

Getting Ready for Sunday!

12 May 2024





Ascension Sunday

This is the day on which we celebrate Jesus' Return to be with God our Father in Heaven.

The disciples were sad that Jesus was leaving them.

Jesus promised them that He would always be with them through the Holy Spirit.

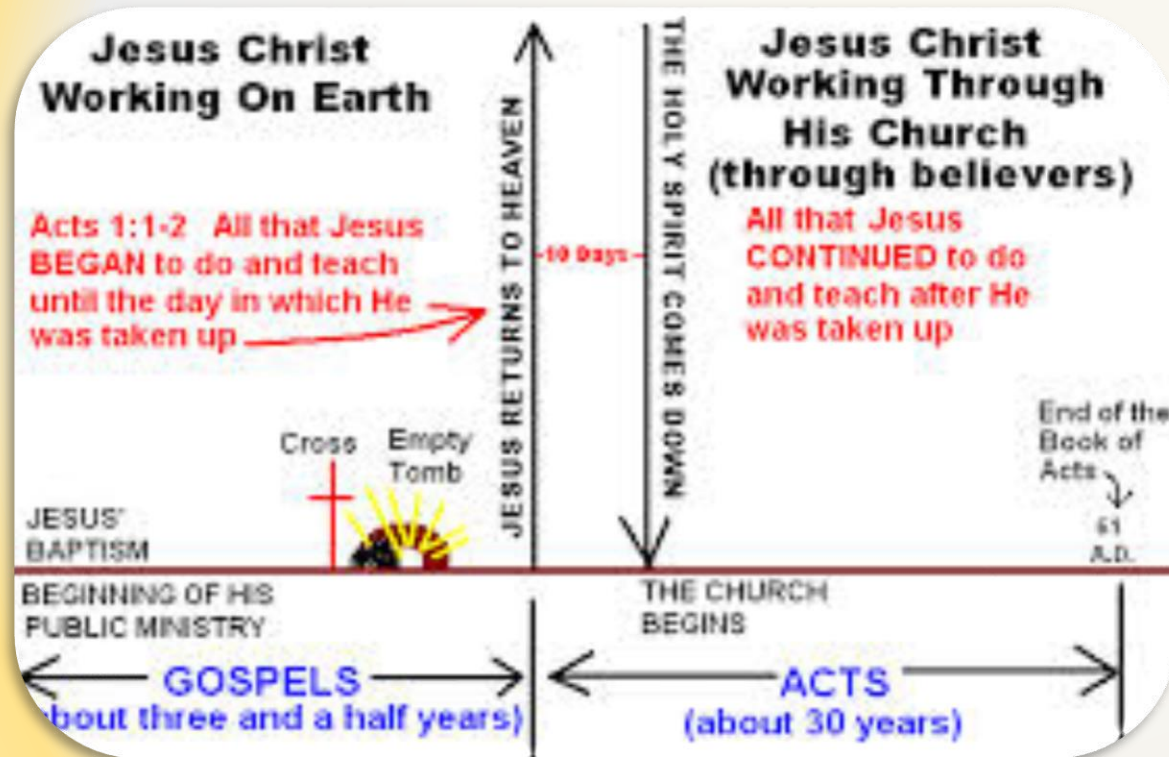
- Ascension had been celebrated on Thursday, forty days after Easter Sunday, until a few years ago.
- It gave us the opportunity to celebrate this part of the Easter season for forty days, the same amount of time that was spent getting ready for Easter during Lent.
- We spend forty days getting preparing ourselves to be with Jesus through His suffering, death and resurrection.
- We spend forty days of joyful celebration after the resurrection in the company of Jesus and His disciples around us in the world today!
- The following slides give account of both the First Reading and the Gospel for Ascension Sunday.

Acts 1:1-11



The Promise of the Holy Spirit

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.



After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.



While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.



Jesus appears to the disciples by William Hole

This is what you have heard from me;

They didn't have to go anyplace to find God! God was with them in that very place!

We too will find God right where we are – however, we may miss experiencing God if we don't look for signs of God's presence: love, peace, community.....

...for John baptized with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.



Jesus appears to the disciples by William Hole



Mark 16:15-20



Jesus going to the heavenly home

And He said to them:

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.



Jesus has shown us how to
live God's love every day!

The one who believes and is baptised will be saved;
but the one who does not believe will be condemned.



And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.

What snakes will we encounter?

The image of the snake represents all the challenges, difficulties and daily problems that happen in every day life!

The challenge of the Gospel is to trust in God at all times, living in the example of Jesus, no matter what we are feeling!



So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.



And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.



How can you be Good News for someone today?

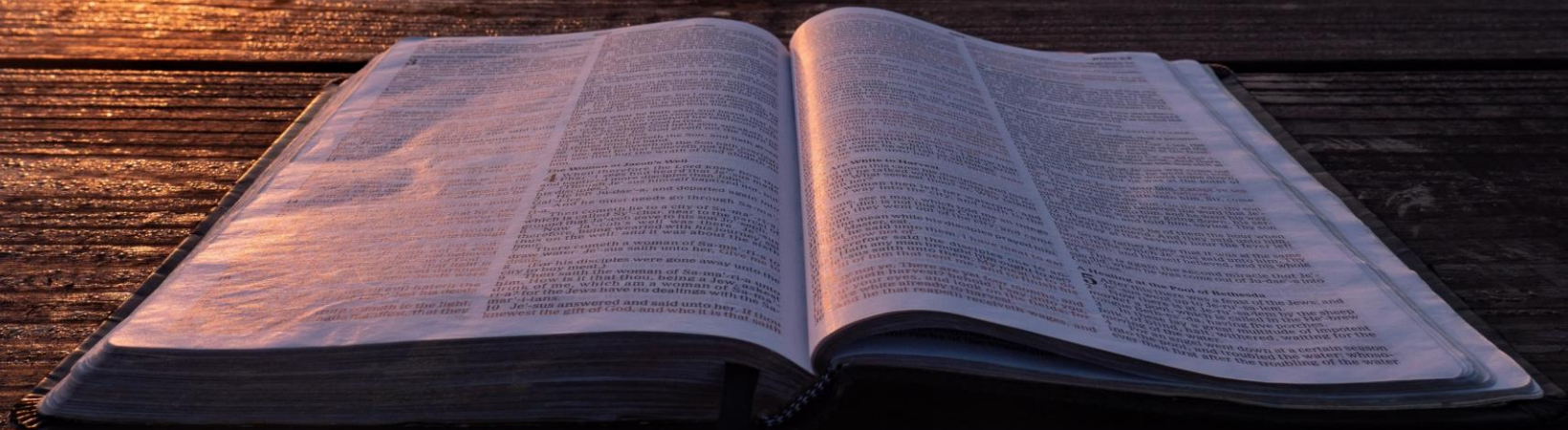
In the feast of the Ascension the mission to share God's love and good news becomes ours.

Jesus now depends on us to bring Him to all whom we meet.



Bible Search

Read Acts 1:1-11 and Matthew 28:16-20 in your family Bible - this is the First Reading and the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



Consider



How are you being the Good News of God's love this week?

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 16:15-20

1. In the preceding verse Jesus had rebuked the apostles for their lack of faith. Despite this he commissioned them to bring the Good News to the whole world. Witnesses to the Good News do not have to be perfect. There is encouragement to us in this. To whom have you brought good news? Who has been a messenger of good news to you?
2. Jesus then tells them that their witness will have quite dramatic effects, helping people to overcome demons, bring them peace and healing. Things happen when we have belief in ourselves and in God. Strong faith can enable us to meet and overcome difficulties, in ways that waverers cannot do. Perhaps you have had experience of this?
3. The ascension marked the end of the visible presence of Jesus with the disciples, but he was with them in other ways. 'The Lord worked with them.' Sometimes we can experience that death is not the end of the presence of someone significant to us. We can experience the unseen presence and influence of a parent, a friend or an inspiring leader, after they have died. Has this happened for you? Have you also experienced the hidden presence of the Lord working with you?

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Praying to Jesus



Pray for the grace to see God's presence in the world around you.

