



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

17th May 2015
FEAST OF THE ASCENSION



**...AFTER HE
HAD SPOKEN
TO THEM
WAS TAKEN
UP INTO
HEAVEN**

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– Retired.

It is Luke that tells of the Forty Days and of the two 'men in white' who re-enact the scene of the empty tomb, saying 'Why are you looking for Jesus when he is not here.' This is a bitter sweet message: we depend on the Real Presence and look for Christ in many places, and here we are faced with his absence. But what the angels mean is that we are looking in the wrong place, 'among the dead' we were told at Easter. The message of the Ascension is not that he flew into the sky, but that Christ has been raised to a new kind of life; all things are under his authority and we must go out and work in his name, with the power we will receive when the Spirit comes. Ever since then we have been awaiting his return, not staring into the sky or trying to calculate the date, but bearing witness. 'Know that I am with you always.' How do we know? The best answer would be: In the breaking of bread. Notice that Luke says that Jesus was at table with the disciples in the 40 days. But sometimes our gaze is clouded and we are staring up to heaven rather than carrying out his work.

SMILE LINES

Lost in translation

A certain vicar had a kindly, pastoral heart. He often wrote little notes to any parishioners in distress, assuring them of his prayers. Then came the day he heard that one of his favourite old ladies in the church had been injured in a bad fall. The vicar felt so much sympathy that he wanted to add a note of pastoral affection. He thought of the little postscript that his young niece always added to her emails to him, which he took as a sign of her affection, and decided to add that to this note.

It read: "Dear Mrs Gantry, I am told that you fell down the stairs, broke both legs, and may be in hospital for some weeks. This is just to assure you that you are much in my thoughts." Then he added the postscript: LOL.

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Advice to young clergy on preaching

‘Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.’

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CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 10.30am - 11.00am and after the 6.00pm Mass.

QUOTE - Pope Francis

Therefore, this Word of God calls us to love each one another, even if we do not always understand each other, and do not always agree ... but that's where

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 16th May

10.00am Matthew Morris RIP

6.00pm Thomas & Edith Dare RIP

Sunday 17th May THE ASCENSION

8.30am Ursula Parrot RIPAnniv.

9.45am Bernadette & Ken Woodcock RIP

11.30am Paul Murphy (RIP)

Monday 18th May

9.15am Raynah Watson RIP

Tuesday 19th May

9.15am May Doyle RIP

Wednesday 20th May

9.15am Por Chiu RIPAnniv.

Thursday 21st May

11.00am Service of the Word

Friday 22nd May

9.15am Antonella Sutton RIP

Saturday 23rd May

10.00am

6.00pm Ints. Bridie Fox

Sunday 24th May

8.30am Vivienne & Tommy Bradley
RIPAnniv.

9.45am Christina Portman RIP

11.30am Sarah Sherwood RIP

we see Christian love. A love that also manifests itself when there are differences in opinion or character. But there's that love that is greater than these difference, that which Jesus teaches us. It is a love that is new, because it is renewed by Jesus and His Spirit. It is a love freed from egoism that gives us the joy in our hearts, so as Jesus himself says: "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full".