

# Sunday Reflection

- ◆ **First Reading:** *Acts 1:1-11*
- ◆ **Second Reading:** *Ephesians 4:1-13*
- ◆ **Gospel:** *Mark 16:15-20*

It would be a pity to overlook the Solemnity of the Ascension a 2<sup>nd</sup> time, as I recall this time last year our churches were closed due to the covid restrictions, and up to now the non-obligation to assist at solemnities along with Sunday mass still remains in place. Also now that I think of it, we had no Holy Week last year either, all “behind closed doors”, but thankfully very soon most restrictions will be lifted. As regards the account of the Ascension personally I prefer to read st. Matthew’s version ; In this version you’ll find a great promise from the lips of Jesus that you will not find in the version of st. Mark,

“a promise!, what promise?” his last words to them, before ascending to Heaven were “**....AND KNOW THAT I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, YES!, TO THE END OF TIME...**” There is a wonderful comforting connection between the Resurrection of the Saviour and his Ascension to Heaven, there is HOPE for eternal things to come ; not only Hope, but also God remains with you and me throughout the course of our earthly lives while everyone else, family members included, seem to be entering our lives at various stages, then they move on to somewhere else or to someone else ; the following is an interesting quote from BIBLE ALIVE (May ’21)

“Change is part of the human condition. People come into our lives and people go ; Leaders on the local and world stage also come and go ; Life moves on and things change, someone may be a hero one day and the next day amounts to zero ; This is simply a fact of human living ; The relentless and unforgiving march of time ensures that everything under the sun COMES TO AN END..” ; Does that sound daunting to you? And yet it can be classified as brutal reality!!, who were your group of buddies 25 years ago and where are now? with how many are you still in contact?

So what are we left with in our present state? Is there anything permanent and continuous we can hold onto in order to keep us going in the right direction on our journey thru' life? As believers in the Risen Saviour we have a lot to look forward to, such as our own resurrection, and not only that, but also we have the continuous never ending presence of God Holy Spirit in our earthly lives, the words of the Ascending Saviour are the promise of spiritual accompaniment for a lifetime “ .....AND KNOW THAT I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, YES!, TO THE END OF TIME....”

What would be the “end-of-time” for you and me? Would it not be the day of our departure from this mortal life? the Solemnity of the Ascension is a reminder of where the Heavenly Shepherd has gone,

gone to prepare a place for you, for me and for all those with a noble and generous heart who long for their eternal home in Heaven....

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Pray the Rosary for a ceasefire in the Middle East ; last Monday the worst violence (Gaza - Israeli conflict) in 7 years broke out between both sides with rocket launches, and as always innocent families and children get killed ; when will this conflict ever end in peace?

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