



Ascension Sunday, Year A | 17 May 2026

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To know, follow and share Jesus with our neighbours.

To see every neighbourhood transformed by the love and power of Jesus.

Mass Today

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 | Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM | Psalm 46

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

SECOND READING | Ephesians 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL | Matthew 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

This Week

9:30am Mass – Mon 18 May

9:30am Mass – Tues 19 May

9:30am Mass – Wed 20 May

9:30am Mass – Thur 21 May

9:30am Mass – Fri 22 May

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil 5pm

Sunday 7:30am; 9am;

10:30am & 5pm

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday 9:30am

Adoration

Friday 10am - 11am

Reconciliation

Saturday 11am-12pm (with Adoration)

PARISH CLERGY

Fr John Ho PP

Fr Richard Healey AP

CONTACT US

sjec.org.au/hello

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& Michelle Quinn (Wed am; Thurs-Fri)

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READINGS NEXT WEEK – Pentecost Sunday, Year A

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

Knowing God

Jesus has been taken up into heaven as we begin today's First Reading. His disciples—including the Apostles and Mary—return to the upper room where He celebrated the Last Supper.

There, they devote themselves with one accord to prayer, awaiting the Spirit that He promised would come upon them.

The unity of the early Church at Jerusalem is a sign of the oneness that Christ prays for in today's Gospel. The Church is to be a communion on earth that mirrors the glorious union of Father, Son, and Spirit in the Trinity.

Jesus has proclaimed God's name to His brethren. The prophets had foretold this revelation: a new covenant by which all flesh would have knowledge of the Lord.

By the new covenant made in His blood and remembered in every Eucharist we know God as our Father. This is the eternal life Jesus promises. And this is the light and salvation we sing of in today's Psalm.

As God made light to shine out of darkness when the world began, He has enlightened us in Baptism, making us new creations, giving us knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Our new life is a gift of "the Spirit of glory," we hear in today's Epistle. Made one in His name, we are given a new name—"Christians"—a name used only here and in two other places in the Bible. We are to glorify God, though we will be insulted and suffer because of this name.

But as we share in His sufferings, we know we will overcome and rejoice when His glory is once more revealed. And we will dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives.

Scott Hahn - stpaulcenter.com

In the spirit of reconciliation we acknowledge the Dharawal people as traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respect to all Elders, past and present, and extend that respect to all First Nations peoples today.



sjec.org.au/news



StJohnCampbelltown

Why Are You Standing There Looking at the Sky?

The Ascension can seem like a sad moment because Jesus leaves His disciples and returns to the Father. But the Ascension is not about Jesus abandoning His people. Rather, it is about Jesus remaining with us in a new and deeper way.

In the Gospel, Jesus blesses His disciples before ascending into heaven. His final gesture is one of love and blessing. And surprisingly, the disciples return to Jerusalem filled with joy. They now understand that although Jesus is no longer physically visible, He is still with them through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the first reading, the angels ask the disciples: **“Why are you standing there looking at the sky?”**

It is a gentle reminder that followers of Christ cannot remain passive. Jesus sends His disciples into the world to continue His mission of love, forgiveness, and hope. The same mission is given to us today. We are called to be witnesses to Christ not only by our words, but especially by the way we live — through kindness, compassion, patience, and faithfulness in daily life.

The Ascension also reminds us that this world is not our final home. Jesus has gone before us to prepare a place for us. In the middle of life's struggles and uncertainties, we are invited to live with hope and trust. As we celebrate the Ascension, may we remember that Christ is still with us — in the Eucharist, in prayer, in His Church, and in one another — calling us to continue His mission with courage and joy.

Holy Communion Program

Workshops continue this weekend (Saturday or Sunday from 3:30pm - 4:45pm) for both candidates and parents, and conclude next weekend.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS & THE SICK

Sean James Logan, Joan Samuel, Maria Noida Carmona, Helen Barnes, Ronald Elliott, Jack Wheeler, Roslin, Gina Marie Bellon, John Moore, David Jones, Nathan Taylor, Cathy Hurst, John Wagner, Alan Johnson, Allan Marquinez, Carmela Labrador, Karen Milenkovic, Josefino Pangilinan.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Sybil Dawson, David Harty, Philip Donnelly, Dr Tim O'Carrigan, Joseph David Hung Tran.

ANNIVERSARIES & THANKSGIVING

Coronation Retis, Rita Hyland, Des McAuliffe (Snr), Catherine Heafey, Mary Nicol, Thomas & Eleanor McAuliffe, Delore McDonald, Joseph Cuschieri, Arthur & Mary McCarthy, Mathew Joseph.

SVP Winter Blanket Appeal

St John's Campbelltown St Vincent de Paul Conference begins the **Winter Blanket Appeal** this weekend. All donations of blankets, quilts and doonas can be left at the back of the church, in front of the piety stall. Donation envelopes will also be available. Thank you for your generous gifts.

Formation Pathway: Small Group Community

Many people quietly wonder, “If I didn't turn up today, would anyone even notice?” Following on from last month's formation on *Meaningful Community*, this session will explore how small-group community helps people move from simply attending parish life to being known, supported, formed, and drawn deeper into faith.

We will look at why smaller communities matter in parish renewal and explore practical models including Faith Circles, Connect Groups, and faith and life sharing groups.

Tues 2 June, Campbelltown

Wed 3 June, Wollongong and Zoom
7–9pm. Register : dow.sh/fpjune2026

An Invitation from Bishop Brian Mascord

“We have the greatest news the world has ever known: Jesus Christ is alive, he loves us, and he sends us. At the **Parish Renewal Summit (1-3 Oct)**, my hope is that we will be reminded of this truth, renewed in our own discipleship, and encouraged to share this hope with others. I warmly encourage you to be part of this gathering as we seek together the renewal of our parishes and the mission of the Church.”

Early Bird rego still available. Act Now!

Prayer Intentions

Rosters

Sunday 24 May

Acolyte

Vigil Jason Thompson

7:30 Brian Thompson

9 Bernard Augustine

10:30 Gavan Hill, Andrei Valderrama

5 Tom Hunter

Extraordinary Ministers

Vigil Graeme & Roseleen Goldie

7:30 Karen Schneider, *Volunteer*

9 Diana & John Hill

10:30 Norma McNally, Imelda Landrigan

5 Rowena & Patrick Cooke

Readers

Vigil Marie Cassar, Sheila Fonseca

7:30 Jean Reid, Cathy Porter, Ian Star

9 Marie Joseph, Nathan Cox,

Cherima Lucilo

10:30 Martin Shields, Ella Talamaivao,

Children (Universal Prayers)

5 Tess Valesini, Val Alcantara

Musicians

Vigil Ben McKenzie & John George

9 Glynn Family

10:30 Joe Talamaivao

5 Filipino Choir

Condolences

We express our sincere condolences to the Harty family on the passing of David Harty, who was called home to God on 4 May 2026. David's Funeral Mass will be celebrated on **Monday 18 May 2026 at St John's Church at 11am.**

Please keep David and the Harty family in your prayers during this difficult time. May the Lord comfort all who mourn and grant David eternal rest.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Children's Mass

10:30am on Pentecost Sunday 24 May for children in Years 5-8 participating in various liturgical roles, including altar serving, welcome, prayers of the faithful, and the offertory procession. Following the Mass, there will be a short gathering in the parish hall with some fun activities and pizza for the children.

Pentecost Vigil Mass

The 5pm Mass on 23 May will include the extended readings - 7 in total.



Screenings of 'House of David'

Join us in the Parish Hall Meeting Room – Sunday Nights at 6.30pm during May

Come along and join your parish community for special screenings of 'House of David'. The story of David is a cornerstone of our faith journey. As shepherd, king, and poet, David's life speaks to God's love, mercy, and promise. His story helps us explore courage, repentance, and trust in God—values that remain vital for Christians today.

All are welcome! Bring your friends and family for an inspiring evening as we reflect on David's legacy and its meaning for our lives. Tea and bikkies will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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 from 11am–3:30pm (Following 10am Mass / Lunch provided) Open to adults (ages 14–17 with parent / guardian).

For more information or to register go to dow.sh/corpuschristi26

Caritas Australia Lebanon Emergency Appeal

The situation in Lebanon remains extremely fragile, and civilians urgently need humanitarian support. More than 2,000 people have been killed and over 1.1 million people displaced nationwide, including more than 390,000 children. Our partners Caritas Lebanon continue to deliver emergency food, water, shelter and health support across the country, maintaining humanitarian convoys to hard-to-reach areas in southern Lebanon.

Stand with the people of Lebanon today. Learn more or make a donation today at www.caritas.org.au/lebanon

A new beginning

Until the end of the Easter season, we will begin every Mass a minute early with a prayer to gather our hearts and prepare us to encounter the Lord and one another through sharing the Word and Breaking of Bread.

Opening Prayer (*we will pray together*):

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

The following prayer is led by the priest:

Holy Spirit, gather us now as one body in Christ, draw our hearts together, unite us in mind and purpose, and prepare us, as your church, to be united with Jesus Christ in the offering of this Mass as one body.

Through the intercession of St John the Evangelist, help us to listen, to remain, and to love, so that what we celebrate together may truly shape how we live. Amen.

We will then begin the gathering song and continue with the Eucharist.



Mission Mindset Retreat

What does it mean to be on mission? To live this out in our everyday lives? We are all called to mission, wherever we are and whatever we are doing. We're blessed to have experts in mission: NET Ministries join us as they lead a time of retreat and reflection to orient us towards mission in the everyday.

The retreat will include times of prayer and silence, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, fellowship and activities. Details:

When: Fri 5 June 5pm–Sat 6 June 3pm

Where: St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park

Cost: \$150 (includes lodging for the night + all meals)

For who: Young Adults 18-35 and Year 11-12 students (\$45 Saturday only from 9am) Spots are very limited. Register here:

dow.sh/missionmindset

News from the Diocese

A vocation view

Jesus commissions his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. Listen for his call; he may be inviting you to serve with courage and faith. (Matthew 28:16–20)

If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact Fr Duane Fernandez, the diocesan vocations director, vocations@dow.org.au

Ephphatha: Be Opened!

Calling young men (18-35 years old)

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 life, and how do you live your baptismal vocation more fully as a single young man?

We take this opportunity to 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&R, one-to-one chats and Adoration.

Register NOW!

St Therese Parish, 2 Powell Street, West Wollongong

Saturday 13 June, 12:30pm for 1pm lunch

Cost: Free, but registration is essential – dow.sh/Ephphatha

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Use the new tap machine to donate \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 or other amount (\$1 - \$99).

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