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

Mt 28:19, 20

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.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

21 May 2023

PRESENT IN ALL CREATION

The resurrection of Jesus was clearly a moment of healing victory and the basis of hope for the early Church. While the victory over sin and death had been won a whole new set of questions arose for the first generation of Christians. Where do we go now? What does the Risen Lord ask of us? How will the Lord continue to be present among us? The early Christians reflected on Jesus' Ascension and used this moment of transition to address these questions for themselves and to instruct future generations of Christians.

Much had already been achieved but the time had come for the Risen Lord to entrust the next stage of the mission into the hands of the disciples. Having been schooled for forty days by the Risen Lord they were now entrusted with the mission of bringing the message of Jesus to the world around them. While they would not have looked forward to the day when Jesus would pass from their midst, they were nonetheless reminded that while the quality of his presence had changed, he would never leave them.

While the letter to the Ephesians does not speak explicitly of the Ascension it does reflect on how the Pauline communities saw this change in Jesus' presence among them. Christians are encouraged to see that by being exalted to God's right-hand Jesus is now able to be present throughout all of creation, no longer limited by space and time. They are called to see that he is not absent but is now even more powerfully present.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Iesus has been taken into heaven.

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 of 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.'

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. (or Alleluia!)
- 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**

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

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 Welcome to

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The Ascension of The Lord

Reflection:

Jesus' "hour" has come. He is about to receive his glory from God. But it will not be the kind of glory people will enthusiastically rush to share. Jesus is going to accomplish the work God sent him to do—a work that will culminate in his crucifixion. People will behold Jesus' glory when they see him on the cross. They will also see his glory when it shines through those who follow him----especially when serving him and doing his work on earth cause them to suffer as he did.

So we ask ourselves:

- Have you ever had to make a painful choice because you knew it was the right thing to do?
- How did you experience Jesus' presence or help in making that decision?

Upcoming Sacraments

Congratulations to the children who will celebrate their Confirmation next weekend at 6pm and 8am Masses. We ask our parish community to keep these children and families in their prayers.

Please bring a plate to share for the after Mass teas which can be left in the foyer.

Baptism

We welcome Lara Rose Corps, daughter of Liam and Sarah into our parish community. Lara will be baptised this weekend. May God continue to bless the Corps family.

MASS THIS WEEKEND

The Rosary will be prayed 20 minutes before weekend Masses

Sat 20 May 6pm	St Dom
Sun 21 May 8am	OLGC
Sun 21 May 9.30am	St Dom

MASS DURING THE WEEK

Tues 23 May 7pm		St Dom
Wed 24 May 9am		St Dom
Thurs 25 May 9am	communion service	OLGC
Fri 26 May 9am	communion service	St Dom
Fri 26 May 10.30am	1	Birralee
Sat 27 May 9am		St Dom

MASS NEXT WEEKND

Sat 27 May 6pm	St Dom
Sun 28 May 8am	OLGC
Sun 28 May 9.30am	St Dom

Reconciliation celebrated after every Saturday morning Mass and before every weekend Mass. Contact Fr Bernard 9245 3899 or Maureen Smith 0409 912 359 to receive Communion at home if you can't attend Mass.

Saturday Soup Nights in Winter

Soup & bread nights are on again beginning
Saturday 3 June after the 6pm St Dominic's Mass.
Volunteers are needed to prepare soup. If you
can help with making soup please use the sign
up sheet at the back of church.

St Dominic's School

Celebrating Cultural Diversity
All parents from culturally diverse communities are invited to attend a morning tea on Thursday 25 May, 8.40am at St Dominic's Hub.
RSVP https://bit.ly/cald250523

Senior's Group

The next meeting will be Tuesday 23 May, 10am to 12 noon at St Dominic's parish hall.

Safeguarding Officers

St Dominic's - Isabelle Brewer 0459 537 045 OLGC - Dr Rina Cercarelli (PhD) 0413 835 852

Upcoming Events

Confirmation: 27 May 6pm St Dominic's

28 May 8am OLGC

First Holy Communion:11 June 8am OLGC

18 June 9.30am St Dom

Rosters this weekend	20 May 6pm St Dom	21 May 8am OLGC	21 May 9.30am St Dom
Readers	H Corray	E Gomm	Ramona
Acolyte	W Italiano		I Baviah
Offertory Procession		B Croxford M Tester	
Altar Society		K Wear E Jeffery	
Morning Tea		M Smith J Gates	

Rosters next weekend	27 May 6pm St Dom	28 May 8am OLGC	28 May 9.30am St Dom
Readers	T Dabbs	D D'Souza	C Frisina
Acolyte	D O'Sullivan		D Ee
Offertory Procession		S Cummins A Dhayma	
Altar Society	Group 1	M Farmer	
Morning Tea		K Wear E Jeffery	Morning tea after Mass.

OLGC Morning Tea

The morning tea after the 8am Mass will be in recess during the months of June and July.