

17 May 2026

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

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The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

The Ascension is the event, where Jesus arose into heaven, at the end of his time on earth. It marks the completion of Christ's earthly mission and is a beautiful reminder that humanity's ultimate home is in heaven (Perth Catholic Archdiocese)

At the end of His earthly life Jesus ascends triumphantly into heaven. The Church acclaim Him in His holy humanity, invited to sit on the Father's right hand and to share His glory. But Christ's Ascension is the pledge of our own. Filled with an immense hope, the Church looks up towards her leader, who precedes her into the heavenly home and takes her with Him in His own person: "for the Son of God, after incorporating in Himself those whom the devil's jealousy had banished from the earthly paradise, ascends again to His Father and takes them with Him" (St. Leo).

The Ascension means essentially that Jesus is with His Father, "I go to the Father"; and this is His supreme joy, His goal, His reward. "If you loved me you would be full of joy because I am with my Father." Are we? With a joy that can supersede all subjective states of trouble and grief?

The first aspect of the Ascension is unalloyed joy that no man can take away from us. The Father at last has all He wants—an open heart into which He can pour His love without hindrance. Jesus is the recipient of that blissful love, and we rejoice in Him and for Him.

Secondly, Jesus has entered heaven as our pioneer. He has blazed a trail. More, He is our representative; in a real way we are there with Him. The great work of reconciliation has been accomplished.

Abide in my love." How do we abide in His love? He tells: "If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love, as it is by keeping my Father's commandments that abide in His love." What we have seen Jesus doing in relation to the Father, we must do. Jesus has shown us the Father and what the Father wants of us; has shown us how we must live to be in truth His children. We have to be living embodiments of Jesus as He is of His Father. And this, says Jesus, is my joy which you must share.

And even if the disciples' faithfulness failed at times, God's faithfulness towards us never fails. This is why the journey of the community and of every disciple of the Risen Jesus is always open to new perspectives and possibilities, for nothing is impossible for God.
(Vatican News) Catholic Culture

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, Alleluia.

First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

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

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

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20

Communion Antiphon

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, Alleluia.

Next Week Pentecost Sunday Year A

First: Acts 2:1-11

Resp Ps: 103:1. 24. 29-31.
34. R. v.30

Second: 1 Corinthians 12:3
-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23



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: meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

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

Filipino Mass will be celebrated today at 11.15am in the church and **Divine Mercy Devotion** will be at 3pm.

Ascent Youth Group Support ASCENT Youth as we raise funds to attend the Ignite National Youth Conference this July!

Join us for our **bake sale after Masses on 23–24 May** and enter our raffle, to win one of several hamper prizes including a **\$100 movie voucher**. Raffle tickets will be sold every weekend until the end of the month. **\$3 each or 4 for \$10.** Thank you for your support!



Alpha There's a seat for you at the table. Alpha has commenced and is in its 4th week working through the topic of "How can I have faith". Tuesday night Alpha has 12 guests plus the team and on the Friday night Alpha there are 9 guests including children.

A big thank you to those parishioners providing food and prayers allowing God to work powerfully and to showcase our beautiful parish community. You can still provide help with food for either night and sign up sheets are in the foyer. Many thanks from the Alpha Team.

Book Club will meet on Wednesday at 10am in the meeting room

Property Committee will meet on Wednesday at 7.30pm. Our property team meet together to discuss the maintenance and new projects associated with the upkeep of our parish buildings and grounds. Members are welcome, especially those with experience in the building industry and trades. Just come along to the meeting and meet the team.

Children's Ministry Gathering will meet next Sunday at 3pm for primary aged children activities.

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 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 18 May. Everyone is welcome to attend and help celebrate our Parish Feast.

Eucharistic Formation Opportunity Join the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation for **Rediscover the Real Presence**, a FREE four-part Zoom series exploring Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. Three sessions feature a FORMED.org video series, with a final deep dive into the riches of the Church's teaching on the Eucharist. Each session includes opportunities to reflect on the content and to connect with other participants. This series is a great means to assist you in your journey towards the International Eucharistic Congress 2028. The series will run on Zoom **Tuesdays, 7:00–8:15pm, from 26 May to 16 June**. Register here: tinyurl.com/RRPZoomSeries

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 or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

Middle East Emergency Appeal – Aid to the Church in Need is calling for urgent prayer and support for Christian communities affected by war in the Middle East. Your help will provide emergency food packages, support parishes sheltering displaced families, keep schools running, and supply vital medical and pastoral care. To learn more or give today, visit www.rebrand.ly/EmergencyAppeal

About Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) *Aid to the Church in Need* is the only international Catholic charity dedicated to the service of suffering Christians wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need. Founded in 1947,

ACN is a pontifical foundation and provides vital aid for pastoral projects, religious education, and emergency relief in areas affected by conflict and poverty. For many years we have partnered with parishes to share news of our work in bulletins to let parishioners know about these projects. ACN operates solely on benefactor donations, with no funding from Church or State. Learn more on our website: www.aidtochurch.org

Mary Help of Christians Walk for Life Fri 22 & Sat 23 May; We walk to raise PRAYERS for Australia for all life issues - the elimination of abortion, euthanasia, suicide, family breakdown, and to pray for Australia's Government. You are warmly welcome to join us on one or both days, walking from Kiama to Culburra, staying overnight in Gerringong. B.Y.O Lunch, snacks, water, hat, money for dinner. Support vehicle provided all the way. Shuttle cars return pilgrims to point of departure on both days. BENEFITS: Mass. Prayer. Hymns. Gregorian Choir. Exercise. Spectacular scenery. Joyful fellowship. Blessings in abundance. For information contact Sue Hill, 0435 336 195, Gabriella De Battista, 0414 205 404

Corpus Christi Retreat – Sunday 7 June As we prepare for the Eucharistic Congress, join with people from across the Diocese for a retreat to deepen your love of the Eucharist. St Joachim Hall, Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow; 11:00am –3:30pm. (Following 10:00am Mass / Lunch provided) Open to adults (ages 14–17 with parent/guardian). For more info or to register go to dow.sh/corpuschristi26

"Gardens" Retreat Day - Saturday 27th June; *"Grieve not as those who have no hope..."* 1 Thess 4:13. Spend a day reflecting on how while we experience pain, grief and loss in life, we can also discover in such moments that God is renewing us and doing "a new thing" (Rev 21:4) within us. The day will begin with mass at 9am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish, Varroville and end at 4pm. Afternoon & morning tea provided. BYO Lunch Cost: \$25. Please rsvp at <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBD> or contact us on 0402 602 520.

Good Friday Holy Lands Appeal; Thank you for your generous support of this appeal. Our parish has raised \$2823.90. This money has been sent to the Franciscan Friars who oversee the charitable works in the Holy Land.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CUSTODY OF THE HOLY LAND are as follows: Biblical Shrines 74; Schools 22 (7,000+ students); Parishes 29 'Casa Nova' Guest Houses 4; Other religious centres 19; Orphanages and refuges 6; Charitable programs: Home rental assistance, educational scholarships, medical centres; Institutions: Franciscan Biblical Centre, Seminary, Christian Information Centre; Franciscan Printing Press, Centre for Oriental Christian Studies.

Thank you for supporting Our Project Compassion appeal. Our parish has raised \$2517.05. Your generosity through Project Compassion this year empowers some of the world's most vulnerable people to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Thank you so much for being part of Project Compassion 2026!

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, 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

Pausumu Olaaiga,

Anniversaries that occur at this time:

Antonio Azevedo & Lee Azevedo, Fank Lopresti

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

24 May 2026	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Estela & Cecilia	Martin, Violeti & Paul	Geoff, Margaret & Danni
Altar Servers	Berna, Christian, Elijah & Arland	Vu	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Bevina & Mark	Irene & Aura	Niya & Effie
Refreshments	Josephine & Glenda	Irene, Tina, Meg & John	Fev, Maree & Patricia
Altar Linen	Berna	CLOTW:	
Flowers	Tracey, Richard & Vaitafao	Church Vacuuming	Parish Office
Counters	George & Digna	Church Foyer	Parish Office
Choir	C/ Ryan	C/Karen	Youth Choir



Contact Us

Parish Priest:
Fr Shane Kelleher OCD

Deacon:
Rev Stuart Lake

Parish Associate
Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

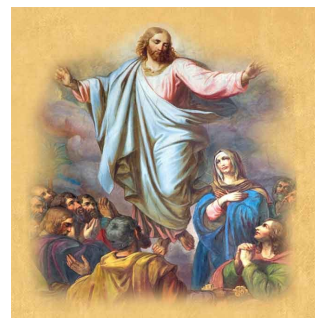
Office Hours

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The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20

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 Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

JOIN US ON 19TH JULY AT 10 A.M. FOR MASS
CELEBRATED BY
BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD

FOLLOWED BY A PROCESSION WITH
OUR LADY'S STATUE
&
Fiesta Celebrations

NOVENAS FROM 10TH JULY TO 18TH JULY