

Ascension too is a Verb

A few eyebrows were lifted on Easter Sunday when the banner on the *Catholic Link* proclaimed, "Resurrection is a verb". Well, so is the Ascension and so is Pentecost.

Of course, a verb can be active (he hit his brother) or passive (she was hit by a tennis ball). On reflection, it's fair to say that all the Christian mysteries are both active and passive.

We have a particular difficulty in speaking about the Ascension of Jesus. Our minds have been influenced by pictures of astronauts landing on the moon or of people queuing up to leave earth and head for Mars. We tend to think of the Ascension in terms of interplanetary travel.

The Evangelists were more cautious. Luke gives us two accounts of the Ascension: "He withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven" (24:51) and in Acts "A cloud took him from their sight" (1:9).

This has nothing to do with our regular weather forecasts as in "sunny, becoming cloudy". In the long Jewish literary tradition, a cloud is used as a symbol of the presence of God. During the exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land, God travelled with the Israelites as a "cloud by day and a fire by night". When Moses was summoned to God's presence on Mt Sinai, God descended to him "in a cloud". God's presence was almost palpable in the Tent of Meeting through the cloud, the same cloud that filled the Holy of Holies in the Temple of Jerusalem.

The cloud enveloped Jesus in the Ascension; Jesus was taken up into glory in order

to be more present than ever before in our world, albeit in a different form of presence. By entering the cloud of God, even in his resurrected humanity, Jesus remains with us.

In not leaving us orphans, Jesus expands the scope of his ministry among us. No longer limited by time or space or culture or language, Jesus' ministry knows no bounds.

To live by the spirit of the risen, ascended Jesus is to live by his holiness, his zeal, and his joy. Today's Liturgy adds another dimension to this verb, Ascension: "He ascended not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before." (Preface 1 of the Ascension of the Lord). His Ascension bears directly on our end times. In God's

plan we are destined for the cloud of eternal life.

What the "new heavens and the new earth" are, promised in the Book of Revelation, remain a mystery awaiting deeper insight into the many biblical images we have of our faith. But this puts no limits on the mighty deeds of God on our planet, nor does it dismiss the awe-inspiring notion of the "cosmic Christ". The language of Ascension includes the prophecy in Revelation 21:5, "Now I am making the whole of creation new".

We live in an expanding universe, not just physically but spiritually and mystically. May we never lose sight of the "cloud", the abiding presence of God in the resurrection and ascension of His Son.



The Ascension, from the Drogo Sacramentary, c.850 AD

SUNDAY MASS

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.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 47.

RESPONSE:

God has gone up with shouts of joy. The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

1. All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
the great king over all the earth. **℟**
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! **℟**
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God reigns over the nations.
God sits upon his holy throne. **℟**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:17-23.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the close of the age. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 18 May (St John I, PM)

Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 68; John 16:29-33

God invites each one of us to do our part, to share in his mission. We all have a unique share in God's plan. What is your part? How does Jesus direct his mission through you?

Tue 19 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 20:17-27; Psalm 68; John 17:1-11

Do you want God to speak to you with greater clarity? Like Mary, say "Yes" to that which God wants of you. Building a habit of saying yes will open the door to greater clarity in all God wants to say.

Wed 20 May (St Bernardine of Siena, Pr)

Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 68; John 17:11-19

Today we are invited to be careful about our words. "Whenever you hear His Holy Name pronounced, bow your head; do so likewise every time you say His Sacred Name". – St Bernardine of Siena

Thu 21 May (St Christopher Magallanes, Pr & Companions, Ms)

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16; John 17:20-26

He and his fellow martyrs are famously associated with the cry, "Viva Cristo Rey!" (Long live Christ the King!). May this inspire us to make Christ king in our hearts.

Fri 22 May (St Rita of Cascia, R)

Acts 25:13-21; Psalm 103; John 21:15-19

Known as the Patroness of Impossible Causes, St Rita is remembered for her deep faith, patience, and devotion to the Passion of Christ. Her most famous quote is: "There is nothing impossible to God".

Sat 23 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 28:16-20.30-31; Psalm 11; John 21:20-25

Invite the Risen Christ to walk with you during times of anxiety, loneliness and distress. "We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence." –Pope Francis

Sun 24 May PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104; John 20:19-23

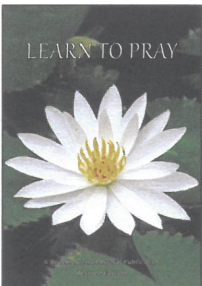
"The Church of Christ is always, so to speak, in a situation of Pentecost: she is always gathered in the Upper Room in prayer, and at the same time, driven by the powerful wind of the Spirit...". – St John Paul II

KEY: **SOLEMNITY;** FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
P=Pope; M=Martyr; Pr=Priest; R=Religious

Books from Redemptorist Pastoral Publications

This is a revised edition of the ever-popular Redemptorist Pastoral Publication, "**Learn to Pray: Discovering different forms of prayer.**" The title itself evokes the incident in the Gospels where the disciples petitioned Jesus: "Lord, teach us to pray!"

Throughout the Christian centuries, subsequent disciples of Jesus have also wanted to learn how to pray, and have developed different techniques of praying. This booklet gathers together some of the many different possible ways of praying.



R40
plus delivery

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CHRIST THE KING PARISH

1154 Woodlands Drive, Queenswood, PRETORIA,
0186

Webpage: Christ the King Queenswood
Tel: 012 333 4738

MASS INTENTIONS MAY 2026

16	Sat	17h00	Our Lady of Fatima Congratulations to Jordan and Caitlin Griffiths on their wedding today - Helene
17	Sun	08h00	RIP Augusta & Fernando Moutinho & Palmira Dias RIP Maria dos Reis Ferreira RIP Celestino Agrião RIP João Sardinha RIP Fatima de Abreu RIP Uyanda Dlomo Special intention Vocation discernment
		10h00	RIP Clementina de Nobrega
		17h00	
18	Mon	18h00	COMMUNION SERVICE RIP Piero Cupido
19	Tues	18h00	
20	Wed	18h00	RIP Gianni Olori
21	Thu	18h00	
22	Fri	18h00	

SICK LIST

We pray for the sick, housebound and their caregivers.



Richard Heslop, Kevin Demmer, Gerty Carmichael, Harold de Jongh, Gordon Milburn, Lyn Bogle, Veronica Wheeler, Leonardo, Ken Walters, Wendy Elliott, Genevieve van der Merwe, Gideon Wathen, Nadine Botha, Enita Davies, Michael Serrao, Vincent S, Leo Vest, Miriam Marais and Ivo Sinovich

PARISH NOTICES

MASS TIME CHANGE

Kindly note the new Mass times during the winter season until September 2026. Saturday and Sunday evening Masses are now at 17h00. Confession will start at 16h15 on Saturday.

PRETORIA EASTERN DEANERY DAY:

All parishioners are encouraged to participate in this day of fellowship & prayer on the 30th May 2026 at the Church of the Beatitudes, Zwavelpoort. The day starts at 9am and ends at 4pm. Stalls are available to hire at a cost of R250 each. All payments can be made through the parish office by 20th May.

Please wear anything **YELLOW** on the day.

Program for the day:

09h00 Adoration with Confession

10h00 Rosary Procession

11h00 Holy Mass

12h30 onwards Fellowship, stalls, games, Kiddies Corner and entertainment for all. There is a register in the church porch to fill in for all those interested in going.

Please join us for an amazing day.

NGOME TRIP SEPTEMBER 2026:

The Ngome trip is on the weekend of the 18th of September 2026.

We are inviting all interested parties to contact the parish office for further details and booking arrangements.

The cost will be R2200.00 per person. Please forward all proof of payment to

secretary@christking.org.za

All payments must be received by the end of July for the bus to be booked. Please keep all proof of all payments made for reconciliation purposes.

Please use the main account for your payments 011564733 referencing Ngome and your name.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

The Social Committee will be selling cookies and ginger juice after the 8am and 10am Masses. Kindly support their initiative.

PARISH FINANCES

TITHING:

All parishioners who are tithing can find the record of payments made on the notice board. Please check that your payment is registered. If you would like to tithe, please fill in the form in the box.

Please continue to support our Parish via the banking details or the attached Snapscan code

Email details: Finance@christking.org.za

Banking details:

Christ the King Catholic Church

Standard Bank Branch 051001

Main Account No. 011564733

Tithing Account No. 011181230

SnapScan

Scan the SnapCode to complete the payment.



Queenswood Catholic Church

NEWS



We are looking for volunteers to assist with the SPRED program. Please contact Catarina on 0813413583 or Jordy on 0614128918.

BAPTISMS:

Our next baptism will be on the 7th of June after the 10am Mass. All parents wanting to baptise their children must contact the parish office to make an appointment with Fr Daniel.

WEDDINGS:

All those wishing to be religiously married in the Parish must please contact the parish office **before booking the wedding venue** as there are matters of importance that need to be discussed.

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Priest:

Fr. Daniel Kivuv'a IMC

Tel: 012 333 4738 / 071 306 3769

Email: dankbwa@yahoo.fr

Parish Office Administrator:

Angela Solomons

secretary@christking.org.za

Office Hours:

Mon to Fri 07h30 - 15h30

Tel: 012 333 4738

For any appointments with Fr. Daniel, please contact Angela, she manages Fr. Daniel's diary.

University Chaplain:

Fr Charles Mundia 071 364 0150

Email: cmundia@gmail.com

CARITAS

CHRIST THE KING OUTREACH PROGRAMME



We provide various food parcels, baby and adult clothing, all household items and toys to the less fortunate. We support various homes for both adults and children. Should you have items that you wish to donate these can be dropped off at the parish office during the week or left in the baskets at the back of the church over the weekends. We continue to assist many families in our parish with everyday necessities thanks to your generous donations. Should you wish to donate to this worthy cause our banking details are: **Christ the King Catholic Church Queenswood: Standard bank, Cheque account, Account number 011182709, Branch code 000145**