**May 29th 2022**



**Liturgy Centre**

**Catholic Diocese of Auckland**

**Liturgy of the Word for Individuals, Families & Communities**

*Ascension Sunday Year C,* May 29th World Communications Day / Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

***Prepare a prayer focus and light a candle.***

**SIGN OF THE CROSS: Ki te ingoa…**

**READER:** Kia noho te Ariki ki a koutou -- The Lord be with you

**ALL:** Ki tōu wairua anō hoki -- And also with you

**READER:**

Tēnā koutou katoa, welcome everybody. Today is the feast of the Ascension. Pope Francis said, ‘Jesus’ ascension into heaven does not mean he is absent. Instead, it tells us that he is alive among us – we are never alone.’ We gather now in each other’s company, and in the company of Jesus who walks with us, to give thanks for all we have been given. Let’s sing.

**Children – The Ascension Song** [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lF8Cl41Hzz0*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lF8Cl41Hzz0)

**Youth / Adult – A hymn of glory let us sing** [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs7C5U24E9Y*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs7C5U24E9Y)

**READER:** Jesus, you ascended to the Father, and yet you are living among us still. You open to us the gift of everlasting life. Make us your instruments of love and peace in all we do.

You forgive us our sins Lord have mercy **(All)** Lord have mercy

You send your spirit upon us Christ have mercy **(All)**Christ have mercy

You are with us always, unto the end of the world Lord have mercy **All)** Lord have mercy

**OPENING PRAYER:** Ka inoi tatou – let us pray. In this time of silence, we bring to mind all the things wewant to pray for. *(Allow silence, 1 minute)*

God of endless mercy, your son Jesus ascended to the heavens as the Apostles looked on. Grant that we may be worthy for him to dwell with us always. Through Jesus our Lord and in the unity of the Holy Spirit we pray. **ALL: Amen**

**FIRST READING Acts 1:1-11**

A reading from the book of Acts

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.”

Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord

**ALL:**Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

**Silence –** *Let’s be quiet for a few moments and let God’s Word find a place to rest inside us.*

**The Lord, your God,**

**is in your midst …**

[**Crowd**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/pictfactory/2796367140)[[**Guzmán Lozano**](https://www.flickr.com/photos/pictfactory/)](https://www.flickr.com/photos/pictfactory/) [**CC**](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)

**Discuss**  - ‘Why are you standing looking at the sky?’ they asked. Where instead ought we be looking?

**PSALM:** *Psalm 47* **God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

*Children* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKOqw44EAdI*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKOqw44EAdI)

*Youth* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pk4f1rq4JMI*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pk4f1rq4JMI)

*Adults*[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xadev-6e1kA*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xadev-6e1kA) *OR* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNeLtEDbggU*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNeLtEDbggU)

**Second Reading** Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23

A reading from the book of Hebrews

Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands,  
a copy of the true one, but heaven itself,  
that he might now appear before God on our behalf.  
Not that he might offer himself repeatedly,  
as the high priest enters each year into the sanctuary  
with blood that is not his own;  
if that were so, he would have had to suffer repeatedly  
from the foundation of the world.  
But now once for all he has appeared at the end of the ages  
to take away sin by his sacrifice.  
Just as it is appointed that men and women die once,  
and after this the judgment, so also Christ,  
offered once to take away the sins of many,  
will appear a second time, not to take away sin  
but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him.  
  
Therefore, brothers and sisters, since through the blood of Jesus  
we have confidence of entrance into the sanctuary  
by the new and living way he opened for us through the veil,  
that is, his flesh, and since we have "a great priest over the house of God,"  
let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust,  
with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience  
and our bodies washed in pure water.  
Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope,  
for he who made the promise is trustworthy.

Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord

**ALL:**Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

**Silence -***Follow the reading with quiet thinking time.*

**Discussion starter** – ‘Let us approach … in absolute trust.’ What is being asked of us?

**GOSPEL:** Luke 24: 46-53

**Reader** Kia noho te Ariki - The Lord be with you

**All** Ki tōu wairua anō hoki – And also with you

**Reader** A reading from the Gospel of Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer  
and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,  
would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.  
You are witnesses of these things.  
And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you;  
but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”  
  
Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them.  
As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven.  
They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy,  
and they were continually in the temple praising God.

**Reader** Ko te rongopai a te Ariki – The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL:** Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti **–**

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

*After the reading -* ***Silence****.*

**→ Children’s Reflection on the Gospel –** [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcFw8pLBSIo*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcFw8pLBSIo)

Discuss - How long did Jesus say he would stay with us?

**→ Adults / Youth - Reflection / Discussion –**  ‘In Jesus’ last words to the disciples, he said ‘repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all nations.’ Do you come across people who are burdened by a sense of guilt? What does it seem Christ wants for them?

**Prayer of the Faithful: *As God’s people we pray for the needs of the whole world.***

**For the Church** – that the call to ‘go and teach all people my Gospel,’ enkindles unity and a missionary flame in the hearts of all Christian people.

***(Silence)* Reader:** E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For peace between neighbouring countries –** that misunderstanding, division and hatred be dispelled and a new desire for peace arise in the hearts of the people.

***(Silence)* Reader:** E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For people of all faiths** – that difference give way to acceptance and silent disregard give way to dialogue and friendship.

***(Silence)* Reader:** E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For the terminally ill –** that gentle care enfold them,that their grief give way to tenderness and that the deep mystery of love be their dwelling place.

***(Silence)* Reader:** E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For people burdened by guilt or failure** – that their minds will be opened to understand scripture, and that new growth of self-forgiveness take root in their hearts.

***(Silence)* Reader:** E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For communication by Social Media –** that respect for all people, integrity, honesty and kindness and frame patterns of communication on Social Media.

***(Silence)* Reader:** E te Ariki All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**Concluding Prayer**

Just as there was great joy among the disciples, may we too sense that same joy in your Ascension and in your sure promise to return! Accept the prayers we bring before you now. Make us eager to share your good news and bring your Gospel to all people. Grant this through Jesus Christ, who while standing among his disciples, ascended from them, and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever… ***AMEN***

**READER:** Today we begin a week of prayer for Christian unity. We pray eagerly because Jesus prayed that we would be one, and yet there are many divisions in the Christian Church.

[Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, resources and prayers](https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_resource/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-29-may-5-june-2022/)

Good Shepherd, the fragmentation of your ‘little flock’ grieves the Holy Spirit.

Forgive our weak efforts and slowness in the pursuit of your will.

Give us wise shepherds after your own heart who recognise the sin of division,

and those who will lead the churches with righteousness and holiness, to unity in you.

We ask you, Lord, to hear our prayer. **Amen.**

**READER:** Today is also World Communications Day. Two prayers we might want to pray follow.

**(Resources:** [World Communications Day Pope Francis](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/20220124-messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html)[Catholic News WCD Theme](https://catholicnews.ie/vatican-announces-theme-for-world-communications-day-2022-as-listen/)[Tips & Resources](https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2022/05/19/resources-for-world-communications-day-2022/) **)**

**Prayer for Journalists**   
Almighty God, strengthen and direct, we pray,  
the will of all whose work it is to write what many read,  
and to speak where many listen.  
May they be bold to confront evil and injustice.  
May they be understanding and compassionate of human weakness;  
rejecting alike the half-truth which deceives, and the slanted word which corrupts.  
May the power which is theirs, for good or ill,  
always be used with honesty and courage, with respect and integrity,  
so that, when all has been written, said and done,

they may, unashamed, meet You face to face,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

**Social Media Prayer Blessing *by Meredith Gould***

***Based on the prayer by St Teresa of Avila -*** Christ has no body now but yours.

Christ has no online presence but yours  
No blog, no Facebook page but yours,

Yours are the tweets through which love touches the world,  
Yours are the posts through which the Gospel is shared,

Yours are the updates through which hope is revealed.

Christ has no online presence but yours,  
No blog, no Facebook page but yours. **Amen.**

**READER:** Let’s pray the Lord’s prayer together. The Lord’s Prayer in Te Reo Māori. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oU1GNEV0hYY>

*Or the Lord’s Prayer in English.*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

**READER: Blessing**

May you listen with gracious attentiveness.

May the words you speak be framed with patience and kindness.

May you fingers articulate love, forgiveness and peace each time you text, type,

FaceBook or communicate across the internet, by any means.

And may the internet be one more way the wonderful God of endless love reaches to you

and blesses you across time and space.

**All: Amen**

**READER:** Thank you for your participation in this Liturgy of the Word, thank you for your kindness and presence. We rejoice always, because we do not walk alone. God, who abounds in merciful love, is with us and in us and stays with us. May we be messengers of God’s love, peace and forgiveness in the world today.

Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you.

Let us go in peace, loving and serving God in all we do.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Song Christ has no Body now but yours** [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUbxOli4HcI*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUbxOli4HcI)