

3 May 2026

To Know, love and serve Jesus  
by sharing our gifts through our baptismal mission

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## May is the month of The Blessed Virgin Mary

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven.

During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on

the *Month of May*, no. 1).

This Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century. In this way, the Church was able to Christianize the secular feasts which were wont to take place at that time. In the 16th century, books appeared and fostered this devotion.

The practice became especially popular among the members of the Jesuit Order — by 1700 it took hold among their students at the Roman College and a bit later it was publicly practiced in the Gesu Church in Rome. From there it spread to the whole Church.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of the Church and therefore the example, as well as the guide and inspiration, of everyone who, in and through the Church, seeks to be the servant of God and man and the obedient agent of the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, as Pope Leo XIII reminded us, is the soul of the Church: All the activity and service of the members of the Church, beginning with the supreme participation of the Blessed Mother in the work of the Church, is vivified by the Holy Spirit as the body, in all its activities, is vivified by its soul. The Holy Spirit is the Paraclete, Advocate, and Comforter which Christ Himself sent to be our consolation in the sorrowful mysteries of life, our source of moderation in the joyful mysteries of life, our added principle of exaltation in the glorious mysteries of life.

So He was for the Blessed Mother; so also He is for the least of us; so also He is for the rest of the Church, even for those who are its unconscious but conscientious members.

Wherever there is faith there is the example of Mary, because she lived by faith as the Scriptures remind us....

If, then, piety is the virtue which binds us to the sources of all life, to God, to our parents, to the Church, to Christ, certainly Christian piety binds us, in grateful love, to Mary — or our acceptance of Christ and of the mystery of our kinship with Him is imperfect, partial, and unfulfilled.

— Cardinal John Wright

### Mary and Our Spiritual Life

In our observance of the Marian month we should take into account the season of the Liturgical Year which largely corresponds with the fifty days of Easter. Our pious exercises could emphasize Our Lady's participation in the Paschal mystery and in Pentecost with which the Church begins. The pious exercises connected with the month of May can easily highlight the earthly role played by the glorified Queen of Heaven, here and now, in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

### Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A

#### Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, Alleluia.

**First Reading** from  
the Acts of the Apostles  
6:1-7

**Responsorial Psalm**  
32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

**Response:** Lord, let your  
mercy be on us, as we  
place our trust in you.

**Second Reading**  
from the first letter of  
Peter 2:4-9

**Gospel Acclamation**  
Alleluia, alleluia! I am the  
way, the truth, and the  
life, says the Lord; no one  
comes to the Father,  
except through me.  
Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel** according  
to John 14:1-12

#### Communion Antiphon

I am the true vine and you  
are the branches, says the  
Lord. Whoever remains in  
me, and I in him, bears  
fruit in plenty, alleluia.

### Next Week Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

**First:** Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

**Resp** Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20.

R. see v.1

**Second:** 1 Peter 3:15-18

**Gospel:** John 14:15-21

## Mass and Devotions

### Sunday Mass

**Saturday Vigil:** 6pm

**Sunday:** 9.30am & 5pm

### Samoan Mass:

1st Sunday at 12 noon

### Maori Mass:

1st Sunday of each month at 2pm

**Filipino Mass:** 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.15am

**Children's Mass:** 5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

**Arabic Mass:** 2nd Sunday of each month at 7pm

### Weekday Mass

9am each day except Thursday;

Thursday at 7.30pm

Healing Mass on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9am.

### Reconciliation

every Saturday at 11am

### Devotions & Prayer groups

**Eucharistic Adoration** on 1st Sunday of each month at 6 to 7pm

**Adoration with the Rosary:** Saturday at 9.30am

**Alliance of the 2 hearts Mass & devotion:** 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm

**Divine Mercy Devotion:** 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm

**Faith Circles:** every Monday at 2pm & 7pm via zoom

### Holy Family Fellowship:

every 4th Saturday at 7pm.

**Book Club:** meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

**Friendship Group:** is on the 5th of May, Mother's Day theme.

### Bible Study & Reflection

**Group:** meets Monday at 10am.

**Children's Ministry** will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

### Ascent Youth Ministry:

meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday from 6.30pm.

**Pastoral Care Team** meets on 4th Tuesday at 1.30pm

**Grief Support Group** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10am

## Parish Notices

### Alpha There's a seat for you at the table. You're Invited

We encourage everyone to pray for the team and participants of Alpha as they meet each week and explore questions about God and our faith.

Alpha is a tool we use to evangelise in our parish to move from "maintenance to mission." Let's all make an effort to grow our parish so please invite new people and also support us by providing food for our guests.

There are lists in the foyer to place your name to help with catering.

**Friday night Alpha commences on 8 May from 5.30-7pm and caters for parents and children.** All will be most welcome to attend. If your children have questions about God and our faith that you can't answer, bring them along.

If you're able to join our team to help in any way please contact the parish office.

**Reminder—First Holy Communion** classes start on 2nd May at 4pm followed by Mass at 6pm and will continue 4 other Saturdays. The Retreat Day will be Friday 5 June 2026 from 9am-3pm. Practice will be on Friday 5 June 2026 at 7pm. The ceremony will be at all masses on the weekend of 6/7 June 2026.

**Eucharistic Adoration in preparation of our journeying together to Eucharist28 and beyond, is held on the 1st Sunday** of each month between 6-7pm. Today we will commence immediately after the 5pm Mass.

**Friendship Group** meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Meeting Room after the 9am Mass. The next meeting is Tuesday 5 May 2026. The Theme for May is Mother's Day. Contact the Parish Office for more information. May God bless all Mothers.

**Fiesta Update:** Thank you to those who have attended our preliminary Fiesta planning meetings. The organising committee are reaching out for assistance. We presently require volunteers who will be able to coordinate the children's activities, the concert and the promotions of the event.

### Save the date of the Fiesta in your calendars: Sunday 19 July

Planning Meetings will be held, fortnightly, on Mondays at 7.30. The next meeting is on 4 May. Everyone is welcome to attend and help celebrate our Parish Feast.

**The Filipino & Friends Parish Community Association (FFPCA)** based at Mary Immaculate Parish, Eaglevale is inviting you to attend their 2026 movie fundraiser at 6.15pm on wed 6 May at Dumaresque St Cinema in Campbelltown. The movie will be "The Devil Wears Prada 2". Tickets costs \$25 pp. To reserve tickets email [ffpca1995@gmail.com](mailto:ffpca1995@gmail.com) or call 0413799628.

### Casual Cleaners URGENTLY required at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre

- Lovely place to work.
  - Supportive and flexible environment.
  - We can accommodate your timetable.
  - Award rates
  - 2 minutes drive from Mt Carmel Catholic College.
- Please call the Centre Manager, John on 0435 857 690

**Marriage Enrichment Weekend** We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 19-21 June 2026 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre. Book online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or [nswwbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswwbookings@wwme.org.au)





**The Legion Of Mary** is seeking new members to start a Legion of Mary Praesidium in our Parish.

The Legion of Mary was founded in Dublin, Ireland on 7th September 1921. It is a lay Catholic organisation whose members are giving service to the church on a voluntary basis in almost every country.

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Churches work.

The unit of the Legion of Mary is called a praesidium, which holds a weekly meeting, where prayer is intermingled with reports and

discussion. Persons who wish to join the Legion must apply for membership in a Praesidium.

**WORKS OF THE LEGION** The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals and through collaboration in every apostolic and missionary undertaking by the parish.

Every legionary is required to carry out a weekly apostolic work in the spirit of faith and in union with Mary.

*“For all states of the laity the perfect example of spiritual and apostolic life in the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Apostles, who while leading the life common to all on earth, one filled with family concerns and labours, was always intimately united with her Son and ion an entirely unique way co-operated in the work of the Saviour.....All should devoutly venerate her and commend their life and apostolate to her maternal care”.*

**A vocation view Ephphatha: Be Opened! Calling young men 18-35 years.**

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is always calling us to life, and life to the full – the challenge for us is to be open to listening for his quiet voice in our lives. How can we become more open to the voice of the Good Shepherd in the big and small decisions of life? How do we know if we are called to marriage, priesthood or religious We invite all unmarried young men aged 18-35 who are open to discerning God's call in their lives to join Bishop Brian Mascord, the priests of the Vocations Team and our Seminarians for lunch, formation, Q&A, one to one chats and Adoration. Register as soon as you can! Where: St Therese Parish, 2 Powell Street West Wollongong. When: Saturday 13 June, 12:30pm for 1pm lunch; Cost: Free, registration— go to [dow.sh/Ephphatha](http://dow.sh/Ephphatha)

**Catholic Chaplaincy at UOW:** UOW students and staff are warmly invited to become involved with the UOW Catholic Society. Join us for Mass and lunch, 12:30pm Thursdays during semester in the Building 11 Clubs Room. See @uowcathsoc on social media.

**Prayer intentions**

**For the sick and homebound:**

Pat Cullen, Mary Ponnappalam, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez, Richard Scolyer, Angela Pavlovic, Mercy Espiritu , Vladdy Mher Peralta, Pausumu Olaaiga, Bill Scibberas, Bernie Briscoe, Barbara Hughes, Clark Hughes  
*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.*

**For our recently departed** Eileen Butcher

**Anniversaries that occur at this time:**

Hilda Young, Antonio Azevedo & Lee Azevedo, Fank Lopresti  
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*

10 May 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
<b>Welcomers</b>	Gabriel & Myra	Nelia, Anita & Francia	Beatrix & Michael
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Ryan, Amana, Elijah & Eliana D	Vu	Stuart & Nathan
<b>Readers</b>	Suzanne & Margaret	Andy & Caroline	Fev & Madonna
<b>Refreshments</b>	Emmarie & Berna	Samoan Choir Community	Margaret Geoff & Danni
<b>Altar Linen</b>	Margaret	<b>CLOTW:</b> Sarah & Princy	
<b>Flowers</b>	Lorraine & Effie	<b>Church Vacuuming</b>	Parish Office
<b>Counters</b>	Richard & Michael	<b>Church Foyer</b>	Parish Office
<b>Choir</b>	C/ Nick	Samoan Choir	C/ Grace



**Contact Us**

Parish Priest:  
**Fr Shane Kelleher OCD**

Deacon:  
**Rev Stuart Lake**

Parish Associate  
**Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM**

**Office Hours**

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm  
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## The Holy Gospel according to John 14:1-12

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

Jesus said to his disciples: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The first reading for this Sunday paints a picture of the early Christian community quite different from those of preceding Sundays. Earlier we saw a community that was of one mind and one heart. Today we observe tension. Hellenists and Hebrews are divided over the lack of care given Greek widows. This was a practical matter, not a point of doctrine. The reading draws the lines of authority that existed within the community. Peter does not stand as sole leader. Instead, the entire group of apostles addresses the problem. They distinguish between various ministries and they appoint members who will meet the needs brought before them. Furthermore, the community selects those who will exercise the ministry, and the apostles commission them.

Today's responsorial psalm opens with an invocation to praise God for the blessings of creation and the care shown to human beings. God is acclaimed as trustworthy and God's word is as firm as is God's own self. It was by this word alone that the universe was created. The psalmist moves from consideration of covenant commitment to that of divine providence. God cares for all who fear the Lord, who stand in awe of and wonder at God's great power and majesty. The Lord looks upon the people, presumably with eyes of compassion and love. Finally, God is characterised as a saviour, one who will deliver them and preserve them in the face of great need.

Using an image from construction, the author of 1 Peter develops both a Christological theme and an ecclesiological one. He characterises both Christ and Christians as living stones. He seems to be saying that by coming to Christ, the living stone, Christians, as living stones themselves, are built into a spiritual house. Despite being the living stone that gives life, Christ was rejected by human beings. Though so rejected, Christ was chosen by God to be the cornerstone of the building that is constructed out of the living stones that are the Christians. As such, Christ becomes the focus of judgment. Those who believe in him are not put to shame, but those who reject him will stumble in darkness.

In the gospel Jesus develops two major theological themes: eschatology and Christology. First, Jesus seeks to strengthen his followers, who appear to be troubled at the thought of his departure. He does not conceal it, but he interprets it in a very positive way. He is indeed leaving, but he is going to the dwelling place of God and he promises to return to get them so that they can be together again. Jesus does not focus on the end of his life, only on the joyful events that will follow it. If his death is his departure and his resurrection is his return, then his union with his followers is the mutual indwelling enjoyed in this life by those united with him.