



SUNDAY 17TH MAY, 2026 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A Reflection on the Gospel (Matthew 28:16-20)

Loss is part of the human experience and death is generally the most painful experience of loss. As violence escalates in so many places, we become more and more conscious of loss as a global reality. This loss of human life is accompanied by a catastrophic loss of species and of eco-systems, exacerbated by devastating bushfires and floods.

Today's Feast invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. Over Lent and Easter, we have been remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Ascension draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence of the Resurrected One even in his absence.

While today's Gospel recounts Matthew's story of Jesus' final encounter with his disciples, it does not provide an account of Jesus' "ascension" or return to God. For that, we must turn to the first reading (Acts 1:1-11). This Lukan story presupposes a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's presence. The Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people and "clothe" them with power to bring the Gospel message to the ends of the earth.

The vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' family and followers who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: strengthened by his blessing, they are to stay in the city for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus, to be witnesses to his death and resurrection. They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world.

The Gospel reading has Jesus on a mountain top where he commissions his male disciples to make disciples of all nations, literally "to disciple all peoples." He has already commissioned the women on the open road to announce the good news of the resurrection (Matt 28:10). They are to be fearless in their mission. In Matthew's final chapter, then, both men and women are commissioned to proclaim

the Gospel. There are other dimensions to their mission, namely to baptize in the name of the Triune God and to teach what Jesus has taught or "commanded" them. The confidence that they need to engage in this mission is the assurance that the One whom God has raised is with us to the end of time. The Gospel has come full circle. In the first chapter of Matthew, an angel announces that the child to be born will be called Emmanuel, God-with-us. The last verse of the Gospel invites us once more to ponder that mystery and to commit ourselves to a life-giving gospel mission.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

BAPTISMS

We pray for and welcome this weekend through the Sacrament of Baptism – **Veda Porter, Elena Cassano Mayor, Lucia Garvey, Owen Garvey, Maddison O'Connor, Miles O'Connor, Louis O'Connor, Nathaniel O'Connor, Junie Borg, Clara Kas, Miller Lowman, Hugo Schembri, Lachlan Healy and Isabella Healy.** May they, their parents and Godparents be filled with the Holy Spirit.

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Desmond Hansen** who died recently; and for **James Muschialli, Andrew Badowski, Dragica & Jordan Doblanovic, Roza & Mario Doblanovic** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.



Synodality and the laity

Synodality affirms that the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of all the baptised. Lay people are not simply helpers of clergy; they are active disciples called to witness to Christ in families, workplaces, and society. A synodal Church takes this vocation seriously.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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 of 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.'

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

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

1. 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.)**
2. 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.)**
3. 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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

THE APOSTLES' CREED

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty; from there He will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.*

Communion Antiphon: Matthew 28:20

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

TAIZE PRAYER

Where: St. Augustine's Church Yarraville

When: Wednesday 20th May 2025.

An initiative of the Association of Pastoral Ministry Leaders Melbourne in supporting ministry in parishes, prisons, aged-care facilities, emergency ministry and hospitals.

Prayer will begin at **7.30pm** and last approximately 45 minutes to an hour. Supper will be provided afterwards. Taize prayer comes from the monastic community formed by Brother Roger in the French village of Taize in 1940.

We are invited to pray through silence, scripture readings, quiet music and chants composed by the brothers of Taize.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who donated to **Project Compassion** during Lent and the recent **Catholic Care Victoria** Appeal.

A total of \$2516.85 was contributed in boxes and envelopes for Project Compassion and a total of \$1272.00 was raised from collections at our three churches for Catholic Care on 2nd & 3rd May.

ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH

St. Leo the Great Parish and School Altona North are holding a novena on the 28th day of every month to St. John Paul 11 to commemorate his visit to the parish and school in 1986.

Each celebration includes Mass, novena prayers, benediction, followed by a time of fellowship.

FRANCISCUS:

Celebrating 800 years of St. Francis of Assisi.

The Capuchin Franciscan Friars are hosting a **2-day Conference** at St. Anthony's Hawthorn, 182 Power Street Hawthorn, on the weekend of **30th-31st May** to celebrate this **Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi**, to reflect upon and share about the amazing life and enduring legacy of this great saint. Each day will commence with registration at 8.30am and a 9am talk; each day concluding at 5pm.

Across the 2 days, there will be 6 talks, a workshop, a Q&A Panel, as well as daily Mass and concluding each day with Evening Prayer. Light lunch provided. No registration fee but there will be the opportunity to donate to support the running of the Conference. For more details, and to Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/DMBUF>

JOSEPH'S CORNER

At St. Augustine's Church on Saturday **30th May** and **Sunday 31st May**, there will be a Craft and Plant Stall. **Before and after 5pm and 9.30am Masses** you can explore our collection of hand-made knitwear, quilts, knitted and crochet throws, soft toys and a wide variety of plants, all crafted with love by Joseph's Corner volunteers. All proceeds support free counselling sessions for those in need. Visit our stall, find the perfect gift, and support a great cause.

Joseph's Corner at 3 Birmingham St, Yarraville is a not-for-profit support service, based in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne, for families living with alcohol and drug addiction. It offers counselling with a qualified counsellor, referral information and support sessions. Founded by the late Sr. Jeanne Dwyer rsj, Joseph's Corner helps families and individuals to cope with a person in their life who is struggling with addiction. Contact 03 9315 2680
Website: <http://www.josephscorner.org.au/>

HOSPITALITY

All are invited to stay awhile after the **5pm and 9.30am Masses this weekend, 16th & 17th May** to enjoy a Cuppa and chat and get to know more fellow parishioners.

PENTECOST CONCERT

Last year during our Centenary Year, we held a Jubilee Concert on Pentecost Sunday. This year, our talented musicians, who have shared their gifts and talents with us regularly over the years, have offered to return for a follow-up concert on Pentecost Sunday. All welcome to this free concert of sacred hymns and music next **Sunday 24th May 2026** at St. Augustine's Church, starting at **3pm**, featuring our regular weekend musicians - True North Young Adults' Group, Sr. Geraldine Larkins RSJ, Melbourne Vocal Ensemble

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Thank you to all who have been leaving food in the churches. Your donations are really appreciated. If you are wondering what to bring, there are some items which are in short supply and always needed, particularly long-life **Full cream** milk, **small** boxes of cereal, **pasta** and **pasta sauce**, tins of **soup** and packets of **cup a soup**.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT ATTENDANCE

The number of parishioners in attendance, including babies, will be recorded during the **month of May** at all Weekend Masses.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan**PHONE:** 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:www.melbcatholic.org/yarraville**SAFEGUARDING:** Pat Mc Laughlinpatmac766@gmail.com**PARISH CHURCHES****ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

For email copy of **Bulletin**

Click QR Code

LITURGY TIMES**TUESDAY MASS**

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:**SATURDAYS** after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

On hold until further notice

COLLECTIONS**THE FIRST COLLECTION** supports the Priests of our Parish, the Archbishop, Priests on special duties and retired priests.**THE SECOND COLLECTON** (includes envelopes), supports the running costs of the Church and pastoral initiatives.To set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, use these account details.**St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:****BSB 083347 Account No. 638052213.****St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery A/C:****BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413****Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account:****BSB 083347 Account No. 485182315****Presbytery Account:****BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413****TAP AND GO CONTACTLESS****DONATION TERMINALS**

in the foyers of the churches.

Follow the prompts and choose your

nominated amount to donate.

Codes for one off donations via credit card

Unique to the Parish of St. Augustine's



Unique to the Parish of Corpus Christi

There are census cards at the back of the church for new subscribers wishing to use weekly envelopes. Record details and put the card on the collection plate or contact the Parish office for a set of envelopes.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks for your donations of non-perishable food. Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits; washing powder/liquid, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes are always needed.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK16th & 17th May 2026**The Ascension of the Lord A****READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Greg Buhagiar

9.30am Gerald Bain-King

Sam/Anna

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Cass Pelino

AJ Pelino

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Frank Galea

9.30am.....Phillip Marques

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... John Santos

COUNTING: Les Vella**ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK**23rd & 24th May 2026**Pentecost Sunday A****READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Kath Baker

9.30am Andrea Wilberger

Sam/Anna

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Natasha Fernandes

Imelda Gibson

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Greg Buhagiar

9.30am.....Agnes Hopmans

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Julianna Barr

COUNTING: John Ryan**SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities.

The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.