

Malcolm Guite

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
 Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
 As earth became a part of Heaven's story
 And heaven opened to his human face.
 We saw him go and yet we were not parted
 He took us with him to the heart of things
 The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
 Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
 Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
 Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
 Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness
 And sing the waning darkness into light,
 His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
 Which all creation waits to see revealed.

The Ascension of the Lord

The Ascension marks the transition from the first part of the Easter season to the second. In the first, the emphasis was on the appearances of the risen Lord and on the identity of the same Lord with Jesus of Nazareth who was with the disciples during his public life. Today marks the close of this stage when Jesus is no longer visibly present to his Church. He is now exalted, at God's right hand, and it is from there that he exercises his authority over heaven and earth.

First Reading: Before ascending to heaven Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his apostles. Now that he would no longer be bodily present among them, it would be up to them, aided by the Spirit, to be his witnesses in the world.

Second Reading: Paul describes the meaning of the ascension, which is that God has raised Jesus above all earthly powers, and made him not only head of the Church but Lord of creation.

Gospel: Before leaving his disciples Jesus sums up for them the meaning of his death and resurrection. Then he commissions them to preach this to all peoples. However, they must not start until they have received the Holy Spirit.

A father was watching his young son struggle to lift a heavy rock. The little fellow grunted and strained, but couldn't move it. The father said, "Son, are you sure you are using all your strength?" The exhausted boy said, "Yes, I am!" The father replied, "No, you are not. You haven't asked me to help you."

How true is this illustration! We grunt and struggle with our burdens in this earthly life, often forgetting the Father in heaven is always willing to aid us. Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

Remember today that "all your strength" includes a loving Father in heaven! He's willing to aid you. Are you willing to cast your burdens upon Him, and ask for His help?

Matt Clifton - BulletinDigest.com

"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine." ~ Anthony J. D'Angelo

READERS OF THE WORD OF GOD - JUNE

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Monica Coyle.

Sunday 11.00 a.m.: Kate Crossan, Maria Noonan.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST - JUNE

Saturday 7.00p.m.: Margaret Kelly, Angela Kelly.

Sunday 11.00 a.m.: Kathleen Dowler, Orla Noonan.

Please arrange a substitute if you cannot be present.

"The great and glorious masterpiece of man is to know how to live to purpose." ~ Michel de Montaigne **EDGEWORTHSTOWN**

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The Ascension of the Lord - 29th May 2022

This Weekend May 28th/29th

7.00 p.m. 1. Anne Gallagher, Garryandrew.
 2. John Smith.

11.00 a.m. 1. Matthew Minogue, Lisnagrish, and deceased family members.
 2. Johnny Reynolds, his wife Gretta, Toorafin and their son Bernard.

Weekday Masses: Our Lady's Manor at 11.00 a.m.

Wed 1st June People of the Parish.

Next Weekend: June 4th/5th

7.00 p.m. 1. Martin Egan.
 2. Jack Keenan, Marian Avenue.

11.00 a.m. No Intention.

Offertory Collection: Sun May 22nd - €930 - sincere thanks.

FIRST FRIDAY: Fri Jun 3rd - The usual communion calls to the sick and housebound of the parish will take place on Friday next.

CEMETERY SUNDAY - Cemetery Sunday Mass will take place in Aughafin Cemetery @ 1.00 p.m. on Sun July 3rd.

RECENTLY DECEASED - Please pray for Fr Frank Gray, former Parish Priest of Ballymachugh, Co. Cavan who died recently. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Requiescant in Pace.

ANNUAL ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH GATE COLLECTION: takes place on Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th at both Masses. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

• Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel •

1. The Ascension of Jesus was an important growth point for the disciples. Jesus would be with them in a different way from now on. Painful though it was, it was necessary for them to let go of his physical presence and adjust to the new reality. Perhaps you have known similar transition points in your own life.

2. Jesus invited the disciples to be witnesses to the good news they had learned. The way we live, speak and relate to others speaks of what we have learned about life. We all are witnesses. How have you been a witness to the goodness of life?

3. In particular Jesus invited them to be witnesses to the good news of forgiveness. Recall people who have been witnesses to you of forgiveness and reconciliation. What effect did they have on our life? Have you been able to be a witness to the good news of forgiveness in your life?

4. *Stay in the city until...* Jesus instructs the apostles to wait patiently for the moment of grace. What has been your experience of waiting for a moment of grace? What are the moments of grace that you particularly recall (a friendship, a new opportunity, birth of a baby, etc.)? - John Byrne OSA (INTERCOM)

- Fr Tom Healy -