



# St Finbar's Catholic Parish

86 Centre Rd, Brighton East, VIC, 3187

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## Sixth Sunday of Easter- Year A

14th May 2023

### Parish Staff

Parish Priest: Fr Ian Ranson

Retired Priest : Fr Clemente Cafarella

Parish Secretary: Mrs Carmel Cristiano  
(Tues & Thurs, 9.00 am—3.30pm)

St Vincent de Paul: 1800 305 330

School Principal: Mr Patrick Berlinger

### Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday 9.30am

### Weekend Masses

Saturday: 9:30am, 5:30pm Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am

Baptisms & other sacraments:  
please call the office to organise.



### Parallel Truths

Today's Gospel speaks of an advocate. This translates a Greek word: 'paraclete'. Our Lord says: 'I will send you another Paraclete to be with you forever.' Our Lord was a Paraclete, and he would send another.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, para-ll-el. They run alongside each other. A paraclete is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case.

That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor *par excellence*.

Our Lord promises another Paraclete dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, assisting us to live Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This Paraclete particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two Paracletes, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy.

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### Let us pray

#### Recent death:

Carmen Torcasio



#### Anniversary:

Fr Ross McKenney

Rachael McCarthy

Sheila Eichhorn

Anne Sinclair, Gay Cahir

Ed Thomas

"For it was  
you who  
created my  
being,  
knit me  
together in  
my mother's  
womb.  
I thank you  
for the wonder  
of my being,  
for the wonders  
of all your  
creation."

Psalm 139 (138):13-14



AMAZING  
LOVING  
STRONG  
HAPPY  
SELFLESS  
GRACEFUL

erichsengeta

## MAY—Month of Mary

14th St Matthias

15th St Isidore the Farmer

16th St Simon Stock

17th St Paschal Baylon

18th St Felix of Cantalice

19th St Celestine V, St Yves

20th St Bernardino of Siena

To be a mother is a great treasure.

Mothers, in their unconditional and sacrificial love for their children, are the antidote to individualism; they are the greatest enemies against war.



Pope Francis

The Ascension of the Lord- Year A 21.5.23	5.30pm	9.00am	11.00am
Lector	Clare Sabatino	John Little	Richard Wakeham
Minister	Bella Parker	Mary Callea	Jenny Reiche
Audio Visual Operator	John Sabatino	volunteer	Teresa Myer

### Our Lady around the world: Our Lady of Knock, Ireland

The apparitions at Knock are unique: not only was Our Lady seen, but other saints also appeared, and no words were spoken or messages given. It was a silent apparition lasting just over two hours.

On a wet August evening in 1879, two women, Mary Byrne and Mary McLoughlin, were on their way home when they stopped by St John the Baptist church and noticed something strange about the gable (a triangular section of wall at the end of a pitched roof). Inside, they saw several figures around the altar: Our Lady, St Joseph and St John the Evangelist. Atop the altar was also a lamb in front of the cross, surrounded by angels.

In their excitement, they went out and told everyone they knew close by about the apparition, and a total of 15 people witnessed the event. The apparition has been recreated at the Knock Shrine in this memorial:

In one of the witness statements, a man named Patrick Hill describes circling around the apparitions in wonder, saying, 'The figures were full and round as if they had a body and life.' So close was he that he could see Mary's 'eyes, the balls, the pupils and the iris of each'.

More than one witness, including Patrick Hill, commented on St Joseph's greying beard, and according to Mary Byrne:

The Virgin stood erect, with eyes raised to heaven, her hands elevated to the shoulders or a little higher, the palms inclined slightly towards the shoulders or bosom. She wore a large cloak of a white colour, hanging in full folds and somewhat loosely around her shoulders, and fastened to the neck.

She wore a crown on the head, rather a large crown, and it appeared to me somewhat yellower than the dress or robes worn by Our Blessed Lady. In the figure of St Joseph the head was slightly bent, and inclined towards the Blessed Virgin, as if paying her respect. It represented the saint as somewhat aged, with grey whiskers and greyish hair.

Two commissions were convened to investigate the apparitions, one from 1879 to 1880, and the other from 1935 to 1936. Both investigations judged the apparitions worthy of belief. Knock Shrine is now Ireland's International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine, visited by thousands every year.

Although no message was given, the apparitions themselves are recognised to be rich in biblical and theological symbolism. Mary, St Joseph and all the saints bear witness to only person: the lamb who was slain to take away the sin of the world.

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#### **SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

*St Finbar's Parish hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.*