

The Ascension of the Lord May 16, 2021

What has the pandemic taught us? For me one of the most important lessons I have learned is to have patience. Yes, they say patience is a virtue. Now I know why!

We are a society that is used to instant gratification. We want it—we go get it. But, not right now. We are limited to trips for essential items only. To have patience goes against our instincts. This is a struggle for us to not be agitated or upset when we are forced to wait for something.

The good news is patience is a skill that can be learned over time. The more we exercise patience, the less likely we are to become agitated when forced to wait for something. Mastering this virtue will make for a happier life. To master this virtue will make us a happier person. The more we exercise patience the better our ability to see this pandemic through.

This Sunday we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. The Ascension raises our eyes to heaven. We are a people of the Resurrection. Jesus goes to prepare a place for us!

The Ascension is about hope! The disciples witness Jesus being taken up to heaven. The hope is that we too will get there. Just as we are baptised into Christ we too participate in his death. It is our hope to one day be united in our risen bodies with all those who we love and miss. We shall all rise from the grave with new, glorified bodies and ascend to heaven, as Christ did. There we'll begin our true life of eternal happiness

We know that our hope is not to be found in this world. As people who hope in Christ, we know we are to live differently than those who do not yet know Christ. Eternal happiness will be ours if we but persevere in this world. Yes, persevere and have patience. All will be made known in due time.

In the Gospel for today, Jesus said to the disciples, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.” Eternal happiness comes with the command to GO! We are to persevere in our mission to bring others to Christ. This is the responsibility with which we have been tasked.

The task to bring others to Christ may seem like an impossibility for some. Don't give up in your efforts. Be patient. We don't always see the fruits of our labours. What we do know is that the Lord is working with us.

The pandemic can bring out fear, panic and temptations to us. Do not give in. We will rise above it. We trust in Jesus and in the hope that is ours to attain. We know that by following the path of holiness we will dwell in eternal happiness with Jesus in heaven one day.

There are many things that we should pray for along with the end of the pandemic: Food for the poor; jobs for the unemployed; security for migrants; and healing for those who are sick. I suggest we add patience to this list. After all, patience is a virtue born out of hope!

Reflection by Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister