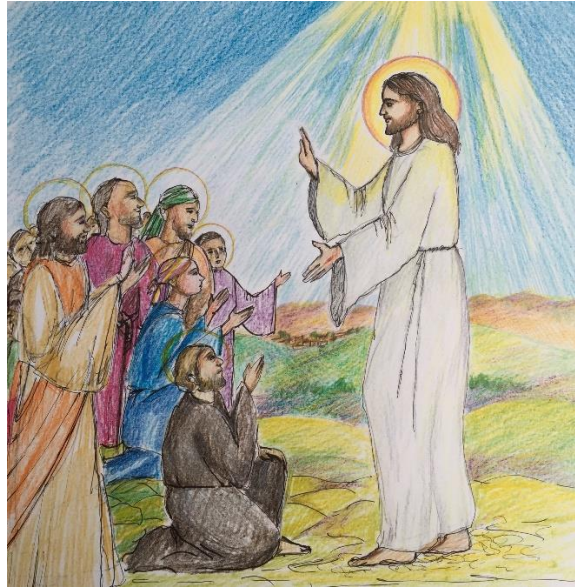


Some thoughts on the Ascension:
May 2020



I remember one evening when I was a child. Dad had gone out for a meeting and mum had settled us down to bed and returned to her favourite sport on the television – boxing. Not long into the bout we kids heard an almighty crash followed by calls for help. Mum had got so involved with the bout that she threw herself back in the chair to avoid an uppercut from the opponent sending the rocking chair back on its rockers and ending up side down, leaving mum trapped between the chair and the wall. She told us that she had got so involved in the fight that when the punch was thrown she automatically dodged to avoid being hit!

I am sure there has been a time when you have become so involved with the action, whether on the screen or at a sports event and got carried away. On this Ascension Day we can imagine that Jesus is looking down from heaven watching each of us, getting excited in the events of our lives, directing us in all the stages of our life. He is cheering us on and encouraging us in everything we do, as well as trying to prevent us from going the wrong way.

Jesus completes his ministry when he ascends into heaven. As the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity he brings his human nature into the very nature of the Trinity. His ascension opens the way for the coming of the Holy Spirit, through which the fullness of God's message will be made. The apostles will experience the power of God's Spirit on the first Pentecost day. Without the Ascension there would have been no coming of the Spirit, no complete revelation of the nature of the Trinity.

After forty days of being with his disciples after his Resurrection, Jesus has crossed into Heaven to take his place at the Father's right hand, as the prophets foretold for the Messiah. The Father has crowned him with the glory he merited by his Passion, Death and Resurrection and in turn he is eternally asking the Father for each of us, by name, to receive the graces we need to join him one day in eternity and to help others get there too.

This feast is as significant to us as is the incarnation, the suffering , death and Resurrection of Jesus. They are united in being the saving acts of Jesus, the promise to all of us of a share with him in eternal life. May I wish you all a very blessed feast, one we will share together in the joys of the Heavenly kingdom.