

Diocesan Commission for Liturgy, Vasai

(Prayer service for those who cannot attend Eucharist due to Corona Virus threat)

Ascension Sunday – 24th May 2020

The Queen of Heaven (The Regina Caeli)

Head : Queen of heaven, rejoice!

All : Alleluia

Head : For He whom you did merit to bear,

All : Alleluia

Head : He Has risen as He said,

All : Alleluia

Head : Pray for us to God,

All : Alleluia

Head: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia

All : for the Lord has risen indeed, Alleluia

Head : Let us pray:

All : O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant that we may obtain through his virgin Mother Mary the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Ring out your joy (338)

Head of the family: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

All: Amen

Penitential Act

Head: My dear family members, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves for this prayer service:

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed

to do. (And, striking their breast, they say) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Head: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All : Amen.

Head: Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy

Head: Christ, have mercy

All: Christ, have mercy

Head: Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy

Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Let us pray:

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Or

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who believe that your Only Begotten Son, our Redeemer, ascended this day to the heavens, may in spirit dwell already in heavenly realms. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word**First Reading:****Acts 1:1-11**

Reader: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Jesus was lifted up while they looked on

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking

into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.’

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 46(47):2-3,6-9

Response: God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
or Alleluia!

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

Response: God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
or Alleluia!

2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

Response: God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
or Alleluia!

3. God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

Response: God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
or Alleluia!

Second Reading:

Ephesians 1:17-23

Reader; A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

God made him sit at his right hand in heaven

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he

enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt28:19,20**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go, make disciples of all the nations.

I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

Alleluia!

Gospel :

Matthew 28:16-20

Reader : A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mathew

All : Glory to you, O Lord.

Go and make disciples of all nations

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All : Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection: Leading his disciples out of the city across the Mount of Olives, Jesus ascends to Heaven. “When they saw him, they worshiped,” a statement suggestive of our own worship and the manifestation of Jesus as Lord, as the only begotten Son of God. The main emphasis of Jesus’ command is “making disciples”, while asking them to go, baptize and teach them to observe his commandments. The word for ‘disciple’ is matheteuo, meaning a follower, a learner. As disciples we are always asked to identify with Jesus and to learn from him. The Great commission, “Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” emphasizes on four “all” revealing its fourfold dimension : Jesus possesses all authority; he sends us to all nations; we are to teach all people all that he has commanded, and we are to know that Jesus will be with us all the days of our life. Therefore, we are asked to acknowledge his authority over the universe and follow him fully and to do whatever he has commanded in its entirety. We have been given a very great task but we are assured that he will be with us ‘to the close of the ages’. Do we believe that we are his disciples, called to identify with him and learn from him? How do we understand his mission command today?

The Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the Faithful

Head : As we celebrate Jesus’ Ascension into heaven in the presence of the apostles, we are filled with a vision of our own raising to an eternal life with God. Let us then, keep in mind St. Paul’s words that we have to aspire to receive a spirit of wisdom only after which we will be able to understand the glorious riches that await us and those who believe in Jesus’ Ascension into heaven. Therefore, filled with the hope that we will follow Jesus to his everlasting kingdom and dominion we come before the Heavenly father with our present needs as we put forward our petitions before the Lord,

Let our response be : Lord, hear our prayers and fill us with a hope of salvation..

1. We pray for the Holy Father, Bishops, Priests and Religious that the Spirit of God may strengthen them in their work and that they may encourage all people to believe in the words of the scriptures and of the hope of an eternal life with God.
2. We pray for those in Government offices and in social ministries, that they may be inspired to frame rules that will enable the poor and the homeless to obtain the help they need to survive the pandemic situation.
3. We pray for the health workers and first responders all over the world that God may give them the courage and mental and physical strength to continue to do their good work of treating the infected patients and that the medical institutions and various organisations may provide them free facilities to enable them to carry out their work efficiently.
4. We pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may avail of the Scriptures available in the world in many ways - in physical and through technological means - and that they may have an encounter with the Holy Spirit to understand the love of God that awaits them in their situation in life.
5. Let us pray for our personal needs.

Head : Heavenly Father, we believe that you have planned for us a life of eternal happiness with you in your kingdom which will never end. Strengthen us, therefore, in this earthly life of ours, that we may not fall into temptation and that we may hold on to Jesus, who loves us to the end, we make this prayer, through Christ our Lord,

All : Amen

Let us pray:

We offer prayers in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. Through Christ our Lord.

All : Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Head: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All : Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Head : Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all
distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Head : Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles; peace I leave to you, my peace I
give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her
peace and unity in accordance with your will, who live and reign forever and ever.

All : Amen.

Head : The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All : And with your spirit.

Head : Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

An Act of Spiritual Communion



My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive
You Sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already
there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from
You
Amen.

The concluding rites

Let us pray:

Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. Through Christ our Lord.

All : Amen.

Head : May almighty God bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

All : Amen

Head : Let us go in the peace of the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia!

All : Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer for those infected by the Corona Virus

Almighty and ever merciful God,
You show your love to the entire universe.

Hear our prayers as we lift up
all the people infected by Corona virus
in different parts of the world.

We beg you to touch the victims and
their families with your healing touch.

We thank you for the persistent efforts
put in by the doctors to research
an effective solution to this virus.
May you bring success to their
tireless efforts in this field.

We pray for the people working
through the governmental and health
organizations that they may be guided by you to
take appropriate measures to overcome this difficult situation
and work towards the safety of the people.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Hail, Redeemer (159) or Be Exalted (53)

Novena Prayer to the Holy Spirit



O Holy Spirit, O my God, we adore Thee, and acknowledge, here in Thy divine presence, that we are nothing and can do nothing without Thee. Come, great Paraclete, Thou father of the poor, Thou comforter the best, fulfil the promise of our blessed Savior, Who would not leave us orphans, and come into the mind and the heart of Thy poor, unworthy creatures, as Thou descended on the sacred day of Pentecost on the Holy Mother of Jesus and on His first disciples.

Grant that we may participate in those gifts which Thou communicated to them so wonderfully, and with so much mercy and generosity. Take from our heart whatever is not pleasing to Thee, and make of it a worthy dwelling-place for thyself. Illuminate our mind, that we may see and understand the things that are for our eternal good.

Aglow our hearts with pure love of Thee, that we may be cleansed from the dross of all inordinate attachments, and that our whole life may be hidden with Jesus in God. Strengthen our will that we may be made comfortable to Thy divine will, and be guided by Thy inspirations. Aid us by Thy grace to practice the divine lessons of humility, poverty, obedience and contempt of the world, which Jesus taught us in His mortal life. Amen.

Our Father & Hail Mary