



Catholic Parish of Christchurch South

29th May 2022—The Ascension of the Lord

The Ascension of Our Lord



The Ascension of Jesus is a very important feast in the Church, but it sometimes gets lost between Easter and Pentecost.

Why is the Ascension important?

The Ascension of Jesus is like many things in our Cristian faith, it must be looked at in context. The Ascension must be looked at in the context of the whole life of Jesus, as well as the life of the Church from its beginning to today. When Jesus rose form the dead, He was different. Jesus body looked the same but it was different. Jesus' body after the resurrection was perfect! Jesus could move through closed doors, hide his identity, move quickly across vast distances, he felt no pain and so on. Jesus had a heavenly body on Earth. This happens so that we are inspired to follow him, with the hope that when we follow Jesus we may become like him, and receive a perfect resurrected body after our death.

This heavenly body doesn't really fit in on earth, as it belongs in heaven. So 40 days after His resurrection Jesus ascends to heaven in plain view of His mother and His disciples. In doing so, Jesus opens up the way for all who whole heartedly follow him on Earth to follow Him to heaven. The Ascension also helps us because when we reflect on Jesus being taken up to heaven, we are strengthened in our faith, we know that he really is God. We are strengthened in our hope, we are convinced that we may follow Jesus to heaven. We are strengthened in our love, as we love the God who came down from heaven for us and then opens the way to heaven.

Once Jesus gets to heaven, he doesn't just put his feet up. NO! He keeps praying for us, inspiring us and drawing us to himself, and to help us he sends his Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. It is only truth that can unite us to each other and to God, and there is only one Truth. This is something that our modern world dislikes, it likes to claim that there are multiple equally valid truths and that we have the right to choose our own truth or construct our own truth. What this leads to however is division. We end up fragmented in little bubbles of truth, rather than being united in the Spirit, the source of truth. The current Synod on Synodality can be a means to help restore visible unity, and I think it is happening in response to Pope Francis' concern about the growing fragmentation and polarisation within the Church as well as society in general.

However there is a danger, that when we dialogue and listen to each other, we are not willing to leave our own isolated little "truth bubbles". The Synod, or any discussion within the Church, is not about shouting our own rhetoric or even about simply getting along, but rather about being guided by the Spirit of Truth and trying to stay at the heart of the Church, which we believe is guided and nurtured by God Himself. Our goal is to search for the truth, live our lives by the truth and lead others to the truth. It is only attached to the truth in Christ's body on Earth that we will be able to follow the ascended Christ into heaven.

Fr Ben D'souza sm
Assistant Priest

READINGS (Year C) This week:

Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 46-53



Response: *God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

Next week: Acts 2:1-11;

1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13; John 14: 15-16, 23-26

These are also on our Mobile App under **Readings**.

**When the Spirit
of truth comes,
he will guide you
into all truth.**

John 16:13

Parish Priest
Fr Peter Head sm
phead@now.net.nz
(03) 338 8395

Assistant Priests
Fr Phil Bennenbroek sm,
Fr Ben D'souza sm
Fr Barry Malone sm

In Residence:
Fr Allan Jones sm

Leadership Team Chairperson
Pamela Arthurs
Transition@
christchurchsouth.org.nz

Parish Secretary:
Janice Beban
secretary@
christchurchsouth.org.nz
Ph 338 8395

Parish Administrator
Judy O'Regan-Lockington
administration@
christchurchsouth.org.nz

Coordinator of Pastoral Care
Joanne Hope
pastoralcare@
christchurchsouth.org.nz

Coordinator of Sacramental
Ministries
Tim Malone
sacramental@
christchurchsouth.org.nz

Parish office
Ph: 03 338 8395
secretary@
christchurchsouth.org.nz

Office Hours:
9.00am–3.00pm

70 Spencer St, Addington
Postal: PO Box 9055,
Tower Junction,
Christchurch 8149



Parish Website
Christchurchsouth.org.nz



Parish App
The Catholic Parish of
Christchurch South



[https://www.facebook.com/
CatholicChchSouth/](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChchSouth/)

PARISH NOTICES

BISHOP MICHAEL GIELEN: 11th Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch



Bishop Michael Gielen was born in Cambridge and raised in Tokoroa, the son of Henk and Maureen Gielen and the oldest of six children. After studying at Holy Cross College in Mosgiel he was ordained as a priest in 1997 in Tokoroa

by Bishop Max Mariu, SM, (the first Maori Catholic Bishop of New Zealand).

He has been a priest for 24 years serving in Gisborne, Hamilton, Steubenville – USA, Rome – Italy, Mt Maunganui, Director of Formation at Holy Cross Seminary and most recently as Auxiliary Bishop of Auckland. Bishop Michael was ordained Auxiliary Bishop for Auckland Diocese on 7 March 2020. The deacon at the ordination Mass was his father, Deacon Henk Gielen.

Bishop Michael's Latin motto is *Totus Tuus* "All for Jesus through Mary."

WEEKEND AND WEEKDAY MASSES:

Weekend Masses: thank you to those parishioners who contacted me re a suggested change to our weekend Mass timetable due to the departure of Fr Phil. The decision is as follows: **Sunday, 5th June 5:00pm Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart will be celebrated for the last time. There will be no 5:00pm Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart as from Sunday, 12th June onwards.**

Weekday Masses: Masses at the Carmelite Monastery at 8:30am each day of the week will commence again as from this Sunday, the Feast of the Ascension.

For the weekday Masses in our parish churches please take note of the times listed in the parish newsletter.

Fr Peter

FAREWELLS FOR FR PHIL:

Sunday, 29th May at Sts Peter & Paul, Halswell after the 10:30am Mass.

Sunday, 5th June at Sacred Heart, Addington after the 10:30am Mass.

Parishioners are invited to attend any of the farewell morning teas.

Fr Peter

FRIENDSHIP GROUP: The Friendship Group will be meeting on Thursday **2nd June at 12.15pm at the Riccarton Racecourse hotel for lunch.** All welcome. Please phone Theresa on 338 9876 by **Tuesday 31st May** if you wish to attend.

HALSWELL CWL: week three lotto results:

Winner – 17 – Ross Honey
Runners up – 16 – Jenny Clarke
18 – Pauline Blyth

SACRISTANS REQUIRED FOR OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION:

Are you interested in helping set up for Mass. OLA is looking for more Sacristans. If you are interested please contact Robynne Sinclair 332 5463 or email the office secretary@christchurchsouth.org.nz

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 17-25! Have you ever wanted to better understand the Catholic approach to love, life and relationships? How can we stay close to God and truly love while much of the popular culture pulls us away? To seek out the answers, sign up for the South Parish Theology of the Body programme starting soon. Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart Hall, Addington. For more information scan the QR code or email youthministry@christchurchsouth.org.nz



THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Parish Collections 22 May
Parish \$1,590 Clergy Fund \$795

Upcoming Special Collections:
26 June Peter's Pence

Parish account for donations
Westpac 03-1592-0207148-20



Mass Intentions: Sr Mary Teresa,
Heather Boaz

**Jesus is the Way, the Truth
and the Life**

John 14:6

Catholic Parish of Christchurch
South: Mass Times for
ORANGE Traffic Light

Addington - Sacred Heart
70 Spencer Street
Monday 5.30pm
Wednesday 9.00am
Friday 9.00am
Saturday 9.00am
Saturday Vigil 5.00pm.
Sunday 10.30am
Sunday 5.00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sacred Heart:
Saturday 10.30am–11.30am
or by appointment with a Priest

Exposition at Sacred Heart
Friday 9.30am until 10.30am
Saturday 9.30am until 11.30am

Beckenham - St Peter's
11 Fisher Avenue
Sunday 9.00am
Thursday 11.00am*
(*School Term only)

Carmel Monastery
52 Halswell Road
Daily 8.30am

Halswell - Sts Peter & Paul
56 Nicholls Road
Thursday 9.00am
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm
Sunday 10.30am

Hoon Hay
Our Lady of the Assumption
170 Hoon Hay Road
Sunday 9.00am
Friday 11.00am*
(*School Term only)

Baptisms 2nd Sunday of the month.
Contact the Parish Office on
338 8395

Primary Schools

Our Lady of Assumption
Ph 338 9503,
www.ola.school.nz/Home/

Sacred Heart, Ph 338 3247,
www.sacredheartchch.school.nz

St Peter's, Ph 332 7598,
www.saintpeters.school.nz