



Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 16, 2021

Ascension of the Lord (B)

Acts 1:1-11

Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13

Mk 16:15-20

Up in Heaven

The message of this feast is that Jesus was taken up into heaven. Just what does this mean? Is heaven “up there” along with the moon and the stars? Cosmology would question that. Today’s readings also say that Jesus is seated at God’s right hand. Is his science, or is it a concrete image used to explain something more marvelous than words can describe?

Traditionally the place of honor is at the dignitary’s right hand (decided by a right-hander, no doubt). That Jesus sits at God’s right hand means he enjoys the place of highest honor. The psalm response refers to this exalted place as the throne of God. “Throne” suggests king. Thus, the readings tell us that Jesus, who is now exalted with divine honor, is above everything else. Finally, to say that heaven is above means that it is beyond earth, perhaps not in actual distance but in distinction and glory. Thus, Jesus’ ascension means that the

risen Lord is no longer limited by the restrictions of earth’s space and time but now enjoys the highest honor with God everywhere and always.

This is the message the disciples were sent to preach. This is the message we also are sent to preach. But how are we to do it? By the way we live our lives. Emmanuel Célestin Cardinal Suhard of Paris (1874-1949) wrote: “To be a witness...means to live in such a way that one’s life would not make sense if God did not exist.” Do our lives show that we believe this?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- * Thank God for people in your life who mirror God’s generosity, forgiveness, and kindness to you.
- * Think about ways you might mirror God’s goodness to others.

[Jesus] said to them,
 “Go into the whole world and
 proclaim the gospel to every creature.”
 MARK 16:15



ST. MICHAEL’S PARISH

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| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------|
| Parish Administrator: | Karen Marsh | email: karenmarsh.bda@gmail.com | (c) 799-0842 |
| Pastoral Council Finance Chair: | Robert Mason | email: rjm@logic.bm | (h) 292 3178 |
| Pastoral Council CCD Coordinator: | Patricia Carreiro | email: pcarreiro1976@gmail.com | (c) 737 1047 |
| Community Building Committee Chair: | Grace Lovecchio | email: mglove@northrock.bm | (h) 236-5006 |



Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:00am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

Vocations: Fr. Toby Collins www.vocationculture.ca



www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & “LIKE” us

Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS...

MAY 15/16th ASCENSION OF THE LORD

| | | |
|---------|------------|--|
| 5:00PM | Lector EM | Karen Marsh Peter Marsh |
| 10:00AM | Lector EM | Emma Leitch VOLUNTEER NEEDED |
| 12 NOON | Lector EM | VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED |
| | Collection | Karen Marsh |

MAY 22/23rd PENTECOST SUNDAY

| | | |
|---------|------------|--|
| 5:00PM | Lector EM | Alberta Cannonier Willie Forbes |
| 10:00AM | Lector EM | LaVerne Lau VOLUNTEER NEEDED |
| 12 NOON | Lector EM | VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED |
| | Collection | LaVerne Lau, Pat Robinson |

MAY 15/16th ASCENSION OF THE LORD

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 5:00PM | Veronica & Herman Tucker ++ |
| 10:00AM | Christine DaCosta (Living) |
| 12 NOON | For St. Michael's Parishioners |

MAY 22/23rd PENTECOST SUNDAY

| | |
|---------|--|
| 5:00PM | Deolinda & Antonio Carvalho ++ |
| 10:00AM | Maria Rugeiro & Vito Lovecchio ++ |
| 12 NOON | For the Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners |

You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at St. Theresa's - 7:30 Mon.—Fri. | St Anthony's - 8:00 Tues.—Fri.

ST. THERESA'S & ST. ANTHONY'S
Masses are live stream via the Diocesan Website and their Facebook Page

STEWARDSHIP

The overall financial well-being of our St. Michael's Parish is so important at this time.

Sunday Collection May 9th: \$728.00

NB: \$2300/week or \$9200/month in the collection is needed to break even each month.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTION are welcomed. Consider making a weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction.

When making your online transaction, be sure to include your name and "collection" as your memo on your banking transaction."

ST. MICHAEL'S uses your regular collection contributions to support the day-to-day operations of our Parish.

Thank you to those parishioners who continue to answer our call for stewardship to St. Michael's.

Online donations can be made to St. Michael's Church 's

BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

Every little bit will help the financial position of our Parish. **YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.**

The Bishop's Corner



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Bishops in England and Wales have identified what the main challenges for the Church are after the pandemic. The hierarchs have prioritized a return to the practice of living the faith in the community of the Church. "Clear is the challenge we face to bring our communities and practice of faith to an even greater level of expression and strength. The Eucharist is the driving force of the Church. It requires active participation and our physical presence. It is necessary to restore the right place to Sunday Mass in our lives", emphasize the bishops in their reflection entitled "The Lord's Day".

By encouraging Catholics to take their place again in their community of brothers and sisters, bishops have precisely identified these groups post pandemic: First there are those who have lost the habit of attending Mass. The second group are those people disappointed in the model of Catholic worship they knew before the pandemic. They believe that there is a gap between the spiritual dimension of their lives and the communal expression of that spirituality. Finally, the third group are people who came into contact with the Catholic Church for the first time during the pandemic. It is essential to keep the flame of increasing faith alive in them.

In their message for post-pandemic time, the bishops emphasize the strengths, the "real treasures" of the Catholic Church as tools at our disposal to meet these challenges. The greatest treasure is, of course, the sacramental life of the Church, and at its center; The Eucharist.

"We are faced with the task of cherishing the meaning of Sunday as a weekly gift from God to his people, something we cannot do without," point out the bishops of England and Wales. They call the Sunday Eucharist "food for this unique mission that we are entrusted with" and "the soul of the weak which gives light and meaning to all the duties we carry out each day".

The bishops also expressed great gratitude to the families, parish communities and all those who worked tirelessly in hospitals, nursing homes, schools and prisons. They expressed special appreciation for those people who provided food to those most in need, "The generosity shown in giving out so many meals is an eloquent expression of the mercy, love and compassion that are found in the very heart of God. Many were touched by the joy of meeting Christ in the poor, and many of the poor were touched by the joy of meeting Christ in selfless parishioners".

Have a beautiful Sunday and a fruitful week!

+ Wes Jewell
Bishop Wes





COLLECT

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

FIRST READING – Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 47

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

All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness, for the Lord, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king over all the earth. (R)

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the Lord, amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R)

For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. God reigns over the nations, God sits upon his holy throne. (R)

SECOND READING – Ephesians 1:17-23

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord.

I am with you always, until the end of the world. Mt 28:19a, 20b

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL – Mark 16:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

THE CENTRAL MYSTERIES

Throughout the season of Easter, we ponder the mysteries that are central to our faith in Jesus Christ. We reflect on Jesus’ life, ministry, passion, death, and resurrection and consider the meaning of Christ’s life and love. Today we celebrate Jesus’ ascension and wonder with the apostles what we are to do and how we are to live as a result. As disciples, we are called to put our faith into action, grow to be more like the Lord, be united with other believers in community, and bring others to Christ through the way we live our lives. In so doing, we will live a life worthy of our call in Christ, a life of unity in the Spirit, of hope and peace.

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE SKY?

“Why are you standing there looking at the sky?” We can only imagine the apostles’ astonishment, not only at Jesus’ ascension, but at the message from the men in white garments who appeared at that very moment. Jesus had been crucified and died, rose from the dead and spent time with them, teaching them to understand how he had fulfilled all that had been written about the Messiah, and suddenly, he was taken up to heaven. Surely they would have wondered what was happening and what the meaning of Jesus’ ascension was. We wonder with them. What does Jesus’ ascension call us to be or do? We rely on the testimony of those who were with Jesus to grasp the mystery of his life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Their witness calls us to believe in Jesus, grow in relationship with him, and live as his disciples in the world.

YOU HAVE SEEN AND HEARD, NOW GO DO

It isn’t enough to say we believe in Jesus. We are called to live as members of Christ’s body and share the joy of faith with others. We do this by discerning and fulfilling our vocation, the ways in which God calls each of us to live. Often when we think of vocation, the first thing that comes to mind is the priesthood. But each of us experience vocational calls, to our state in life and to the ways in which we live, work, and serve. Each of us has been given different gifts and are called according to our gifts. We are equipped with talents and skills through which we may contribute to bringing the mercy, compassion, truth, goodness, and beauty of God’s love to the world. What are your particular gifts and talents? How may you be called to use them to bring Christ’s love to others, leading them to see and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ?

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH

DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS, THESE PROGRAMMES ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

1. **EMMAUS JOURNEY (EJ)** is a Catholic evangelization and discipleship ministry, conducted primarily in and through Catholic parishes. EJ has embraced Goal One of Go and Make Disciples, "To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others."

You are invited to St. Michael's Parish Hall from 7:30 - 8:30 pm on each Tuesday. We will be physically distanced. Please bring a mask, hand sanitisation and "track and trace" sign up sheets will be available. This particular bible study is based upon the upcoming Sunday readings. It is FREE OF CHARGE with all of the materials provided by Fr. Joe. Invite someone else, as you learn and grow together in your faith on an ongoing basis.

2. **ROSARY, ADORATION, BENEDICTION** - Saturdays after the 5:45 pm Mass starting at 7:00 pm in St. Michael's Church. We will be physical distancing, wearing mask, hand sanitizing and "track and trace" sign up sheets will be used, we will be finishing at 8:00 pm sharp. All are invited to attend as you enhance your ongoing personal spirituality.

BIBLE STUDY. WILL RESUME EACH TUESDAY, AT 3:00 PM

If interested, speak to Fr. Joe at 705-0236 for the Tuesday Bible Study.

COVID UPDATE: **WEEKEND MASSES ARE BACK!!!!**

There will be Masses on Saturday, 5pm and Sunday, 10AM and 12 NOON. We are allowed up to 25 people in Church, including those serving on the Altar.

There will be SIGNUPGENIUS.COM for all Masses. PLEASE BE SURE TO go on line to sign up for the Mass you wish to attend. Please remember we will be following all COVID mandated regulations. We will have the sign up sheets for track and tracing, Temps will be taken when you enter, sanitizing of hands will be required and social distancing will be in required.

Communion under one species and you are asked to approach the Altar in single file, a few distance apart from you and the person in front of you.

CCD UPDATE **FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATIONS**

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Friday, June 4th at 5:30pm

FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATIONS will take place on Saturday, June 5th at 3:00pm and on Sunday, June 6th at 12 Noon and 2pm.

These Masses will be restricted to First Holy Communion Families only and will require sign up via Mrs. Leitch, who will be in touch with all parents with further details.

This a very Happy time for our Parish community and especially for our candidates and their families. God Bless you all.

CONFIRMATION is postponed until November. *More details will be forthcoming.*

WORD FROM *Pope Francis*



The Ascension tells us that Jesus, although he ascended to heaven to dwell gloriously at the right hand of the Father, is still and is always among us: this is the source of our strength, our perseverance, and our joy, from the presence of Jesus among us with the strength of the Holy Spirit.

ASCENSION SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

Mary the Mother of God

During the month of May we honour Our Lady, the Mother of God. We can do this by reciting the Rosary. The Rosary is the traditional devotion in honour of the Mother of God. Combining vocal and mental prayer. It is made up of 20 decades which are divided into 4 parts of decades, each of which we recall our Lord's life, passion and Glory.



The Rosary is the prayer which is most pleasing to Our Lady. The word Rosary means a garland or wreath of roses and each prayer said in the Rosary is a spiritual rose offered to our blessed Mother.



The Sacrament of Marriage



CONGRATULATIONS AND VERY BEST WISHES to JESSE ALMEIDA & DYNA PROCTOR

who will be married this Sunday, May 16th here at St. Michael's
May God bless you and your family on your special day and always.
We are all so very happy for you both.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda

Bishop Wes live streams the weekday Masses and the weekend Masses from the Cathedral and then posts them for viewing on the websites and the Diocesan Facebook page.

Please visit:
www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Click on:
Gospel reflection and Live-streamed Services
or:
Facebook - Catholic Diocese of Bermuda

ST. ANTHONY'S & ST. JOSEPH'S

Schedule for live streamed Masses is as follows:

SATURDAY, 15TH OF MAY:

4:00 PM from St. Anthony's
<https://melonapp.com/pqSO94iGNqwZ>

SUNDAY, 16TH OF MAY:

7:45 AM St. Anthony's
<https://melonapp.com/AS7fHX5SzEAP>

9:15 AM St. Joseph's
<https://melonapp.com/uNysbdm8AS1p>

11:15 AM St. Anthony's
<https://melonapp.com/6vzvJxUDc8Zt>

3:00 PM in Spanish from St. Anthony
<https://melonapp.com/hFiU15SE0cGK>

Daily masses are streamed on Face Book
Tuesday to Friday at 8:15 AM.