



Ascending To Presence

So...handled any interesting snakes lately?

Scripture scholars agree that today's Gospel text was not written by Mark but was added much later, probably because it was felt that where Mark actually stopped writing in verse 8 left the Gospel on a negative and unfinished note. The text was most likely derived from events that happened in the early church such as Paul getting bitten by a viper and being unharmed. (It's healthy to note that Paul didn't pick up a viper on purpose!)

But because it wasn't written by Mark and may not have been Jesus' words doesn't mean there is no value to the text. The part that jumped out at me was, "*And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.*"

We are always drawn to the sensational so '*by the signs that accompanied it*' is probably what sticks in most people's minds. What I want to point out are the words, '*while the Lord worked with them*'.



We are a literal people and on Ascension Sunday we visualize Jesus ascending and going far, far away. For humans, what is out of sight is out of mind and often out of reality. However, the writer of this Gospel text, writing from the other side of the Ascension, is definitely saying that in the case of Jesus, out of sight meant into a new mind and a new reality. The focus was no longer on the corporeal body of Jesus but on the corporeal body of Christ. '*...while the Lord worked with them*' says that Jesus was not just in one spot being the central figure who was proclaiming his forgiving love and performing all the miracles; he was *everywhere* working alongside and inside *everyone*. He still is.

He did not go away to become the absentee landlord or the ivory tower micro-manager. He ascended to the Kingdom – and where is the Kingdom?

The Kingdom of God is within you!

Jean Allen

The Ascension Of The Lord

May 16, 2021

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For all Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment information and forms

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/responsible-ministry>

Thank you for your contributions!
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Saturday at 6 pm

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9tUaIzDIFwLV1imrPkNKg>

Mass: with the Bishop Live-Streamed

<https://www.youtube.com/c/RCDVictoriaLiveOne>

Sunday 10:00 am
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Pre-Authorized Debit: [Automatic Debit \(PAD\)](#)

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BURSARIES and AWARDS

Available through the Diocesan website:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org>

under "Programs".

Deadline for submissions is July 15.

Fr. Alfie's Table



Here is the latest edition of Fr. Alfie's Table with a delicious
Hot Italian sausages and red peppers.

<https://youtu.be/oEFL3tqaNlg>

From the Diocese

The Year of St. Joseph

If you've been following our News posts, you'll know that we're in the middle of a special week [for Life and the Family](#) and a special month [of prayer to our Mother Mary, for an end to the pandemic](#). Well, this year is special too: back in December, [Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of St. Joseph](#), beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th), and continuing to the same feast in 2021.

This year was chosen as it marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. St. Joseph is the patron saint of many other things as well, including the Americas and Canada. Many Canadian churches are named for him: St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, Quebec is the largest church in Canada; closer to home, we have three different churches dedicated to St. Joseph in our Diocese, in Tahsis, Chemainus, and Victoria.

Pope Francis wrote an Apostolic Letter entitled [Patris Corde](#) ("With a Father's Heart") to mark the start of the Year. In it, he describes St. Joseph as a beloved, tender and loving father; an obedient, accepting and creatively courageous father; a working father, and a father in the shadows.

He also notes how St. Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence... reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation" – an important reminder during this pandemic, when we've seen how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked."

Pope Francis ended his Letter with a prayer to St. Joseph.

During this year, let us join with Catholics around the world in praying to this special saint:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*



The following important News has been shared on the Diocesan website at:

<https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/canadian-reporting-system-for-sexual-abuse-or-cover-up-by-a-catholic-bishop>.

On Thursday, May 6, 2021, the Bishops of Canada launched a national, bilingual service for reporting situations of sexual abuse either committed or covered-up by a Bishop. This service furthers their commitment to responsibility, accountability and transparency in matters of clergy sexual abuse and their commitment to facilitate healing and justice for victims-survivors.

Individuals can access the reporting system online (BishopReportingSystem.ca) or by calling toll-free 1-866-892-3737 from anywhere in Canada, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

The reporting system was developed by ClearView Strategic Partners, a Canadian provider of an independent reporting platform. ClearView's technology benefits anyone wanting to make such a report by providing them with a secure and confidential platform, allowing them to remain anonymous if they so choose, and ensuring all communications are documented and preserved.

The Catholic Bishops of Canada condemn the sin and crime of sexual abuse in the strongest possible terms. No one should ever have to endure the pain, humiliation, and long-term suffering it causes, nor should anyone have to doubt that serious consequences await a perpetrator of sexual abuse or cover-up. With this reporting system, the Bishops make themselves accountable to live with integrity and to address reports of sexual abuse according to Church and civil law. The Church grieves with victim-survivors and profoundly regrets the tremendous harm caused. The Bishops of Canada wish to reach out and accompany victims-survivors along the path that restores justice and promotes healing.

Reports of current or historical sexual abuse by any other member of the Diocese of Victoria (clergy, religious, employees or volunteers) may be made by calling 1-800-968-3146.

This number connects to an independent reporting service which can assist in contacting the appropriate authorities and help access counselling services. For more information about Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment in the Diocese of Victoria, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/responsible-ministry>.

Thank you for your prayers and the support you provide to victim-survivors in the ongoing work of healing.

In Communion,
Bishop Gary Gordon

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