



Sacred Heart Cathedral,  
Hamilton



St Joseph's,  
The Junction



St Mary, Star of the Sea,  
Newcastle



Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
Tighes Hill



St Laurence O'Toole's,  
Broadmeadow



Christ the King,  
Mayfield West



St Peter-in-Chains',  
Stockton

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE CITY PASTORAL REGION

**SUNDAY, 24TH MAY 2020**  
**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

*Incorporating the Parishes of St Benedict's, Inner Newcastle, St Columban's, Mayfield, and St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton, our mission is to proclaim Christ in the inner suburbs of the City of Newcastle.*

*Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.*

## Clergy in the Region

Fr Andrew Doohan  
Fr James Odoh  
Fr Peter Street

Fr Matthew Muller  
Fr Peter Thoai  
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

## Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction  
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## Regional Office Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)  
Jade Simonsen (*Business Manager*)  
Anne Warren (*Administration*)  
Dr Anne Millard (*Director of Music, Liturgy & Sacramental Program*)

## Other Contacts

**Lingard Hospital Team** Contact the Regional Office  
**Mercy Pastoral Team** Sr Patricia Whitten rsm (02) 4979 1116  
**St Joseph's Pastoral Team** Contact the Regional Centre

## Regional Bulletin

The Bulletin is published weekly.

Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Regional Office by Noon on Wednesdays.

**NATIONAL 18-24 MAY 2020**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
**CHANGING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES. WEEK**

In this past week, Australia has been celebrating the gift of volunteers! In this same spirit we send our special thanks to all those in our parish communities who so generously offer their time, talents and energy for the benefit of others.



We cannot currently run our regular book club meetings, but we are using 'Zoom' technology. This offers free video conferencing for sessions of up to 40 minutes.

At 6.30pm on Sunday, 7th June, we will share our thoughts on the book, *Pachinko*, by Minjin Lee.

If you would like to participate in future book club meetings, please send an email to the parish office, [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)



**Are you wondering how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting the Church around the world?**

Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/covid-19](http://www.aidtochurch.org/covid-19) to read messages from bishops, priests, brothers and religious sisters serving in some of the most remote and dangerous countries in the world.

**Current contact arrangements for the Regional Office**

Please do not attend the office at 25 Farquhar Street, The Junction in person.  
All inquiries are to be made via email to [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au) or by phone on 4979 1101

**Important to note: With Step One of the easing of COVID-19 restrictions taking effect from 15th May, there are some announcements about the use of our churches. Please see the details on pages 4 & 5 of this bulletin.**

**Bishop Bill will be celebrating Sunday Mass** in the Cathedral and he invites you to join with him in prayer from home. You will be able to watch by Crtl + clicking on this link at 9.30am on Sunday: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/> ...or use the same link to watch at a later time. Share the link with family and friends, and let's gather online to pray as a community at this difficult time of physical isolation.

**The Cathedral's YouTube Channel** needs 100 subscribers so we can claim a 'custom URL' (as opposed to the long string of numbers and letters we currently have). Please consider subscribing to our YouTube channel if you haven't already done so. Please ask your friends to do the same. You can find our YouTube channel by going to <https://bit.ly/3dVO3qc>

**City Pastoral Region Online and Telephone groups**  
Parishioners in the City Pastoral Region have started two groups to connect and pray with each other. You and your friends are welcome to join.

**Praying the Sunday Gospel**

Each Tuesday 5.00-5.45pm

via internet: <https://zoom.us/j/147952077>

via phone: (02) 8015 2088 Meeting ID: 147952077#

**Praying the Rosary**

Each Thursday 5.30-5.50pm

via internet: <https://zoom.us/j/654882094>

via phone: (02) 8015 2088 Meeting ID: 654882094#

**IN YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** George Bailey, Jennifer Gollan, Pam Di Nardo, Dulcie Maude Waugh-Doyle.

**ANNIVERSARY:** Eileen Russell.

**SICK:** Bill Parker, Elizabeth Evans, Terry Davies, John Belcher, Libby Oates, Graeme Burrage, Brian Swift, Monica Bound, Peter McCabe, Joan Haynes, Tom Towers, Kerry Davies, Lawson Rankin, Patricia (Pat) Gillett.

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS:** Please continue to pray for all those throughout the world who are affected by COVID-19.

*Names may be placed here by contacting the Regional Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Regional website—visit [www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads).*



### **First Reading Acts 1:1-11**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6**

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

### **Second Reading Eph 1:17-23**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

### **Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

### **Gospel Mt 28:16-20**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

**The May edition of Aurora** is now available online:  
[https://issuu.com/diomn/docs/aurora\\_may\\_2020](https://issuu.com/diomn/docs/aurora_may_2020)

Aurora can be picked up at IGA stores at Gloucester, Dungog, Shoal Bay, Boolaroo, Blackalls Park, Woodrising, Stockton, Caves Beach, Rathmines, West Wallsend, Windale, Taree, Bulahdelah, New Lambton, Paterson, Karuah, Cameron Park, Wangi Wangi.

## COVID-19 AND THE EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

Step One in the easing of COVID-19 related restrictions commenced on 15 May 2020, with the making of a new public health order, *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 2) 2020* ('the Order'). The Order allows ten (10) persons to participate in a gathering in a public place (which includes all our church buildings).

There are some exceptions to the general 10 person limit, including the following:

- Gatherings for the purpose of work. This may provide for a slow return to meetings of our councils and committees, though this must be done with caution and with attention to the principles of good hygiene and physical distancing.
- Wedding services. Up to 10 wedding guests are allowed, in addition to the persons being married, the celebrant, other persons necessary for the conduct of the service and one photographer, one videographer, or both.
- Funerals or memorial services held indoors can have up to 20 persons present, or held outdoors can have up to 30 persons present. These limits exclude the persons necessary for the conduct of the service, such as the celebrant and the funeral directors.
- Other religious services allow up to 10 persons present, in addition to the persons necessary for the conduct of the service, such as the celebrant. This means it is now possible for baptisms to take place in our churches, though Bishop Bill has left this to the discretion of the minister, in consultation with the family.

Places of worship must not be open to members of the public except for the purposes of conducting weddings, funerals/memorial services or religious services (as indicated above), or for private worship where no more than 10 persons are present at any one time.

COVID-19 remains present in the community and is highly infectious, so we must observe the latest public health advice and take all reasonable precautions in relation to hygiene and physical distancing.

Bishop Bill has determined that given the limitations on the number of people permitted to attend religious services, the public celebration of Mass will remain suspended and will be reviewed when we move to Step Two in the easing of restrictions. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place.

The live streaming of Masses will continue, but only those who are necessary to produce the live streamed Mass will be present in the church building.

It is now possible for the Sacrament of Penance to be celebrated in the First Rite in our churches (a religious service), though the limit of 10 persons present in the church building at any one time must be strictly observed. Physical distancing must be complied with and confessionals cannot be used.

**Important to note:** Contact details (name, telephone number, and email) of any person participating in a wedding, funeral/memorial service, religious service or period of private worship must be provided to the Parish Priest or delegate, who must record and keep the details for a period of four weeks. This is a mandatory requirement of the Order and must be observed in all circumstances. The reason for a person being in a church building will not be recorded.

As our Church buildings may now be opened for private worship, this will be available at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 9am to 12 noon. Confessions will be available from 10.30am on Saturdays. The Cathedral will not otherwise be available for private prayer. Again, this will be reviewed when we move to Step Two in the easing of restrictions.

The opportunity for private worship will also be available at St Joseph's, The Junction, on each weekday, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May through to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, from 10am to 12 noon.

For the periods of private prayer, the priests have delegated individuals to monitor the numbers in the Church (a limit of 10 at any one time) and to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Public Health Order. This includes collecting the contact details of those in attendance and monitoring the observance of appropriate hygiene and physical distancing.

We are seeking more volunteers for these monitoring roles at St Joseph's Church. Please contact the Regional Office on 4979 1101 or email [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au) if you are able to assist.

For more information on the impact of COVID-19 and the diocese's response, visit <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/covid-19-update/>

### Message to the Region from the Business Manager AN UPDATE REGARDING PLANNED GIVING

It has recently come to my attention that the usual procedure of offering a reduction letter for the School Building Levy, known as the DFSBL, is no longer able to be offered by the Parish. This is due to legislative changes related to Section 83C of the Education Act.

We are still able to offer a Tax Receipt to our planned givers.

Parishioners who require a tax receipt for planned giving for the 2019/20 financial year must notify the Parish Office. Please notify by one of the following methods:

**Email to** [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

Use the wording, "Please provide me with a Planned Giving tax receipt" and include your name and envelope number.

**Phone:** Call the Parish Office on 4979 1101.

Tax receipt data will be processed on 30 June 2020. No subsequent amendments are possible. Any requests received after 30 June 2020 will result in parishioners not receiving the requested tax deduction. If you do not require a tax receipt for tax purposes, it is preferable to refrain from requesting one, as this will enhance the tax deductibility for those who do use the tax receipt. I am happy to provide people who do not submit a tax return with your contribution total.

*Jade Simonsen  
Regional Business Manager*

For anyone who has Project Compassion boxes, please hold off on returning them until our Churches are open again and the normal Mass schedule resumes. Thank you.



Loving God,  
Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them.  
You created us in your own image and made us stewards of all your creation.  
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we may attend to your gift of creation.

Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.

May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times, especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope and fraternity, so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic.

Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good.

Now, more than ever, may we feel that we are all interconnected and interdependent.

Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary, Help of Christians, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Marian Feasts in May

Since the Middle-Ages, the Church has devoted the month of May to Mary. Three Marian feasts are celebrated within this month, helping us to understand what Mary can teach us about following Jesus.

On May 13, we commemorated the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima, which recalls the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to three young children in Portugal in 1917. Mary encouraged penance, conversion and praying the rosary, warning the world of a Great War and suffering, but that, "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph".

The Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians, which is usually celebrated on May 24, will be celebrated this year on May 25 as it coincides with the Ascension of the Lord. Australia was the first nation to choose Mary, under the title, 'Help of Christians', as Principal Patron.

The third Marian feast for May is the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin on May 31. We remember how Mary journeyed to the home of Elizabeth, to care for her as the birth of her son, John the Baptist, drew near.

These celebrations, like all Marian feasts, are really celebrations of Jesus Christ, for she has no privilege that she has not received from God. In these days, we learn how to stay close to him in prayer and through the practice of charity, such as caring for a relative in a time of need, with confidence that our prayers will be answered. With maternal love for us, Mary wants what is best for us - she wants Jesus for us, so she urges us, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). Then she helps us as we lead others to know and love her Son too. Her feasts not only empower us to turn to her in prayer, but also to love Jesus and others with a greater love.

*Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington.*



O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We trust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession, especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 24 - 31 May

The theme "They showed us unusual kindness" (Act 28:2), remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta and calls us, just like the people on the Island of Malta, to a greater generosity to those in need.

The Week for Christian Unity is usually celebrated together. The theme calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action. Due to COVID-19, we are not able to join together, so we need to be creative and adapt the current situation. You are welcome to download the World Day of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020 Reflection for 8 Days <https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources>

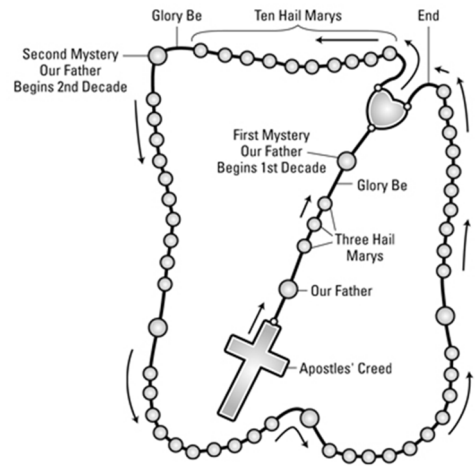


Take some time each day to read the reflection, discern or meditate on the words, then journal your responses to the questions in the reflection, finish your session with the prayer provided or your own. During the week reflect on what your action could be to show greater generosity to those in need.

## How to Pray the Rosary

1. On the crucifix, make the sign of the cross and then pray the Apostles' Creed.
2. On the next *large* bead, say the Our Father.
3. On the following three small beads, pray three Hail Marys.
4. On the *chain*, pray the Glory Be.
5. On the large bead, meditate on the first mystery and pray the Our Father.
6. On the ten beads after that, pray a Hail Mary on each bead; on the chain, pray a Glory Be.

Repeat Steps 5 and 6 four more times to finish the next four decades.



Say the Hail Holy Queen:

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

*Concluding Prayer:*

O God, whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation; grant we beseech Thee, that meditating upon these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mondays and Saturdays:**

The Joyful Mysteries remind the faithful of Christ's birth: The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38); The Visitation (Luke 1:39–56); The Nativity (Luke 2:1–21); The Presentation (Luke 2:22–38); The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41–52)

**Tuesdays and Fridays:**

The Sorrowful Mysteries recall Jesus' passion and death: The Agony of Jesus in the Garden (Matthew 26:36–56); The Scourging at the Pillar (Matthew 27:26); The Crowning with Thorns (Matthew 27:27–31); The Carrying of the Cross (Matthew 27:32); The Crucifixion (Matthew 27:33–56).

**Wednesdays and Sundays:**

The Glorious Mysteries focus on the resurrection of Jesus and the glories of heaven: The Resurrection (John 20:1–29); The Ascension (Luke 24:36–53); The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–41); The Assumption of Mary, the Mother of God, into heaven; The Coronation of Mary in heaven.

**Thursdays:**

Pope John Paul II added The Mysteries of Light, also known as the Luminous Mysteries, in 2002: The Baptism in the River Jordan (Matthew 3:13–16); The Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1–11); The Preaching of the coming of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14–15); The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–8); The Institution of the Holy Eucharist (Matthew 26).



***Pope Francis has asked us to make a special effort in May to pray the Rosary. By doing so we will be united with believers around the world, asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic.***

# HYMNS FOR THIS WEEK'S LITURGY

## ENTRANCE HYMN

### SING WE TRIUMPHANT HYMNS OF PRAISE

Sing we triumphant hymns of praise,  
New hymns to Heaven exulting raise:

Alleluia, Alleluia  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
Ascendeth to the throne of God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

To whom the angels, drawing nigh,  
Why stand and gaze upon the sky?  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
This is the Savior! thus they say,  
This is His noble triumph day!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
All praise to Thee let earth accord,  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Who art, while endless ages run,  
With Father and with Spirit One.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

## PREPARATION OF GIFTS

### GO MAKE OF ALL DISCIPLES Leon M Adkins

"Go make of all disciples:" We hear the call, O Lord,  
That comes from you, our Father,  
In your eternal Word.  
Inspire our ways of learning  
Through earnest, fervent prayer,  
And let our daily living reveal you ev'rywhere.

"Go make of all disciples:" Baptizing in the name  
O Father, Son, and Spirit - From age to age the same.  
We call each new disciple to follow you, O Lord,  
Redeeming soul and body by water and the Word.

"Go make of all disciples:"  
We at your feet would stay  
Until each life's vocation Accents your holy way.  
We cultivate the nature God plants in ev'ry heart,  
Revealing in our witness the Master Teacher's art.

"Go make of all disciples:"  
We welcome your command  
"Lo, I am with you always:"  
We take your guiding hand.  
The task looms large before us  
we follow without fear.  
In heav'n and earth your power  
Shall bring God's kingdom here.

Text: Matthew 12:19-20; Leon M. Adkins. © 1964, Abingdon Press. Music: *Aure-  
lia*; Samuel Wesley. Reprinted under One License A#625242

## COMMUNION HYMN THE SUMMONS John L Bell

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
In you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me?

Text John L Bell, b.1949. © 1987, WGRG, Iona Community  
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## RECESSIONAL HYMN

### ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS W C Dix 1837-1898

Alleluia! sing to Jesus! His the sceptre, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph, His the victory alone;  
Hark, the songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood;  
'Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by his blood.'

Alleluia! not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us, Faith believes, nor questions how  
Though the cloud from sight received him,  
When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget his promise,  
"I am with you evermore"?