

## The Ascension (Ascension Day 26 May) Rembrandt



After his Resurrection on Easter Sunday Jesus spent time with his disciples. On the fortieth day he said farewell and ascended to heaven. According to Mark's Gospel he was given a seat to the right of God.

Before his departure he announced that the disciples would soon be visited by the Holy Spirit. He would give them strength to travel around the world and be witnesses unto Jesus. And so it happened, ten days later, on the Day of Pentecost.

In this painting Rembrandt shows the cloud that is mentioned in Acts 1. He also painted an unusual amount of cherubs - something one would sooner expect in a Titian painting. That is no coincidence: experts think Rembrandt may have borrowed the composition from a print of an *Assumption of Mary* (1516-18) by Titian.

X-ray photographs unveiled that in an early version God was shown in the top section of this work. Rembrandt later painted the ring of light and the barely visible white pigeon. Perhaps he made that modification because of the Calvinist idea of God as the "Unseeable".

This work is one of the five passion paintings by Rembrandt for the Stadtholder Frederik Hendrik: *The Raising of the Cross, The Descent from the Cross, The Entombment, The Resurrection, The Ascension*.



## St Cross Newsletter May 2022

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### *The Vicar writes...*

By the time you read this I will have, hopefully, returned from a week's holiday in the Lake District staying in the Newlands Valley near Keswick. Holy Week and Easter are always a pressured time for the Parish Priest, not just for the amount and variety of services, but also because of the experience of walking with Christ through the last week of his earthly life and seeking to enter into the spirit of what Jesus experienced. Each service was special to me in its own way, and whilst our minds naturally gravitate to the joy of Easter Day, I found the Good Friday silence and Stations of the Cross very powerful. I do try to keep our liturgy fresh with a variety of hymnody, Glorias, eucharistic settings, and Good Friday was no exception as I introduced a meditation based on The Beatitudes of Matthew 5 – part of The Sermon on the Mount.

The Sixth Station recalls Simon of Cyrene being called upon to help Jesus carry his cross – sharing his load when Jesus was physically exhausted. Simon not only shared Jesus' load upon his own shoulders but was in effect, showing mercy and compassion. Jesus calls us, too, to share the weight of his cross to bring a message to the world.

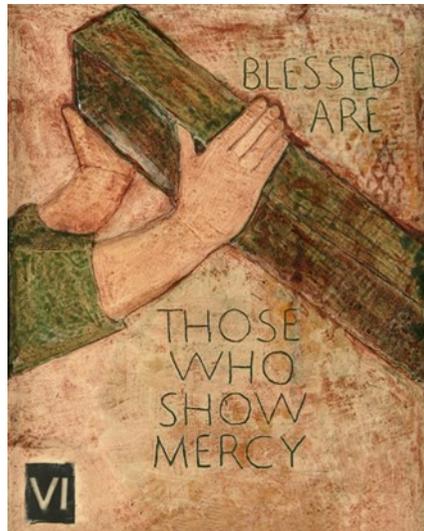
Later this month it is our Annual Meeting (APCM) on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and I hope as many as possible will attend this. I am encouraged by the level of our church attendances, post Covid, but am concerned that the weight of Jesus' cross is lying heavily on some shoulders. It is true the

congregation, not unlike the general picture of the Church, is getting older, but there are opportunities for people to assist and to step in where others have gone before.

When we are all pulling together in the same direction, and able to help in ways big or small, underpinned by prayer, it is amazing what can be achieved for Christ in order that the Kingdom may be more visible. The Lenten Appeal is a prime example of that teamwork in the Body of Christ producing an amazing result and I would like to thank all concerned.

As Paul wrote to Philemon, 'I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good we may do for Christ.' (*Philemon 6*)

Yours, in Christ  
*Paul*



*Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
Matthew 5.7*

**Occasional Offices**

**Baptism**  
April 3rd      Sophie Rose Sheridan

**Funerals**  
April 13th      John Ishmael



Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays		
	Morning Services	Evening Service
<b>Sunday 1 May</b> Easter 3	Acts 9.1-6 [7-20] John 21.1-19	<b>6.30pm</b> <b>Celtic Eucharist</b> Isaiah 38.9-20 John 11.27-44
<b>4 May</b> Wednesday	Isaiah 43.1-7 2 Corinthians 4.5-12 John 12.20-26	
<b>Sunday 8 May</b> Easter 4	Acts 9.36-end John 10.22-30	<b>7pm</b> <b>Compline (Zoom)</b>
<b>11 May</b> Wednesday	Acts 12.24-13.5 John 12.44-end	
<b>Sunday 15 May</b> Easter 5	Acts 11.1-18 John 13.31-35	
<b>18 May</b> Wednesday	Acts 15.1-6 John 15.1-8	
<b>Sunday 22 May</b> Easter 6	Acts 16.9-15 John 5.1-9	<b>7pm</b> <b>Compline (Zoom)</b>
<b>25 May</b> Wednesday	Acts 17.15,22-18.1 John 16.12-15	
<b>26 May</b> Thursday Ascension Day	John 16.12-15 Ephesians 1.15-end Luke 24.44-end	
<b>Sunday 29 May</b> Easter 7	Acts 16.16-34 John 17.20-end	<b>6.30pm</b> <b>KMC at St Cross</b>