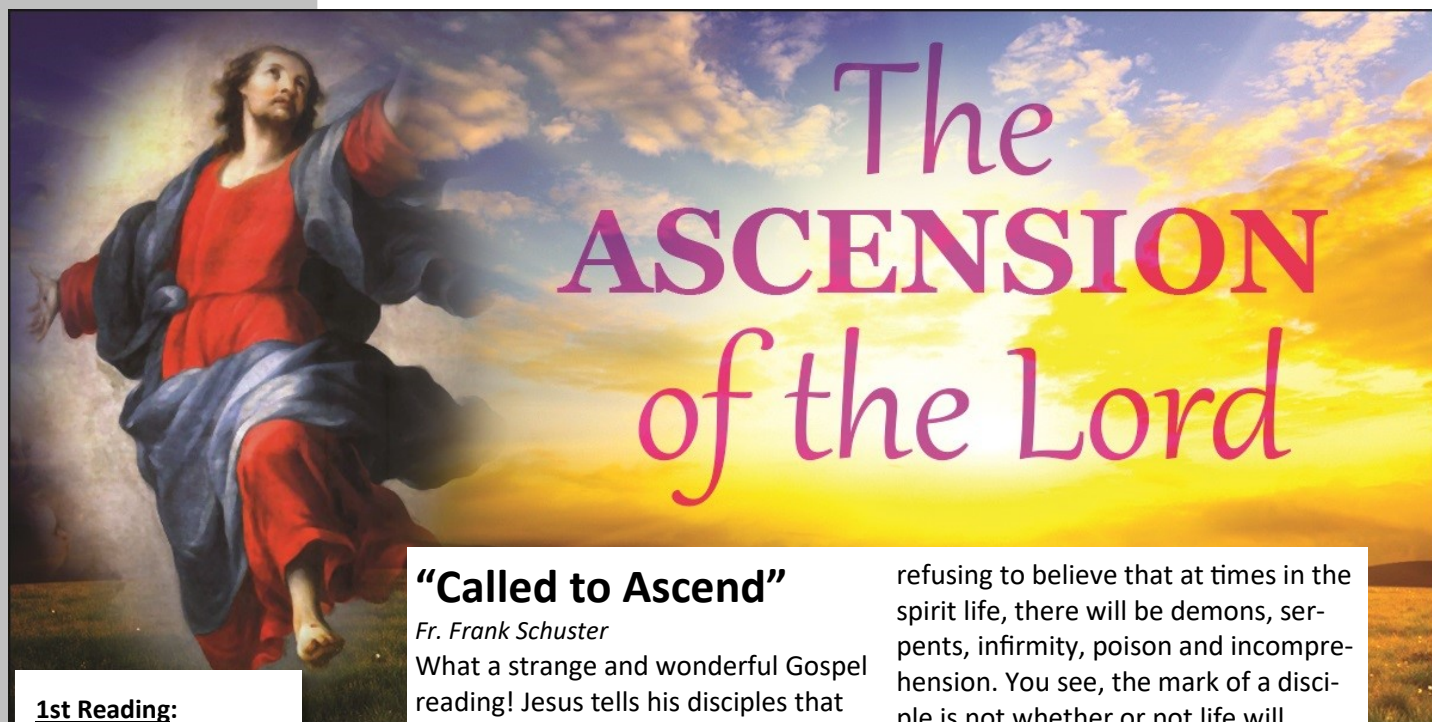


St Francis of Assisi

CATHOLIC CHURCH, THAMES

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR B

13 MAY 2018



1st Reading:

ACTS 1: 1-11

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

EPHESIANS 1: 17-23

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

MARK 16: 15-20

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. Ps 46

"Called to Ascend"

Fr. Frank Schuster

What a strange and wonderful Gospel reading! Jesus tells his disciples that certain signs will accompany them, including the gift to drive out demons and to speak new languages. Disciples will be able to pick up serpents and to drink poison without being harmed. They will be able to lay hands on the sick and they will recover. What are we to do with Jesus' sayings here? How are we to understand these words? I think the first thing that should be noticed is that Jesus is not promising his disciples a rose garden when it comes to discipleship! Jesus is telling us to expect demons in the spirit life. Expect serpents in the spirit life. Expect poison in the spirit life. Expect infirmity in the spirit life. Expect to encounter communication breakdowns in the spirit life.

Jesus is telling us that discipleship isn't for the wishy-washy. We are not to go through life with rose-colored glasses,

refusing to believe that at times in the spirit life, there will be demons, serpents, infirmity, poison and incomprehension. You see, the mark of a disciple is not whether or not life will throw us a trial or two, because life is going to. The mark of a disciple is whether or not we have enough faith in God to step up to the challenge when life happens. As you know, life is full of challenges. How a person deals with challenges in the spirit life is what separates a real disciple of Jesus from someone else. So I invite you sometime this week to think about the greatest challenge you are facing right now in your life. Name the demonic forces in your life. Name the snakes that slither in your life, the things that really scare you. Name that which is poisoning your life day in and day out. Name the infirmities that you struggle with in your life. Name the communication breakdowns in your life.

WELCOME VISITORS, to St Francis of Assisi, Thames. Whether you are here for the first time or visit periodically you are most welcome. Please join us in the Parish Centre for morning tea after Mass.

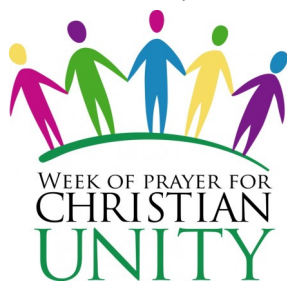




I am one of many who called Benedict XVI the Pope of Christian Unity. He placed the full communion of the Church at the forefront of his Papacy.

Pope Francis continued, "The Gospel proclaims that in and through Jesus Christ, authentic **unity with God - and through Him, in the Spirit, with one another - is the plan of God for the entire human race.** The Church is the way to that unity. For the Church to continue the redemptive mission of Jesus effectively, she must be one. It was not the Lord's plan that she be divided. It is His plan that she be restored to full communion." (Jan 2018)

Please pray for Christian Unity this week, preferably with other Christians.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

13-20 May 2018

Message for parish bulletins for Ascension Sunday

Dear friends

As we gather in our parish each weekend for Mass other Christians are gathering in churches in our area for their Sunday worship. They are our neighbours, friends, people we meet in the supermarket, perhaps even our relatives.

We gather separately because of events that happened centuries ago. We have moved on from wars among Christians, hostility and bitterness, to respecting one another and being able to honestly acknowledge the many things we have in common – at the heart of which is our shared belief in Jesus Christ. We have also found many practical ways to work together for the common good of our community.

The feast of the Ascension this weekend marks the beginning of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which extends until Pentecost Sunday next weekend. It is a time to reflect upon how we each might do some small thing for Christian unity, prayer, reaching out to someone from another Christian church, contributing to foodbanks supported jointly by churches, taking part in an ecumenical service.

Nothing is too small in the work of promoting Christian unity. We are restoring that fractured unity piece by piece, and each of us has one or more of the pieces to put in place.

+ John A Cardinal Dew

Archbishop of Wellington

Catholic Bishops Committee for Ecumenism

The Ascension mission to

preach the Gospel:

After attending a convention led by Billy Graham a woman wrote to him. "Dear Sir, I feel that God is calling me to preach the Gospel.

But the trouble is that I have twelve children. What shall I do?" The televangelist replied: "Dear Madam, I am delighted to hear that God has called you to preach the Gospel. I am even more delighted to hear that He has already provided you with a congregation in your own home."



House Blessing

See Fr Albert.

BOOK YOURS NOW!



12-hour prayer vigil for our nation and our community,

held on the last Friday of each month, 10am – 10pm at THE LAMP, corner of Mary and Mackay Streets.

ALL WELCOME

Any enquiries phone 02102231805

Prayer Vigil



MASS INTENTIONS

Have you got something special to celebrate or acknowledge?

Birthday, anniversary, safe travel, healing? Mass Intentions are for any and every life occasion.

You will find Mass **Intention envelopes at the front of church on the right beside the votive candle stand.** Place your completed envelopes in the collection plate—or hand to Fr.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20)

PLEASE OFFER
HOLY MASS

INTENTION
(Ill health, anniversary, deceased etc)
FROM _____

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Can you help continue the tradition of giving?

Last weeks collection

Loose \$272

Pledge \$445

TOTAL \$717



RC Bishop of Auckland Parish Account Thames
02—0100—0120990 — 008

PLEASE NOTE: WE ONLY HAVE ONE COLLECTION

Have you considered giving your gift to the Parish through **Auto Payment?**

This is a way to show a strong commitment to your Parish. AP's continually support even when you are away on holiday.

PLEDGE RECEIPTS

Please find your pledge receipts at the back of church. If you have any queries, please see Robyn.

2018 Bishop's Forums

Youth and faith

Evenings 7:30 - 9:15pm

Tues 15 May
Christ the King

Owairaka
Richmond Rd

Tues 22 May
St Anne's, Manurewa

126 Russell Rd

Daytime

Sun 27 May 1-3pm

St Columba Centre
Ponsonby

Sat 11 August 10am
St Therese, Moerewa
Come to whichever suits you



ALL WELCOME!

Parish Priests & Parishioners
especially
Pastoral Councillors, Youth
Pastoral Workers, Ethnic
Community Members
Everyone!



**TUESDAY 15th MAY at
6:30pm**

in the parish Centre

A fun evening of music and singing.

Whatever instrument you have
(or use one of ours) come along
and join us for a great night.

Contact Murray Pharaoh
027 4398787 muzz@muzz.co.nz

St George's Anglican Church

celebrating 150
years of Anglican
faith in Thames.

Sunday 13th at St George's Hall, 9:30am

Celebrating
150
Years



Feast days coming up

24th May

Our Lady, Help of Christians
(Patroness of New Zealand)

31st May

Visitation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

The Catholic Church assigns one date out of the year for each and every canonized saint — known as the saint's feast day. The saints are remembered on their individual feast days with special mention, prayers, and possibly a scripture reading.

Pentecost

**Parishioners are invited to wear
costumes from their own
cultures on Pentecost Sunday
—20th May**



Pentecost ("the fiftieth day") is a Christian holiday commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the fiftieth day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Apostles began to speak in many languages and have received other spiritual gifts. The event was foretold by Jesus before his Ascension.

In Christian tradition Pentecost is a moveable feast observed exactly seven weeks after Easter Day, i.e. 50 days after Easter (inclusive, 49 + Easter). It always falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter Day. Pentecost is a holy day of obligation in the Catholic Church.

IN THE MAIL THIS WEEK

Choral Vigil Mass for Pentecost *Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. and You shall renew the face of the earth.* With the Cathedral Vocal Ensemble. Saturday 19 May at 7.30 pm at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, 43 Wyndham Street, Auckland City. Validated parking available at the Wilson Car Parks on Hobson Street (\$4) and Durham Lane (\$2). Please bring your ticket to validate in the Cathedral.

Theology of the Body for young adults, engaged and young married couples

A six week immersion course into the beauty of John Paul II's teaching on the human person and love.
Who: Young Adults 20+, Engaged and Young Married Couples.
When: Thursdays 7th June - 12th July; 7-9pm
Where: Little Sisters of the Poor, 9 Tweed Street, Ponsonby
To register email Maria Pais at ria.ck.wyd@gmail.com or 0272105050
Early bird registration closes 21st May 2018

WEEKLY CHURCH ROSTERS

Readers

13 MAY	Lyn Hopkins	Mike Hopkins
20 MAY	Gill Benton	Shelley Johnson

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of the EUCHARIST & SACRISTANS

13 MAY	Richard &	Geraldine Sumner
20 MAY	Yolanda Kirkbeck	Olivia Pharaoh

PRIEST'S ASSISTANT

13 MAY	Mary Connors
20 MAY	Margie Humphry

GIFTS

13 MAY	Gill Benton	Shelley Johnson
20 MAY	Pauline Jenkinson	Yolanda Kirkbeck

MORNING TEA

13 MAY	Team Eileen
20 MAY	Team Liturgy

CHURCH CLEANING

MAY WK 3	Mary Dixon / Tania Scarborough / Margi Humphrey
JUNE WK 1	Jenny Cooper / David Cooper / Mary Connors

FLOWERS

MAY	Mary Connors	Margi Humphrey
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Mercy Spirituality Centre

104 The Drive, Epsom. Ph. 638 6238 or info@mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz or www.mercyspiritualitycentre.org.nz

- **TRINITY Series: Relating to oneself, relating within God, relating between God and ourselves** with HELEN BERGIN op. Thurs' 17 & 24 May, 10am-12noon. \$15 each or 3 talks for \$40 incl. morning tea.

- **Weekend Workshop: EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED Completing the Works of God** with KATHLEEN RUSHTON rsm. Fri 18 May, 7-9pm & Sat 19 May, 9.30am-4pm. \$50. BYO Lunch. "Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of ...global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity" (Laudato Si, 240). In this reflective time together, we shall take up the invitation by exploring the role of the Spirit in completing the works of God as in the gospel according to John.

- **The LAUDATO SI Pledge Talk 1: 'Pope Francis' call for an ecological conversion'. What does this mean for all of us?** with Fr NEIL DARRAGH. Tues 22 May, 7-9pm & repeated on Wed 30 May 10am-12 noon. \$15 (talk 2 in Oct)
Writers Weekend Workshop with JOAN ROSIER-JONES. Fri 25 May 6.30-8pm, Sat & Sun 26 & 27 May 9.30am-4.30pm. \$200. Tea/Coffee, morning & afternoon tea, lunch incl. Accommodation available at extra cost

See our website for more details.
Bookings essential.

CALENDAR

MAY

Tues 15th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Wed 16th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Thurs 17th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Fri 18th	12:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Sat 19th	9:15am—Mass in the Chapel
Sun 20th	8:30am—Sunday Mass

PARISH INFORMATION

Fr Valarian D'Souza— Parish Priest

Email: dsouzavally@gmail.com

Fr Albert Pandu—Assistant Priest

Email: alberts.pandu@gmail.com

Friary

111 Baillie Street, Thames 3500
Ph. 868 6169

Pastoral Care

Sister Paula Cronin
2/103 Clarence Street, Thames 3500
Ph 868 6310 Mobile: 021 206 8062
Email: sisterp3@outlook.com

Parish Office

111 Baillie Street, Thames 3500
Robyn Smith (Administrator)

Ph. 868 9407 Mobile: 027 291 5165

Email: stfrancisthames@xtra.co.nz
www.coromandelcatholic.org.nz

St. Francis School

Principal: Geraldine Sumner
Ph. 868 7655

Parish Leadership Team

Margaret Mabey Ph. 868 9818
margmabey@xtra.co.nz

Ministry to the Sick/Elderly

Eileen Campbell (Coordinator) Ph 8687473

Catholic Women's League'

Lois Wright Ph 868 6600
1st Thursday of the month at Parish Centre

LITURGICAL TIMES

Sunday Mass

8.30 am

Tuesday—Thursday & Saturday Mass

9.15 am

Thursday

9.15am. Mass, Exposition, Benediction & Reconciliation.

Friday

12.15pm

Reconciliation

During Exposition, Thursdays
Saturdays after 9.15 am Mass.