

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 21 MAY 2023 YEAR A/1

When I was a boy, Sir Edmund Hillary came to speak at my school. I can remember the fuss surrounding the visit of the first person to scale Mt Everest. And though there is now a school of thought that holds that he was beaten to the summit by Tenzing Norgay, his Tibetan colleague, there was an aura around this New Zealander who had been to the top of the world.

Some of my usually dour teachers were in awe of Sir Edmund. There was more than a little hero worship going on that day. Rather surprisingly in his address Sir Edmund did not say very much about his adventure to the peak. He was much more interested in what we do to each other on the plains than what he did on the mountain top. He spoke about justice, peace and the dignity of humanity. I can vividly remember him sending us out at the end of his speech to create a better world for all people everywhere. When questions came, there were several about whether he felt closer to God at the top of Mt Everest, and although he said he did, he mentioned there were life and death moments on the way up and down, where God's presence and companionship were much more real to him.

Hillary's visit to my school is not far from what happened to the disciples in today's Gospel. Matthew tells us that the eleven men who worshipped Jesus were commissioned by him to go out to the world and they were promised that he would stay with them until the end of time.

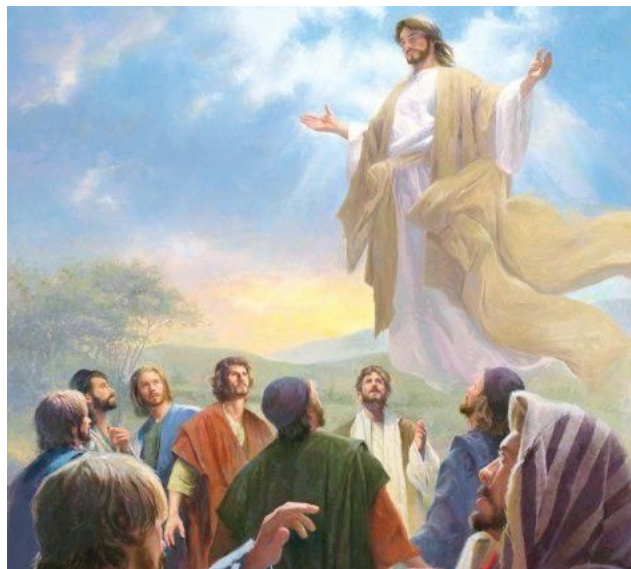
Worship is a word Catholics don't use all that often. While other denominations describe their liturgy as 'worship', we tend to use it only in a more secular way like in 'hero worship' or 'not an altar at which I worship'. The concept behind this word, however, is an important one. To worship God is to admit that we are not God. We are creatures and our worship is directed toward our Creator, Saviour and Sustainer.

Whether we realise it or not we are commissioned to go out to the world at the end of every liturgy, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' This changes our worship. We are not here just for ourselves. Mass, which comes from a word meaning 'to be sent', indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world in and through us, and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish.

Finally, we continue to experience the abiding presence of Christ in our daily lives or else we wouldn't be here. God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is not distant to our lives or impervious to our needs; we believe in a Companion-God who seeks our company as much as we need His.

In this Mass, then, let's thank God for the mountain top of Christ's Ascension that lifts us up out of our everyday life to celebrate that we are creatures, not the Creator. Let us hear again Christ's call to each of us to move away from the complacency of a spiritual cafeteria to a church moving out to change the world. And let's rejoice in Christ's presence which abides before us, behind us, over and in us, within and without, now and forever. Amen.

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Readings Pentecost Sunday 28 May 2023  
Acts 2:1-11; Ps 103:1,24,29-31,34; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13;  
John 20:19-23



**2023 First Holy Communion**  
**Sacramental Program**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN AS THEY JOURNEY  
THROUGH THIS SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM LEADING  
THEM TO RECEIVE THE BODY AND BLOOD OF  
JESUS FOR THE FIRST TIME**

**Family Meeting**

Saturday, 10 June @ 10.00am to 12noon  
or 1.00pm to 3.00pm  
at Mary Immaculate Church - Ashmore

**Practice**

Wednesday 14 June @ 4.00pm

**First Communion**

Saturday, 17 June 4.30pm (1st Session)  
Sunday, 18 June 9.30am (2<sup>nd</sup> Session)  
both at Mary Immaculate Church

If you have any queries please contact  
Lisa Perkins on 5510 2222 ext 3 or  
email [sacramental@scp.org](mailto:sacramental@scp.org).



Join Catholic Mission online to honour  
Mother Mary during the month of May  
by praying the rosary.

Monday – Friday at 2.00pm—join Zoom meeting  
<https://tinyurl.com/cmprayers>

Meeting ID: **885 9061 9139**  
Password: **855274**



**WEDNESDAY 24 MAY**  
**FEAST OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**

May 24 is the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. This is an important feast in our country because Our Lady, under the title “Help of Christians”, is a spiritual Patron of Australia, along with St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The title “Help of Christians” is of very ancient lineage, with St John Chrysostom, who died in 407, having used the title in a homily. The invocation of Mary under the title of Help of Christians is part of the oldest prayer addressed directly to Mary, the *Sub tuum praesidium*, found on a papyrus dating from the third century. The prayer was initially associated with the Coptic Orthodox Christmas liturgy.

The feast day to Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844, but the history to this day dates back to the start of the 1800’s. In thanksgiving for the release of Pope Pius VII from captivity on the 24 May 1814, the feast was established the following year on the anniversary of his restoration.

The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed except for one brief year until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive.

Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary and it was at the first Australian provincial synod held in Sydney in 1844, that they placed the Church in Australia under Mary’s patronage invoked by the title of Help of Christians.

Most images of Our Lady Help of Christians depict the Virgin standing on a globe of the word, holding the child Jesus in one arm and a sceptre in another. Her head is always crowned and the child Jesus is often crowned as well. In some images the map of Australia is featured on the globe to signify the Virgin’s special relationship to Australia under this title.

The solemn feast is an occasion to seek Mary’s help and protection for our Church and nation.



## STOPLINE

receives information about suspected abuse, (information can be provided anonymously) misconduct & serious policy breaches by Archdiocesan clergy, employees or volunteers.  
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR)

### Kerri Kleidon

Our Parish has implemented the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy. We are committed to high standards of recruitment, screening and selection of all our employees and volunteers and undertake intentional strategies to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for all.

1300 304 550

[aob@stopline.com.au](mailto:aob@stopline.com.au)

[www.bne.catholic.stoplinereport.com](http://www.bne.catholic.stoplinereport.com)



**Month of May  
SPECIAL DISCOUNTS**

Shop 2/115 Scarborough Street Southport

**OPEN**  
Monday to Friday  
9.00am to 4.00pm



Every Saturday our walking group meets at St Joseph the Worker, Labrador at 6.30am.  
Contact Janeece on 0408 763

### A REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

Keep your eyes on the Lord -  
He never takes His eyes off you.

## FAITHFUL DEPARTED



Marko Periac  
Mark Galton  
Margaret Jean Noonan



Please pray for all whose names are in the Book of Remembrance



### BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE AND SICK

Each Church has one of each of the above books. If you would like the name of deceased or sick family or friends placed in the book, please contact the Parish office.

### ANNIVERSARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

We are happy to place the names of the above in the Newsletter, provided the family has given approval

Mary Immaculate Church  
is open for private prayer  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
from 8.00am—3.30pm



**Destination GA**  
*Business Directory 2022*

Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School would like to invite our Parish Community to advertise the business they own or work for in their 2023 GA Community Connect Business Directory.  
Glossy directories will be printed and distributed to our school families and available online via their school website and regular newsletters.

For more information please contact

Ben Ryan on 0432545995  
[ben@advcollab.com.au](mailto:ben@advcollab.com.au)  
[www.advcollab.com.au](http://www.advcollab.com.au)



**St Joseph the Worker Church**

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

**Sunday Mass**

8.00am

**Weekday Masses**

Monday & Wednesday 7.00am

1st Wednesday 7.00pm

1st Saturday 9.00am

**Rosary**

Monday & Wednesday 6.00am

1st Wednesday 6.00pm

1st Saturday 8.30am

**Novena**

Wednesday 6.00pm

**Mary Immaculate Church**

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

**Saturday & Sunday Masses**

Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm

Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm

**Weekday Masses**

Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am

**Vietnamese Mass**

2nd & 4th Sunday 12.00pm

**Adoration & Rosary**

Tuesday & Thursday 7.45am

**Gold Coast University Hospital**

**Rosary & Mass**

Friday 10.00am

**Guardian Angels Church**

99 Scarborough Street, Southport

**Saturday & Sunday Masses**

Reconciliation Saturday 4.30pm

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30pm

Sunday 7.00am & 9.00am

**Korean Mass**

Sunday 3.30pm

한인미사 일요일 오후 3시 30분

**Filipino Mass**

1st Sunday 12.00pm

**Prayer & Adoration**

Wednesday 12.00pm

**Rosary & Mass**

Friday 12.00pm



**PARISH CONTACTS**

Ph 07 5510 2222

<https://scp.org.au>

**Parish office Ashmore**

Tuesday-Thursday 9.00am-4.30pm

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore, 4214

**Parish office Southport & Gift Shop**

Monday-Friday 9.00am-4.30pm

115 Scarborough Street, Southport, 4215

**Office Support**

Catherine Francis [parish@scp.org.au](mailto:parish@scp.org.au)

**Finance Officer**

Therese Rogers [accounts@scp.org.au](mailto:accounts@scp.org.au)

**Sacramental Coordinator**

Lisa Perkins [sacramental@scp.org.au](mailto:sacramental@scp.org.au)

**Associate Pastor**

Fr John Hong Xuan Nguyen (Hospital Chaplaincy)

**Associate Pastor**

Fr Marce Singson

**Parish Priest**

Fr Gerard McMorrow PP