurrected and ascended life. Until that moment comes, it's important to ponder that which is incomprehensible. We must know that we do not know, believe what is beyond belief, hope in that which is more than we can understand. God is a mystery; the Ascension is a mystery—but they are mysteries that must be penetrated by prayer. Do so today as we commemorate this holy culmination of the earthly life and mission of Christ.

**Fr Leonard**

 **Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Josephite Mission Hobart** On May 1<sup>st</sup> the **Josephite Mission Centre in Hobart** became part of the nationwide Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centres. It is an exciting time for growth of the Ministry of care offered by the Sisters of St Joseph. Please visit the new website <https://mmsm.org.au/> for more information about hiring our spaces or visiting our museum and history rooms. Phone (03) 6228 1628 or Email: [Admin.JMHC@sosjspirit.org.au](mailto:Admin.JMHC@sosjspirit.org.au) so we can keep you up to date with new developments at the Josephite Mission and History Centre by being on our regular mailing list.

**Coming up at the Centre – 67 Clare Street, New Town**

**Dr Drasko Dizdar** – 31<sup>st</sup> of May – 10am to 1.30 pm – The Emmaus Journey (Morning tea/Luncheon provided) \$20 pp Bookings essential for catering purposes – no one should be exempt due to cost – financial support to attend can be provided on request.

**Annual Charismatic Pentecost Gathering - The faithful love of the Lord never ends!**

**St Peter's Church Hall, Youngtown, Saturday 7th June, 10am—2pm**

**Enquiries: 6344 5473 email: [kingsmeadows@aohtas.org.au](mailto:kingsmeadows@aohtas.org.au)**

**All are welcome—please bring a plate of food to share for lunch**

**Please check posters in the Church for program details**

**St Vincent de Paul Winter Grocery and Toiletries Drive**

The Parish will be collecting donations of groceries and toiletries to help many who are experiencing hardship this winter. Donations can be left in the office during office hours. Please take a flyer from the church to guide your much needed donations. *Thank you*



**DINING WITH FRIENDS**

**6pm, Tuesday 3rd June  
in the Pastoral Centre.**

*Bookings are essential for catering with St Vincent de Paul Society Office:*

*Ph: 6326 5551*

*Please note the dining room will be open at 5.45pm*



**The Catholic Parish of Launceston embraces and whole-heartedly supports the Archdiocese of Hobart Safe Communities Policy and Framework.**

**Enquiries: Safe Communities officer- Parish Office 63314377 or email: [launceston@aohtas.org.au](mailto:launceston@aohtas.org.au)  
Safe Communities Information flyer available in the Church or visit: [SafeCommunitiesTas.com.au](http://SafeCommunitiesTas.com.au)**

# The Ascension of the Lord

## FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

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 to 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.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

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

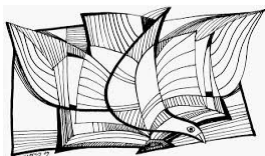
1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth.
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.
3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne.

### A VOCATION VIEW

**Jesus promised his disciples that they would be clothed in power from God. As a follower of Jesus, you are also given that same promise. Pray for the grace to be a faithful witness. (Luke 24:46-53)**

### Pentecost Sunday

Genesis 11:1-9  
Psalm 103:1-2,24,27-30,35  
Romans 8:22-27  
John 7:37-39



## SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

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 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.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**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

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.



**Bank details for direct debit donations to support the financial needs of your Parish:**

**Account Name:** Launceston Catholic Parish  
**BSB:** 067 000; **Account No:** 1031 6153.  
**Reference:** "your surname"

## PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN..*

