



“Where High the Heavenly Temple Stands”

*Where high the heavenly temple stands,
the house of God not made with hands,
a great High Priest our nature wears,
Jesus, the Son of God, appears.*

*He who for us our surety stood,
and poured on earth his precious blood,
pursues in heaven his mighty plan,
eternal God and Son of Man.*

*Though now ascended up on high,
he bends on earth a brother's eye;
partaker of the human name,
he knows the frailty of our frame.*

*Our fellow-sufferer yet retains
a fellow-feeling of our pains;
and still remembers in the skies
his tears, his agonies and cries.*

*In every pang that rends the heart
the Man of Sorrows has a part;
he sympathizes with our grief,
and to the sufferer sends relief.*

*With boldness, therefore, at the throne,
let us make all our sorrows known;
and ask the aid of heavenly power
to help us in the evil hour.*

[Michael Bruce (1746-67)]



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



“A community of faith in service to others”

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

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Mission Statement

Christ Church seeks to be a centre for the worship of Almighty God, providing strength and assistance for all who enter, and enabling God's love in Christ to reach out to the community and world in which we live.

SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

24th May 2020

Liturgical Colour: White

Sentence

This is eternal life, that we may know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Prayer of the Day *

O God,
whose Son, Jesus, prayed for his
disciples,
and sent them into the world
to proclaim the coming of your Kingdom:
by your Holy Spirit,
hold the Church in unity,
and keep it faithful to your word,
so that, breaking bread together,
we may be one with Christ
in faith and love and service,
now and forever. Amen



We acknowledge the Wathaurong people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which Christ Church and its building now stand.

The Vicar Writes



Jesus said eternal life is to know the Father and the Christ he has sent. This knowing of the Lord who is beyond all creation is possible by coming to know the Christ who is God within creation; God with us, the Lord who is within our heart and is the source of life and wisdom. Coming to know God with us or within us is achieved through the process of devotion that begins with surrender to the Lord.

Saint Peter advises us to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt us in due time. After we have suffered for a while, Peter says, the God of

grace who has called us to eternal glory in Christ will Himself restore, support, strengthen and establish us. The suffering Peter refers to is not just the difficulties of material life, but the suffering involved in pursuing a spiritual life amidst the duties and difficulties that this physical life offers. Taking time for spiritual life and service to the Lord doesn't require an abandoning of ordinary duties, it means redirecting our motives that they aim at satisfying the Lord and taking extra time to serve the Lord's servants and spend time with Him in prayer and contemplation. This is a divine sacrifice that involves difficulties at first but that become a source of great inner satisfaction in the end.

The path of devotion increases our capacity to perceive the Lord and the great mysteries associated with the Lord. Mysteries such as the Lord's Ascension into heaven. This divine act was seen by the Apostles whose service and sacrifice prepared their hearts to a degree that they could receive the grace of the Lord to witness the divine act of the Lord ascending in glory. As our psalm tells us today, how wonderful is God in His holy places, He rides in the heavens, His ancient heavens, He sends forth His voice, His mighty voice. The ascension the disciples witnessed was not a theoretical experience it was a divine perception bestowed upon the disciples by the Lord Himself.

To the spiritually undeveloped the stories told by saints and their visions seem like impossible fantasies and so they speculate about what the disciples or other saints might have actually seen. They think that the visions of saints are delusions brought about by superstitious minds. This is the difference between theoretical wisdom and divine wisdom. Divine wisdom is the fruit of intuition brought about by the process of surrender, sacrifice, service and prayer to God. Theoretical wisdom is the armchair philosophy of the un-surrendered. One poor fellow conjectured that the disciples didn't see the Lord ascend, a cloud came over them and the Lord walked away. Theoretical, armchair wisdom at its worst.

The Lord didn't ascend to the moon or a physical planet in the physical sky. He opened the hearts of the disciples to see the heavenly dimension and they saw him descend into that heavenly glorious atmosphere. The disciples were purified by spending time with the Lord. We too may receive the same mercy and awaken to heavenly visions by spending time with the Lord every day and offering our work and lives to Him. The Lord will draw us into deeper revelations of Himself until we see glories in heaven and the spiritual worlds we could never dream about.

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell

REMINDERS

WINTER WOOLLIES' MARKET UPDATE!

As advised, the Market will not be held on the long weekend in June.

But it will be held....

So, keep watching this space!!!



THE CHRONICLE

The next regular edition of the *Chronicle* will be delivered early in June. Contributions need to be forwarded by tomorrow, Monday, 25th May."

Please send your contribution to:

spswain@westnet.com.au

or phone Phillip on 5221 9956!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Epidemiologists & virologists and all who are working towards a Covid19 vaccine; and for peace and tolerance during this difficult time.

THE CHURCH: All members of the Anglican Communion around the world; Ministry with the Aboriginal people of Australia; Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion; St John's Toorak; the work and witness of the Philippine Independent Church (the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente*).

THE PARISH/COMMUNITY: The teachers in our region helping to keep children's education on track at this difficult time.

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED: Those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

THE DEPARTED: Our own departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (George Redhead; Robert Sillett; Wray Salter).

NEXT SUNDAY -31ST MAY – DAY OF PENTECOST

Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:26-36; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

