



St. Bede's Catholic School &  
Byron Sixth Form College

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May

**Faith ~ Excellence ~ Determination**

Ascension



St. Bede's Catholic School &  
Byron Sixth Form College



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Byron Sixth Form College

# Mission Statement

With the Lord's help, we are united in **faith**, we strive for success and **excellence**, we are **determined** to be the best that we can be.

**Faith ~ Excellence ~ Determination**



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Byron Sixth Form College



St. Bede's Catholic School &  
Byron Sixth Form College

We take a few moments of stillness to ready our hearts and minds.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



St. Bede's Catholic School &  
Byron Sixth Form College

# Opening Prayer

As we gather this morning, we ask the Lord to be with us as we begin a new week.

God our Father, today we rejoice that your Son, Jesus, has joined you in heaven. From heaven, Jesus has promised to stay with us forever.

Encouraged by this promise, help us to share your love and mercy with everyone we meet; for this is the mission your Son gave us. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**



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# This weeks theme is Ascension.

The feast of the Ascension in the Catholic church is designated as a holy day of obligation. This marks a feast of great importance within the Catholic Church. Ascension takes place 40 days after Easter Sunday and commemorates the day on which the resurrected Jesus leaves his disciples in Galilee to join God the Father in heaven. Before he did so, Jesus shared with his disciples his final instruction – known as the Great Commission – to go out and deliver the message of God's love and mercy with everyone, everywhere. This is the mission all Christ's followers continue to share, and which this liturgical prayer encourages pupils to fulfil.

On Thursday we will take part in a celebration of the Word and celebrate Ascension Thursday.



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of the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit. Amen



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# Opening Prayer

As we gather this morning, we ask the Lord to be with us as we begin a new day.

**Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee;  
Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is  
the fruit of thy womb Jesus.**

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.**

Amen



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Reading: A reading from John 20:17  
Glory to you O Lord

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold onto me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father, and your Father, to my God and your God."

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God



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## Reflection:

When the women went to visit the tomb and found that it was empty they met a man, they did not immediately recognise him as Jesus but did eventually realise who this was. Jesus was telling them that he had not ascended into heaven yet as his work was not fully complete. There was more that he had to do and once that was complete he would then ascend to be with his Father in heaven.



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Let us put ourselves in the presence of God as we make the sign of the cross.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

# Ascension Thursday

9<sup>th</sup> May 2024



We gather as a school family to celebrate the Ascension of Jesus.

Ascension means 'going up' and today we remember how, forty days after his resurrection, Jesus returned to heaven.

In the Catholic faith, Ascension traditionally falls 40 days after Easter, which is a Thursday. It is a holy day of obligation. On Ascension Thursday Jesus ascended into heaven.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, he told the apostles to wait on the Holy Spirit to come upon them. They stayed and prayed for 9 days until Pentecost Sunday, making the first novena.

A novena is a prayer prayed for 9 days and the concept is based on this event.

The ascension of Jesus is the 2nd glorious mystery of the rosary!

Word: Luke ends his gospel with this story of Jesus' ascension.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke  
**Glory to you O Lord**

Jesus said to his disciples: "This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And I myself will send upon you what my Father has promised. But you must wait in the city until the power from above comes down upon you."

Then he led them out of the city, as far as Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he was blessing them, he departed from them and was taken into heaven. They worshipped him and went back into Jerusalem, filled with great joy, and spent all their time in the Temple giving thanks to God.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Today, as we reflect on the story of Jesus returning to his Father, we remember also his promise to be with us always. Though he is no longer visible on earth, he is still present with us.

Jesus reminds his friends that they are to be witnesses, to tell the world about him. He promises that he will send a power from above, the Holy Spirit, to help them to do this.

Jesus entrusts his mission of love to the disciples. He entrusts his mission of love to each of us.

Jesus' ascension means we must now be the hands and feet and voice of Jesus in the world. We need to go out and be disciples of Christ.



As St Teresa of Avila wrote:

Christ has no body now but yours.  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet which he walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands through which he blesses all  
the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours  
are the eyes,  
You are his body.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.



Let us pray:

Jesus, you are with us always. Help us to recognise your presence in all our brothers and sisters around the world.

***May we share your love with all people.***

Jesus, you bring us good news. We pray for all who share your message of peace.

***May we share your love with all people.***

Jesus, you are risen from the dead. May we celebrate the joy of the resurrection,

***May we share your love with all people.***

Jesus, you ascended into heaven. Help us keep our eyes fixed on you.

***May we share your love with all people.***

Jesus, you promised the Holy Spirit to us. Make us witnesses to you in our everyday life.

***May we share your love with all people.***



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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May

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of the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit. Amen



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# Opening Prayer

As we gather this morning, let us pray together the prayer Our Father taught us:

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is  
in Heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our  
trespasses.**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead  
us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil**

**Amen**



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**Reading: A reading from Acts of the  
Apostles 1:9**

After Jesus said this, he was taken up before  
their eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

## Reflection:

In this reading from Acts, we are read about the ascension of the Lord Jesus into heaven. The Lord had appeared to his disciples at various times after his resurrection but it was now time for him to leave for good until his return in glory.



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This week we have talked about the ascension of Jesus into heaven. He was only here for a short time but in that time he taught us to live together in harmony and treat each other with respect. He gave that task to a group of people (disciples) and not just one person. He did that because it is easier to work for good if lots of people do this. If someone tries to achieve something positive on their own, they often find that it is difficult or at times impossible. By working together we can achieve so much.

Let us join together in prayer.



Heavenly Father, we pray for our school and parish family. Guided by your Holy Spirit may we work together with faith and confidence, treat each other with kindness and compassion, and build a community where the example of your Son, Jesus, is followed by all.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for missionaries who travel the world to share the message of your love and mercy. May they may follow closely the example of your Son, Jesus, and build with all people your kingdom of justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for missionaries who travel the world to share the message of your love and mercy. May they may follow closely the example of your Son, Jesus, and build with all people your kingdom of justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**





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# Closing prayer

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses.  
As we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into  
temptation, But deliver us from evil**

**Amen**

**St Bede,  
Pray for us**



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In the name of the Father and of  
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen