



May 21st 2023 Sunday Feast of the Ascension Year A – Matthew 28:16 – 20

28:16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel. ➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition ➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).
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In this week's gospel we see Jesus preparing for his imminent departure and for a future in which he would be with his disciples in a different way. He would not 'leave them orphans' but send an 'Advocate' to 'be with them forever'. When we read the story of Jesus in the gospels it is not a story of someone outside ourselves but our own story and therefore our stories are sacred.

Do we spend a lot of time and energy projecting notions of God all over the place, away from ourselves? This gospel tells us that God lives in us and loves us. As Christ lives in the Father from whom he is inseparable, so His presence in us unites Father, Son and those who believe in Him. This belief summarises our whole Christian life from our baptism into Christ to our death in Christ. God lives in us, loves in us.

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for your helpful and consoling words in today's gospel "I am with you always even to the end of time". We thank you for the wonderful example of reaching out to all nations shown by Pope Francis in his words and actions reflecting your message to the disciples in today's gospel.

Forgive us Lord for the times when we did not have the courage to bring the message of Jesus to all nations as he requested because of fear. We did not hear or remember His words that He will be with us always

Lord help us as parents, teachers and leaders of church and state not to be possessive of those in our charge. Let us be like Jesus and let them go trusting that whatever good they have learned from us they will bring to others. Where ever they go Jesus is with them.