



**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR A**

**SUNDAY 21 MAY 2023**

### **REFLECTION By Sr Veronica Lawson rsm**

Loss is part of the human experience and death is generally the most painful experience of loss. As the confirmed death toll from Covid-19 approaches seven million, we become more and more conscious of loss as a global reality. This loss of human life takes place against the backdrop of a catastrophic loss of species and of eco-systems, exacerbated by devastating bushfires and floods. Today's Feast invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. Over Lent and Easter, we have been re-membering his death and resurrection. The Ascension draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence of the Risen One even in his absence.

While today's gospel recounts Matthew's story of Jesus' final encounter with his disciples, it does not provide an account of Jesus' "ascension" or return to God. For that, we must turn to the first reading (Acts 1:1-11). This Lukan story presupposes a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's presence. The Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people and "clothe" them with power to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth. The vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' family and followers who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: strengthened by his blessing, they are to stay in the city for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus, to be witnesses to his death and resurrection. They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world.

The gospel reading has Jesus on a mountain top where he commissions his male disciples to make disciples of all nations, literally "to disciple all peoples". He has already commissioned the women on the open road to announce the good news of the resurrection (Matt 28:10). They are to be fearless in their mission. In Matthew's final chapter, then, both men and women are commissioned to proclaim the gospel. There are other dimensions to their mission, namely to baptize in the name of the Triune God and to teach what Jesus has taught or "commanded" them. The confidence that they need to engage in this mission is the assurance that the One whom God has raised is with us to the end of time. The gospel has come full circle. In the first chapter of Matthew, an angel announces that the child to be born will be called Emmanuel, God-with-us. The last verse of the gospel invites us once more to ponder that mystery and to commit ourselves to a life-giving gospel mission.

### **PRAYER FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK**

We pray  
That the wrongs of the past may be recognized,  
That our awareness of the journey so far be awakened,  
And that the Spirit move us to walk the talk and see  
through what has been started.  
We ask this in the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
AMEN

### **NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023 27 MAY TO 3 JUNE**

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023 is Be a Voice for Generations. The theme encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise.

For the work of generations past, and the benefit of generations future, act today for a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all.

National Reconciliation Week – 27 May to 3 June – is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

<https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/about-nrw/>



### **Admission to the Cathedral Choir**

Today at the 11.00am mass we officially welcome our 5 youngest choristers into the Cathedral Choir after their period of probation.

We welcome

*Jonah Goss*

*Matthew Hu*

*Jacob Santos*

*Henry Wang and*

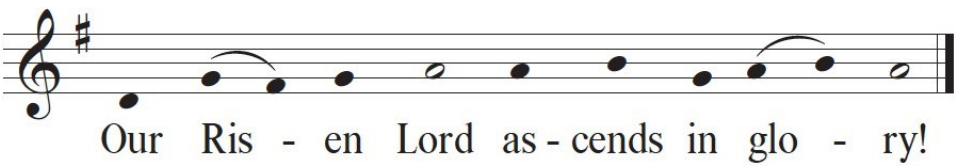
*Andrew Weisman*

We give thanks for their time and talent that they so willingly share with us to enhance our worship here at St Patrick's Cathedral. We thank all the choir members who share their talents and Dr Philip Matthias for his guidance and leadership.

TODAY’S LITURGY—YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.



Entrance Hymn CWBII 372 v1,2,3,4

A hymn of glory let us sing!  
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The holy apostolic band upon  
the Mount of Olives stand.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
And with the virgin mother see  
their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

To them the shining angels cry,  
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
"This is the Savior," thus they say,  
"This is his glorious triumph day!."  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to you let earth accord:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text Hymnum canamus gloriae; Venerable Dede, 673-735; trans. Elizabeth Rundle Charles (1858) alt, © 1978 Augsburg Fortress Publishers  
Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN 88.88 and alleluia; based melody from Auserlesenen Catholische Kirchengesang Cologne, 1623

1st Reading Acts 1:1-11

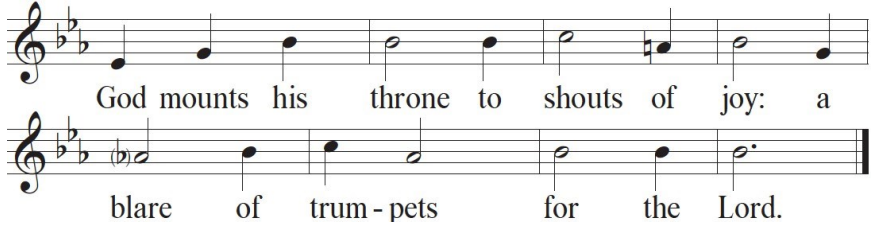
*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

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.’

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9

Response:



- 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. (R.)
- 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. (R.)
- 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. (R.)

2nd Reading Eph 1:17-23

*He made Jesus to 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 28:16-20

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

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 commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.’



THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in one 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 the 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 of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Communion Hymn CWBII 509 v1,2,3,4,5

Refrain: And I will raise him up, and I will raise him up,  
and I will raise him up on the last day.

I am the Bread of life. You who comes to me shall not hunger;  
and who believe in me shall not thirst.  
No-one can come to me, unless the Father beckons.

The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world,  
and if you eat of this bread,  
you shall live for ever, you shall live for ever.

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood,  
you shall not have life within you.

I am the resurrection, I am the life. If you believe in me,  
even though you die, you shall live fore ever.

Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ,  
the Son of God, Who has come into the world.

Text: Based on John 6; Suzanne Toolan RSM b. 1927  
Tune: I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE – Irregular with refrain; Suzanne Toolan RSM Words and music © 1966. 1970. 1986. 1993 GIA Publications Inc

Hymn after Communion/  
Recessional Hymn CWBII 377 v1,2,3

Refrain: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice! the Lord is King; your Lord and King adore;  
let all give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
when he has purged our stains, he took his seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail; the rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n:

Text: based on Philippians 4:4; Charles Wesley 1707-1788 alt  
Tune: DARWALL'S 148th 66.66.44.44; John Darwall 1731-1789

Mass Setting -11.00am Mass in G-Schubert  
-6.30pm Missa brevis-Palestrina  
Offertory Motet - 11.00am The Lord goes up-Francis  
Grier: The Lord goes up with shouts of joy, while  
trumpets all his triumph tell; with him humanity is raised  
above angelic worlds to dwell. Alleluia. He sits with God at  
his right hand, who is the Lord of everything; The Father's  
glory is his own; Christ Jesus, all creations king. And when he  
comes again in might, to raise us on that splendid day. We  
shall be gathered up to him, and every tear be wiped away.  
O God our Father, hear our prayer with Christ, our Lord,  
your only Son, Send forth the Spirit of your love, to live in us  
and make us one. Alleluia.  
- 6.30pm Non vos relinquam-Byrd  
Communion Motet - 11.00am Coelos ascendit hodie-  
CV Stanford: Today into the heavens has ascended,  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Alleluia! He sits at the  
Father's right hand, and rules heaven and earth, Alleluia!  
Now have been fulfilled all of Father David's songs, Now God  
is with God, Alleluia! He sits upon the royal throne of God, in  
this his greatest triumph, Alleluia! Let us bless the Lord: Let  
the Holy Trinity be praised, let us give thanks to the Lord,  
Alleluia! Amen.  
- 6.30pm Communion antiphon:  
Psallite Domino  
Organ Postlude - Mantra XXXIV– Andrew Newcombe  
(b.1970)

Wedding Congratulations  
Paris Lattouf and Daniel Raji



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Wednesday 24 May - Our Lady, Help of Christians,  
Patron of Australia (Solemnity)  
Friday 26 May - St Philip Neri (Memorial)

CATHEDRAL MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 7.00am and 1.00pm  
(1.00pm live streamed - Link: [www.youtube.com/user/archmelb](http://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb)) Saturday 8.00am and 6.00pm. (Vigil)  
Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am , 11.00am and 6.30pm.  
(11.00am televised on C31. and live streamed on CAM)  
Link: [www.youtube.com/user/archmelb](http://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb)  
Reconciliation will be held Tuesday to Friday at 12pm and  
on Saturday mornings at 8.30am (After the 8.00am Mass)

EXTRAORDINARY FORM LATIN MASS

In the Sacred Heart Chapel at St Patrick's Cathedral  
every Wednesday at 5.30pm

HOLY HOUR HELD IN THE CATHEDRAL  
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6.30PM

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Each Friday at the conclusion of the 1.00pm Mass,  
in the Sacred Heart Chapel. Exposition until 2.15pm.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

We pray for the sick and for all who have asked for our  
prayers.  
We pray for all those who have died recently,  
especially James Phuoc Nguyen and Alan Molyneux  
and those whose anniversaries we remember at this  
time, especially Francesco Gcala.



# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

## Service Sunday, 21st May at 5pm

“Do good; seek justice.”  
of Isaiah 1:17

Sermon: Rev. Canon A/Professor (Hon) Uncle Glenn Loughrey  
MA Wiradjuri

After the church everyone is warmly invited to stay for our  
church coffee in the church hall.



© “Invasion” Artist Munnari

German Lutheran Trinity Church, 22 Parliament Place, East Melbourne VIC 3002



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL  
MELBOURNE

## Celebrity Organ Recital

# Colin Andrews



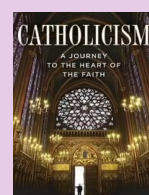
British organist **Colin Andrews** presents a  
virtuosic program  
spanning the centuries.  
Works by Bach, Franck,  
Howells, Bonnet and  
Messiaen.

**Friday 2 June, 6pm**  
**St Patrick's Cathedral**  
1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne

**Tickets \$30, Concession \$25**  
At door or [trybooking.com/BRYBS](http://trybooking.com/BRYBS)  
Children aged 15 years and under admitted free

### St Patrick's Cathedral Young Adult Ministry (SPCYAM) (age 18 to 40 yrs old)

Come and join us  
as we continue to  
deeper our  
Catholic Faith to  
be missionary disciples of  
Jesus Christ. In session “The  
Mystery of God”, we will  
explore the understanding  
for God's Existence using the  
rationale of St Anselm, St.  
Thomas Aquinas as well as  
Benedict XVI.  
On **Wednesday 24 May**,  
6:30-8:30pm, Cathedral  
Room,  
CKC, 383 Albert St, East  
Melbourne.



Social Night: **Saturday 27 May**. Meet at Cathedral  
Main Entrance after 6pm  
vigil mass for catch up.  
For further info please email  
to  
[alexander.chow@cam.org.au](mailto:alexander.chow@cam.org.au)

### Archbishop

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

### Dean of

### St Patrick's Cathedral

Very Rev Werner Utri

### Master of Ceremonies

Rev. Michael Buck

### Assistant Priest of Cathedral

Rev. Alexander Chow

### Priest in Residence

Rev. Philip Mathew

Chaplain: St Vincent's Hospital

### Director of Music

Dr. Philip Matthias

### Director

### Cathedral Organist

Dion Henman

### Cathedral Singers

Christopher Mason

### Director

Thomas Grubb

### Organist

### St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

in partnership with

### St Kevin's College, Toorak

### Cathedral Parish Secretary

Julie Allan

Cathedral Office

T: 9662 2233

E: [Cathedral@cam.org.au](mailto:Cathedral@cam.org.au)

[www.stpatrickscathedral.org.au](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.org.au)

### Cathedral Administration

### Assistant

Huong Nguyen

### SAFEGUARDING.

### Child Protection Officer:

### Rev Alexander Chow

Please refer to the two new posters  
'Rights and Responsibilities' and  
'Feel safe and be Safe at Our Church'  
at the entrances of the Cathedral  
[https://  
melbournecatholic.org/  
safeguarding](https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding).

### St Patrick's Cathedral Young Adult Ministry (SPCYAM) (age 18 to 40 yrs old)

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at  
Cathedral Room, CKC Centre,  
383 Albert St, East Melbourne

Last Saturday of each month;  
6pm mass, followed by meal.

Contact Fr. Alex Chow  
([Alexander.Chow@cam.org.au](mailto:Alexander.Chow@cam.org.au))  
or [info.spcyam@gmail.com](mailto:info.spcyam@gmail.com)

We welcome with joy through the sacrament  
of Baptism this weekend .

Mathilda Alexandra Chesterfield  
Louella Brigitta Angelique Pomella

