

REFLECTION

In the time between Easter and the Ascension, the apostles had many questions for Jesus. He had told them he was leaving them to return to the Father, so they were anxious to ask him what they needed to know. Here they ask him, "Lord, has the time come?" Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" They are still thinking in earthly terms. Jesus' answer does not satisfy those questions. He promises that they will "receive power when the Holy Spirit comes", but what does that mean for them?

He was not going to restore the land of Israel to David and his descendants. He was not going to show them a glimpse of heaven (in many ways he had already done that at the Transfiguration). Instead, when they received the Spirit they would literally have a baptism of fire. They would be given power so that they could take on the role of Christ: to teach and to nourish and to serve; to be persecuted and to hunger and to be put to death.

Jesus disappeared from bodily view. But for us that means that he has left us here as orphans! Or has he? On the day of his Ascension, one might conclude that Jesus removed himself into a new form of divine exclusion. The case is exactly the opposite. In God, Jesus is "here" in a new and very specific way. Only in his physical separation from the historical scene can his spiritual union with all the world for all time be complete.

The mysterious feast of the Ascension reminds us that Christ accepts our lack of self-confidence in ourselves. He accepts the shadowy and dark areas of our humanity. He accepts our capacity for deceit, betrayal, greed and power. And having accepted us, he calls us, gives us the eternal commission to be his people, and sends us to serve him and love him, in spite of ourselves and because of ourselves.

Through his Ascension, Jesus shows that clinging to him in time and history serves no purpose. He does not cling to the people around him, unwilling to let them go free in order to continue their mission. Rather, his whole life, death and resurrection teach us to accept everyone and everything as a gift, on loan to us. It is not good to cling tightly to relationships or to hoard earthly treasures. On this feast let us learn to revere all that we have with deep gratitude, and hold everything in open hands.

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OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION Parish Newsletter

6th Sunday of Easter, Year A
21st May 2017

SUNDAY MASSES

BROADFORD:
6pm Vigil

PORTREE
Sunday 10 am

DORNIE
Sunday 12:45pm

MONDAY,
10:30am, Portree

TUESDAY,
1pm, Portree

WEDNESDAY,
7pm, Portree

THURSDAY,
6pm, Dornie
7:30pm, Broadford

FRIDAY,
7pm, Portree

CONFESSION
before and after Mass
And on request

SATURDAY,
6pm Broadford

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks everyone for their kind donations to Fr. James' on his 40th anniversary of Ordination. On Monday I sent him a cheque for £550 from the parish with our best wishes.

Thursday is the feast of the Ascension. It is a Holyday of Obligation, and the Masses are at the usual times: Vigil Mass in Portree on Wednesday, 7pm, and then on Thursday at 6pm in Dornie and 7:30pm in Broadford.

I have to go to Inverness for an appointment during the week. I do not yet know which day I will have to go, so so Mass on Tuesday and Friday might be subject to cancellation at short notice. I have asked Fr. Danny Convery to come for the Feast of the Ascension, so there will be Mass on Wednesday and Thursday as scheduled.

Next Sunday is Communications Sunday, and there will be a Special Collection which will go to the Bishops' Conference for, among other things, the Scottish Catholic Media Office.

There is a letter this weekend from all the bishops asking us to vote with our consciences in the upcoming General Election.

I received a letter from SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) reminding us that as the election approaches, that we should use our consciences as we vote, to protect the dignity of all life, especially the most vulnerable. If you would like more information or to receive a General Election pack, please phone 0141 221 2094 or email them at election2017@spucscotland.org

If there is anyone heading towards Inverness in the next while, and they have space in their car (and a bit of spare time) could they take the items we have collected for Syria to the Highland Supports Refugees depot in Conon Bridge? I am a bit stuck for time in the short term. If you can, let me know and I will give you the address.

To our visitors: you are very welcome to stay for tea/coffee after Mass. If you are a UK taxpayer, please take one of the white Gift Aid envelopes from the porch and fill it in. There are also cards and gifts for sale. Thank you very much.

Vacancy – Diocesan Treasurer

Location: Oban

Hours of Work: Part-time –
approximately 1.5 days per week (with flexibility)

Salary: £18 per hour

The RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles is seeking to recruit a part-time Diocesan Treasurer, based in the Diocese Offices in Oban. This is an important new post, carrying significant responsibility to offer financial direction across the Diocese, overseeing the day-to-day management of all financial functions.

In line with the Church's Code of Canon Law (Canon 494), the Diocesan Treasurer will be regarded as the Diocesan Financial Administrator and will be appointed for 5 years, after which the appointment may be renewed.

The Treasurer will work closely with the Vicar General and Diocese staff to be responsible for the financial strategic plan, accounts, budgets, audits and fund-raising, ensuring robust and compliant monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

The successful candidate will be a qualified Accountant (ACCA, CIMA, CIPFA), be able to think strategically, with excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to work outside of the job description on occasions. All applicants must be willing to work within a Christian framework and be sensitive to its ethos.

An Application Form and Job Description / Person Specification can be obtained by emailing the Vicar General at FrRoddyJohnston@aol.com.

Completed application forms should be returned by post to:

Rev. Roderick Johnston VG,
Our Holy Redeemer Church,
71 Kenneth Street,
Stornoway. HS1 2DS.

The closing date for applications is at 5pm on Friday 2 June 2017

MUSIC FOR MASS

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| Entrance: | 312 | Love divine, all loves excelling |
| Offertory: | 48 | Be still and know I am with you |
| Communion: | 455 | Soul of my Saviour |
| Recessional: | 201 | Holy Virgin, by God's decree |