



Understanding the Story

St Luke is believed to be the author of the Acts of the Apostles.

In our first reading he gives us an account of the ascension of Jesus into heaven.

The risen Jesus appears to the apostles one last time. He tells them that they are to be his witnesses to the end of the earth. But first they must wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Then Jesus was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight.

This looks like a literal account of Jesus' ascension. Having said that, the ascension of the Lord, however, has always been a mystery. Still, it stands for a miraculous event that happened to Jesus.

For Jesus his ascension was not a journey into outer space, but a journey home. He was returning to his Father. His disappearance into a cloud symbolizes his entry into divine glory.

St Mark speaks of him as 'taking his place at the right hand of God.' This is a figure of speech. It does not mean that Jesus is confined to a definite place but that he has entered upon a definite function which is priest, prophet and king.

The apostles understood that Jesus had to go for his own sake, because he was going to his Father. They also understood that his departure was connected with the sending of the Holy Spirit: 'the Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you' (Jn 16:7). This meant that his leaving was good for them too.

This helps to understand why the apostles returned to Jerusalem with 'great joy' (Luke 24:52). However, sorrow was mingled with their joy - they were glad that Jesus was going to glory but sad that he was leaving them.

In the incarnation Jesus took humanity on himself. In the ascension that humanity has been taken up and glorified. This means that our humanity stands in the unimaginable light of the presence of God. This is so because Jesus stands there. When he ascended he took with him part of the humanity of each one of us.

And here is another wonderful truth - the ascension does not represent the Lord's removal from the earth.

(continued on the back page)

PARISH NEWS

Tax Receipts YE310324

Tax receipts 2024 are readily available from the church foyer.

We are asking everyone to pick up their tax receipts - it helps greatly in reducing the amount of tax receipts that are left behind every year.

Thank you.

Volunteers - Minimarket

We are looking for some volunteers for our minimarket (every 4th Sunday of the month) to help with making coffees and assist Patsy with selling the bakery. We want to encourage the youth in our parish to come and support our minimarket. Any help is much appreciated. Thank you.

DIOCESE NEWS

Marriage Educators

Marriage & Family Life Ministry at the Diocese is seeking married couples of 5 years (or more) who would like to train as Marriage Educators to prepare engaged couples for marriage in the church. This is a very rewarding and significant role. If interested, please call [Gerry 021 022 47442](tel:02102247442) or email gerrys@cda.org.nz

Mass of the Neophytes

On Pentecost Sunday - **19 May 4.30pm** - there will be a Mass of Welcome at St Patrick's Cathedral to give thanks for the gift of faith.

Bishop Steve and the diocesan community invite all those baptized at Easter (or at other times) with their godparents and those received into full communion in the last 12 months to attend. RSVP is not required but it would be appreciated if we had an indication of the number of neophytes attending: pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz



Ministry Workshops

The Liturgy Centre is holding their next workshop **Sunday 19 May 1pm-3pm** (light lunch provided) at St Joseph's Church in Takapuna.

This applies only for those who missed the workshop held at our parish back in March 2024. This workshop will cover training for Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. You will receive a certificate at completion which will be posted to your designated parish and presented to you at mass on a chosen date/time. Register via the link below: www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/formation/

Mass Times

Monday: 9am
Tues/Wed/Thurs 6.30pm
Wed: Novena 6pm
Friday: 9am
First Friday: 6.30pm
Saturday: 5pm Vigil
Sunday: 9am, 10.30am, 5pm

**Reconciliation by appointment.
Please contact the parish office.**

Legion of Mary

Senior Legion of Mary (Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium) ~ every Wednesday 7.10pm in the classroom.

Senior Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Grace Praesidium) ~ every Friday 7.00pm in the classroom.

Junior Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Good Counsel Praesidium) ~ every Friday 5.30pm in the classroom (under 18).

Blessed Virgin Mary

Would you like the Blessed Virgin Mary to visit your home?

Members of The Legion of Mary can leave her statue at your place for 2 weeks.

Gather the whole family and pray the rosary daily. Receive a special protection and greatest blessings through her intercession. If you are interested, please contact [Marilyn on 021 299 4357](tel:0212994357)

If you wish to place a notice in our parish newsletter, please email the parish office by Wednesday.

Please pray for our sick parishioners:

Violet Furtado, Yvonne Sommers,
Mary Holmes, Kanesi Masae,
Ethan Peter Lelo, Rosalen Ahearn,
Saulius David Balsys, Kalameli Tauta,
Joan Unkovich, Pauline Caffell,
Louisa Baptist, Robert Shearman,
Siufaga Maileoi Lili, Lee Dunn,
Alex Soniega, Aaron Ablan,
Fata Peter & Lenora Fuiava,
Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea,
Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover.

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$ 1,276.30

Parish - \$ 2,081.80

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings For The Upcoming Week

Mon 13 May: Acts 19:1-8

Ps 67:2-7 Jn 16:29-33

Tue 14 May: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

Jn 15:9-17 Ps 112:1-8

Wed 15 May: Acts 20:28-38

Jn 17:11-19 Ps 67:29-30, 33-36

Thu 16 May: Acts 22:30, 23:6-11

Jn 17:20-26 Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11

Fri 17 May: Acts 25:13-21

Jn 21:15-19 Ps 102:1-2, 11-12

Sat 18 May: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

Jn 21:20-25 Ps 10:4-5

Sun 19 May: Gen 11:1-9

Ezek 37:1-14 Ps 103:1-2, 24, 27-30

Rom 8:22-27 Jn 7:37-39

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It represents his liberation from all restrictions of time and space, so that he can be present everywhere on earth. This is why he can say to the apostles: 'I am with you always even to the end of age' (Mt 28:20).

The first Christians understood this very well. They knew that Jesus was still with them, even if not in the same way as before.

Jesus gave the apostles a great task to perform, namely, to preach the Gospel to the world. Today's gospel ends by showing how Jesus, now in the glorious presence of his Father, continues to act through the Holy Spirit and through his followers.

That task has been handed on to us. We draw strength from the conviction that the risen and glorified Christ is with us as he was with the apostles.

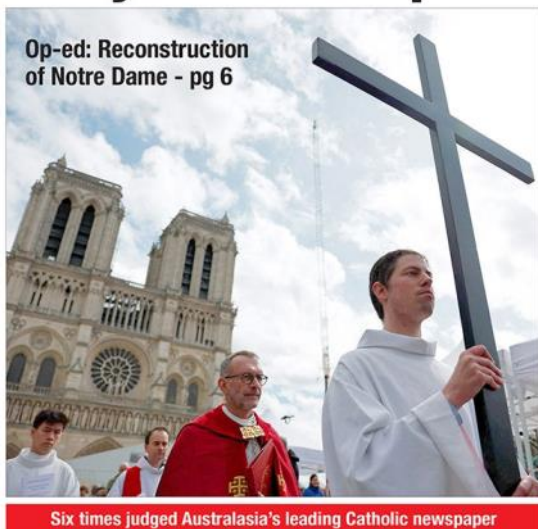
We are not asked to be successful, only to be faithful witnesses of Christ.



Flor McCarthy SDB

Homestays for Students

The Diocese has a few pre-seminary students from Vietnam discerning vocations to the priesthood. They are learning English with a view to entering our seminary at the start of 2025. They need homestay hosts for the next 8-10 months. The Diocese will cover the full cost of their board. If you are able to offer them a supportive home with a room of their own, please email Alison: alisonm@cda.org.nz or phone [\(09\) 360 3003](tel:(09)3603003).



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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