



# Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

## Newsletter

Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Patrick

**W**<sup>hy</sup> are you men from Galilee  
standing here  
looking into the sky?

Acts 1:10

### Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

Christ's resurrection and ascension are not things of the past. They are very much present and powerful in our world today if we allow them to affect our vision of life and to guide us in our search for the ultimate meaning of our common existence. Jesus promises to be with us until the end of time.

This feast replaces the 7th Sunday of Easter. Jesus returns to the Father



### World Communications Sunday

The message of Jesus, the great communicator, continues to be spread throughout the world by modern means. We pray for all those involved in the media. There is a **retiring collection for the Catholic Communications Network (CCN)**. This body promotes the Gospel through the media. The Office is the central point for enquiries from TV, radio and newspapers. See next page.

### Manchester 22nd May 2017

People of all faiths responded with horror at the atrocity in Manchester last Monday. Our prayers go to those who have died, those suffering serious injuries and those affected in any way and, of course all their families.

As well as the invaluable work of police and security services, doctors, nurses and paramedics, the positive to come out of this horror is the goodness of all those who came to the help of the injured, the distraught and lost: those at the concert, passers by, ordinary people as well as café owners offering free food and drink, taxi drivers coming from far and wide.

The best response to hate is love. And that shone out last Monday.



### FAITH IN FOCUS: SAME OLD SONG?

For many years, on the Thursday of Ascension, it was customary for one of the BBC radio stations to begin its morning broadcast by playing a well known hymn to celebrate the feast: "Hail the day that sees him rise."

This is quite surprising, since in an increasingly secularised society most people are unaware of the significance of the Ascension. But this great hymn tune is a great start to the feast.

People often wonder why Jesus waited around on earth 40 days after his resurrection, but that period is no accident. Jesus had endured the Devil's temptation for 40 days in the wilderness at the beginning of his public ministry, but now the tables were turned.

In the post-resurrection period Jesus triumphantly paraded his victory over the Devil and all his works. During this time, the conqueror of death displayed his supremacy before his faithful followers so that they might share in the joy of his victory. But there was another reason. Those 40 days of his appearing after the resurrection were of immense value to the believers for they established the reality of his lordship. A single sighting of the risen Christ may have been open to question, but his many encounters with them would remove the doubts of the most sceptical among them and assure them that he was risen indeed.

The Ascension is not about Christ leaving us, but about his going before us. Those of us who gather to celebrate this feast are far from being orphans abandoned to our own religious devices. Our Ascension Day liturgical assembly gathers to celebrate the virtue of hope, conscious that our prayers are to the God whose Son has now passed from our sight, but our songs vibrate with the faith-filled conviction that where Christ has gone we will surely follow.

So Ascension is very much an Easter feast even though we are tempted to think of it as a separate event. In fact, we speak about the "Easter Mysteries" which include the passion of Christ, his resurrection, his ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. Every time we take part in worship we are recalling some aspect or other of these four elements in the Easter story. That's why Easter is not a one-day but a fifty-day feast of music and prayer.

Like the other three Easter events, Ascension is about hope. Christ who has risen above death and evil ascends on high, not to leave us desolate and alone, but to send us the ever-present help of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Christ has finished his mission on earth as he ascends to the Father. He returns to claim a share in God's life for each one of us. Where he has gone we hope to follow.

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## World Communications Day

- Pope Francis' message for this day:
- I am convinced that we have to break the vicious circle of anxiety and stem the spiral of fear resulting from a constant focus on "bad news" Moreover, in a communications industry which thinks that good news does not sell, and where the tragedy of human suffering and the mystery of evil easily turn into entertainment, there is always the temptation that our consciences can be dulled or slip into pessimism.*

The **retiring collection today** goes to supporting the work of the **Catholic Communications Network** which is the focal points for all enquiries from the media on Catholic issues.

## OLMC Church Repairs Fund Raising Meeting

Thank you to the 12 people who came to the meeting last Tuesday. Many suggestions were made which can be seen on the copies which are available at the back of church. There were some interesting suggestions which will be implemented over the next few months—plus requests for people to lead them!

## Understanding Dementia Course

Three of our parishioners attended the recent course which encourages great awareness and how we must become a dementia friendly Church. Margaret Putt:

*I had the opportunity to attend the conference. We learnt about the various types of dementia and their symptoms. Also how environment, music and singing can be so helpful. We must also remember the fantastic job those who care for those with dementia do, and support them.*

**General Election 2017** The Bishops of England and Wales have published a document to encourage us to approach this General Election with a positive determination to consider carefully all that is at stake. There are copies at the back of church.

**First Holy Communion** This Sunday and next in both churches.

**Cathedral—Be a Chorister for a Day** Girls-Year 5, Sunday 25th June, Boys, Years 2 or 4, Sunday 18th June. Details on notice boards.

## Liverpool Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Association

If you are unable to be on the pilgrimage you can become an Associate member of the pilgrimage. You will find membership details and prayer cards at the back of church.

**Priests' Training Fund** This collection closes next week.

*John Southworth*



## Sunday 4th June 3pm Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving

Church leaders and congregations from across Merseyside gather in unity on this Feast of Pentecost to pray for the needs of our communities and our city.

**Cardinal Vincent Nichols** will give the Address on the theme *Thy Kingdom Come*.

## MASSES AND SERVICES

### In Church this week

- No Mass on Monday
- Requiem Mass on Friday at 9.30am

### Sunday 28th May

#### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

*Replacing the 7th Sunday of Easter*

Sat 5pm	Parishioners	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Peter Palmer	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Edward Peter Kirwan	OLMC

### Monday 29th May

9am NO MASS OLMC

### Tuesday 30th May

7pm Frances Cromby OLMC

### Wednesday 31st May

10am Mary & John Keatley St Patrick

### Thursday 1st June

10am Mr & Mrs Weston St Patrick

### Friday 2nd June

9.30am Requiem: Christine Balzan OLMC

### Sunday 4th June

#### PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sat 5pm	Eva Abernethy	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Aggie Marnell	OLMC

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday at OLMC 4-4.30pm

### Thursday Evening Service 7pm

Short Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

## Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday No 37

### Collections *Many thanks*

#### Mount Carmel

Sat Loose £92.77  
Sun Loose £92.70 Total Envelopes £121.00  
Total £306.47

**St Patrick** Envelopes £0 Loose £176.05 Total £176.05

## Please Pray For.... Those who have died:

James Chapman, Catherine Watts  
**The sick:** Bernard Duffy, Peter Olsen, Helen Melarange, Jack Davies, Joan Higgins, Joe McNicholas, Michael McNicholas, Billy Thompson, Freya Matheson, Pat & Brian Smedley, Bernadette Morgan, Rene Humphreys, Clifford Browne, Gary Hollinson, Jackie Heath-Anderson, Ted Cunningham, Anne Deuchar, Charlotte Rice, Irene Finneran, Lisa Balshaw, Mary Kewley, Claire Kearney, Lyn Barton, Betty Devine, Tony Jones, Kathleen Devine, Joseph Baxendale, Ann Chapman, Nadia Kent, Susan Roberts, Alex Sielski, Lee Foster, Paula Lacey, Denise King, John Dunning, Tommy Huyton, Emily Rolands, Angela Kent, David Majoury, Donald Smith, Pius Laizer, Maria Jones, Mary O'Toole, Sally Wilkins, Michael Murphy, Margaret Chung, David Stevenson, Thomas & John Paul Conroy, Keith Holden, Kathleen Crownly, Joanne Fairbrother, Eileen Edwards, Erin Caulfield, Lisa Ginley, Lillian O'Connor, Owen Hall, Anne Brannigan, Thelma Mainwaring, Cheryl and Lenny Hart, Sheila Chapman, Elaine Gorry, Alexandra Reid, Winifred Williamson, Kathryn Reid, Wally Williams, Chrissy White, Nicholas Maher, John Hodson, Terry Macklin, Muriel Minshull, Peter Bengener, Maureen Ryan, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks, Teresa Koo, Holly and Lucy Brown.