

disciples, by those who believe in him and proclaim him. This mission will last until the end of history and every day will have the assistance of the Risen Lord, who assures: "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (v. 20) . . .

He reveals to us the reason for the Church's existence: the Church exists to proclaim the Gospel, for this alone! So too, the joy of the Church is proclaiming the Gospel. The Church is all of us baptised people. Today we are called to better understand that God has given us the great dignity and responsibility of proclaiming him to the world, of making him accessible to all mankind. This is our dignity; this is the greatest honour of each one of us, of all the baptised!

### Prayer

Father in heaven,  
our minds were prepared for the coming of your kingdom  
when you took Christ beyond our sight so that we might seek him in his glory.  
May we follow where he has led and find our hope in his glory,  
for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

### Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



#### OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP : PRAY FOR US

◀ Throughout these weeks of 'lockdown', when it is not possible to visit the church, the votive light at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help burns night and day for us all - for our prayers and intentions.

*Please remember in your prayers*

#### Those who are ill . . .

Neil Abrahams, Isabella Ayres, Mary Brennan, Lesley Carroll, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Father Paul Dynan, Compton Glasgow, Father Tom Jordan, Eddie Margot, Gary Martindill, Maureen Mongan, Helen Murray, Sue Read, Stephen Smithers, Sue Spelling and Mary Treston.

#### Those whose anniversaries are recalled at this time . . .

**16-22 May:** Harold Bygrave, Joe Reilly, Denis Samwell, Frank Hull, Grace Reade, Michael Bradbrook, Rosina Tagg, Tony Fraser, Victor Sidoli, Lydia Moulton, Dennis Curnow, Marie McCormack and Jim Henshaw.

#### ANNUAL GIFT AID STATEMENTS

If you Gift Aid your contributions to the parish, your annual statement detailing your giving is now available. Should you wish to receive yours electronically, please email the Parish Office and we will send it to you. Alternatively, paper copies will be available to collect from Church House, or 'phone us and we will post it to you.

#### THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Friday is the **Memorial of St Rita of Cascia** - born near Spoleto in 1381, she married and rude, ill-tempered husband who died a violent death. Her two sons, who had sworn vengeance against their father's murderers, died shortly afterwards, filled with a spirit of forgiveness. Rita now entered a convent of Augustinians at Cascia, where she bore patiently a chronic and very painful malady. She died in 1457 and was canonised in 1900. In Spanish-speaking countries she is named: *La Abogada de Imposibles* - the saint of desperate causes.

#### CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This week, the light in honour of Our Lady is in memory of Kathleen Frendo.

# Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

Lowshoe Lane, Collier Row, Romford, Essex RM5 2AP

#### Parish Priest:

Father Philip Denton

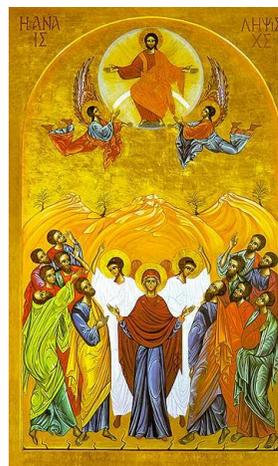
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#### to contact Church House:

## Solemnity of the Ascension *Prayers and Readings*

Thursday 21 May 2020



*May you be filled with joy and hope  
as we celebrate the resurrection.  
Christ has conquered death  
and is risen to newness of life!*

*Due to the Coronavirus pandemic,  
all public acts of worship are suspended  
and churches are locked until further notice.*

*This newsletter includes readings from the Mass of the feast day,  
which you might like to use as an aid to prayer and reflection.*

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
available at any time on request

**PARISH WEBSITE**  
[www.corpuschristicollierrow.org](http://www.corpuschristicollierrow.org)

(for use at home)

### Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Prayer

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens,  
so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell;  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### 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 from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

\*The 'earlier work' referred to is the Gospel of Luke

## Psalm

Ps 46: 2-3, 6-9

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.

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.

## 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 his 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 Reading

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 commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

## Reflection

from **St Augustine of Hippo** (died AD 430), *Sermon on the Ascension (Mai 98)*

Today Jesus Christ our Lord went up to heaven: let our hearts go up with him.

Listen to the words of St Paul: 'If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on

things that are on earth.' Just as he ascended without leaving us, so too we are already with him in heaven, although his promises have not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.

Christ is now raised above the heavens; but he still experiences on earth whatever sufferings we his members feel. He showed that this is true when he called out from heaven: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' And: 'I was thirsty and you gave me drink.'

Why then do we not exert ourselves on earth so as to be happy with him already in heaven through the faith, hope and charity which unite us with him? Christ, while in heaven, is also with us; and we, while on earth, are also with him. He is with us in his godhead and his power and his love; and we, though we cannot be with him in godhead as he is with us, can be with him in our love, our love for him.

## Prayers of Intercession

For the Church's mission to make disciples of all people:  
May we remember Jesus' promise to be with us until the end of the world.

*Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.*

For people of every race and nation:  
May Christ draw all peoples together in trust and peace.

*Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.*

For those among us who are troubled by doubt:  
May the spirit of wisdom and insight be given in abundance.

*Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.*

For those taken from our sight by death:  
May they be with Christ for ever.

*Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.*

Our Father ...

## Spiritual Communion

*written by St Alphonsus Ligouri*

My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever.  
Amen.

## Reflection

from **Pope Francis**, *Regina Caeli Address*, St Peter's Square, 28 May 2017

Today, in Italy and in other countries, we celebrate Jesus' Ascension into heaven, which took place 40 days after Easter. The Gospel passage (cf. Mt 28:16-20), which concludes the Gospel of Matthew, presents the moment of the Risen One's final farewell to his disciples. The scene is set in Galilee, the place where Jesus had called them to follow him and to form the first nucleus of his new community. Now those disciples have traversed the "fire" of the Passion and of the Resurrection; at the visit of the Risen Lord they prostrate themselves before him, although some remain doubtful. Jesus gives this frightened community the immense task of evangelizing the world; and he reinforces this responsibility with the command to teach and baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (v. 19).

Jesus' Ascension into heaven thus constitutes the end of the mission that the Son received from the Father and the beginning of the continuation of this mission on the part of the Church. From this moment, from the moment of the Ascension, in fact, Christ's presence in the world is mediated by his