

St Patricks Parish Church Hill

Under the Pastoral Care of the Marist Fathers since 1868



12 May 2024

Ascension Sunday Year B

The paradox of strength

In today's Gospel – Mark 16:15-20 – along with an account of the ascension of Jesus, we have a report of the disciples' call to mission. That call to mission is made all the more noteworthy because it comes immediately after reports of their lack of faith. Twice – in 16:11 & 13 – we are told “they would not believe”. Then, in 16:14, Jesus appears to them “while they are sitting at table” and “he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness”. Immediately following this, we then have the opening sentence of today's Gospel: “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation”.

Is the Gospel telling us that the disciples are being asked to proclaim a message they do not believe? I think not. The context is important. Mark's Gospel originally concluded at 16:8. Verses 9-20, containing brief summary statements, were added later. We must assume that there is a transition from unbelief to belief that is not made explicit.

There is a significant message here, one that recurs frequently in salvation history. Recall, for example, the Prophet Isaiah. He has a “vision” of the Lord and is reduced to crying out: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips” (6:5). From his “lostness”, Isaiah hears the call: “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”” (6:8).

And Mary asks the Angel Gabriel: “How can this be?” The Angel replies: “Nothing will be impossible with God”. To which Mary's response is: “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word” (See Luke 1:34-38). The work of salvation is God's work – according to God's word. Often enough, God's word will be manifest in human weakness, vulnerability, helplessness and even sin. The memory of their unbelief would surely have helped the disciples to remain real, focused on God. There is a paradox here, summed up by the fiercest of unbelievers: “Whenever I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10). Can you believe that?

See www.aquinas-academy.org.au for background material on the Gospel text.

Michael Whelan SM, Parish Priest

OUR SYNODAL JOURNEY

"As described in the synod's preparatory texts, the delegates were asked to participate in the synod not by concentrating on what they or others would say but rather by asking the participants to give priority to the 'capacity to listen as well as the quality of the words spoken.'"

Blase J. Cupich, America, April 24, 2024

Charitable Works Fund: Thank you to all those who responded to support the CWF appeal last weekend. All donations from the Appeal will be spread across the six agencies CWF supports. Your tax-deductible gift changes lives!

St Pats Synodal Gatherings - St Patricks Parish is on a Synodal Journey. As part of that journey there are Synodal Gatherings in small groups both in the Crypt and on Zoom. The spirit of synodal gatherings is praying, sharing, listening and entering into dialogue. You are welcome at the next gathering in the Crypt - On Sunday 12th May at either 10am or 11am. Option for a gathering via Zoom during the week of Sunday 12th May. Register your interest with Paul Bullen using the QR code.



The Call to Be - Courses in June - Gerard Manley Hopkins: The Poetry of Being Lecturer: Dr Robert Tilley, to be held on ZOOM only 4, 11, 18 June 6-8PM Cost \$60; Film Lecture: "The Quiet Girl" Sr Marie Biddle - Wednesdays 5th, 12th, 19th Jun 2024 10am-noon total cost \$40. to register <https://www.trybooking.com/CPYCT> or email thecalltobe@gmail.com

Band of Brothers - Inviting all men on Wednesday 15th May for a 60 minute lunch and fellowship at Brew Cafe Harrington St, around the corner from St Pats Church. For info contact Andrew Harding - aharding@portumwealth.com.au. Meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Walk with Christ Eucharistic Procession on Sunday 2 June. More information in the parish noticeboard.

Temporary Parish Office Hours in May - our office hours will be temporarily adjusted during the month of May: Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Coffee Shop Volunteers needed - for Wednesdays and Sundays, training provided, contact Michael Borromeo 9254-9855, office@stpatschurchhill.org

WISDOM FROM TRADITION

We must look for truth in ourselves, in our neighbours and in truth itself. Firstly, we find it in ourselves through self-examination. Secondly, we find it in our neighbours through being one with them through compassion. Thirdly, we find the centre of truth through a direct vision from God which is given to the pure in heart

St Bernard of Clairvaux, The Twelve Steps of Humility and Pride/On Loving God, translated by Halcyon C. Backhouse, London, Hodder and Staughton, 1985, 3.

PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

Mon 13 May - Our Lady of Fatima
Tues 14 May - St Mathias

Wed 15 May - Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Novena 12.30pm
Thur 16 May - Rosary Group 12.30pm, Crypt
Fri 17 May - St John I

The parish of St Patrick's acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional custodians of this place we now call Sydney.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Acts 1:1-11 (NRSV)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Response to the Psalm

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

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians 4:17-23 (NRSV)

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among

the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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!

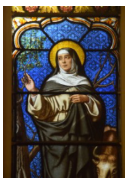
A reading from the holy Gospel of Mark Mk 16:15-20 (NRSV)

Jesus appeared to the eleven, and he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

St Brigid's Church,
14-16 Kent Street, Millers Point

Did you know - St Brigid's, designed by colonial architect Ambrose Hallen, is the oldest surviving place of Catholic worship in Australia? Governor Richard Bourke approved the site and building plan in 1833.



**Join our community
for Mass - Sundays at 9.00am**

Visit our **Piety Store and Book Store** in the William Davis Courtyard every Sunday from 10 am. Discover good finds pre-loved books, prayer cards and gift items

Electronic Donations: We have two tap machines for electronic donations near the entry to the church. For regular donations from your credit card, please contact the Parish Office.

RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

MONDAY - THURSDAY:
7.30 - 7.55 am; 10.00am - 11.00am;
12.00 noon - 1.00pm; 5.00 - 6.00pm

FRIDAY: 7.30am - 7.55am; 10.00am - 1.00pm; 5.00pm - 6.00pm

SATURDAY: 7.30am - 7.55am; 10.30am - 12.30pm; 5.30pm - 5.55pm

SUNDAY: 7.45am - 8.30am; 8.45 am -12.45 pm; 2.45 pm - 4.45 pm; 5.30 pm - 5.55 pm.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 7.30am - 7.55am;
11.30 am - 11.55am; 4.45pm - 5.20 pm

PARISH OFFICE

Address: 141 Harrington Street, Sydney
Office hours: Monday to Friday,
10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Telephone: 9254 9855 Fax: 9252 3431
Email: office@stpatschurchhill.org
Website: www.stpatschurchhill.org
St Patrick's Church: 20 Grosvenor Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000

**A MESSAGE FROM THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY**

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

ST. PATRICK'S COFFEE SHOP

**Open Tuesday - Friday 11.00 am - 2.00 pm
Sunday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm**

Sunday First Collection: Support of the Marist Community at St Patrick's
Sunday Second Collection: General Parish Expenses and Maintenance.

MASS PROGRAM

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8.00am, 10.30am, 12.00noon & 5.30pm.
***Church open from 7.30am - 6pm**

SATURDAY: 8.00am, 12.00 noon
Vigil Mass at 6.00pm.
***Church open from 7.30am - 6.45pm**

SUNDAY: 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 12 noon, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm
***Church open from 7.45am - 6.45pm**

St. Brigid's, Millers Point: 9.00am Mass

PUBLIC HOLIDAY: 8.00 am, 12 noon, 5.30 pm
***Church open from 7.30am - 6.00pm**

St Patrick's Parish

Fr. Michael Whelan, SM <i>Parish Priest</i>	Br Terry Garrett, SM Michael Borromeo <i>Coffee Shop</i>
Fr. Bernie McFadyen, SM	Andrew Carter, <i>Maintenance Manager</i>
Fr. Peter McMurrich, SM	Karen Larkman, Teresa Seric - <i>Safeguarding</i>
Fr. Paul Mahony, SM	Helen Nejaim, <i>Sacristan</i>
Fr. Paul Hachey, SM	Mona Redito, <i>Secretary</i>
Fr Michael Carroll SM	
Sr. Fidelis McTeigue, SM <i>Pastoral work</i>	

The church is fitted with an audio loop for the hearing impaired