

THE SAVING WORD

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

17 MAY 2026

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

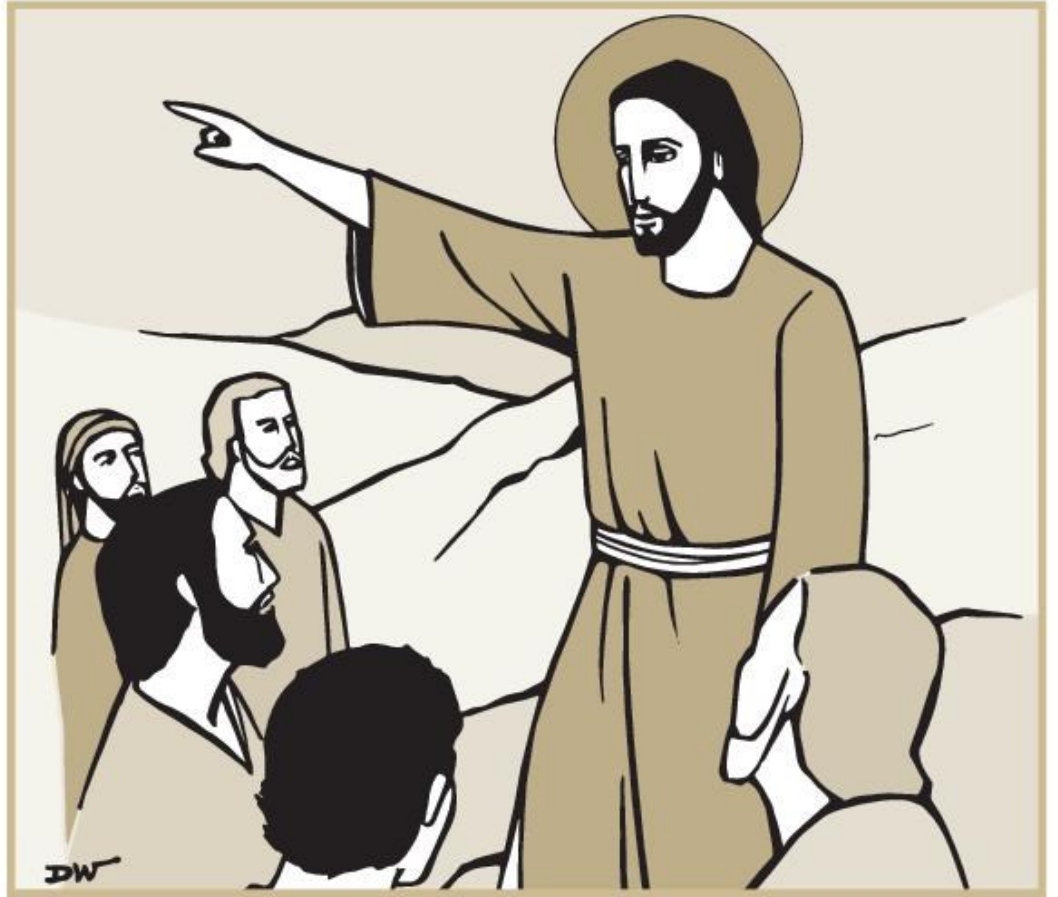
*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

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.



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.
(or Alleluia!)

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

Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

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



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Eugene San SAC
Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

Wednesday and Friday 10:00am
Saturday 6:30pm, Sun 10:30am

Reconciliation

After weekday Mass and Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am
Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

After weekday Mass

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163
In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am
Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-mins before all Masses and Saturday 9:45am - 10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$973.85 Presbytery: \$1023.85
Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm Youth & Young Adults
Sunday 9:00am A Powell 10:30am E Galero

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 24 May: Pentecost Sunday

Thanksgiving



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Our Chapel offers a quiet, sacred space to pray and to spend time with Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 with a security tag. To apply, contact the Parish Office. A refundable deposit will be required. Concessions available.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our parishes are committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All volunteers are reminded to ensure they:

1. Have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) card. When completing or updating your details online, please register only **ONE** organization for our amalgamated Parish, using the following details:

Organisation: St Joseph's & Holy Cross Parish

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185

2. All parish volunteers over the age of 18 are required by the Archdiocese to undertake the Safeguarding online training every 3 years. Complete the training using the link <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 67:33, 35)

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Mt 28:20)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Paul Donohoe, Virginia Poloie, Tamara Bryan, Kevin Bryan, David Milne, Bernd Neubauer

**Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

Happy Birthday, Fr Eugene San SAC

Wishing Fr Eugene a belated Happy Birthday. Fr Eugene's birthday was on the 13th May. We thank Fr Eugene for all the work he does for the 2 parishes.



Mass Count during May

Our parish will be undertaking its annual Mass Count during the next few weekends of May.

The National Count is a simple but powerful way for parishes to contribute to a national picture of Catholic life in Australia

These statistics are for the purposes of pastoral planning activities and allows for comparisons to be made across the years for our Archdiocese.

Small Group Discipleship

Our Small Group Discipleship Training has commenced online for 4 consecutive Saturday mornings since 9th May. Please keep this Ministry in your prayers. Contact our parish office for more details.

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 23rd May

Our Youth & Young Adults' Group will host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church.

After Mass, they will share a light supper followed by faith discussions, games, and fellowship.



Thank You for Celebrating Mass with Us

Fr Kiss Zsolt at St Joseph's, 16th May Saturday Vigil Mass 6:30pm.

Fr Sam Kono CSsR at St Anthony's, 17th May Sunday Masses, 9:00am and 11:00am.

Fr Jacob Alvares SAC at St Anthony's, 17th May Sunday Mass, 5:00pm

We thank the above priests for their availability.

Social Afternoon Tea at Holy Cross Hall



Wednesday May 27th at 2:00pm

Musical theme: Please bring a musical item to share - CD, tape, record or maybe a song to sing.

Please bring a plate. All welcome.

Helpers of God’s Precious Infants



Holy Mass in Reparation for and Healing from Abortion at 9am **every 4th Saturday** at St Patrick’s Cathedral. Confessions from 8:30am. Rosary Procession after Mass. Join us in prayer to the edge of the 150m Abortion Prayer Exclusion Zone, Wellington Parade, East Melbourne (Opposite Jolimont Station Ramp Exit). For further details, contact 0407 090 367.

Quotes from Pope Leo

As the one-year anniversary of Pope Leo XIV’s election to the papacy approaches, here is a selection of his quotes on various topics, since he became Pope on 8 May 2025.

- ‘I am a son of St Augustine, an Augustinian, who said, ‘For you I am a bishop, with you, I am a Christian.’ In this sense we can all walk together toward that homeland that God has prepared.’
- ‘Brothers and sisters, I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world.’
- ‘When a tool controls someone, that person becomes a tool: a commodity on the market and, in turn, a piece of merchandise. Only genuine relationships and stable connections can build good lives.’
- ‘Life shines brightly not because we are rich, beautiful or powerful. Instead, it shines when we discover within ourselves the truth that we are called by God, have a vocation, have a mission, that our lives serve something greater than ourselves.’
- ‘AI can process information quickly, but it cannot replace human intelligence. And don’t ask it to do your homework for you. It cannot offer real wisdom.’

~ Excerpt from article written by OSV News ~

Young Men of God Movement Conference 2026

17-19 July at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre. A men’s weekend away to deepen your faith, strengthen brotherhood and grow in leadership. Inspiring speakers, fellowship and food. Give God permission to led you on the path of authentic, Christ-centered living. Open to all men 18yrs and above. Registration: Fr Terrence 0426-897764

St Anthony’s Feast

Celebration of the Feast will take place at St Anthony’s Church at all Masses on the 13 and 14 June weekend. After the 11am Mass, there will be also a social time. More details will be available soon!

St Anthony’s Parish Flats, Lake Street, Carnegie

Owned by the Parish since 1987, the flats are administered by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) and are available to those over the age of 55 who are applying for public housing.

Although the Parish has nomination rights, people who would like to be on the Parish waiting list must first be registered with DFFH, who will assess eligibility and provide an application number.

For more information please contact DFFH on 1300 555 526 or email: callcentre@dhhs.vic.gov.au



St Anthony’s Church Open on Fridays

St Anthony’s Church is open every Friday from 8:30am-5pm. You are invited to use this time for individual prayer, quiet time, meditation or simply spending time with the Lord. All Welcome!

The Ascension of the Lord

Dear brothers and sisters

It is by the virtue of his Passion and Death that Jesus forgave our sins and redeemed us from eternal death

Today, Jesus is saying goodbye to his dear disciples. For three eventful years they had been together. As an intimate group they had been through good and bad times. Jesus had changed their lives dramatically for the better and in ways they could never have imagined. Now, he is saying farewell to them. He is going away. The disciples can’t digest the fact that their Master is about to leave their company.

They had always called him their Master, but he was much more of a friend to them; a friend, a doctor, a teacher and a wonder worker, in fact, he was all this to them. After Jesus rose from the dead he continued to be with them. During those 40 incredible days, their joy was doubled, their hopes raised and their doubts vanished. But now, he says he is leaving for his home. From now on, they would never be the same.

It is by the virtue of his Resurrection that Jesus returned to us the divine life we had lost because of our sins.

Then, he asks them to gather on a mountain top. They realise that Jesus is not joking and he is serious about leaving. They obey. On the mountain top, Jesus gives them a purpose in life, an impossible mission to accomplish, at least it seemed so.

It is by his Ascension into heaven that Jesus made it possible for us to enter into heaven.

Then, he surprises them with the good news! And they are overjoyed to hear him say “I will be with you until the end of time”. Oh! What a comforting assurance! But immediately then, he is being lifted up. His leaving was not by walking away, or by getting into some sort of a cart and moving on. He is going up into the skies. As he is going up, he does not forget to bless them. But their eyes are welling up. They can’t hold back their tears. No one is able to say anything!

Then, unexpectedly there appeared to them some angels, speaking to them some comforting words, saying that Jesus will return as they saw him go up. Jesus has returned to the Father in order to send us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Let each of these Holy Mysteries be a comfort to us. Fr Leenus.

Q: Why didn’t they play cards on the Ark?
A: Because Noah was standing on the deck.

Help Needed at Tony’s Café

- 1. Thursday mornings during May 9am – 12noon, to travel in the parish van to collect from Foodbank. Must be able to lift and load. Working with children and safeguarding documents required. Help available to complete these. Please email Gwen via the parish email.
- 2. We would also be grateful for empty egg cartons and large rubber bands to seal the cartons.

Youth Gathering This Sunday at St Anthony’s

Come along to The Glen (Mini Parish Hall) this Sunday after the 11am Mass, for pizza, games and get to know other young people from the Parish. Secondary / tertiary / young workers all welcome.

Rosary by Youth

Our Young People will lead the Rosary to celebrate the month of May, the month of Mary. 7pm every Friday during the month of May commencing 1st May at St Anthony’s Church. Everyone is welcome.



Breaking Open the Word

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 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

Mt 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

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.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

When reflecting on Jesus' Ascension, our liturgical focus has been heavily influenced by Luke's double version of the Ascension; one set on Easter Day in the concluding scene in Luke's Gospel (24:50-52) as Jesus' blesses his disciples at Bethany and departs from them; the other in the opening chapter of Acts (Acts 1:6-11) as Jesus leaves the disciples and is carried into heaven.

Our Gospel today is quite different. It is the concluding verses of Matthew's Gospel. The Risen Jesus gathers with the Eleven on 'the' mountain, the place of divine encounter, already familiar from earlier in the Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Here, at the Gospel's conclusion, Jesus is with the *Eleven*—not the Twelve, a reminder of the failure of one of the key members of the apostolic leadership group (Judas). It is to this group of failed leaders that Jesus, God's authoritative agent, entrusts his final teaching and missionary endorsement. They are to make disciples of all nations. This is an important injunction, given that Matthew's audience which is predominantly Jewish is now encouraged to move into the gentile world.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus offers a universal vision. Baptism and Gospel ethical teaching will become key notes for incorporating members into this renewed community of Jesus. The Gospel concludes on a promise of divine companionship. Jesus, called 'Emmanuel' ('God with us') in the birth narrative (Matthew 1:23), reminds his audience that 'I am with you always ... to the end of time.' This affirmation of Jesus' eternal presence is comforting to Matthew's audience, and us, dealing with life's struggles and cultural challenges.

Fr Michael Trainor