

15. 5. 72  
4. 6. 73 ✓  
27. 5. 74 ✓

GRAN: 'ya se aushika ni Dhot'  
RHK. ARCH. 0.84

ASCENSION PREFACE

ACTS 16<sup>th</sup> (NYC P. III)

Besides keeping Ascension Day yesterday in our Churches, it was also a day devoted to reflection and prayer on the media of communication, World Communications Day. The point of this is not, after all, so remote from the celebration of Ascension as it may appear at first sight — for a <sup>number</sup> couple of years now, this World Communications Day has been set for this last Sunday in the Easter season, and marked in various ways in different countries. One of its purposes is to draw attention to the importance of the communication media in modern life, broadcasting, press & film, and to know the professionals in these fields. Because of the importance for social and individual life of the media, the Church realises that they must be of interest to every Christian, and wants to encourage every Christian to be aware of them, in the use they have in our lives, the influences they bring to bear and the value of what they have to give. This isn't and shouldn't become a merely negative critique, objecting or complaining about whatever it might be. The power, influence and value for good of the various media of social communication is not sufficiently appreciated, perhaps. And this is one of the objects of focusing <sup>the</sup> attention on them, at least once in a year. The theme of this focusing this year has been: "The Mass Media - < the Affirmation & Promotion of Spiritual Values" - this is more connected with the Ascension The presentation of fact, of events, in words and pictures and sounds is what the means of mass communication are superbly capable of doing, and it is a matter of interest and concern for anyone who cares for the world and human development and dignity that this capability shd. be used with the greatest honesty and integrity. For broadcasting, the press, and films reach millions of people everywhere, drawing them together and giving them a common experience, awakening and stirring ~~the~~ similar emotions, exposing them to particular scales of value and the outlook on life of the people who use ~~and~~ direct these media. Their grave responsibility is something that needs to be understood, and with sympathy, help and encouragement, by all of us — and when they lapse from honesty and integrity, whether deliberately or not, it shd. be of concern also to all of us. So this annual communications day is a reminder, too, to pray for them, to pray that God's light and grace may work with them & through them, to pray that they may become more sensitive to His inspiration and the human needs of mankind, to pray that their effort

our work will lead to a widening of the world in understanding and love, that truth & beauty and goodness can come into men's lives, and these reflections of God Himself be able to lead men to know Him and love Him. But this is also an occasion for ourselves, for reflecting on our part in the process of communication and the search for truth and worth. We who use the media, for entertainment, for our own education, in our searching for truth & understanding, have responsibilities too. It's quite surprising, sometimes, to realise how much we can be taken in, unwittingly, by what we hear and see on radio & television, read in newspapers and magazines, watch on film — how little many people are aware of how, for instance, news is put together; of the subtle differences that interpretation makes, interpretation itself is often not very clearly distinguished from fact or the presentation of truth and reality. And if we're to be whole and human, apart altogether for the moment from being holly too, we have to be concerned that deception doesn't side-track our search for understanding & truth, our search for the face of Christ in the faces & lives of people around us, who share human life with us all over the world, seeing & hearing & watching more & more these days, the same things we see & hear and watch. Let us think and pray about these things now, as we listen for a while to a melody for Ascension, by Philips, 'Ascendit Deus'

MUSIC PRAYERS  
RHK DEC. E. 1392

The gospel message, the good news of Ascension-time, is that Christ is with us in our world of today, bringing us to His Father & ours. He's told us to bring this good news in His name, to all the world; the bread we knead and bring kneaded to know the love of God that has been shown to the world in the life and death and rising of Jesus. We are called to be His witnesses, in our lives as in what we say and are seen to do. Today, there are the technical means to reach people almost everywhere, with news, information, entertainment. It is the consciousness of the Church of the mission she has, that inspires the encouragement of interest and concern in the communication media — not in an effort to dominate them and use them exclusively for preaching the message of Christ, but to see that they are used, by everyone involved in the process of communication, in the service of men, for his good. To help men find joy and peace, truth and beauty where comes from X<sup>t</sup>.