

Homily for Ascension Day 21st May 2020

Today is an apparent paradox and contradiction.

Jesus departs and goes away: and yet at the same time He promises to be with us always, until the end of time.

But on careful reflection we see that Jesus' Ascension is essential if the promise is to be kept. He *must* be glorified. He *must* not just rise from the dead, but rise to heaven if he is to open the way for us to follow. He *must* withdraw from being located in one place and one time, precisely so He can be present in all places and all times.

Have you invited Jesus into your home and made in it space and time for prayer? Without today's events that couldn't happen. Have you made Spiritual Communion while waiting for the return of public Mass? That couldn't happen either without today.

Our prayer then on this day is simple:

May the Lord be with us always, and in every place.

And may we be with the Lord, always, and in every place.