

Good Shepherd Parish South Brisbane West End Newsletter

The ASCENSION of the LORD
17th May 2026



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

Friends, the Ascension, although an essential moment of the story, is still shrouded in confusion and query. What does it mean and how is it relevant? The basic facts are that it has been 40 days since Easter (14th May) but for Australian Catholics, we tend to celebrate it on the Sunday (17th May). Jesus returns to heaven to reign eternally at the right hand of the Father. In his *Summa Theologiae*, responding to the objection, 'it would have been better for Jesus to have remained on earth', St Thomas Aquinas offers this reply.

Although Christ's bodily presence was withdrawn from the faithful by the Ascension, still the presence of His Godhead is ever with the faithful, as He Himself says: "Behold, I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world" (Matt 28:20). For, "by ascending into heaven He did not abandon those whom He adopted," as Pope Leo says (*De Resurrec.*, Sermon. ii). But Christ's Ascension into heaven, whereby He withdrew His bodily presence from us, was more profitable for us than His bodily presence would have been.

Then, Aquinas goes on to say that the Ascension is effective in helping us to grow in the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity.

First of all, in order to increase our faith, which is of things unseen. . . . For "blessed are they that see not, yet believe" (John 20:29) . . . Secondly, to uplift our hope; hence He says: "If I shall go, and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will take you to Myself; that where I am, you also may be" (John 14:3). For by placing in heaven the human nature which He assumed, Christ gave us the hope of going thither . . . Thirdly, in order to direct the fervor of our charity to heavenly things. . . . And since the Holy Ghost is love drawing us up to heavenly things, therefore our Lord said to His disciples: "It is expedient to you that I go; for if I go not, the Paraclete will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7).

As we celebrate the feast this weekend, let us remember that this moment is far from being just another date in the liturgical calendar, but truly foundational moment to the Christian life. Happy Ascension Sunday!

Fr William

The Good Shepherd Parish acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which our Churches stand.

Parish Administration

47 Dornoch Terrace, West End, 4101
Monday - Friday | 9am-2pm

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Connect with us 

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<https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdParishBrisbane>

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Email: pduptonpark@bne.catholic.edu.au

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Welcome to new Parishoners

We welcome any new Parishoners among us. Take the time to meet with our priests and get connected to the broader community.



Embracing the communities of:

*St Mary's, South Brisbane,
St Francis of Assisi, West End
St Ita's, Dutton Park*

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Fairfield

Readings at Mass

The ASCENSION of the LORD
17th May 2026

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 46(47):2-3, 6-9

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

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **R/**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R/**

God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **R/**

Second reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers.

This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

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 commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



Next Sunday Readings:

Acts 2: 1-11,

Ps 103(104): 1, 24, 29-31, 34

1 Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13

Jn 20: 19-23



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Upcoming Events & News

RCIA Program is now open!



Do you know anyone that is interested in becoming catholic?

Our RCIA Program (Rite of Christian Initiation)

Starts 16th of May 2:30pm

St Mary's House
(Behind St Mary's Church)

To register, simply
scan the QR code



or visit

<https://goodshepherdsbwe.flocknote.com/signup/251085>

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

Lebanon Emergency Relief Appeal

The situation in Lebanon remains extremely fragile – over 1.1 million people displaced nationwide. Stand with the people of Lebanon today.



DONATE NOW
caritas.org.au/lebanon



Pray for Persecuted Christians in Nigeria

Christians in Nigeria continue to suffer greatly for their faith, yet many persevere with deep trust in Christ and devotion to Our Lady. Aid to the Church in Need invites you to join with John, a Catholic farmer in Nigeria, in praying a decade of the Rosary this week for persecuted



Christians and all who suffer for their faith. Watch John's moving testimony and download a free Red Rosary Prayer Card to unite your prayers with the suffering Church throughout the world. Scan the QR code or visit www.rebrand.ly/RedRosary26



St Francis Table Mother's day Celebration



The Mother's Day Raffle drawn at SFA Table 11th May 2026

1. Mother's Day Hamper (Rita Brown - Red ticket E 044)
2. Autumn Birch Tree Canvas acrylic painting - (Alfonso to collect prize from Church - Green Ticket F 11)
3. China Platter (Mono - E 035)

Mother's day Celebration / May Birthdays - St Francis Table 2026

We shared a joyful double celebration at St. Francis Table, honoring Mother's Day and our May birthdays with a wonderful spread of food, singing, and dancing!



PENTECOST IDEAS FOR KIDS



Archdiocesan MINISTRIES

St Mary's Prayer Group

You are invited to our gatherings in faith and prayer on:

Tuesdays 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

May this time of reflection and fellowship deepen our connection with God and with one another. We look forward to growing in spirit together as a community.



Community News

A few notes:



The Teralba Park Stolen Generations Support Group Inc.

National Sorry Day
Monday 26th
May 2025
Morning ceremony
6:50 for an 7:00am start

Commemorating the Stolen Generations & their families

Join us to acknowledge this special day as we pay our respects.
 You might like to bring flowers to place at the plaque site.

Followed by breakfast in the park – free – all welcome!

Teralba Park, Cnr Osborne Rd/Pullen Rd, Everton Park
 (entry from Pullen Road)

Teralba Park Stolen Generations Support Group Inc
 Chair: Aunty Flo Watson OAM, mob. 0419 676 858
 Secretary: Zoe Andolfatto, mob. 0480 135 237
 e: info.teralbakparkstolengien@gmail.com
www.teralbakparkstolengien.org.au
www.facebook.com/teralbakparkstolengien/

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Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Mass Times

ST MARY'S

20 Merivale St, South Brisbane

- Mon-Fri: 7am | Sat: 8am (Rosary after Mass)
- Sun: 9am & 5pm

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

47 Dornoch Tce, West End

- Sun: 9am

ST ITA'S

247 Gladstone Rd, Dutton Park

- Sat(Vigil): 5pm
- Sun: 9:30am (Indonesian)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

72 Victoria St Fairfield

- Sun: 7am

CONFESSIONS

St Mary's

Fri: 7:30-8am | Sat 8:30am-9am

Sun: 4:15pm-4:45pm

PARISH ACTIVITIES

BAPTISMS

- Sat: 9:30am

****Booking is essential****

Contact Parish Office 07 3324 3734

PRAYER & ADORATION

- Tue: 6:30pm - St Mary's Church
- Sun: 4pm - St Mary's Church

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

- Sat: after 8am Mass until Sundays 8:30am

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

- 1st Fri - 7am - St Mary's Church
- 1st Sat - 5pm - St Ita's Church
- 1st Sun - 7am - OLPS Fairfield

CHILDREN'S LITURGY (SCHOOL TERM ONLY)

- Sun: 9am - St Mary's Church

ST FRANCIS TABLE - MINISTRY TO THE ELDERLY

- 1st and 3rd Monday: 9:30 am - 1pm



Our Prearrangements are easy to put in place
 and let you get on with enjoying life.

K.M.SMITH
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Phone 3252 2031 anytime for details or visit kmsmith.com.au

Have you considered Planned Giving?



Many parishioners use Direct Debit for 'Planned Giving'
 to support the upkeep of
 Good Shepherd Parish

We ask that you prayerfully consider contributing
 to our planned giving program.

To obtain the **Direct Debit Form** Please Contact the
 Parish 07 3324 3734 , Or see your Church Co-ordinator
 if you are interested.

**Safeguarding is
 everyone's
 responsibility.**

Respect & Protect.



ARCHDIOCESE
 OF BRISBANE

Zero tolerance.
 No excuse for abuse

**Good Shepherd Parish has zero tolerance
 for abuse and is committed to
 safeguarding everyone involved in any of
 its activities, ministries and service.
 The safety of children and adults at risk
 is paramount.**

To make an anonymous report call 1300 304 550

For more information visit:

www.brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding