



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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The Ascension of the Lord Sunday, 16-17 May, 2026

Reflection

(This article was taken from Australian Catholic Bishop Conference's Media Blog)

Representatives of more than a dozen Christian denominations joined with members of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on Tuesday for an historic ecumenical worship service.

Chair of the Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Interreligious Dialogue, Bishop Michael Kennedy, led the gathering in Sydney's Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel.

The service was adapted from resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which starts on May 17.

Among the guests taking part in the service were National Council of Churches in Australia president Rev John Gilmore, NCCA general secretary Liz Stone, Uniting Church of Australia president Rev Charissa Suli and Archbishop Mar Meelis Zaia of the Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.

In the homily, Bishop of Lismore Greg Homeming spoke of poet and shoemaker Hans Sachs, who featured in Richard Wagner's 1868 opera *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg*.

"In that, at a certain point Hans Sachs has a monologue, an extraordinary aria, which he sings alone ... 'madness, madness, everywhere there is madness'," Bishop Homeming said.

"We are at a time in the world where we could all say with him 'madness, madness'.

"You don't have to look very far. It is everywhere. Anyone who can think 'I can make



peace by bombing people until they're totally obliterated' – that is absolute madness."

Bishop Homeming said we are called to live in such a way that "madness gives way to light".

"We are called to experience the darkness and in that darkness be light," he said.

"And what does that mean for us?"

"We gather together this evening because we all have one thing in common – we have Jesus Christ and he's the light that has come into the darkness.

"I think at this time more than ever this is something which we must take to heart because in the midst of a world full of madness there are only two possibilities given to us.

"The first is we must look to God, and for us that means look to Jesus Christ to walk with him and stand with him.

"And the other thing which madness calls forth through us is love. Two things: God and love."

The service was the initiative of the Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Interreligious Dialogue.

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

St Paul Apostle North
Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

St Paul Apostle South
Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's
Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for **NEXT WEEK**
Pentecost Sunday, 2026

First Reader: Acts 2: 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire,
appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.
All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.
Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."
This is the Word of God

Psalm

Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great
O Lord, how manifold are your works!
the earth is full of your creatures.

when you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord

Second Reader: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7. 12-13

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
Brothers and sisters:
No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good for just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit
This is the Word of God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-23

It was evening on that day Jesus rose from the dead, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
The Good news of the Lord

Reflection

Where in my life am I holding back, and where do I need the Holy Spirit to breathe new courage and fire?
"If the Spirit is 'restless and wild,' how can I be more open to change and less attached to my own plans?"

CHILDRENS LITURGY

As we are all aware, the running of the parish relies heavily on the generosity of parishioners who volunteer their time to run many of our Church activities and programs. One such program, our Children's Liturgy group is growing in attendance and is in great need of additional leaders. Children's Liturgy is held on Sunday 11am Mass, during the school term. It commences at the beginning of the Mass and ends at offering time (during the second collection). Each time, there must be at least 2 volunteers to run it, under the safeguarding policy. If you have time and are willing to assist this group, please contact the Parish Office and we will give you more information. Please consider to help this group.

BREAD RUN

Bread Run is one of Vinnies (St Vincent de Paul's) programs. The bread comes from a local bakery and is distributed to those who are in need. At this stage, the group needs some extra hands to help them with distributing the bread. They run on Thursday at 7pm from the room under the Church building.

If you think you can help this group, please contact Vianney on 0438 700 675 she will provide you with additional information



COME AWAY

Come Away Retreats are conducted at the Holy Cross Centre on a monthly basis. A time for both sharing and quiet time in the beautiful garden setting of Holy Cross; guided meditation, silence, Mass and Anointing, opportunity for individual guidance. Session times: 9.30am. (start with a cuppa) to 3.00pm. (BYO lunch)

Our next session is **Wednesday, June 24th, 2026**

This long-standing Passionist Ministry at Holy Cross is valued by many. We invite you to support it financially according to your means. Suggested Donation \$20 – \$25

WELLSPRINGS FOR WOMEN invites you to join their upcoming online community webinar: **NO PRESSURE. JUST RESPECT.** Safe Families. Stronger Communities on Monday 18 May 2026, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Online via ZOOM (this is not a lecture)

This interactive session will explore how we can strengthen safe, respectful, and healthy homes within our communities through practical conversations grounded in dignity, communication, trust, and care.

Through discussions and real-life scenarios, participants will have the opportunity to share ideas, reflect together, and learn from one another's experiences in a safe and respectful space.

We welcome community members, parents, faith and community leaders, educators, service providers, and anyone interested in strengthening community wellbeing and respectful relationships.

Register here: <https://salaamtix.com/e/wellsprings-for-women/no-pressure-just-respect-webinar>

SAFEGUARDING CORNER

eSafety Commissioner is running a webinar on Risks and rewards of online communities for children and young people - Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd.

Date is: Thursday, May 21, 1:00 PM

Online communities offer opportunities for connection, learning, and support across diverse interests and identities. They can foster belonging, amplify voices, and provide access to resources and peer advice. However, these spaces also carry risks, including exposure to misinformation, cyberbullying, sexual exploitation, and harmful content. This webinar explores the role of online communities in the lives of young people, highlighting how professionals can support young people to have safe and positive online experiences. In this eSafety session you will:

- develop an understanding of experiences young people within online communities
- explore the risks of online communities for young people, including exposure to harmful beliefs and content
- identify strategies to support young people and promote safe and positive online experiences.

To register please use this link

[*eSafety commissioner webinar*](#)

Readings:

The Ascension of the Lord Sunday Yr A

Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20

www.universalis.com

Pentecost Sunday Yr A

Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7. 12-13
John 20:19-23

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Peter Van Helmond, Pandry Jackson, Irma Dias, Eduardo Dias, Fr Chris Mithen CP, Kerryn Carney, Mary Antoun, Anne McCallister, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Cecile Potier, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Giuseppina Materia, Barbara Anne Tobin, Sinta Nugraha, Milica Kosi, Kuntjoro Setyo, Raffaella Di Gennaro, Amato Ganino, Betty Scanlan, Monica Mary Sleeman, Robert Stellato, Mareka Dunlop, Jacinta Martyn, Cheryl Anthony, Jenny Dirckze, Reginald Soultzer, Gabriel Maclou, **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Janina Gorski	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio William Roncon
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Alvita Dias Rinku Arora	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Anne Astin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe Jennifer Cunningham	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Stephen Herbert Biniitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Aloma Pereira David Goh Rinku Arora	Dominique Maclou Sai Dilingar Naomi Falo Stephen Nasalio Santhanamary	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Jennifer Cunningham Sig Romano	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Biniitha Mathew Patricia De Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Michelle Boissezon Rohan Wickramasinghe David Goh Daphne Goh	Naomi Falo Dominique Maclou Lauren Rafferty Stephen Herbert Santhanamary	Mignonne Meerwald Swineetha Disanayake Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Nila Fernando Rinku Arora Daphne Goh	Biniitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Vianney Clark Patricia De Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Marg Keating Peng Chee Jenny Catania

Please note that the above rosters are subject to the completion of the required SAFEGUARDING documents and training

