

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON:

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 47.

RESPONSE:

God has gone up with shouts of joy. The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

1. All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome.
The 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 reigns over the nations.
God sits upon his holy throne. **R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the close of the age. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:46-53.

COMMUNION ANTI-PHON:

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 2 Jun (Sts Marcellinus & Peter, Ms)

Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 68; John 16:29-33

Marcellinus was a priest and Peter was an exorcist, beheaded during the persecution by the Emperor Diocletian. They were prominent in the memory of the early Church.

Tue 3 Jun St Charles Lwanga & Comps. Ms

Acts 20:17-27; Psalm 68; John 17:1-11

Like Charles Lwanga, we are all teachers and witnesses to Christian living by the examples of our own lives. We are all called upon to spread the word of God, whether by word or deed, remaining unshakable in our faith.

Wed 4 Jun Liturgy of the Day

Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 68; John 17:11-19

"The inner person is the soil in which God has sown the divine likeness and image and in which God sows the good seed, the roots of all wisdom... all virtues; all goodness - the seed of the divine nature. - Meister Eckhart

Thu 5 Jun St Boniface, BM

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16; John 17:20-26

Boniface (675-754 AD), known as the apostle of the Germans, was an English Benedictine monk who gave up being elected abbot to devote his life to the conversion of the Germanic tribes.

Fri 6 Jun (St Norbert, B)

Acts 25:13-21; Psalm 103; John 21:15-19

St Norbert was the founder of the Norbertine Order in the 12th Century. He had an unwavering loyalty to the Church and a fervent devotion to the Eucharist, which we are all called to emulate.

Sat 7 Jun Liturgy of the Day

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Psalm 11; John 21:20-25

"I find that all my thoughts circle round God like the planets round the sun, and are as irresistibly attracted by [God]. I would feel it the most heinous sin were I to offer any resistance to this compelling force." - Carl Jung

Sun 8 Jun PENITECOST

Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104; John 14:15-16, 23-26

Originally a Jewish feast, Pentecost concluded the 50 days of Passover and celebrated the end of the barley harvest and the beginning of the wheat harvest. It also celebrates the gift of the law to Moses at Mt Sinai.

KEY: SOLEMNITY: FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)

P=Priest; B=Bishop; P= Pope

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Catholic Link

PILGRIMS OF HOPE - ASCENSION

Ascension of the Lord • Year C
Divine Office: Week III • 1 June 2025

Ascension: Final Goal as Pilgrims

Every journey, every pilgrimage, has a destination, aim, and goal. The Christian journey ends not in this world but in the new world of heaven, the New Jerusalem (as we reflected on in our Link series last month on the Book of Apocalypse). Our goal, by participation in Christ, though and beyond Resurrection, is Ascension into Heaven.

But we're not there yet. Even the disciples, starting at the clouds that took Jesus from their sight, had to be reminded of his words that they would have to continue to be his witnesses on earth. That journey continues, now not debilitated by separation from Christ, but by the power of the Holy Spirit that would descend upon them after a novena of days at Pentecost.

This reminds one of a line from an Oscar winning film, *Nomadland*, when Bob Wells, a nomad (aren't we all, as pilgrims, nomads?) says to a character called Fern: "One of the things I love most about this life is that there's no final goodbye. I've met hundreds of people, and I don't ever say a final goodbye. I always just say, 'I'll see you down the road.'" On this Solemnity of the Ascension, the last day of Jesus here on earth, note that Jesus does not say goodbye to his disciples. He sends them on mission, assuring them that he will be with them until the end of time.

The Ascension is one of the most misinterpreted events in Jesus' life. It has even been portrayed in a somewhat mythological way as a "gravity-defying" form of levitation of Jesus from this world to a place up, up and away. The cloud is significant. In the Bible a cloud depicts the

abiding presence of God amongst the people. In the Old Testament, the pillar of cloud indicated God's presence leading the ransomed people of Israel out of Egypt through the wilderness (Exodus 13:22). By night it became a pillar of fire (Numbers 9:17-23). The Ascension cloud signifies not Jesus' departure, but his constant accompaniment of his disciples and the community gathered in his name - the Church - as they face the challenges and troubles of this world. Redemptorist Fr Anthony Kelly CSSR, wrote extensively on the Ascension:

The ascended Jesus has not disappeared or been dissolved in a celestial ether, but is ever present to the faith of the Church in the here-and-now of the community's life. The ending of his particular kind of terrestrial presence has yielded to a new kind of universal presence, reaching all places, times, and peoples.

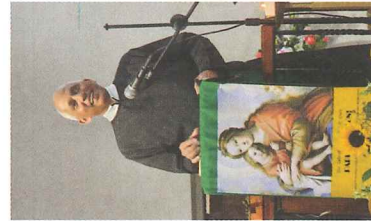
Ascension: from the Armenian Gospels, 1609, in the Bodleian Library, Oxford

Kelly adds that the Ascension reminds us that the mission of evangelization is "unconfined, always moving beyond, upward, outward, in the vitality of the risen Christ who already occupies every dimension of time and space." Or as Franciscan Fr Richard Rohr says, "We are already in the presence of God, what is absent is awareness."

Jesus' Ascension inaugurates a new relationship with him that transcends physical barriers. Now, we are "clothed with power from on high" to be his presence and continue his mission, to be "witnesses of these things". So, not just pilgrims of hope, but *missionary* pilgrims of hope!



MISSIONS FOR JUBILEE 2025



Pope Francis, as with his predecessors every 25 years, has declared 2025 a JUBILEE YEAR. A biblical concept, it is a time of grace, reconciliation and renewal.

Why not invite the Redemptorists to preach a mission in your parish?

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