

17 May 2026

Ascension of the Lord

Year A



*I will come back to you and
your hearts will rejoice.*

Readings: Sunday 17 April 2026

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Readings: Sunday 24 May 2026

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

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

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-23

The scriptural readings assigned to this day highlight the promise and mission entrusted to every generation of Christian believers. We celebrate the assurance that even in life's darkest and most heartbreaking moments, we are never alone. With his ascension, the risen Lord does not lay aside his humanity, but unites it, eternally, to God's own life and love. He remains our brother and continues to love us with a human heart. It is he who sends us forth as Spirit-filled witnesses of this hope to the world. As we face the challenges of our time, we are strengthened by his grace, knowing that we are more than conquerors through him who loves us.

Thank you to all the volunteers who attended the **Child Safety Training Session** last Tuesday 12th May in the Narthex. We had a good turnout and are very grateful to all our volunteers for making the effort to be compliant with Safeguarding Essentials Training Modules/Parish Group Training .

The day a Pope came to Altona North - In 1986, Pope John Paul II came to Melbourne and visited the suburban parish of St. Leo the Great in Altona North and its little school. There the leader of the Catholic Church sat down with a class of 9 & 10 year-olds, cross legged in front of him and answered their eager questions. Read the full article on the link below. Also available on our parish website.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/the-day-a-suburban-parish-and-school-hosted-a-pope>

A Mass Count will take place in the church during the four weeks of May. The annual Mass Count helps to maintain an up to date picture of mass attendance and is important for pastoral planning activities in the Archdiocese and allows for comparisons to be made across the years.

To celebrate the **Franciscan Jubilee Year**, COG Theatre is hosting a musical showcase of the life of St Francis of Assisi. We are looking for performers and technicians to add to our group. Please see flyer on Narthex Notice Board for further details.

Archbishop Comensoli says in his Easter Message, we are called not only to receive Christ's light but to rediscover its wonder—and to bear that light for others.' Along with our parishes, communities and families across the Archdiocese, you are invited to join Archbishop Comensoli at the **Archdiocesan Melbourne Corpus Christi Procession** on **Sunday 7 June 2026, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Feast of Corpus Christi).** **Melbourne Corpus Christi Procession**
Sunday 7 June 2026
Begins 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, East

Melbourne. Concludes at Federation Square. Like the disciples who recognised Jesus on the journey to Emmaus, this afternoon will be a moment of unity for the whole Archdiocesan community as we bear witness to the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, our light and hope, into the heart of Melbourne. We invite you to organise a group to attend from your community, whether it is your parish, school or movement. Bring your banners! Further details can be found melbournecatholic.org/corpuschristi

Caritas Australia Lebanon Emergency Appeal

– Lebanon is facing one of its most severe humanitarian crises in years, as a sudden surge in violence and mass evacuation orders force families to flee with nothing. Within 24 hours, Caritas Lebanon reported 667,831 newly displaced people seeking safety. Despite the volatile environment, Caritas Lebanon teams are operating across seven governorates, delivering food, essential items, healthcare, psychosocial support, water and hygiene assistance and protection services. Let us stand in solidarity with our partners in Lebanon. Learn more or make a donation today at www.caritas.org.au/lebanon

St. Mary MacKillop's Daily thoughts.....

**We might feel our crosses hard at times,
but our courage should rise with them.**

Liturgy Roster - 24 May 2026

Mass Times	Lectors	Special Ministers
6.00pm	Francis Arquesa	Mary Bartolo
8.30am	Asimita Banda	Jessica Saliba
10.30am	Anna Watson	Paul Bugeja
Linen Roster May	Counting this week: Team 1: 17.05.2026	Counting next week: Team 2: 24.05.2026
Thu Nguyen-	Betty Fitzgerald Bill & Maureen Fogarty	Leticia Mauricio Raquel Arquesa Conee Manguiat

A Defibrillator is now located in the Sacristy

Tap & Go Machine is now available in the Narthex for anyone wishing to make a donation to the church by credit/debit or Eftpos. Thank You

Laudato Si' Week is a celebration held annually from 17 to 24 May to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical on caring for our common home. Sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, this global celebration unites Catholics to listen and respond together to the cry of creation, rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing *Laudato Si'* to life, and intensify our efforts through the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform as well as other opportunities for education and action. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference committed to celebrating *Laudato Si'* Week annually in their Social Justice Statement (2021–22): Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor.

2026 Theme: From Hope to Action

Laudato Si' Week 2026 invites us to move from hope to action. Hope is not passive; it is lived and shared through daily decisions, community life, prayer and concrete acts of care. This commemorative year reminds us that ecological conversion grows step by step, through restored relationships, protected creation, and strengthened communities. The next chapter of *Laudato Si'* begins with us, wherever we are. Source: *Laudato Si'* Week.



Recently Deceased:

Sonia Buttigieg; Dominador Dy; Antoinette Easson

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Maria Xuyen; Antonia & Alfred Moon; Vince Micallef; Sarah Langley; George & Loretta Calleja; Annette Gibbon; John Bartolo; Catherine Galvin; Kathy Magee; Charles Falzon; Richard Sammut; John Micallef; Emilia Naval.

Prayers for the Sick:

Trish Aitken; Maura McCabe; Anne Playnsek;

Alfred & Jane Farrugia; Teresa Tran Thi Ve

Would parishioners, kindly place the Mass offering envelopes in the letter box at the office door. Thank you.

Come away to a quiet place and rest awhile. Mark 6.30

Take some time out, slow down, and reconnect; listen deeply to discern God's invitation for you in the still quiet time of this silent individually directed retreat.

The JISA Campion team welcome you to this wonderful opportunity to experience a silent retreat for the first time or attend for a renewal.

Join us in the beautiful environs and peace of Santa Casa Spirituality Centre in Queenscliff VIC.

All are welcome, no retreat experience is necessary, come as you are.

We look forward to welcoming you.

When: 5-days/6nights from Friday 19 June 4pm to Thursday 25 June 10am 2026

Where: Santa Casa Spirituality Centre, 33-35 Flinders Street, Queenscliff VIC

Your retreat includes: accommodation, all meals, retreat presentation, prayer materials, and spiritual accompaniment.

BOOK BY 21 May 2026

To book contact Sandra on 1300 EXAMEN ([1300-392-636](tel:1300392636)) or info@jisa.org.au

"Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said. . . 'I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.'" John 17:4

Christ fulfilled his vocation by finishing the work God gave him. An important part of our stewardship is the discernment of our role in God's plan. Stewardship is about fulfilling the unique tasks that God has given to each of us.

✠ MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH ✠

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Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 10am – 2pm
Parish Priest: Archpriest Michael Kalka. JP
Priest in Residence: Fr Deonildo de Andrade
Child Safety Officer: Mr Gavin Deller 0431 184 014
Principal: Mrs Sonia Riccardi 9398 4842
Mass Times: Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 8.30am & 10.30am
Weekday Mass: Tuesday 5pm;
Wed to Sat 9.15am
(or as advertised in the Parish Bulletin and Parish Website)
Reconciliation: Saturday at 9.45am or by request
Anointing of the Sick and Elderly: Once per quarter at Mass or by request
Rosary: After the 9.15 a.m. Mass, Wednesday to Saturday
Marriages & Baptisms: by appointment

Child Safety: The Catholic Parish of Altona is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

Privacy Principles: Commonwealth and Victorian Governments introduced legislation which deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, store and disclose information including health information collected from individuals. The Catholic Parish of Altona is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation.

First Collection: (Loose cash) For the support of the Archbishop, sick and retired priests and our Parish Priest.

Second Collection: (Stewardship Collection envelopes, cheques, credit cards and direct debits) for the management, upkeep and running of our Parish.



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