

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
17 May 2026

First Reading
Acts 1:1-11
Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 47:1-2, 5-6, 7-8
Second Reading
Ephesians 1:17-23
GOSPEL
Matthew 28:16-20

EXPLORING THE WORD

Today's gospel, the risen Jesus meets His disciples on a mountain in Galilee and gives what is often called the "Great Commission." The passage holds together worship, doubt, authority, mission, and promise. Even after seeing the resurrected Christ, some disciples still hesitate, which makes the scene deeply human. Jesus does not reject them for their uncertainty; instead, He entrusts them with His mission.

The heart of the passage is Jesus' command to "make disciples of all nations." Faith is not meant to remain private or passive. The disciples are sent outward—to teach, baptize, and embody the message of God's kingdom in the world. Their mission is grounded not in their own strength, but in Jesus' authority: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

The passage ends with a promise of comfort and courage: "I am with you always, to the end of the age." The disciples are not sent alone. In times of uncertainty, fear, or responsibility, this assurance reminds believers that Christ's presence continues beyond the moment of commissioning. The mission of faith is sustained by companionship with God.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

24.05.2026

First Reading
Acts 2:1-11
Responsorial Psalms
Psalm 104:1ab+24ac, 29b-30, 31+34
Second Reading
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
Gospel
John 20:19-23



CELEBRATION OF
32ND
Sacerdotal Anniversary
REV FR BENEDICT FRANCIS
FRIDAY, 22 MAY 2026
9:00AM HOLY MASS
CUPPA RIGHT AFTER
(PLEASE BRING A PLATE)

FAITH & FITNESS

Term 2: The Healthy Swap Series
Nourish the Soul and body

8 Weeks of Movement & Nutrition Education
Focus: Healthy Swaps for Snacks & Lunch
When: **Every Tuesday, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
Where: St Luke's Parish Lounge
Format: 35-min Exercise + 25-min Nutrition Talk, Food tasting & Fellowship
Join us as we learn practical, affordable ways to swap everyday snacks for nutritious alternatives.
Train your tastebuds with new nutritious recipes each week!
Lifestylertz Team

BUILDING FUND UPDATE
loan balance is
\$730,503.00

Thank you for supporting our 2nd Collection.

CASH COLLECTIONS
19 May 2026
1st Collection:
4, 623.80
2nd Collection:
439.10

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION
New to the area? Want to join the Parish.
Check it out on our Parish website or scanning this QR Code.

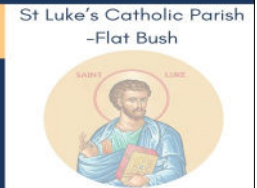
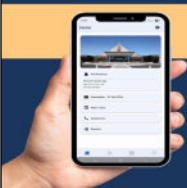


PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MASS INTENTIONS

Recent Death: Angelito Relej Flores
Simi Tekiteki, Florentina Santiago Carlos
Repose of Soul/Birthday Remembrance/Anniversaries of Death: Maria Valenzuela, Josefina Tan, Pablito & Priscilla Santos, Rosario Lee, Romeo Munar, Eufrosinia Carlos
For the Sick: Evelyn dela Cruz, Lilian Yee, Angelina dela Cruz, Sofia Herradura, Sigrid Alegre, Ann Hoare, Brilliantito Quitiquit, Noemi Goh, Michael Yee
Intentions: Romina & Pauline O'Connor, Antonio Gomintong, Felisa Sanche
Wedding/Priestly Anniversaries: Fr Benedict (May 22, 32nd)
Birthday: Long Le (87th), Cindy Del Rosario,



DOWNLOAD OUR NEW PARISH APP



INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR MAY

That everyone might have food
Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

THANK YOU

for your generous support of the Caritas and Seminarian Appeals.
We raised a total of
\$8,437.40 for Caritas
Lenten Appeal and
\$3,647.20 for Seminarians.

ADVERTISING IN PARISH NEWSLETTER

Reach a wide and engaged audience by placing your business advertisement in our parish newsletter. Please contact the Parish Office 09 359 4750 or email office@flatbushcatholic.org.nz

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP

Thursday, 21 May 7:00PM
Online Workshop
Wednesday, 3 June 7:00PM
St Pauls Parish, 162 Waimumu Road, Massey

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

At St Mark's Catholic Church, Pakuranga,
Every First Friday of the month.
Mass at 7pm in the Church followed by **Adoration.**
8pm prayer group meets in the Parish Centre till 8:45pm.

Everyone is welcome to join us and be a part of St Pio's legacy.



MEN'S BREAKFAST
SATURDAY
23 May 2026, 7:30AM
Sequel,
16 J Bishop Dunn Place, Flat Bush, Auckland, 2013



Social & Fund Raising Dinner
Saturday
27th June
2026
6:30 PM
@ Sequel Cafe
Limited to 70 people only.
Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets will be available next week onwards.



FUNDRAISER DAY
Join us for a quick bite & support our youth!
Sausage Sizzle – \$3
Drinks – \$3
Panikeke – \$4
Sunday, 24/5/2026
After 8:30 & 10:30 AM Masses
All proceeds go towards supporting our youth initiatives



The **Ascension** is the mystery in which Jesus' Resurrection is "brought to its fulfillment": after rising from the dead, He **passes from this world to the Father**, and in doing so reveals what God intends for humanity in the flesh—that our destiny is not merely survival, but glorification in Christ.

Jesus goes to the Father—and this changes everything

In the Creed, the Church confesses not only that Jesus "ascended," but that He is "**seated at the right hand of the Father**." Pope Francis explains that Jesus' earthly life culminated when He "**passed from this world to the Father and was raised to sit on his right**."

In other words, heaven is not just a distant location; it is the **realm of God's lordship**. The Pope also emphasizes that the Ascension is not simply about Jesus leaving: it means He is present "**in a new way**"—not tied to one place, but active for all times and for each person.

This is why the disciples return "**with great joy**" rather than despair. According to Luke, while Jesus blesses them, He withdraws and is carried up; then they worship and are "continually in the temple blessing God." Pope Francis notes that this joy flows from faith: even though Christ is no longer seen, **He does not abandon them**—He continues to guide and intercede.

The Ascension reveals Jesus as our Advocate

One of the most consoling themes in the papal meditation is that Christ's Ascension is linked to His **priestly and intercessory role**. Pope Francis highlights the "priestly gesture of blessing" during the Ascension and then draws out the meaning: Jesus is the **eternal High Priest** who intercedes "forever" for us.

So the Ascension teaches that you are not merely waiting alone for spiritual help. The Lord has entered into the Father's presence and **defends you**, seeking to draw you back to God through mercy and forgiveness.

A cloud—and a promise of His return

Luke's account in Acts describes Jesus being **lifted up** and a cloud taking Him out of sight; then angels ask the apostles why they keep staring upward. The angels add that this **Jesus will come again** in the same way they saw Him go.

This guards the Church from a wrong kind of "looking": contemplation is real, but it becomes fruitful only when it turns into mission—witness, preaching, and faithful daily life.

The Ascension "links" Resurrection, Pentecost, and the Church

The Ascension also provides the internal logic of the Christian story. Pope Francis describes it as the "link of the chain" connecting Jesus' earthly life to the life of the Church, and he explicitly connects the event to Acts' call to live witness with the certainty of Christ's lordship.

José Granados' reflection stresses that the Ascension deepens Christ's bond with His Church and even with the cosmos—so that the "first fruits" of what Christ is doing can be lived in time. The close connection between the Ascension and Pentecost is rooted in the idea that Christ, having touched creation's destiny from within the Father, can now send His Spirit to bring history toward God.

In summary, **Jesus' Ascension is not absence; it is a new mode of presence**, centered on His intercession and His lordship, and it grounds the Church's mission until He comes again.