

12th May 2024
The Ascension of the Lord (Year B)

INTRODUCTION:

The Ascension is not a story of the departure of Jesus from this world but of His presence in a new way, through His Spirit alive and active in His disciples, evident from the signs that accompany their proclamation. In mentioning the period of forty days between the Resurrection and the Ascension, the first reading draws a parallel between Jesus' preparation for His own mission (40 days in the wilderness after His Baptism) and the disciples' preparation for their mission, now entrusted to them by Jesus, 40 days after His Resurrection. At this Eucharist, we pray that we may lead a life worthy of our calling, as we understand the mission that Christ has entrusted to each of us, to proclaim His message to all.

READINGS:

- First Reading : Acts 1: 1-11
- Responsorial Psalm : Psalm 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9
- Second Reading : Ephesians 1: 17-23 (or) Ephesians 4: 1-13
- Gospel : Mark 16:15-20

UNIVERSAL PRAYER:

Celebrant: Gathered as the people of God and enlightened by His Word, we bring before our heavenly Father, all our needs, with complete trust in His loving providence.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer

- For Pope Francis, our Bishops, Priests and Religious: that as they preach and teach the Gospel, the Word of God may touch and transform the hearts of many ...*(silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord
- For those who will come into positions of authority, power & influence as a result of the nation's on-going elections: that they may understand and act on their mission of selfless and unbiased service to society ...*(silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord
- For Christians who have grown lukewarm or lax in their faith: that through some life-awakening experience, they may rediscover their faith in the Lord...*(silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord
- For all Christians: that we may realise that each of us is gifted differently, and so unite, sharing our gifts to build the Body of Christ ...*(silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord
- In the silence of our hearts, we bring to the Lord our personal petitions ... *(longer silent pause)*... We pray to the Lord

Celebrant: Loving Father, help us to always lead a life worthy of our calling, as we proclaim Your message of love to all, filled with Your Spirit and in Christ's name. Amen