



[Jesus said], "You will receive power
when the holy Spirit comes upon you,
and you will be my witnesses... to the
ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8

Power Unmasked

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When the Lone Ranger and Tonto rode across our TV screens in days of old, someone would often ask, "Who was that masked man?" Folks never learned his identity, and it didn't matter. For that man had saved them from evil, restoring their lives. In a sense, the Ranger, with Tonto, had passed on to them the power to live safely and productively.

As he was about to return to his Father, the risen Lord said to the apostles, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). Yet being blessed with the power that raised the Lord Jesus does not always feel much like a blessing. At times it can feel more like a burden that falls upon our shoulders, one to heal and mend as we try to bring peace and a better world. We wonder why we always must be the one who says, "I'm sorry." Why must we always be the one who plans the evening out or writes the Christmas cards or calls Mom or spends time with the children or listens to someone's tale of woe? Yet such is the power of Jesus for bringing about healing to both spirits and bodies, for creating joy, for designing bridges into the hearts of others, all because the Messiah rode off on a cloud of silver to be welcomed to the right hand of God. Thus, he empowers us. ✨

Reflect

Have you ever been surprised by the good God has brought about through you?



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Pastor: Rev. Joseph F. H. Morley • **Cell:** 705 0236

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

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

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & "LIKE" us | **Diocesan Webpage:** www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

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Mass Schedule & Intentions

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

MINISTRIES ...

May 20/21ST THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

5:00PM Lector: Alberta Canonnier EM: Karen Marsh
10:00AM Lector: Jesse Almeida EM: Joyce Lee
 Collection: The Almeidas

May 27/28TH PENTECOST SUNDAY

5:00PM Lector: Karen Marsh EM: Kathy Anderson
10:00AM Lector: Pat Robinson EM: LaVerne Lau
 Collection: Pat Robinson, LaVerne Lau

MASS INTENTIONS ...

May 20/21ST THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

5:00PM St. Michael's Parishioners Living and Deceased
10:00AM For Peace Around the World

May 27/28TH PENTECOST SUNDAY

5:00PM For World Peace
10:00AM Josephine & Nyal Clinton ++

*You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at
 St. Theresa's - 7:30^{AM} Mon.—Fri.*

St. Anthony's - 8:00^{AM} Tues.—Fri. | St. Patrick's - 8:00^{AM} Mon.—Fri.

**ST. THERESA'S 7:30am Masses are live streamed via the
 Diocesan Website and their Facebook Page**

Stewardship talent
 vision growing support giving planning
 commitment blessing sharing LOVE treasure PLEDGE time
 faith caring community

Collection: \$791.00

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE to St. Michael's Church's BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100. YOUR Weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction is appreciated.

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

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

Bishop's Corner ...



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

What do Eya Hegnon (Dressmaker), Agnes Sokpo (Reflexologist), Benedicta Sokpo (Psychologist), Christine Numetu (Pastry Chef), Rebecca Ama Agboli (Pastry Chef), Mamatou Akpo Sotondji (Shopkeeper), Dorcas Fleur Kpodo (Orphanage Founder), Noeline Ezan Akosiwa (Student Hairdresser), and so many other women in Africa have in common? The experience of abandonment, violence, loneliness and unemployment. They are the invisible women the 30-minute documentary film In-Visibles wants to make visible.

In-Visibles was seen for the first time on the 13th of May 2023 in Rome, during the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) General Assembly in Rome. WUCWO President and World Women's Observatory (WWO) Director María Lía Zervino told Vatican News that In-Visibles seeks to accomplish the WWO's mission of "giving visibility to women who are invisible and who are submerged in the ocean of what the Pope calls the 'globalization of indifference'."

Zervino explained that WUCWO decided that the best way to "raise awareness about what women are suffering in Africa because of gender violence was to make a film on site. Art is the easiest way through which we open ourselves to another reality, become aware of what is happening, about the situations and experiences of women who have suffered, but who have now retrieved a sense of life and economic autonomy to form a family and be reinserted into society, thanks to the help of Sisters and of laywomen as well."

This documentary does not show all the suffering of African women, but only a drop. This film is like an X-ray, perhaps not only of African women, but of all the women in the world. The film wants to appeal to every person of good will to support projects sustained by religious women who work in the area of helping women and families become autonomous.

In-Visibles: A film by Lia Beltrami - <https://tinyurl.com/2sbx7fp2>

Enjoy your weekend and have a blessed week!

+ *Wes J. Newhall*
 Bishop Wes

IN-VISIBLES

**MASS
INTENTIONS**

Please email stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com if you wish to reserve a Mass(es) for the intentions or in memory of your loved ones, or special occasion/birthdays, anniversaries etc. It can be either for the 5pm Mass or the 10am Mass.

Please advise of any specific dates you may wish. The Stipend may be paid directly to Fr. Joe on the day of the Mass or via direct deposit to the **St. Michael's BNTB Bank account.**

Sunday Readings

The Ascension of the Lord (A)

Acts 1:1–11 / Ephesians 1:17–23 / Matthew 28:16–20

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, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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 – Matthew 28:16–20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

A disciple follows the Master daily and shares the joy of discipleship with others. Not by conquering,

mandating, proselytizing, but by witnessing, humbling oneself alongside other disciples and offering with love the love that we ourselves received. This is our mission...to show by our lives... that God loves everyone and never tires of anyone.

HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 20, 2019



Dear Padre,

Why should I be confirmed?

In baptism, God calls you to be a priest, prophet and king. In confirmation, you receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to live out those vocations. A priest offers prayer and sacrifice. In confirmation, you are moved to make your everyday life a sacrifice that you join to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross (Romans 12:1).

Prophet is from *prophētēs*, a Greek word meaning “spokesperson.” In confirmation, you are compelled to preach the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16), just as the apostles were when they received the Holy Spirit on the original day of Pentecost (Acts 2:2–4). When you were baptized, you were made a member of the royal family of God (1 Peter 2:9). Just as Jesus showed what it means to be a Servant King, so are we called to serve others in love. In confirmation, we are inspired by the love that God pours into us in his Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

In his first public preaching, Jesus quoted from Isaiah the prophet: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me” (Luke 4:18). That was the beginning of his public ministry. When the bishop anoints you with chrism, you can say the same. Your confirmation is the beginning of your own public ministry. ❀



Around our Parish . . .

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Important dates:

- **FIRST RECONCILIATION**
Sunday, June 4th, following the 10am Mass
- **FIRST COMMUNION**
Sunday, June 11th, the Feast of Corpus Christi, at 11:30am

A big thank you to Mrs. Violetta Lightbourn, our FHC teacher.

Thank you also to Mrs. Annabel Cooper who has been a great help and support this year with our FHC classes.

We appreciate your stewardship.

Around the Diocese . . .

- **ST. PATRICK'S** welcomes everyone each Wednesday morning at 10:00am to recite the Holy Rosary.
Bishop Wes celebrates a **Portuguese Mass each Wednesday at 7:00pm**, preceded by a devotion; the Rosary, followed by Holy Mass.
Please join us Thursday evenings for the Holy Rosary and Adoration at 7:00pm.
- **LECTIO DIVINA takes place** every Monday evening at 7pm via zoom. Franz Wohlmuth is the contact person, gwohlmuth@logic.bm. You will receive a Zoom link contact number along with the following Sunday readings. Monday evening meetings are led by Bishop Wes.
- **12:10PM MASS** is celebrated at the Cathedral each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Come Join us.
- **ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP** IS OPEN SATURDAYS from 10am to 2pm.

Reflections on the Ascension

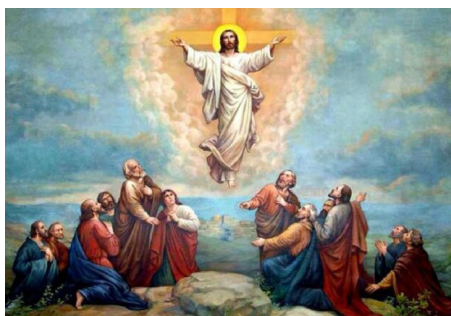
Recently, we celebrated the feast of the Ascension. The Ascension is an interesting solemnity. Since I encounter it most often in praying the rosary, it always seemed to me to be one of the lesser emphasized of the mysteries, a stop in between the Resurrection and Pentecost. Though I'm a lifelong Catholic, I never thought of the Ascension much. Unlike most of the other mysteries, the Ascension seemed to be just a brief "something" that happened. Rather than dying another ordinary man's death after being resurrected; Jesus just went straight up to Heaven like the King He is. That by itself seemed pretty simple—His earthly mission was done, so He went back home. This year, though, I got to thinking more about this unassuming solemnity and realized there was more to learn from it that I had yet to consider.

SCRIPTURAL TEXTS

In order to better understand the mystery, I turned to the Scriptural texts that describe it. Though the Gospels of Mark and Luke mention it briefly, the most complete description can be found in the book of Acts:

[A]s they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Let's take a closer look at the words of the angels: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Judging by the men's gazing up and the angels' response, I might guess that the apostles wished at that moment that Christ had not just left them again. In fact, in trying to imagine their situation from a purely earthly perspective, it might even feel more like a second Good Friday than a moment of glory and triumph. Just as on that day, He was leaving them in a way that left no earthly reassurance He'd be back. They could have thought something like "He has left again. Can I go on without Him?" Surely on a human level, they would have at least preferred He stay with them.



Another way it may have been like Good Friday is, although He told them, "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you," not only is it plausible that they might not have believed Him, Matthew 28:17 even says, "And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted."

THE ASCENSION FILLED THE DISCIPLES WITH JOY

Then, too, as much as the Ascension may have been similar to Good Friday for the apostles, it was also different. They had already had their faith in Jesus shaken with the Crucifixion,

Catholic Stand, By Cecily Lowepeter

and realized they were wrong. That, more than likely, increased their faith. Furthermore, Christ stayed with them for forty more days following the Resurrection. His teachings during those forty days are essentially unknown to us, but we may be sure that they were great, necessary, and helped to build on what He taught the apostles already. In those forty days, the apostles were changed more fully from ordinary men into the instruments of God they were meant to be. We know this because Mark writes that after the Ascension, "they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it." Luke's account says, "And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God." Clearly, after Christ ascended, they were filled with the love of God. Of course, they still made mistakes, as indeed we all do, but at the point of the Ascension, Christ had strengthened them enough that He no longer needed to be with them on earth. This is how they were able to fulfill such a great and weighty commission as "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." I think that is another important reason why He left them, so they in turn could realize fully that, "I, I am with you always, to the close of the age," rather than thinking He would need to be there with them in human form.

RETURN TO HEAVEN

Christ's returning to Heaven also shows the contrast of Heaven and Earth, in the necessity of His return to Heaven. The Second Person of the Trinity was not meant to stay on earth indefinitely. When man fell and God no longer dwelt on earth with him, the earth became a fallen place too. But, looking to the Incarnation, the purpose of Christ's coming was to redeem man so that he could come and dwell with God forever. Thus, Christ's triumphant return to Heaven was to bring that purpose full circle—as God the Son opened the gates of Heaven by His death so the righteous souls could enter their one true home, so He followed them and man and God were home together at last.

One other thing that stood out to me about the Ascension was how the disciples asked Him in Acts 1:6, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" This shows the same basic idea as the way they stared up into the sky; as they wanted the kingdom to be fulfilled, so they also wanted Christ to stay with them in Body as well as Spirit. In the simplest terms, though they may not have realized it, they did not want an earthly fulfillment; what they wanted was Heaven. After all, their ordinary closeness to Christ was a foretaste of Heaven. Let us not say that the Apostles were impatient, though, since every mystic who has seen Heaven has longed to stay there and not return to Earth. Being near Him taught them, first, that they were meant for Heaven. They further learned, starting with Christ's call to follow Him, to the Passion and all the way through Pentecost, to wait for fulfillment in God's time. They were only men, but Christ's two partings from them, one sorrowful and one glorious, served to reinforce their patience, trust, and obedience through earthly separation.

Though I would still say the Ascension is not my favorite solemnity or rosary mystery, I would say we can definitely learn from it. One suggestion is, when meditating on this mystery, ask for the intercession of the Eleven and the grace to have the virtues they showed on that day, patience, obedience, trust, longing for Heaven, and finally, the joy and gratitude reflected in Mark's gospel. After all, for the Eleven, their desire to follow Him was fulfilled. May we all receive that same fulfillment, in God's good time.