



Readings for  
this Sunday:

Acts 1:1-11

Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23

Luke 24:46-53



Readings for  
next Sunday:

Acts 2:1-11

Romans 8:8-17

John 14:15-16, 23-26



## Liturgical Jottings

### Our Eyes

Our bodies, our minds and hearts and all our senses are very much part of our participation in the liturgy. Second Vatican Council calls for the faithful to have full, active and conscious participation in liturgical celebrations (SC art. 14). We hear in the first reading: "Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky." Yes many times our eyes are looking upward. Not just to see the Lord rising but at the end of time to see him come down. The Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel makes people look up to see the marvels of God depicted in great artwork. Like Abraham we may look up at the sky to see the stars and wonder at God's creation. The use of incense encourages us to lift our eyes to see the smoke rise with our prayers to the Lord. Artists and architects give us opportunities to raise our eyes heavenward.

## Looking at the Readings

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 but have not yet arrived at a second. While the narratives that describe the Ascension fit well into the unfolding story of redemption, the feast celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. The readings allow us to focus on this theological point while we commemorate a turning point in the life of the church. We do this by considering the enthronement of Christ in the heavens and the new body of Christ on earth.

Many of the Easter accounts have directed our attention to the appearances of Jesus which were intended to strengthen the Christians' belief in his bodily resurrection.

Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today is a day to be overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity.

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the community of believers. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. 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. © Dianne Bergant CSA

## Words of Pope Leo XIV

In spirit of faith, the College of Cardinals met for the conclave. Coming from different backgrounds and experiences, we placed in God's hands our desire to elect the new Successor of Peter, the bishop of Rome, a shepherd capable of preserving the rich heritage of the Christian faith and, at the same time, looking to the future, in order to confront the questions, concerns and challenges of today's world. Accompanied by your prayers, we could feel the working of the Holy Spirit, who was able to bring us into harmony, like musical instruments, so that our heartstrings could vibrate in a single melody. *The homily in St Peter's Square 18 May, 2025.*

## Prayer for the Day

We mark your eyes with the sign of the cross: see the works of Christ. (RCIA blessing for the Eyes)

## On the Lighter Side

What do you say to a pirate with two eyes? Eye-eye captain! " Why did the mobile phone start wearing glasses? Because he lost all his contacts.



## Parish Personnel

<b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr Jake Mudge	5443 3337
<b>Assistant Priest:</b> Fr Henry Onyirioha	5443 3337
<b>Parish Sacramental Coordinator:</b> Sally Jennings	5443 3337
<b>Office Administrator:</b> Robyn Abbott	5443 3337
<b>Communications Coordinator:</b> Megan Merrett	0408 337 663
<b>Pastoral Care Visitor:</b> Contact Parish	5443 3337
<b>Safeguarding Officer:</b>	5443 3337
<b>Census Coordinator:</b> Marianne Faulkner	5443 3337
<b>St Therese's School Principal:</b> Petra Teggelove	5443 3200
<b>St Francis of the Fields Principal:</b> Tim Moloney	5439 3191
<b>Assisi Kindergarten Director:</b>	0419 591 512; 5439 3833
<b>Planned Giving Coordinator:</b> Joan Self	5443 3337
<b>Hall Bookings:</b> St Therese's School Office	5443 3200
<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b> Morgan Murphy (chair), Fr Jake, Fr Henry, Sally Jennings, Marg Flavell, ex officio Tim Moloney, Petra Teggelove, Alison Knowles.	

## Weekend Mass Times

<b>St Therese's</b>	Saturday Vigil 6pm
	Sunday Morning 7.30am, 10.30am
<b>St Joseph's, Axe Creek</b>	Sunday 9am
<b>St Mary's, Axedale</b>	Sunday 10.30am

## Weekday Worship Times

<b>St Therese's:</b>	Mon 2/6, Tue 3/6, Wed 4/6, Thurs 5/6, Fri 6/6 & Sat 24/5: 9.15am Mass
<b>Rosary</b>	after each weekday Mass
<b>Baptisms</b>	during Weekend Masses
<b>Reconciliation:</b>	9.45am: Sat (after Mass)



## BENDIGO WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

(BWNS) is back again in 2025, supporting the Bendigo community to provide shelter, food and dignity to people experiencing homelessness. We encourage parishioners to assist in ensuring this essential community service is fully rostered. Volunteers are required to support this project in a number of ways, details available on the website. All volunteers sign up directly via the BWNS website [www.bwns.org.au/volunteer](http://www.bwns.org.au/volunteer).

**ST THERESE'S BWNS SIGN UP SHEET** are available in the back of the churches. We are still seeking some assistance with preparing meals, and helping receive the cooked meals at the parish.

**JUNE REMEMBRANCE MASS** will be an opportunity to offer prayers and remember deceased relatives and friends with family and parishioners at St Therese's church, from 7pm on Thursday 12 June. Supper to be provided following Mass. All welcome, RSVP not required. Please bring a plate to share if possible.

**SANDPIPER eNEWS** Issue 100: 30 May. Scan the QR code for the latest issue! To subscribe and receive direct to your email inbox please go to [www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au) then click on → News & Events → Sandpiper eNews. Direct link <https://mailchi.mp/sandhurst/100>



**PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024/25 CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST** Children have now completed all 4 sessions of the program and final preparations are now underway.

Candidates will attend a Mass to receive a copy of 'The Lord's Prayer' either last weekend or this weekend. Families should have received an email regarding Sacramental Mass dates. Please ensure this is completed promptly to assist with planning. Please contact our Parish Sacramental Coordinator Sally Jennings if you have any questions at [kpsacraments@outlook.com](mailto:kpsacraments@outlook.com) or call ☎ 5443 3337.

## Parish Diary

June  
7/8 Sacramental Mass Weekend  
12 Remembrance Mass  
14/15 Sacramental Mass Weekend



## Bendigo Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE

Catholics have long honoured Mary Our Blessed Mother throughout the month of May each year. The Fatima Statue is currently visiting our parish at St Therese's Church. From 13 May (the date of our Lady's first appearance to the children of Fatima) until the Marian Festival (12 October, 2025), the Bendigo Apostolate of Fatima coordinates for statue this statue of Our Lady of Fatima to travel to many churches of the Diocese of Sandhurst as a sign of our unity in entrusting ourselves to the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to promote the messages of our Lady of Fatima. This beautiful statue is of some significance, originating from Portugal and bearing relics of the site of the Apparitions of Fatima in its base. For further information or to find out more go to [www.bendigofatima.com](http://www.bendigofatima.com)

### MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FOR POPE LEO XIV

Our Catholic Communication partners have set up an online book where parishioners can leave their prayers and messages of support for Pope Leo XIV. Each diocese will have their own section. To access our Sandhurst Diocese link please go to: <https://caspar.church/messages/index.asp?GroupID=76485&BookID=3>

**HEAR FROM POPE LEO XIV** Sunday Echo is a limited-release resource the Diocese of Wollongong has developed that contains, using the Holy Father's most recent homily or reflection and accompanying discussion questions. Each issue will be released the day after Pope Leo XIV gives a homily or reflection on the most recent Sunday Gospel readings go to <https://www.dow.org.au/mediaresources/faith-circles/> to access or sign up to have sent straight to you.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION** Parents seeking baptism for their children are asked to attend the Bendigo Preparation Program held on the first Wednesdays of each month. Next sessions will be held on 4 June & 2 July from 7.30pm in St Kilian's Church, 161 McCrae St. Bookings via St Kilian's ☎ 5441 6244.



**ST THERESE'S BAPTISM KIT** with parish stole, candle, information booklet, & all required registration forms is available from the Parish Office (cost \$60). For more information or if you have any questions please contact the Parish office ☎ 5443 3337.

**CATHOLICARE VICTORIA (CCV)** is the Catholic Church's mission in action, delivering programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential and overcome life's challenges. CCV is committed to building thriving communities, where everyone belongs. CCV focuses on real life issues, offering practical support for all members of the community. Services include counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, pastoral care, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support, financial and material aid and a variety of courses to strengthen relationships and wellbeing. Our office locations are in Bendigo, Shepparton and Wangaratta. Some of our services are provided remotely while other services are location specific. If CCV cannot provide the support service, a referral can be made. For support, please call 1800 123 228 or visit: [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au) for more details.



**WORLD MS DAY** 30 May 2025 - Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a long-lasting (chronic) disease of the central nervous system. It is thought to be an autoimmune disorder where the body attacks itself by mistake. MS is an unpredictable disease that affects people differently. Some may only have mild symptoms whereas others may lose their ability to see clearly, write, speak or walk, when communication between the brain and other parts of the body becomes disrupted. The number of Australians living with MS is increasing at an accelerating rate. It's important for employers, family, carers and general public to have a better understanding of how MS impacts people living with the condition. For people with no visible symptoms, we often incorrectly assume there is nothing wrong with them. World MS Day falls on May 30. In Australia, MS Awareness Month is recognised in May, a time to advocate for better support and access to diagnosis and treatment. You might find time to access an information video on the MS website [www.msaustralia.org.au](http://www.msaustralia.org.au) Mary Pianta, Disability Contact Coordinator.

**PARISH ROSTERS NOW AVAILABLE** New rosters for the St Joseph's, and both St Therese's Masses for the next few months are now available at the back of the church. Please take a copy home. To be removed from current rosters please let the parish office know asap [kennington@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:kennington@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

**100 YEARS of YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS** March 2025 marked the centenary of the Young Christian Workers founded in Belgium by Cardinal Joseph-Leon Cardijn. A small group of former YCW members, Monsignor Frank Marriott, Tricia Blanks and Margaret Watson, invite you to remember your time in the YCW. You are invited to Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday, 13th July, at 11.00am, celebrated by Bishop Shane Mackinlay and Monsignor Frank Marriott, followed by lunch at the Golden Square Hotel. Please see flyers at the church door for further information, alongwith RSVP details.

**MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE** 9-20 Sept 2025: Led by Sr Annie Bond, a Sister of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, this pilgrimage focuses on prayer and reflection as in integral part of the pilgrimage. For more information please go to [www.marymackillopplace.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au) or see program guide at the back of the church. The pilgrimage starts in Melbourne and ends in Sydney at the tomb of Saint Mary MacKillop. All are welcome. To register or book please contact [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au)

### MARRIAGE MATTERS

#### *The Ascension - Open to receive*

'That the love with which you loved me may be in them and so that I may be in them' – the prayer of Jesus before returning to the Father. God made us to be channels of His love – wife to husband, vice versa, parents to children. Our openness to His love enables it to flow out through us to others.

**JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO** 1 June. Fr Rob Galea says with the Ascension of Jesus, the apostles must now rely on faith and the unseen presence of the Holy Spirit. Mother Hilda shares a story from the First Nations people highlighting their deep connection with nature. Bishop Tony Percy says before ascending, Jesus entrusts a most important mission to us. Trish McCarthy explores how three archangels serve as spiritual archetypes, and Deacon Josh Clayton finds profound meaning in connecting with people through simple, everyday moments. Plus, more great music! Tune in at Bendigo Life 105.1 FM, Sunday 11am or go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) to listen or subscribe.



**PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS** No cash? No Problem! Your support is greatly appreciated. At St Therese's Church in Kennington, why not try the *Tap'n'Go* system in the Welcome Area! Alternatively, please consider an online contribution.

*Account name:* St Therese's Church

*BSB:* 083 543 *Account number* 457 743 7

# The Ascension of the Lord – Year C

## 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.

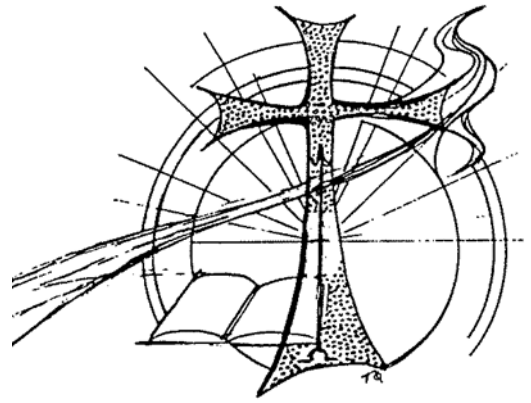
## Responsorial Psalm

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

## Gospel Acclamation

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

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## Exploring the Word

Jesus has alluded to the fact that he is going away but that he will one day return. In the meantime, the disciples, the community to whom John is writing his gospel, are living the 'in-between times'. Jesus has come once in the flesh and has promised to return at the end of the world and so this instruction is a continuation of the teaching on how disciples should live out their faith in Jesus' absence: they must keep his word, the word of God. 'And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (Jn 1:14)'. The will not be alone in this task as Jesus has promised to send the Advocate of the Holy Spirit who will continue to unfold the word as the Church grows and meets new situations and challenges.

- You could look at the First Reading from Acts which highlights one such situation.
- In conferring the gift of peace on his disciples, Jesus is preparing them for his departure and his absence. This will be a trial for the disciples but the peace of Christ and the Holy Spirit will help them to understand his return to the Father and to be confident that they too will one day make the journey.
- How do you cope with the 'absence' of Jesus? In what ways do you experience Christ's presence?
- How do you experience the Spirit in your life?

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Michael Johnson, Ken McMahon, Janine Bourke, Gary Frilay, Ken Jones, Fr Brian Carey, George Toth, Kath Munari, Ruth Hoskin, Luigi Basile, Olivia Slattery, Ruby Kelly, Chris Wilson, Mary Sweeney, Maureen Murphy, Barbara Kiel, & Dave Cola.

**PRAYERS FOR RECENTLY DECEASED:** John Martin, Sheila Waddington, Brendan Drechsler

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Gavin Brennan, Damien Brennan, Dan O'Connor, Christine Hayes

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Theodore Ellery (child of Trudy) who is to be baptised this weekend.

## Next Weekend – 7/8 June 2025 – 2nd Weekend

Mass	Readers	Offertory	Musicians
6.00pm	<i>Sacramental Family Volunteer</i>	T & H Perera	<i>Recorded Music</i>
9.00am	Bern Mannes, Len Rodda	Roger Barbetti Family	K Nankervis/L Mooney/N Self
10.30am	<i>Volunteer Required</i>	<i>Volunteer Required</i>	<i>Recorded Music</i>
Mass	Data	Sacristan	Eucharistic Minister/s
6.00pm	Jason Mekel	Travis Perera	L Bombadieri, L Fonua
10.30am	Daniel Giles	Annie Wilson	M O'Connor
Mass	Children's Liturgy	Altar Servers	Piety Stall
6.00pm	-	As rostered/available	<i>Volunteer required</i>
10.30am	-	As rostered/available	<i>Volunteer required</i>

**Crypt (June):** Mary Minster

**Environment Kennington:** *Volunteers Required*

**Prayers of the Faithful (June):** Daniel Giles

**Environment Axe Creek:** Ron & Kathy Ratcliff

**PARISH SOCIAL GROUP (Strathfieldsaye)** meet on first Thursday: odd months at 'Dough Si Dough Bakery' in Strathfieldsaye 10.30am for coffee, **even months at Braidie's Tavern Strathfieldsaye 12 midday lunch.** (Next meet 5 June) All welcome. Mary Sweeney and Liesbeth. Contact 0407 535 842.

**MENALIVE** meet third Saturday of the month. Next meet 21 June (please contact Kevin Pentland to confirm [kjpentland@hotmail.com](mailto:kjpentland@hotmail.com)) St Therese's Church 7.30 am breakfast, 8am prayer & discussion.

**ST THERESE'S PARISH SAFEGUARDING TEAM** All volunteers are required to have a current WWCC and to have completed the Parish Volunteer paperwork. Please contact the office for assistance at any time. 😊

**Remember: Keeping everyone safe within our community is all of our responsibility**

Safeguarding Team - Megan: 5443 3337, or Anne B: 0438 324 917, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: 0438 951 010,  
**Kids HelpLine** – Anytime Any reason – 1800 55 1800, **1800RESPECT**, Confidential Support Service 1800 737 732