



Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral

DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Inner Newcastle Parish: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill; St Laurence O'Toole Church, Broadmeadow. **Mayfield Parish:** Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

SUNDAY 16TH MAY 2021

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR B

Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan
Fr Peter Street
Fr Peter Thoai
Fr Matthew Muller
Fr John Vo
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Anne Warren (*Business Manager Finance*)
Jade Simonsen (*Business Manager Property*)
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin*)

Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team: Contact the Parish Office

Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm
(02) 4979 1116

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office

Parish Bulletin: Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.

GO OUT TO ALL
THE
⇒ **WORLD** ⇐
and
proclaim
the Good News
to ALL
CREATION



Sacred Heart Cathedral sits on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and their continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past, present and future, and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

7th Week of Easter, Year B

Monday—17th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—18th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Wednesday—19th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Thursday—20th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Friday—21st May

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield (if there is no Mass at St Columban school)

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—22nd May

9.20am Mass @ The Cathedral followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (followed by Reconciliation)—CANCELLED

5:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sunday—16th May

Pentecost Sunday

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9am Mass @ The Junction

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Live streamed via the Diocesan website:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. From Monday 17th to Sunday 23rd May 2021, Australia will celebrate the significant contribution of almost six million volunteers across our nation. This year's National Volunteer Week theme is Recognise, Reconnect and Reimagine. The Diocese and its agencies have more than 6000 volunteers that do amazing work and make a significant contribution every day. This year we will host a volunteer week event on Thursday 20th May at Event Cinemas Kotara beginning at 5:30pm to celebrate volunteers and the work they do. The movie is *June Again* and catering is provided. RSVP volunteers@mn.catholic.org.au or call 02 49791348

FINDING GOD IN AUSTRALIA | RETREAT

Presented by Father John Hill, this retreat will be held at St Clement's from Friday 6 to Saturday 7 August. Bushfires, drought, the effects of Covid-19, church scandals - there are so many challenges to our faith in today's Australia. This retreat offers you the chance to come to a place of quiet, to take stock of your own life, to reflect about life here in Australia and to renew the foundations of faith for the future. In the retreat we will use the beauty and quiet of St Clement's to help us experience the presence of God, to pray and celebrate together and see how God is at work in our land and our lives.

Ensuite Room \$350, shared facilities \$300.

Please contact St Clement's to register: info@stclement.com.au or phone 02 6380 5222
Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm.

PLANNED GIVING

We are auditing our planned giving envelopes for the Newcastle parish this year. If you are a current planned giver and use envelopes please contact the CRCC office newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au or PO Box 6, The Junction, 2291 or #49791101 and confirm your wish to continue with planned giving into the new financial year. Please provide us with: Name, Address, Email and phone number, and which church you attend. Please note that Mayfield and Stockton parishes will not be audited this financial year, but perhaps next.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION:

Living Waters, 34 Kenrick St., The Junction:

Wednesday, 7.30 am

Friday, 11.00 am

Monday, 6.30 pm

CONTACT: annecuskelly@hotmail.com or

0407 436 808

No NOVENA MASS May 22 due to the Synod

HAMILTON SOUTH COMMUNITY KITCHEN

CatholicCare Food Programs is excited to announce that the new Hamilton South Community Kitchen will launch in late May at the Hamilton South Community Centre.

Each Wednesday between 11:00 am – 1:00 pm CatholicCare will offer a free meal to the Hamilton South community. In preparation for the launch, we are seeking volunteers who are available between 10:00 am – 1:30 pm to assist with the operation. There are many different roles available whether it is cooking, serving, collecting donations, setting up or having a chat with our Friends. To express your interest contact Baden Ellis, Food Programs Coordinator by email volunteers@catholiccare.org.au or call our office on 4979 1339.

CELEBRATE LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2021

Sowers of Hope: You are invited to celebrate the Laudato si' Anniversary Year with others from across Australia through prayer, scripture, dialogue and reflection.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Office of Social Justice and Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare program are co-hosting this Laudato si' – Sowers of Hope event.

When: Friday 21 May 2021, 5:30 - 6:30 pm (AEST)

Where: Watch online or watch with others at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill

More information: <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/04/16/laudato-si-sowers-of-hope/>



Don't miss out on Sowers of Hope!

Join us for prayer, scripture, reflection and dialogue to celebrate the end of Laudato Si' Year.

Friday May 21st 5:30-6:30pm

<http://bit.ly/sowersofhope>

THE PARISH LUNCHEON

The Parish luncheon will be held on Monday 17th May at 12.30pm in the Victor Peters Suite. Please join friends for this lovely opportunity to be together socially. For more information, please contact Maureen - 0412 673151

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home.

God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message.

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/96144217758>

Password: pray

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

LECTIO DIVINA VIA ZOOM

View, Chew, and Chat continues to meet via Zoom. During the Easter Season, we will employ the practice of *Lectio Divina* to prayerfully reflect on the Gospel of the coming Sunday.



"Lectio Divina", a Latin term, means "divine reading" and describes a way of reading the Scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us. We meet via Zoom each Wednesday from 7pm.

To participate, please email the office.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 6th June @ 6pm: Bookclub meets to discuss Miss Benson's *Beetle* by Rachel Joyce. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

LORD MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle Councillor Nuatali Nelmes requests the company of you and your guests to attend the Annual Lord Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

This event will be held in The Arena Room, NEX Newcastle on Friday, 4 June 2021.

Early Bird tickets are \$39.99 (ends 10 May).

RSVP: 2 June 2021. Tickets available:

<https://ti.to/kingdomworks/2021-annual-lord-mayor-s-prayer-breakfast>

RESURRECTION FOR THE WHOLE COSMOS

BY FATHER MICHAEL TATE

When you think about it, Our Risen Lord could have continued to appear to groups of followers generation after generation until now! But He didn't. Why not?

He needed to wean His followers from His visible presence in part because He needed to overcome the natural tendency of human beings to be self-centred, in this case to think that the Resurrection was just for them.

He withdrew his *visible* presence in order to make it clear that other realms of creation were to share in His victory over death and decay, that the whole of creation is going to share in the transformation of life, which for human beings is experienced as the resurrection of the body.

St Paul paints a wonderful picture about this in the Epistle to the Romans. He portrays the universe as a woman groaning in childbirth, but full of expectation and hope. Hope for what? Saint Paul says that 'the creation itself would be set free from its slavery to decay in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God.'

Is this all delayed until the end of time? No. The transformation, the enhancing of the universe begins even now.

Even in our present state, ordinary human beings have a very remarkable significance for the whole universe.

Over the last few days, Mount Wellington has looked magnificent capped with snow, and the River Derwent has been wonderfully calm and tranquil. Every rock, every ripple has been visible in the clearest, brightest air.

But, one hundred thousand years ago Mount Wellington was never able to praise God for the beauty of the Derwent River, nor was the Derwent River able to praise God for the grandeur of Mt Wellington.

Mount Wellington, the Derwent River, indeed the whole universe needed human beings to look with the eye of intelligence attuned to beauty, to see it as the work of the Creator and to praise God for its splendour and loveliness. No doubt, the angels were able to do so but we are the *inner* heart and mind and voice of the whole of *material* creation.

So, even now, it is utterly different because of us, and even more utterly different because of the Resurrection.

The whole cosmos is filled with Our Lord's resurrection presence. There is a transforming Divine Power radiating through His glorified humanity, reaching out

to every molecule and quantum of energy, to the farthest reaches of the most distant galaxies, to the eons of time back to the Big Bang, and able to affect every place and time in the future.

I believe that Our Lord did us a great favour in withdrawing His visible presence from us in the Ascension so that we can more easily get the 'Big Picture' as portrayed by St Paul.

Eventually the whole of creation will participate in Our Lord's resurrection. Like us, it will no longer be subject to exhaustion, entropy, disintegration and death.

In the meantime, at every Mass that Divine Resurrection Power is at work. After the invoking of the Holy Spirit, and the reciting of the words of consecration from the Last Supper, elements of the universe, wheat-bread, grapes-wine, become the Real Presence of Our Risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ – become His glorious Resurrection Body.

That is the reason I decided to become a priest. Imagine the privilege of being a servant of the Divine transformation of the whole of creation in the light of the Resurrection.

At every Mass, there is an anticipation of what Our Lord ascended to commence:

'... the creation itself would be set free ... in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God.'

When you come forward to receive those transformed elements of creation, you share in the destiny of the whole of creation!

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Prayer Requests

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fay Lonergan, Fay Mohr, Maureen Moule, Stephen Matkovic, Brendon Kelaher, Bernard Wood, Dorothy Mary Smith

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin Lynch, June Brotherson, Sr Mary Jackson rsj, Dr Vince Dalton, Peggy Basket, Ruth Dunn, Ronald Humphries

SICK: Carlo Rossi, Graham Chegwiddden, Gabriel Wood, Rebecca Penhall, Mark Murray, Bryan Hornets

Names may be placed here by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

St Josephs – the council will be out in the next two to three weeks to assess the safety of the trees and the litter they drop in Farquhar street. We will keep you updated in the progress of this matter.

Broadmeadow. Clergy of the region met to discuss the Broadmeadow church. We await a broad spectrum analysis and quote on the electricals in the church. The electricals are currently unsafe.

Stockton is nearing completion. The stormwater works are finished and the reglazing is underway.

THE BREAKFAST CONVERSATION (BYO BREAKFAST!!)

For Our May **COVID-safe** gathering we will be returning to our usual venue, at the **Regional Office, The Junction.**

What? **Kris Smith, visual artist and former Coordinator of Photomedia in the School of Creative Industries at the UoN, will speak about & illustrate projects he has been involved in, and his current art practice.**

When? **Monday 17th May** Commencing at: **7.15am.**
We continue to be Covid Safe, so please **BYO coffee and eats.**

At our April meeting, only 3 of about 14 had received their Covid Injection, so we will not be providing cuppas, etc. QR sign in, sanitisers, and usual Covid protocol.

Where? Rear Entrance – **St Benedict's Centre, 25 Farquhar St, The Junction**

Why? **Fellowship and information**

Who? **All welcome**

Enquiries? **Neil Jones 0410 572 579**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Sunday 16th May, Pentecost Sunday, Year B
Acts 2:1-11,
1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13,
John 20:19-23



SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

A REFLECTION BY ANNE MILLARD

I played for a funeral this week. The son of the deceased told me a story about the kindness of the ladies in the bakery around the corner from the hospital where his mum spent her last few months. His mum didn't like hospital food, so he frequented the bakery to bring her some tempting treats.

Over the weeks he got to know those ladies. After his mum died, he dropped into the bakery to let them know. Although there were other customers both ladies stopped what they were doing to shed a tear as they shared a moment of grief and loss. "That's so Newcastle", the son told me. That's so Newcastle. How fabulous that our city is thought of as a place where people care.

The streets around where I live are all crazy narrow. We play roulette navigating them; drive a bit then duck into an empty spot to let another car through. Now, I kind of enjoy the adrenaline of it all. I'm delighted when other drivers let me through, and I go out of my way to give them a smile and a wave. Maybe a bit too much actually.

I'm pretty good at pulling aside to let other cars through, too. But I really like a wave or gesture of thanks. I like my kindness to be acknowledged. In fact, I'm pretty miffed if I don't get a wave and have been known to think unkind thoughts. Very unkind.

In today's Gospel we're told to "Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation." We may not all be able to go somewhere exotic to do heroic work to proclaim the Good News.

Rumour has it St Francis of Assisi said: "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." Those ladies in the bakery lived the Gospel. They did their job while caring about those they served. I'd like to think I'm living the Gospel when I give way to other drivers. But it seems I require thanks for my act of service. The Gospel **doesn't** say Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation and **you will receive thanks and praise.**

What about you? Are you so Newcastle?

POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY (17/04/2013)

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father

In the Creed we say that Jesus “ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father”. Jesus’ earthly life culminated with the Ascension, when he passed from this world to the Father and was raised to sit on his right. What does this event mean? How does it affect our life? What does contemplating Jesus seated at the right hand of the Father mean? Let us permit the Evangelist Luke to guide us in this.

Let us start from the moment when Jesus decided to make his last pilgrimage to Jerusalem. St Luke notes: “When the days drew near for him to be received up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Lk 9:51). While he was “going up” to the Holy City, where his own “exodus” from this life was to occur, Jesus already saw the destination, heaven, but he knew well that the way which would lead him to the glory of the Father passed through the Cross, through obedience to the divine design of love for mankind. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that: “The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven” (n. 662).

We too should be clear in our Christian life that entering the glory of God demands daily fidelity to his will, even when it demands sacrifice and sometimes requires us to change our plans. The Ascension of Jesus actually happened on the Mount of Olives, close to the place where he had withdrawn to pray before the Passion in order to remain in deep union with the Father: once again we see that prayer gives us the grace to be faithful to God’s plan.

At the end of his Gospel, St Luke gives a very concise account of the event of the Ascension. Jesus led his disciples “out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God” (Lk 24:50-53). This is what St Luke says.

I would like to note two elements in the account. First of all, during the Ascension Jesus made the priestly gesture of blessing, and the disciples certainly expressed their faith with prostration, they knelt with bowed heads, this is a first important point: Jesus is the one eternal High Priest who with

his Passion passed through death and the tomb and ascended into heaven. He is with God the Father where he intercedes for ever in our favour (cf. Heb 9:24). As St John says in his First Letter, he is our Advocate: How beautiful it is to hear this! When someone is summoned by the judge or is involved in legal proceedings, the first thing he does is to seek a lawyer to defend him. We have One who always defends us, who defends us from the snares of devil, who defends us from ourselves and from our sins!

Dear brothers and sisters, we have this Advocate; let us not be afraid to turn to him to ask forgiveness, to ask for a blessing, to ask for mercy! He always pardons us, he is our Advocate: he always defends us! Don’t forget this! The Ascension of Jesus into heaven acquaints us with this deeply consoling reality on our journey : in Christ, true God and true man, our humanity was taken to God. Christ opened the path to us. He is like a roped guide climbing a mountain who, on reaching the summit, pulls us up to him and leads us to God. If we entrust our life to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain to be in safe hands, in the hands of our Saviour, of our Advocate.

A second element: St Luke says that having seen Jesus ascending into heaven, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem “with great joy”. This seems to us a little odd. When we are separated from our relatives, from our friends, because of a definitive departure and, especially, death, there is usually a natural sadness in us since we will no longer see their face, no longer hear their voice, or enjoy their love, their presence. The Evangelist instead emphasizes the profound joy of the Apostles.

But how could this be? Precisely because, with the gaze of faith they understand that although he has been removed from their sight, Jesus stays with them for ever, he does not abandon them and in the glory of the Father supports them, guides them and intercedes for them.

St Luke too recounts the event of the Ascension — at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles — to emphasize that this event is like the link of the chain that connects Jesus’ earthly life to the life of the Church. Here St Luke also speaks of the cloud that hid Jesus from the sight of the disciples, who stood gazing at him ascending to God (cf. Acts 1:9-10). Then two men in white robes appeared and asked them not to stand there looking up to heaven but to nourish their lives and their witness with the certainty that Jesus will come again in the same way in which they saw him ascending into heaven (cf. Acts 1:10-11). This is

the invitation to base our contemplation on Christ's lordship, to find in him the strength to spread the Gospel and to witness to it in everyday life: contemplation and action, ora et labora, as St Benedict taught, are both necessary in our life as Christians.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world as he was before the Ascension. He is now in the lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us. In our life we are never alone: we have this Advocate who awaits us, who defends us. We are never alone: the Crucified and Risen Lord guides us. We have with us a multitude of brothers and sisters who, in silence and concealment, in their family life and at work, in their problems and hardships, in their joys and hopes, live faith daily and together with us bring the world the lordship of God's love, in the Risen Jesus Christ, ascended into Heaven, our own Advocate who pleads for us. Many thanks.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Acts

Throughout this Easter season, the first reading in the Sunday liturgy is taken from the Acts of the Apostles and so both the first and second readings come from the New Testament. (Normally, the First Reading is taken from the Old Testament.) This week's first reading account of the Ascension is the very beginning of the book of Acts. This book and the Gospel of Luke are now recognised as being by the same author. The book of Acts records the events involving the followers of Jesus after his death and the growth of communities of believers who sought to follow Jesus' ways.



**HAPPY 50TH
ANNIVERSARY
CHURCH OF CHRIST
THE KING,
MAYFIELD WEST!**

COVID-19-RELATED INFORMATION

Maximum Number of Persons in Churches

Under the current Public Health Order, the limit on the number of persons who can be present in a church is now calculated by allowing 2 square metres per person within the building.

In our Region, those limits are:

Sacred Heart Cathedral	221
St Mary's, Newcastle	108
St Joseph's, The Junction	200
Mary Immaculate, Tighes Hill	110
St Laurence O'Toole, Broadmeadow	110
St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton	140
Christ the King, Mayfield West	140

The limit applies to all Masses and other liturgical celebrations, such as weddings and funerals.

Provision of Contact Details

The Public Health Order requires the collection of contact details for those who attend any liturgical celebration in a church (e.g. Mass, weddings, funerals, Baptisms, etc.).

The contact details that are required are defined as a) name, b) phone number or email address, and c) the time of arrival. These details must be recorded for each attendee.

Attendees are able to use the Service NSW QR Code to provide their details—just like many other places—using the Service NSW app on your phone, or via a QR Code reader. A Contact Details Form will be provided at the door to permit the collection of these details.

General Requirements

The requirements regarding cleaning, observing physical distancing, etc. remain in place for the time being, as does the requirement to refrain from physical acts of devotion that involve touching or kissing icons or statues.

Liturgical rituals have been adapted, and will continue to be adapted, in order to ensure the health and safety of all parishioners and visitors to our churches. We ask those who are particularly at risk – the elderly, those with compromised health, those who are sick – to refrain from returning to Mass for the sake of their own health. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass given by the Bishop remains in place in these circumstances.

Requirements for Attending Mass

There is no need to register in advance to attend regular Mass. If you wish to return to Mass, you are at liberty to do so, though capacity limits will need to be observed at all Masses.

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

Jesus has been taken into heaven

Acts 1:8-11
Ps 47:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, R. v.6a
Eph 1:17-21
Mk 16:15-20

E F X Y C N H A R P H A V U L A N
Y Z R W P A M K W G F J J Z L T X
M M N O P P K T V Y O A W E I Y Z
L A N T X O P K B L B O R I G H T
P T D W O M H F G I D T D M H W F
H H W M A P S E K C I Y X N T X Q
C O H G G Y L J A R L E L C E Q Y
K X I X S Y V L I V L D W T Q W J
T U T X N E Q P A G E E N E L L S
Z G E V G Q S D H N E N V O Q E D
Q P T V X Y M O D Y G V I Y G U U
L E M J L L O G Z H U U E O S N O
Z R J O M I R A C L E S A I F X L
O Q H N H L N H C T F A V G L Z C
J U R T X U U D R Q K B L W E E Q
N D E O J P R U C R E F G J T S B
W U J W U Q H K K A I R B H R F L

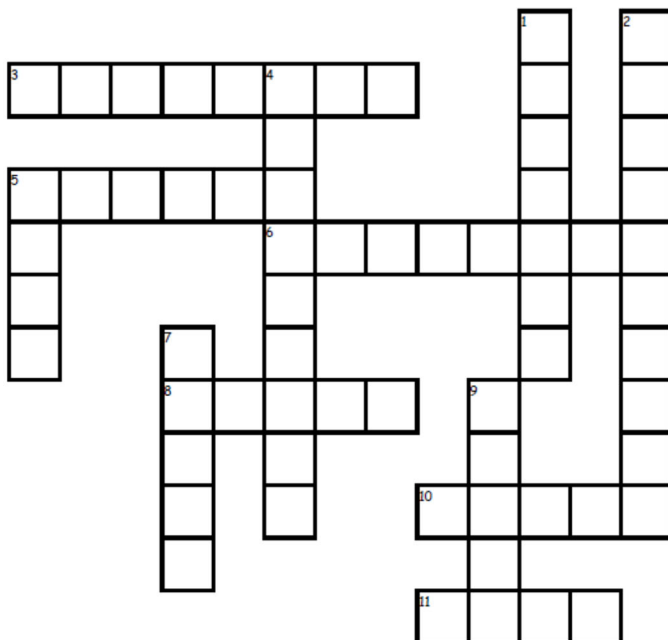
Try to find these words:

- believe
- cloud
- Good News
- heal
- heaven
- Holy Spirit
- hurt
- languages
- light
- miracles
- right
- white

CROSSWORD

Jesus has been taken into heaven

Acts 1:8-11
Ps 47:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, R. v.6a
Eph 1:17-21
Mk 16:15-20



Across

- 3: the disciples proved their message was true by working _____
- 5: two men in white clothes told the disciples Jesus had been taken to this place
- 6: Jesus told his disciples to preach the _____ to everyone (two words)
- 8: the opposite of dark
- 10: Jesus is seated at this side of God in heaven
- 11: to make a sick person well is to _____ them

Down

- 1: those who _____ in Jesus and are baptised will be saved
- 2: Jesus told his disciples the _____ would come upon them (two words)
- 4: those who believe in Jesus will be able to speak new _____
- 5: injured
- 7: the disciples saw Jesus being taken into one of these things in the sky
- 9: two men dressed in this colour appeared and spoke to the disciples