



St Francis of Assisi Parish



REFLECTIONS

ASCENSION SPECIAL

Dear Friends,

The Lord's Ascension scenario is described in the Acts of the Apostles 1:10. He was lifted up while they looked on and a cloud took him from their sight. Two angels in white spoke to them. "Why are you, men of Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there." So now we acclaim with the Psalmist in Psalm 46: "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."

On an earlier occasion, Jesus had already told the disciples. "I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me, will perform that same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father." Hence, Ascension of the Lord is an assurance for us that heaven exists and we are all meant to go to heaven and that heaven is our real home. We are all citizens of heaven. What a joyful fact it is!

Ascension is also a call for us to carry on in the world, while living on earth, a life of witnessing to the Lord. "Go all over the world, preach the good news and baptise the believers in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." That is the last command of the Lord Jesus to his disciples. Later, that mission was carried out by the disciples in a faithful manner, with the result that today the name of Jesus and his Way are known all through the world in more than 140 countries. Many nations are guided by the principles of Christian Faith and millions of people have followed in the footsteps of Jesus gaining salvation, joy and happiness in life.

Hence, Ascension of the Lord is a historical fact, telling us about our Heavenly Home and about our obligation to spread the news about heaven to all who open their hearts to Faith. This is our continual Christian Vocation.

"All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God". Psalm 97:1

Fr Joseph Rathnaraj
Parish Priest

24 May 2020