



Catholic Parish of Christchurch South

21st May 2023 – Ascension of the Lord

Hope for the Earth Hope for Humanity

Many times have I stood – both figuratively and actually – looking for inspiration or divine intervention from above.

Today as they witness Jesus ascending into heaven, the disciples are gently chastised: ‘Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? ... Know that I am with you always; yes to the end of time’.

It takes a bit of getting our head around this mystery, that Christ is with us, and has been from the beginning. Daniel O’Leary frames it this way: ‘Jesus Christ did not come for just a 33 year visit to our planet so that he could die for our sins and then go back to heaven. He was here from the beginning... present in the entire cosmos, from the least particle of matter to the convergent human community’.

This faith in the Incarnation, in the indwelling God, is central to Pope Francis’ encyclical letter written eight years ago “*Laudato Si’*: On Care for Our Common Home”. Which the Church is invited to recall and celebrate this week.

The letter urges a deep sense of thanksgiving and recognition of our responsibility for the earth and asks us to give of ourselves in service of the earth and the poor, to take concrete steps, individually and communally, to address poverty, racism, inequality and climate change.

This year’s theme is "Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity." Pope Francis believes that ‘by developing our individual and God-given capabilities, an ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm to solve the worlds problems’ (LS 220). If you’re skeptical about this, then I suggest you look to our young people who don’t appear to be giving into despondency around the enormity of the task ahead. They may not be with us in the pews each Sunday, but they have much to teach us about ecological conversion; greater reverence for the earth, and the need to work towards greater sustainability and global solidarity.

Looking up to the heavens at the star-filled sky can fill us with wonder and gratitude. But it also needs to galvanise us to greater concern for the earth under our feet. Today’s feast, and Pope Francis’ letter, call me to get my head out of the clouds and welcome the Spirit, ‘who fills the whole creation’ (including us!) and seek collaborative ways to ‘redress the damage caused by human abuse of God’s creation’ (LS14)

Emily Dickinson’s poem is a good reminder for me

*Who has not found the Heaven – below –
Will fail of it above –
For Angels rent the House next ours,
Wherever we remove -*

Joanne Hope
Coordinator of Pastoral Care



READINGS (Year A) Acts 1:1-11;
Ephesians 1:17-23; Mathew 28:16-20

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

Next Week: (Year A) Acts 2:1-11;
1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23
These are also on the Parish App under Readings.



Parish Priest

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Assistant Priests

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Parish office

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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

11AM MASS AT ST PETER'S on Thursday, 25th May, will not be celebrated. There will be Benediction at 11am with St Peter's School. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

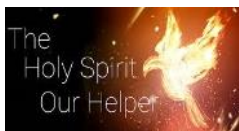
VISITATION OF BISHOP MICHAEL TO OUR PARISH: Bishop Michael will be visiting our parish, **Friday, 2nd June – Sunday, 4th June**. He will be visiting the three parish primary schools on the morning of Friday, 2nd June and he will be the celebrant at three of the parish Masses during this weekend. I will advise you of the Masses he will be celebrating closer to the date of his visit.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES and PASTORAL CARE in our parish: for the next two weekends I will be preaching on the renewal of liturgical ministries and pastoral care in our parish. This weekend I will be preaching at Halswell and Hoon Hay and next weekend I will be preaching at Addington and Beckenham.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL "Clothes bin" AT SPENCER STREET: will no longer be outside the hall due to the "rubbish" people were placing in the bin and the number of times the bin was broken in to. The decision to remove the bin was made by St Vincent de Paul.

Fr Peter

PENTECOST SUNDAY: Next week we celebrate PENTECOST SUNDAY the birthday of the Church.



At St Peter's we will celebrate with morning tea in the parish centre after Mass .

If you could bring a small plate to share that would be lovely but come and join us anyway.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA): Are you or someone you know thinking about becoming Catholic? RCIA might be the next step. RCIA is the process in the Catholic Church for prospective adult converts to the Catholic faith.



To sign up <https://tinyurl.com/y2sct9kp> or contact Fr Ben D'souza sm assistantpriest@christchurchsouth.org.nz

CHRISTCHURCH IRISH SOCIETY: 75th anniversary **Friday 2nd -Sunday 4th June 2023** held over King's birthday weekend. On **Sunday 4 June, Mass at 10-30am** to be held Sacred Heart Church. Any inquiries please to Paul Mulvaney ph 03 381-4414.

FREE ASSISTED LIFT LAZY BOY CHAIR: A family has an Assisted Lift Lazy Boy chair to give away for free. If you are interested please phone Tim on 0211545695.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR KIDS CATHOLIC - Come and hear Dean Mischewski, Father of 9 and Catholic Apologist, talk on how to keep your kids Catholic. **Thursday 8 June at 7pm at Sacred Heart church, Addington.** Sponsored by John Paul II for Life.



Do you want to build your faith ? Check out formed.org watch.formed.org

Parish Collections 14 May

Parish \$2,233 Clergy Fund \$1,116

Automatic Payments April

Parish \$10,634 Clergy Fund \$5,317

Next Special Collection:

Peter's Pence Sunday 2 July

Parish account for donations

Westpac 03-1592-0207148-20 Thank you



Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations

Matthew 28:19

Mass Intentions: Jim Henry (anniv), Dec'd members Mckane family, Dec'd members Reedy family, Dec'd members Henry family, Shona & Les Sullivan, John H. De'ath (anniv), Margaret Dwyer

Please Pray for all those with Anniversaries at this time:

Jim Henry, John H. De'ath

Please Pray for Recently Deceased: Nancy Ryan, Those who lost their lives in the fire in Wellington.



Catholic Parish of Christchurch South: Mass Times

Addington - Sacred Heart

70 Spencer Street

Monday	6.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am
Friday	9.00am
Saturday	9.00am
Saturday Vigil	5.00pm
Sunday	10.30am

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