

would remain with them until the end of time:

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.
(Matt 28:20)

St John's Gospel also recounts Christ's promise, but elaborates upon its content in order to explain that after Christ had visibly left his disciples, he would continue to live in them through the presence of the Holy Spirit which comes from the Father through him:

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.
(John 14:18-21)

Living In Him

Because of the gift of the Holy Spirit, Christ lives on in his followers, and bestows upon them a share in his own divine life:

Because I live, you also will live. (Jn 14:9)

What is more, the disciples not only participate in Christ's life, they are also commissioned by Christ to continue his mission in the world after he had left them.

Christlike

In this Sunday's first reading, the Lord Jesus says to His disciples:

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and then you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.
(Acts 1:8)

As such, the disciples are challenged to become like Christ – to become other Christs – who will bring his truth and his healing to the world. As Christians, we too share in the Apostle's mission of preaching the Gospel to the ends of the earth, of banishing evil from society wherever we find it, and of bringing Christ's love to the broken-hearted and the wounded.

By means of his Ascension, then, Christ has not left us alone; he is present to us in a new and more powerful way through the Holy Spirit. Now that he is no longer physically present in the world in his body, he relies on us to be his hands and his feet, to walk amongst his people doing his work. We are inheritors of Christ's mission and are called by our vocation as Christians to ...

Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News. (Mk 16:15) ■

Summary

The person of the Holy Spirit is the key to understanding the mystery of the Ascension.

By means of his Ascension, Christ has not left us, but is present in a new and more powerful way through the Holy Spirit.

Question

How do we become the hands and feet of the Lord?

How do I see the Spirit in others?

Prayer

Lord, by the presence of the Holy Spirit within me, may I reveal your love to the world.



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Vol.46; No.24; The Ascension, Year B; 9 May 2024; Readings: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48, Psalm 97, 1John 4:7-10, John 15:9-17; Next Week: Holy Spirit. Thu 9 May : Ascension : Sat 11 May Weekday : Sun 12 May Easter 7 : Mon 13 May Our Lady of Fatima : Tue 14 May St Matthias Apostle : Wed 15 May St Carthage : Thu 16 May (Kerry, Clonfert: St Brendan) : Fri 17 May Weekday : Sat 18 May Pope St John I : Sun 19 May Pentecost.



SUNDAY LETTER

Series: The Seasons, The Ascension, Year B; 12th May 2024

The Ascension of Christ has always been a mystery for believers, and as a result has seldom been depicted in religious art. The renowned Spanish surrealist artist, Salvador Dali, memorably depicts Christ's feet as He disappeared into a cloud of light, thus illustrating the

bizarreness of the event in an original fashion. The Ascension itself could have provoked much uncertainty had it not been accompanied by the Lord's own words of explanation.

In this sense, each of the scriptural accounts to be taken together, in order for us to fully explain the mystery, because each sheds its own light upon our overall understanding of the event.



Ascended into Heaven

Before the Lord ascended into heaven he told his disciples to ...
not leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father has promised.
(Acts 1:4)

What the Father had promised was the gift of the Holy Spirit. Hence, the person of the Holy Spirit is the key to understanding the mystery of the Ascension. Contrary to appearances, the Lord was not abandoning his disciples. He promised that once he had left them, his Spirit would come upon them in a new and powerful way.

Living With Them Always

Christ's body and soul (his human nature) ascended to his Father in heaven, but this did not mean that he was leaving his disciples alone. Christ promised them that he

Ascension Sunday 12th May 2024

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Mass Intentions Monday 13th to Sunday 19th May 2024

Monday	10.00	Frank Corbett	10.00	Betty O’Kane.
Tuesday	7.25	Kathryn Nolan	10.00	Christopher and Brigid O’Donohoe & deceased family members
Wednesday	7.25	Michael Mooney	10.00	Special Intention
Thursday	7.25	Available	10.00	Abel Mag Asin, Alexander Lim & Concepcion Burlat
Friday	7.25	Mary Bailey	10.00	Mable & Nancy Curry
Saturday	10.00	Michael & Mary McCluskey	Confessions available after 10.00am Mass.	
	6.30pm	Maureen & Christy O’Keeffe, Joe Toal, Michael Hurley, Daniel McGann.		
Sunday	10.00	Available		
	11.30	Josie Behan, Mary Doyle, Deceased members of the Doyle and Berry Families, Brenda Collins, Patricia Collins, Frank O’Neill, Emmy Collins,		

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers all those that have died recently, Hannah Powell, Annie Spratt and Kathryn Nolan.

60th Anniversary Celebrations.

As part of our celebrations, we intend to have a “Ballygall Abroad” similar to the one that we do at Christmas time. If you would like to send greetings to your loved ones, living abroad, on the occasion of the Parish’s 60th anniversary on 16th June please drop in their details to the office before Thursday 13th June.

St. Vincent de Paul.

Church gate collection takes place this weekend. Your support relieves the financial burden that local families are experiencing at this time.

Dublin Diocesan changes

Each year the Archbishop, along with a team of priests, meet to plan the future of the Diocese and location of the priests. During the week a number of changes were announced. Fr. Joseph Ryan has been appointed to the parishes of Saggart, Rathcoole, Brittas & Newcastle.

Fr Kevin Bartley, Rush Parish, has been appointed as Moderator of our Grouping of Parishes with responsibility for Ballygall and Iona Road. The moves are due to take place on the weekend of 6/7 July.

Lough Derg

2024 Pilgrimage Season is now available online. www.loughderg.org

Building Hope Novena

Each parish throughout the diocese is invited to take part in a **Novena to the Holy Spirit** – A special period of prayer, reflection and planning for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin. The Novena takes place from **12th – 20th May** beginning on the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, continues through Pentecost and concludes on to the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. A number of *Building Hope* Novena Prayer Cards are in the front porch. A resource is available in the sacred space of the church. This can be used by families or for private devotion during the Novena.

On Monday, 13th May at 8pm you are invited to join the Sisters at the Monastery of St Alphonsus in Dublin 9, or via their webcam on www.rednuns.com, as they lead us in prayerful reflections drawn from the Novena Prayer Booklet and including music from the Dublin Diocesan Music Group.

Building Hope Prayer

Pilgrim God, we give you thanks and praise. You constantly journey with us even in our darkness and doubts. We seek your way of loving kindness to walk together as one family. Open our eyes to recognise you in the faces of one another, in the breaking of bread and in the splendour of creation. May the risen Christ sow seeds of hope and new life deep within us. May our hearts and minds be filled with your Word, bringing forth truth, justice and peace. May the Holy Spirit working in and through us do much more than we can dare to imagine as we live out our baptismal calling in humble and loving service. We make this our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

St Laurence O’Toole, pray for us.