**Note: Please leave this on the ambo, thanks.**

**SUNDAY 21st MAY 2023**

**ASCENSION SUNDAY - YEAR A**

Good morning/evening we welcome our parishioners and visitors to Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill/Schofields Parish.

Jesus’ ascension is his return to the Father and marks the end of his public ministry and appearance to the disciples after his resurrection. But he really does not leave his disciples orphans. Through his gift of the Holy Spirit, he accompanies them in their task of preaching the Good News, even as they build communities of disciples.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**SUNDAY 21st MAY 2023**

**ASCENSION SUNDAY - YEAR A**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Acts 1:1-11)**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

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.’ laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

*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.***

**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**

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

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Mt 28:16-20)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them.

He said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that

I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.’ by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**SUNDAY 21st MAY 2023**

**ACENSION SUNDAY - YEAR A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest**: — Jesus Christ lives forever and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Through him, we pray to the Father for the needs of the Church and say:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** — That the leaders of the Church may know the power of the Holy Spirit so that they may be compassionate shepherds and defenders of God’s people.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That civil and political leaders may be given the wisdom and strength to carry out their responsibilities

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That all of us gathered here may have the courage to proclaim the Gospel by word, prayer, and good example

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For the children in our parish preparing to receive Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Frist Eucharist. May they grow in faith as they follow Jesus’ ways and come to understand more fully his love for them.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died: our deceased family, friends, and those mentioned in our parish bulletin, may they ascend to glory with Christ our Saviour

 We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Together we now pray our parish community prayer for Easter:

**All:** God of power and might, by your holy will you raised Jesus from the dead so that we might share his life eternally. As we rejoice and give you thanks for your great goodness and mercy, help us to reach out to those who do not yet believe in the truth of the gospel.

Fill us with your compassion so that we may serve the weak and needy

for love of you.

Strengthen the faith of our families so that we may grow together in love. May your joy grow in us day by day.

**Priest:** Lord God, your Son goes back to you to share your glory.

Our eyes can no longer see him, but we see him with the eyes of faith, and continue to love him.

We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.