



St Mary Immaculate & St Patrick's
PARISH OF THE CLARENCE VALLEY
Copmanhurst & Cowper ✝ *Grafton & South Grafton*



Cowper

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Office Hours:
 8.30am to 4.00pm Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri
 9.30am to 4.00pm Thursday

St. Mary's Church, Grafton
 Victoria Street, Grafton

St Patrick's Church
 Skinner Street, South Grafton

Mary Immaculate Church
 Cowper

St John of the Cross
 Copmanhurst

McAuley Catholic College
 Hennessy Drive, Clarenceza
Phone: 02 66431434
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St. Mary's Primary School
 Turf Street, Grafton
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St Joseph's Primary School
 Hyde Street, South Grafton
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Parish Priest: Fr Joe Holloway
Assist. Priest:
 Fr Emmanuel Okparanaku



Copmanhurst

The Ascension of the Lord - Year B

16th May 2021

Parish Family News

A shared mission with Jesus

Leaving the family home is one of life's biggest transitions for children. There are many reasons why they 'leave the nest'. It may be to go to university, to start a job, to assert independence from parental control, to live with friends, to travel the world, to get married or to break free from difficult family situations.

Leaving can be exciting and adventurous, as well as frightening and overwhelming; not only for children, but also for their parents and siblings. Yet, it seems almost a law of nature that we have to leave home at some point in order to embrace adulthood and take responsibility for our life and its direction.

The Feast of the Ascension recognises and celebrates the truth that the Risen Jesus *leaves behind* the human realm to take his place in glory, "*higher than all the heavens to fill all things.*" (Ephesians 4:10) With his departure, Jesus and the apostles enter into a different kind of relationship. It will no longer be dependent on time or a place, but on faith. Just as children and parents have a real, yet very different relationship once children leave home, so also for the apostles in the way they relate to the Ascended Christ.

The Gospel of Mark says that after Jesus was taken from their sight, the apostles went out, preaching and performing signs and wonders. It's now *their* responsibility to continue Jesus' mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of God. The time has come for them to embrace their new found "adulthood" and accept their personal commission to go out and bring the love, healing and compassion of Jesus to individuals and communities. Their mission, which is ultimately the mission of Jesus, is to "*equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.*" (Ephesians 4:12)

Jesus leaves the apostles to prepare them to receive the gifts of the Spirit at Pentecost. It's the grace of the Spirit's gifts that will inspire the apostles' preaching and teaching and that will give life to new generations of followers, even in times of persecution and division. As Pope St John Paul II remarked, "*The Holy Spirit makes them witnesses and prophets. It fills them with a serene courage which impels them to pass on to others their experience of Jesus and the hope which motivates them.*" (Redemptoris Missio, 24).

The same Spirit is gifted to us in baptism and confirmation; calling us to follow the lead of the apostles and to embrace our responsibility for the mission of Christ in our time. The Ascension reminds us that we are called to greater things: nothing less than sharing with others our own experience of the Risen Christ. This is what the apostles did and what we too are also called to do.

David J Hore CSsR © Majellan Media 2021

Television Free to Air—Channel Ten—Sunday Mass at 6am

For those who have access to the Internet: Mass at 9am Sunday—Livestreamed on Lismore Diocese YouTube channel or follow the links at lismorediocese.org

Also the following has Mass on demand. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ

DIARY OF THE WEEK: LITURGIES, DEVOTIONS ETC

Saturday 15th May

9.00am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

5.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Sunday 16th May - The Ascension of the Lord

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper

9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

11.00am Mass at St John of the Cross Copmanhurst

Monday 17th May

NO Mass

Parish Office will be closed.

Tuesday 18th May

NO Mass - Clergy Retreat

Wednesday 19th May

NO Mass - Clergy Retreat

Thursday 20th May

NO Mass - Clergy Retreat

Friday 21st May

11.30am—11.55am Reconciliation and

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

12.00noon Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Saturday 22nd May

NO 9.00am Mass

4.00pm—4.45pm Reconciliation at St Mary's Church

5.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Sunday 23rd May - Pentecost Sunday

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper

9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

Please remember in your prayers:

Those who are sick and frail:

especially Peter Gooley, Josh Brown, Valda Hodges, Bette Madden, Susan Paine, Pat Connelly, (Taxi)-Tony Cameron, Chris Small, Peter Newby, Kathryn Martin, Evonne Coutis, Brian Haynes, Bev Reilley, Dan Moran, Cheryl Kinnane, Dot Dougherty, Sandy Beadman, Gwen Haynes, Sonya Moore, Maureen Endean, Moya Ellem(Melb), Fay Ellem, John McAnally, Darcy Patricks, Eli Hagar, Allan Ryan, Kevin Burns, Shona Owens, Sue Jackson, Jacinta Frawley-Werger, Amanda Crawford, Aileen Whalan, Bree Brossman, and all those in hospital.

The Recently Deceased:

including Cletus Moran, Ofelia Granados, Maureen Hogno, Rita Gallagher, Macella Loloslun, Sr Juliana Dwyer, RSM, Tony O'Connor, Gayda, Cardinal Edward Cassidy.

Those whose Anniversaries are at this time:

including Fr Richard Williams, Fr Robert Kennedy, Bill Small, Terence Patricks, Kevin Ward.

Other Mass Intentions: including all the Holy Souls, Stan McTaggart, Jan Moss.

Our Priests are on their annual Retreat in Lismore this week, Monday 17th to Friday 21st May.

For urgent enquiries please call the Parish Office 6643 9017 and a Duty Priest will be available.

Clarence Valley Parish 200 Club - Week 5

139	1st Prize	Veronica Niland	\$60.00
516	2nd Prize	Michael Maher	\$30.00
961	3rd Prize	Ruby Smith	\$10.00

Flood Appeal

The March 2021 floods in the southern part of the Diocese of Lismore have had a devastating impact on residents and farmers. I am launching a flood appeal, and am kindly call on your support. The Diocese has already contributed \$10,000 towards help for affected farmers and in addition we will give financial and practical support in the Diocese. If you are able to, please consider a donation to the Appeal. With prayers and good wishes, *Most Revd Gregory Homeming, OCD Bishop of Lismore*

To donate go to lismorediocese.org or by

Direct Deposit: BSB: 037 889 A/C No: 1061 5829

Name: DIF Flood Appeal

2021 National Count of Attendance at Mass and Sunday Assemblies

During May we are taking part in the National Count of Attendance. The Count is conducted in the same year as the Australian Census (*due 10th August*) so that the information collected can most effectively be used in association with results from the other project.

This weekend we need parishioners to assist us by completing a census card (No names required) to obtain gender details.

The information gathered will greatly assist our Church community in pastoral planning for the future.

We thank you for your assistance and co-operation during this National Count.

MASS Attendance

Currently Dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligations continues.

Places of Worship - Church services are still subject to the 2 square metre distancing rule.

As we know there are certain directives that must be followed to enable us to come together and celebrate as a community, please familiarise yourselves with the following:

- ◆ Hand sanitising on arrival and departure
- ◆ Recording name and phone number on arrival
- ◆ Sit in allocated pews, 3 or 2 as indicated (*household may sit together*)
- ◆ 1.5m social distancing at all times on entering and leaving the church.
- ◆ Single file for receiving communion (on hand only) - observe social distancing.
- ◆ **Congregational singing is NOW permitted.**
- ◆ **MASKS are not mandatory but are recommended.**

Anyone who is unwell or who have been in COVID-19 hotspots should not attend Mass.

Those most vulnerable to the virus include those people 70 years and over are reminded to carefully consider whether they should attend Sunday Masses at this time.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Those who are unable to attend Sunday Mass are encouraged to spend some time in prayer that might include reading the scriptures, joining in a screen Mass (details in this bulletin) or praying a rosary.

The Parish Bulletin is a single use product-**please take it home.**

Please keep praying for the end of this pandemic & keep safe.

Planned Giving

Planned Giving contributions can be made using your envelopes or by electronic funds transfer. If you would like to make contributions by EFT, banking details are:

BSB: 062546 Account Number: 00800690

Name: Grafton Catholic Church.

In the details section please record: PG followed by your envelope number eg PG500.

For contributions towards the priest's, deposits can be made to:

BSB: 062546 Account Number: 00800535

Name: RC Lismore Presbyterium Grafton

Thank you for your continued support of the Parish.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation classes have commenced.

If you have a child attending a Public School and you wish to have your child confirmed this year please contact either St Mary's Primary School 6642 2262 or St Joseph's Primary School 6642 2899 to enrol your child.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at St Mary's Church in the evening of Friday, 23rd July 2021.



Weekend May 22/23	St Mary's Church Saturday 5.00pm	St Mary's Church Sunday 8.00am	St Patrick's Church Sunday 9.30am	Mary Immaculate Sunday 8.00am
Commentator	Gail Ward	Malachi Hassett	Jim O'Donohue	Barry Walker
Reader	Jacki Moore	Bernadine Solomon	Colleen Scurrah	Marie Moran
Extraordinary Minister	Tania Disson	Lynne Dougherty	Stephen Summerell	

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46

R: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**



Praying is not easy. Each time we want to pray, we think of many other activities that seem more important and urgent. Almost always after putting off #prayer, we realise that those things were not essential at all. This is how the Enemy deceives us.

#GeneralAudience

Pope Francis Pontifex 13/5/2021

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1: 17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 16: 15-20

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week's Readings: (Pentecost, Year B) Acts 2: 1-11; Ps 103; Galatians 5: 16-25; John 15: 26-27, 16: 12-15



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www.dif.org.au

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The DIF contributes to the printing of the weekly newsletter.