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Parish**

*Incorporat-
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Our Lady of The Way

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&

St. Francis Xavier

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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

24th May 2020

THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST

The Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus this weekend, 40 days after Easter. **The Ascension is not about Jesus leaving, departing or abandoning the disciples – or us ..!** It is, rather, a great symbol of the trust and confidence that Jesus has in us – perhaps more than we do in ourselves or others. What we celebrate is Jesus' exaltation and the end of his earthly existence, as a prelude to the gift of the Spirit. The ascended Jesus is still with us because of his promise, **"I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."**

He is with us at all times and in all places, releasing a new energy upon the earth, the energy of the Holy Spirit Who enables us to preach his Good News of salvation and to bear witness to him in living out His word. Hence, today's feast is the celebration of Jesus' glory after his suffering and death – the glory in which we also hope to share. The Ascension and Pentecost, together, mark the beginning of the Church.

The feast of the Ascension tells us that the Church must be a community in mission, guided by the Holy Spirit and confident of God's protection even amid suffering and death.

A beautiful old story tells of how Jesus, after his Ascension into Heaven, was surrounded by the Holy Angels who began to enquire about his work on earth. Jesus told them about His birth, life, preaching, death and Resurrection, and how he had accomplished the salvation story. The Archangel Gabriel asked, "Well, now that you are back in Heaven, who will continue your work on earth?" Jesus said, "While I was on earth, I gathered a group of people around me who believed in me and loved me. They will continue to spread the Gospel and carry on the work of the Church." Gabriel was perplexed. "You mean Peter, who denied you thrice and all the rest who ran away when you were crucified? You mean to tell us that you left them to carry on your work? And what will you do if this plan doesn't work?" Jesus said, "I have no other plan – it must work." Truly, Jesus has no other plan than to depend on the efforts of his followers. **Pope Francis says "we are never alone"** and that Jesus is our defender, is with us; the Ascension of Jesus into heaven then reveals to us this reality that is so comforting for our journey, (that) in Christ, true God and true man, our humanity was brought to God.

We need to be proclaimers and evangelizers. To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and proclaiming. We preach with words, but we proclaim with our lives. Let us ask the guidance of the Spirit of God to bear witness to Jesus by our transparent Christian lives.

God Bless, Fr. GEO FRANCIS



PLEASE NOTE - The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 25th May.

National Volunteers Week (Monday May18- Sunday May 24)

In this time of uncertainty, National Volunteers Week presents an opportunity to say a big thank you to all the generous volunteers who serve our parish in a great variety of ministries. Our Mission and vision of being a community "committed to bringing the message of Jesus Christ to all" could not be a reality without you.

We are incredibly grateful and humbled by your efforts and want you to know that your work has not gone unnoticed by the community and indeed by Christ himself.

Our volunteers impact not only our parishioners but also the wider community (eg Vinnies) and around the world (eg Uganda, Africa and beyond)

A wise person once said "I don't think you can be truly happy until you share what you have" This might explain the cheerful faces and words that greet us and serve us each Sunday.

During this Covid 19 pandemic a particular mention must be made of the many parishioners who are showing care and compassion through their phone calls, shopping assistance etc. Your kindness has been an inspiration, your words and actions help make our community a happier and safe place.

To ALL our volunteers our sincere gratitude for sharing your time and gifts with us.
You are vital to the health of the parish.



Knights of The Southern Cross: The winner of the 8th Draw held on 16th May was Catherine Plucknett of Bray Park with Ticket No. 32. Congratulations!! Final draw coming up on 30th May ... Good luck!

Scripture Readings

PENTECOST - YR A

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-23.

Please remember in your prayers the following people:

Brian Carmichael, Scott Hines, Barry Guest, Rolf Germain, Pita Nepata, Norma Quinn, Marcus Neudecker, Neola Corby, Anne Feeney, Christina Peters, Samantha Pride, Terry Segrave, Rita Miles, Steven Williams, Rohan Somasekaran, Thomas Bird, Bradley Wright, Greg Olsson-Lalor, Nina & Raymond Dove, Tia Huff, Helen Chicken, Dorothy Davidson, John Engwicht, Vera Versace, Michelle Woodworth, Abbie Wellspring, Lloyd Mason, Sharon McCourt, Gina Morieni, Paige Hoffman, Nicole Blackburn, Amanda Moyle, Tim McNickle, Kyle Huff, Nathalie Bernon, Ghishiane Smidt, Patrick Bosworth & Kathy Bosua.

These names will be removed after 2 months. If you wish for them to remain on longer please ring the Parish Office.



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