



St Mary's Cathedral

SYDNEY

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Sunday, 02 June 2019 The Ascension Of The Lord Seventh Sunday of Easter – Year C



Dear Parishioners and Visitors

I read a while ago about how astronomers, via the large array telescope spread over 16km in the Chilean Andes, discovered a huge galaxy cluster being formed by the collision of 14 galaxies, resulting in the birth of thousands of new stars. All this happened about a billion years after the original Big Bang, so over 12 billion years ago, with the light just reaching us now.

St Paul tells us today that Christ is ‘the ruler of everything, the head of the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.’ So today’s feast of the Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven is somehow also celebrating the ascension into Heaven of all those galaxies and superclusters of galaxies in Him. Let’s then not be found, like the disciples, staring into the sky wondering where Jesus has gone and trying to figure how we’re to follow him. Pope Benedict says: ‘No, we know the Way! The Way knows us and loves us and calls us to himself.’

Here’s one guy who recently ascended beyond the stars: Howard Belcher was born in 1935 in Chicago. While in military service at 20, he was sent to Korea, and

assigned to take radio messages. ‘I felt alone for the first time in my life. I started to think, think, think and think, like I never did before. What’s this world all about? Why am I here? I started to think about God and how he looks at us. These thoughts grabbed me so strongly that I became afraid. Nothing seemed solid to me anymore.’ After he got back home he went along to lessons given by his pastor, Fr Joe Scopa.

Afterwards he wrote: ‘Now I know why I’m here. I’m here to make a choice of God, in every thought and action, right through my whole life. God has given me this free choice and He has a specific plan for little me. How to carry it out? Love those around me to the degree that whatever I do to them, I do it to God. You can’t imagine how happy I was.’

During those lessons he met Rose, who became the love of his life—after they married, they had five children and fostered another. When he learned he could mirror all his sufferings, trials and failures in those of Jesus suffering and dying on the cross, Howard said: ‘My whole life has been one of passing from darkness to light. To think, every time I said “yes” and recognized these sufferings were him, I’d embrace the suffering and say, “Thank you for coming to visit me.” Then I’d go back doing the work I should be doing, loving the person next to me, and I was able to experience their needs and their difficulties.’

Howard and Rose had been married 20 years when Rose was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Howard wrote. ‘I felt sick at the thought that this could happen to Rose, but I knew I couldn’t let her feel my fear. Together in the hospital, we talked about these changes in our life. We held firmly to the conviction that God loved us as a Father, and this was in some way a gift for our family.’

In the last few years of his life, Howard learned a new way to serve all. He learned to offer his pain, and to offer all he couldn’t do any longer, asking God to make use of his pain itself, for the sake of someone else. And this was his offering all the way to the night of February 18 last year, the moment God couldn’t wait any longer to come and take him back with him.

Again speaking about the Ascension, Pope Benedict said that the word Heaven ‘doesn’t indicate a place above the stars but something far more daring and sublime: it indicates Christ himself, the divine Person who welcomes humanity fully and for ever. Our being in God, this is Heaven.’ So the ascension of the cosmos beginning nearly 14 billion years ago, and completed in Jesus’ Ascension to his Father, was also gradually happening all through Howard Belcher’s 83 years on earth. And if we let the Risen Jesus ascend in and through our hearts and our actions, today we can celebrate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord in us too.

Fr Brendan Purcell

Liturgy...

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus 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 to 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.
Response: Thanks be to God**



Liturgy...

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

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

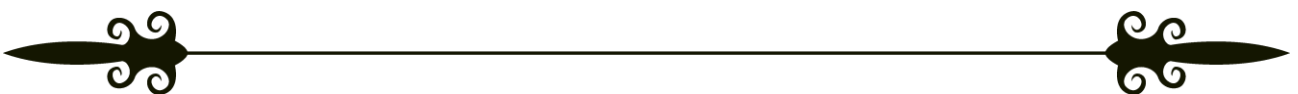
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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 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.

Response: Thanks be to God



Liturgy...

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 Lk 24:46-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this. 'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Weekend Mass	Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm Sunday: 7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am (Solemn High Mass); 12.15pm Latin Mass in the extraordinary form; 6.00pm Mass PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO 12.15pm Mass in the Extraordinary Form on Sunday 2nd June .
Weekday Mass	Monday to Friday: 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm Saturday: 9.00am & 12noon Public Holidays: 9am (or as advertised)
Reconciliation	Monday-Friday: 12noon - 1.00pm & 5.00pm - 5.25pm Saturday: 11.30am - 11.55am, 4.30-5.30pm
Vespers (Evening Prayer)	Saturday: 5.30pm Sunday: 5.00pm (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament) PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO 5:00pm Vespers and Benediction on Sunday 2nd June .

****COELIACS:** Special Provision is made for Coeliacs at the Cathedral. Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion either from the Chalice or with a gluten low host. Application should be made to the Sacristan before Mass.

CATHEDRAL CLERGY <i>Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP</i> <i>Father Donald Richardson, Dean</i> <i>Father Brendan Purcell</i> <i>Father Gerard Woo Ling</i> <i>Father Lewi Barakat</i>	CATHEDRAL STAFF <i>Chris Backhouse – Cathedral Sacristan</i> <i>Thomas Wilson – Director of Music</i> <i>Helen Morassut – General Manager,</i> <i>St Mary's Cathedral Precinct</i>
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**SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEW LOOK CATHOLIC WEEKLY
OR PURCHASE A COPY FOR \$2**

ELECTRONIC COLLECTION PLATES

The option to make an offering via credit card is available at this mass.



Please note: you can continue to donate with cash
or pass the plate on.

CATHEDRAL NOTICES

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. Outreaching to all of those who have experienced a marriage breakdown and question the validity of their first marriage as understood by the Church. Enquiries: Ph. **02 9307 8300** Email: admin@sydneytribunal.org.au.

DAY OF HEALING WITH SR. MARGARET SCULLY RSC: To be held on **Saturday, 22 June 2019** at the **Catholic Charismatic Renewal Centre**, 19A Quirk Street, Rozelle from **9am to 4.30pm**. The session includes, Prayer for Inner Healing, Healing of the Family Tree and the Healing Power of Forgiveness. Tea and coffee to be provided, please bring your own lunch. Registration is essential. Please contact the CCR Centre on **9810 2499** or email msscully@ccrnsw.org.au.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT REFLECTION MORNINGS. **Third Wednesday of Every Month** 10.00am – 1.00pm. For family and friends who grieve and their companions. Understanding and managing life's changes in Loss, Grief & Bereavement. Morning tea provided. For further information please contact Bereavement Support Ph: **(02) 9646 6908** / bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au.

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be **NO 12.15pm** Mass in the Extraordinary Form on **Sunday 2nd June**. My apologies for any inconvenience. The Sunday Mass timetable at the Maternal Heart Traditional Latin Mass Parish at Lewisham is: 8.30am Low Mass; 10.30am Sung Mass. The 12.15pm Low Mass will resume at the Cathedral on **Pentecost Sunday, 9th June**. **Very Rev. Donald Richardson, Dean of the Cathedral.**

MARRIAGE MASS & RENEWAL OF VOWS. This annual event of The Archdiocese of Sydney in conjunction with St Mary's Cathedral will take place on **Sunday, 21 July 2019** during the 10.30am Solemn Mass. **For couples celebrating 50, 55, 60 and 65 years of marriage, RSVPs are essential for the purpose of arranging a special certificate from His Grace, The Archbishop, Anthony Fisher OP.** For more information and to **RSVP** please contact the **Life, Marriage & Family Centre** on **02 9307 8400** or lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org.

FREE SUNDAY TOUR OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: Our tour guides would love to take you through the history of the Mother Church for Australian Catholics with a free tour every Sunday after the 10:30am Solemn Choral Mass. Please look out for the tour guide next to the organ console after Mass. All are welcome! **Please Note:** The Free Guided Tour has been **cancelled for Sunday, 02 June**

THE BENEDICT XVI RETREAT CENTRE now offers a series of fun, innovative facilitated activity programs to complement and enrich any group retreat. Whether you are looking for adventure, team building opportunities for reflection or simply to have fun with your group, our specially trained facilitators can tailor a program to meet your needs and budget. Activities include flying fox, archery, bushwalking, leadership challenge, communications challenge, camp craft, environmental programs and more. Contact Reception on (02) 4572 2899 / email bxvi@sydneycatholic.org to find out more or visit www.benedictxvicentre.org.au.

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EMBRACE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP. Embrace is St Mary's group for young people of 18-35 yrs old from all cultures and backgrounds. We meet every Sunday after the 6.00pm Mass at St Mary's Cathedral House, adjacent to the Cathedral. Our activities and youth projects are designed to support spiritual development and encourage active practice of our faith. For **02 June**, Embrace will host Robert Haddad (Author, Speaker and Head of New Evangelisation, Sydney Catholic Schools) who will give a talk on *Apologetics 101: Fundamental Keys to Defending our Faith*. All are welcome to join. For more information: please call/text **Embrace Coordinator** on **0404 008 870** or email embrace@stmaryscathedral.org.au.

'OF LIFE AND LOVE'- MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE. The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is offering marriage preparation courses for engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. Each course will be held over 3 consecutive Wednesdays. 2019 dates include: **16, 23, 30 October** (The Assisi Centre, Lidcombe). To book online visit <https://www.trybooking.com/ZWSU> or contact LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org.

VISITING ROME? Stay at Domus Australia. Domus Australia is a 32-room Boutique Pilgrim Guesthouse established by the Australian Catholic Church, welcoming travellers to Rome seeking comfortable accommodation and an ideal base from which to explore historical and cultural sites of the Eternal City. Centrally located with a magnificently restored Chapel featuring daily Mass in English, Domus Australia is the perfect oasis in the heart of Rome for Aussie pilgrims. Enquiries: reservations@domusaustralia.org www.domusaustralia.org

COUNSELLING AVAILABLE WITH NO WAITLIST. Several highly qualified relationship counselling professionals have just joined our CatholicCare team in Fairfield, Liverpool, Bankstown, Lewisham and Sydney CBD. They offer services in family law, post-separation, parenting, domestic and family violence. Call **CCareline** on **13 18 19** to find out more.

POSITION VACANT – SURRY HILLS. We currently have a secretarial position available in the Surry Hill Parishes. Days of work are negotiable. Need PACS and MYOB experience in addition to Administrative duties. If you are interested, please send your updated resume and cover letter to parish.support@sydneycatholic.org.

COULD YOU HELP A CHILD IN CARE? We urgently need compassionate people to provide short-term foster care. To learn more, come to our information night. **Tuesday, 04 June 2019, 5:30pm - 8pm** CatholicCare 2C West Street (Cnr Thomas Street), Lewisham. Call CCareline on **13 18 19** to secure your place.

CatholicCare Home Care Services



Do you know any seniors in our community who could use a little help at home?

CatholicCare home care services can help seniors to enjoy living independently in their own homes with comfort and confidence.

From occasional or short-term services to round-the-clock options, we can help tailor the services to meet individual needs, all provided by our professional locally-based care workers.

Whether care is in the form of a Government Package or privately funded, we have a range of services that we can tailor to help seniors live more enjoyably at home:

- ♦ Help at home such as housekeeping, assistance with meal preparation and shopping
- ♦ Personal care
- ♦ Assistance with medications
- ♦ Social support such as accompanied visits, outings or company at home
- ♦ Dementia care
- ♦ Respite for carers to take a break from their caring responsibilities
- ♦ Transport
- ♦ Specialised nursing care



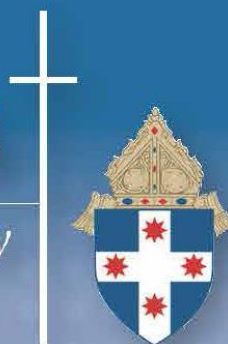
Call CCareline to find out more.

CCareline 131819
CatholicCare.org

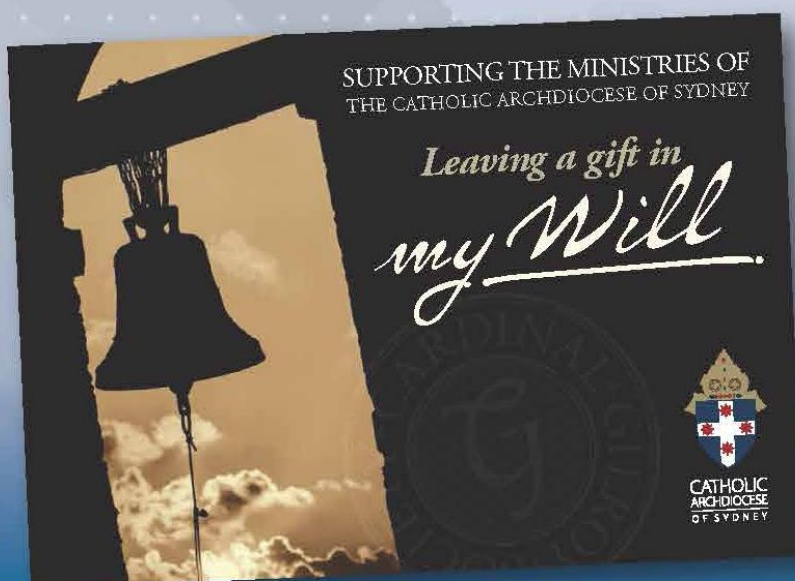
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www.sydneycatholic.org

All married couples are warmly invited
to renew their wedding vows at the 2019 ...

MARRIAGE MASS & RENEWAL OF VOWS

Join us on this
special occasion to
thank God for the gift
of marriage, to honour
married couples for their
life-giving love and faithfulness,
and to commemorate those
couples who were married
at St Mary's Cathedral



Celebrated by the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher, Archbishop of Sydney
Sunday, 21st July 2019 at 10:30am, St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY

Couples are requested to RSVP to the Life, Marriage & Family Centre
on (02) 9307 8400 or lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org

For couples celebrating 50, 55, 60 and 65 years of marriage,
RSVPs are essential for the purpose of arranging a special certificate
from the Archbishop.

Light refreshments to follow.

"Marriage is an act of will that signifies and involves a mutual gift, which unites the spouses and binds them to their eventual souls, with whom they make up a sole family - a domestic church."

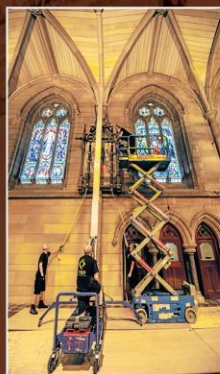
St. John Paul II

DONATE TO HELP RESTORE

the Stations of the Cross in St Mary's Cathedral

Restoration works are underway to:

- Repair flaking paint • Clean dust and stains
- Remove water damage • Correct discolouration
- Wax the oak frames • Reinforce fixtures to the walls



Your gift will preserve these iconic and devotional works of art,
specifically made for our St Mary's Cathedral – thank you.
Ph: 1800 753 959 or go to www.donatesydneycatholic.org to make a donation.