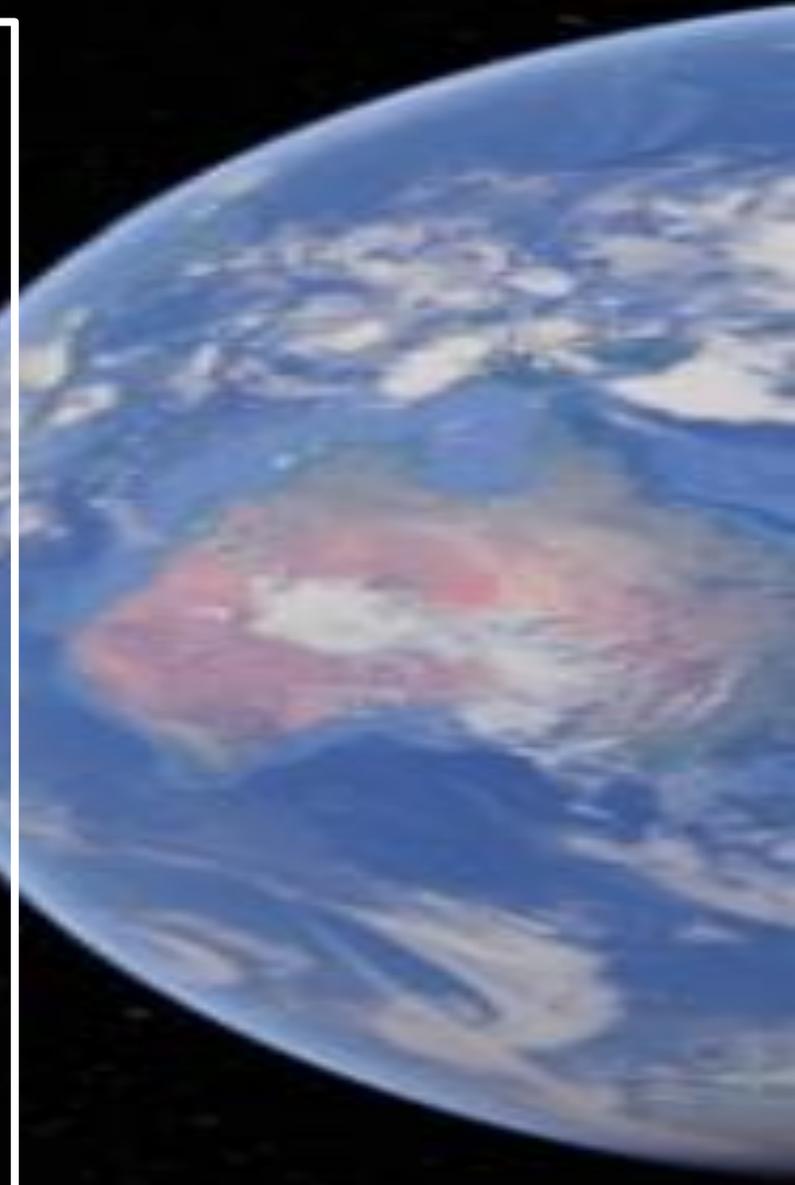


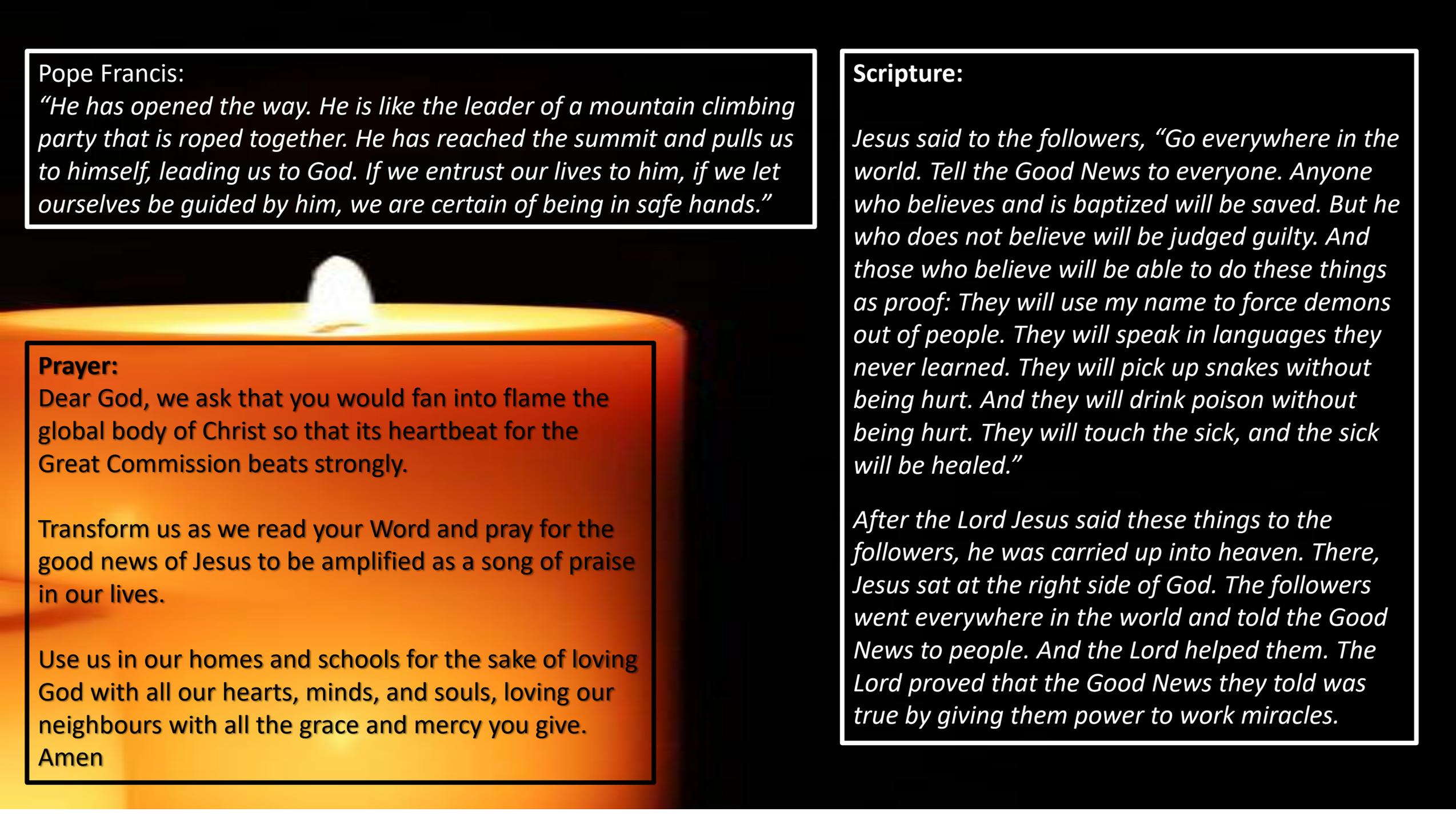
Easter 7: Commission & Ascension

Not considering myself to be a particularly emotional person really, I always thought that watching each of my children attend their first day at infant school wouldn't affect me. Perhaps that by the time it got to number 3 child, the novelty would have worn off ... but no, I was filled with as much anxiety, worry (not to mention fighting back the tears!). That sense that they were now stepping out into the world ... or at least stepping out from under our feet for the weekdays ... was a big step for me as well as for the kids. I remember issuing instructions to them at the door of the classroom about what to do, not to do, what to not forget ... like a 4 year old was going to take this all in!

And so the focus this week sees Jesus leaving his disciples and returning to His Father in heaven ... leaving his disciples (children) to get on with things on their own. Jesus must have known deep down that they would be okay and would stand up on their own feet. Like a true parent, He had given them instructions about what to do and was hoping that they remember everything. All the lessons He had taught them ... everything was over to them. We as a Christian community now need to carry on with those instructions and lessons ... sharing the Good News with all those that we meet. Our Father in heaven loves us, but it is time for us to step out!

[Mr Doust]





Pope Francis:

“He has opened the way. He is like the leader of a mountain climbing party that is roped together. He has reached the summit and pulls us to himself, leading us to God. If we entrust our lives to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain of being in safe hands.”

Prayer:

Dear God, we ask that you would fan into flame the global body of Christ so that its heartbeat for the Great Commission beats strongly.

Transform us as we read your Word and pray for the good news of Jesus to be amplified as a song of praise in our lives.

Use us in our homes and schools for the sake of loving God with all our hearts, minds, and souls, loving our neighbours with all the grace and mercy you give.

Amen

Scripture:

Jesus said to the followers, “Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But he who does not believe will be judged guilty. And those who believe will be able to do these things as proof: They will use my name to force demons out of people. They will speak in languages they never learned. They will pick up snakes without being hurt. And they will drink poison without being hurt. They will touch the sick, and the sick will be healed.”

After the Lord Jesus said these things to the followers, he was carried up into heaven. There, Jesus sat at the right side of God. The followers went everywhere in the world and told the Good News to people. And the Lord helped them. The Lord proved that the Good News they told was true by giving them power to work miracles.