

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW 2150

(02) 8839 8400 Emergency: 0407 289 360 www.stpatscathedral.com.au

Bishop of Parramatta: Most Rev. Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, DD

12 May 2024 - The Ascension of the Lord (Year B)

Mass Schedule

SUNDAY

6:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

7:30am Morning Prayer

8:00am Mass

9:30am Mass

11:00am Solemn Mass with Cathedral Choir 6:00pm Mass

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

6:10am Morning Prayer

6:30am Mass

11:15am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

11:15am Reconciliation (till 12:15pm)

Rosary after Angelus at 12:00 noon

12:30pm Mass

SATURDAY

7:30am Morning Prayer

8:00am Mass

8:30am Reconciliation (till 9:00am)

9:30am Mass (Old Rite)

5:00pm Sacrament of Penance (till 5:30pm)

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Mass at 8:00am (No Adoration or Confession)

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUPS

Tuesday 9:30am - Christian Meditation

Tuesday 6:30pm - Legion of Mary

Tuesday 7:30pm - RCIA (September - April)

Friday 1:00pm - Cenacle Prayers

MONTHLY PRAYER

First Friday Devotions: 7:00pm

OTHER GROUPS

Playgroup: Wednesdays 10:00am - 12:00pm

Facebook: Parramatta St Pat's Playgroup

Credo Youth Ministries

Contact the office or find information on

Facebook: credo.stpats

Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au







Scan and connect with us

Not here, yet here more than ever...

IT IS QUITE REMARKABLE how events depicted in art can influence us. Regarding scripture, a case in point is that of the conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus. In many, perhaps most, depictions of this event in art, Saul is shown as falling off a horse as the blinding light of Christ's presence strikes him. This event is depicted three times in the Acts of the Apostles (9:1-19, 22:6-16, 26:12-18), yet not one of these accounts mentions that Saul was mounted on a horse. The artists no doubt put Saul on a horse for the dynamic effect it creates to depict him being thrown from his mount on hearing the voice of Jesus. There is nothing biblical about it, however.



We can, I believe, see something similar with regards to this weekend's Feast of the Ascension. Understandably, based on the title of the feast, artistic depictions of the ascension of Jesus show him moving physically upwards into the air, often surrounded by angels or with angels ready to receive him into heaven. There are more than one or two representations of this event with only the feet of Jesus in sight, poking through the bottom of some clouds!

Yet this feast day is not really about any physical movement of Jesus from earth to heaven, and this idea should not be the primary focus for us. The Ascension is about the fact that Jesus was here on earth as a human being, physically present to all whom he encountered, and then was not here.

Yet, paradoxically, he is still here – and in a manner that is truly profound. And we should not be surprised at this because paradox underlies everything Jesus stands for.

To understand this a little better, we can do no better than seek the wisdom of the Church Fathers, in particular, Pope St Leo the Great, writing in the middle of the fifth century:

"...though everything that seemed to move us to due reverence is removed from our sight, our faith remains constant, our hope firm and our charity warm....The visible presence of our Redeemer passed over into sacraments; and so that faith might be more noble and firmer, it is grounded now not on sight but on doctrine."

St Leo goes on to talk of the courageous faith that seized believers after Jesus ascended to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit, a faith that "could not be dismayed by chains, by prison, by exile, by hunger, by fire, by the claws of wild beasts, or the cruel and ingenious torments of persecutors."

And this type of faith is that which is the focus of our Gospel this weekend. In the passage from Mark's Gospel, a late addition to the Gospel, we hear Jesus speak of the remarkable gifts that are given to believers, before he ascends to heaven. Some of these gifts, or signs as they are called, sound strange to us (picking up snakes and drinking deadly poison) but most certainly we are called to bring healing and stability to those we encounter. This is our way of making the resurrected and ascended Jesus present to the world. No longer is Jesus one human being in the world but is made manifest through the millions of believers who walk the earth today.

And that includes the awesome responsibility given to you and me.

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Robert

THE BULLETIN

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Rev Mr David Dowling 8839 8415 - deacon@stpatscathedral.com.au

Priest in Residence

Rev Fr Van Xua (Joseph) Nguyen Vietnamese Community Chaplain

Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm weekdays

Receptionist: Donna Missio (Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri) 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

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Youth Coordinator: Parish Team 8839 8400 or credo@stpatscathedral.com.au

Gift Shop Manager: Minnie Harb

0419 153 195 or giftshop@stpatscathedral.com.au

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms are celebrated in the Cathedral on most Sundays. Contact the parish office to book or fill out the form on the website.

Weddings are by appointment only.

At least six months' notice is necessary. Contact the Parish Secretary on 8839 8412.

First Eucharist and Confirmation
Please contact the Parish Secretary.

Hiring of Rooms

For hire of Cloister Function rooms, call the office on 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

Material for Bulletin

If you have something that you would like published in the bulletin, please ensure that it is conveyed to our Parish Secretary, Pat, by 12:00noon on Thursday. Please note that material must relate to the parish and its mission. Don't forget that businesses can advertise on the rear page of the bulletin too!

A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR

Mothers' Day

To all the wonderful Mothers of our parish community,

On this special day, we pause to honour the enduring love, boundless patience, and strength of all mothers, celebrating the invaluable role you play in nurturing and shaping lives. As we gather together in worship and fellowship, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and prayers to each of you.

May the Lord bless you abundantly, guiding you with his wisdom and enveloping you in his everlasting love. As you reflect his love in the daily sacrifices and the gentle care you provide, may you feel uplifted and supported in every moment of motherhood.

We also turn our thoughts to Mary, Mother of God, a beacon of obedience and faith, who nurtured our Saviour with a pure heart. May her example inspire you and her prayers uphold you as you continue the sacred journey of motherhood.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for all mothers.

Wishing you a blessed and joyous Mothers' Day!

Please join us after the 9.30am Mass and 11:00am Mass in the Cloister Cafe to share a special Mothers' Day cake.

Pentecost Retreat: A Day of Spiritual Renewal

In celebration of Pentecost, we invite you to join us for a special day-long retreat designed to deepen your understanding and experience of this profound feast. Pentecost marks a pivotal moment in our faith — the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, empowering them to spread the Gospel fearlessly.

"As they prayed, the house where they were assembled rocked. From this time, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim the word of God fearlessly." (Acts 4:31)

This retreat offers a unique opportunity to strengthen your faith through prayer, reflection, and fellowship.

Date/Time: Saturday, 18 May from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Venue: The Cloister Function Room.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided. To help us better prepare for the day, please RSVP to secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au by **15 May.**

Come and experience a day filled with prayer and enriching talks to explore the meaning of Pentecost more deeply. Let us gather as a community to invite the Holy Spirit into our lives anew.

We look forward to sharing this day of spiritual renewal with you.

Concert in the Cathedral

Friday 17 May at 7:30pm - Mozart's Requiem performed by Rivercity voices and WestPhilharmonica. Tickets available at https://events.humanitix.com/mozart-s-requiem

PARISH NOTICES

Fr Robert on Study/Annual Leave

A note that I will be on leave for three weeks from 24 May through to 14 June. The purpose of this leave is connected to my role as Episcopal Vicar for Education. Along with some other clergy, chancery staff and Catholic school staff, I will be undertaking a two-week intensive course titled Enhancing Catholic School Identity at KU Leuven in Belgium. This course is seen as an important way of enhancing and maintaining the Catholicity of our schools in the Parramatta Diocese, and is also pursued by some other dioceses in Australia and other parts of the world. At the conclusion of the course, I will take a few days' leave before returning to Sydney. Fr Robert

PPC Nomination Update

Nominations for our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) closed last Friday. We are grateful for the enthusiastic response and the willingness of our community members to serve in this important capacity.

Shortly, the nomination committee will be engaging in conversations with all the nominees. These discussions are a crucial step in understanding the nominees' visions and aspirations for our parish. We anticipate announcing the members of the new PPC soon.

Thank you for your prayers and support throughout this process. We ask for your continued prayers as we move forward with these important decisions.

Stay tuned for further updates!

Barnardos Australia Seeking Help

Case Summary

Two children, a boy (3 years 9 months old) and a girl (2 years 3 months old), have been in temporary care since September 2022 due to safety concerns at home involving their parents' mental health issues, drug use, and neglect. Currently placed with Indonesian carers, the children are of Nigerian and Sierra Leonean descent. They have shown significant improvement in their current environment, developing well both emotionally and cognitively. The boy requires ongoing occupational therapy and speech therapy, while the girl is meeting her developmental milestones and enjoys interactive play. Both children attend daycare and have supervised family visits with their parents.

Seeking Permanent Care for Two Young Children

We are reaching out to our parish community on behalf of Barnardos to find a permanent and culturally matching home for two young children currently under temporary care. These children have faced significant challenges but are now thriving under stable care. If you or someone you know may be interested in providing a loving, permanent home for these resilient siblings, please consider reaching out to Barnardos for more information on how you can help. Your support can make a profound difference in their lives.

For more details or to express interest, please contact Anne-Grethe Skold at Barnados Australia via emailaskold@barnardos.org.au . Let us come together to support these children in finding a safe and nurturing home.

Sacraments of Initiation

The practice session for those children preparing for First Eucharist Sacrament of Eucharist will take place on **Saturday 25 May** at **4:30pm** in the cathedral.

This will be for all children preparing for this sacrament, regardless of whether they will be receiving their First Eucharist on 02 or 09 June.



First Eucharist Masses - 02/09 June

As you will be aware, children in our parish are preparing for their first Eucharist. The two Sunday Masses set aside for the children to receive their first Eucharist are the **two 9:30am Masses on both the 2nd** and **9th June.** We are expecting around 25 children at the Mass on 02 June and around 15 on 09 June. If you are a regular at the 9:30am Sunday Mass, please bear this in mind, especially in terms of parking as there will clearly be a lot more people at these two Masses.

In addition, and most importantly, please keep these children in your prayers!

May: The Month of Mary and the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

May is traditionally celebrated as the month dedicated to Mary, our Blessed Mother. This is a time to reflect on her life and virtues, and to seek her intercession in our prayers.

We especially invite you to join us in saying the Rosary on May 13th for the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. This day commemorates the appearances of Mary to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, where she delivered messages of peace and repentance.

Let us gather in prayer and unity to honour Our Lady of Fatima and ask for her blessings for our community and the world.



Text to Donate!

Simply text the word 'GIVE' to 0488 202 202, and you will receive a link to contribute directly to the Cathedral. Choose your donation amount and complete your gift in a few taps.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for our beloved dead...

Recently Deceased: Dynes Woodrow, James McKee, Marie K El-Kazzi, Frederick Fisher, John Burrow, Yolanda Roxas, Annette Van Tilburg, Maria Davino, Kevin Smith, Adoracion Soriano, Regina Figueira, Jessica Hanna, Noreen McLean, Bridget Phelan, Hung Cheung, Valmai Costello, Dr Bill Lane, Tony Sabat, Felicidad Casenas, Moltea Iezzi, Teresa Huongle, Philip Vas, Tony Youssef Sabat

Deceased: Christine Vas, Lewis & Nassar Nissan, Ennas, Mrs Annanas, Lucy D'Mello, Philip Vas, Leticia Vas, Jan, Ludwig, Henry K, Umbert & Fran Papagno, Juan Montesco

Anniversaries: Lucy D'Mello, Pelcy D'Souza, Dems Morreiro, Waldmar Drankowski, Maxima Manlangit, Juan Montesco, Joseph Teuma

Perpetuals: Paul Mahoney, Louisa & Arthur Baxter, Nat Fedyk, Robert Dearie, Norm Hector, Bokeyar family, David family, Japour family, Paula Loto'aniu, Peter Van Tilburg, Margaret Angela Roberts, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood family, Pat & Jim Hartman, Mark Fletcher, Royan & Andrews families, Don & Pat Andrews, Juliet Noronha, Dr Joseph Malouf, Abel Moses, Jimmy, Anna & Frank Grainda, Frank Agostino, Bernadette Melhen & Sally Boujandy, Jack & June Barrett, Ann O'Brien, Watson Lee, Ian & Pat Sanders, Bill & Alice Kendall, Allan Kendall, Maria Patterson & Ellen Bancan, Hooper family, Giuseppina & Giovanni Rechichi, Mary Coady, Mary & Jack White, Vincent & Rebecca Vella, Walter Townsend, Ferris Grugeon, McInherny, White, McWilliam & McGuckin families, Mary Abela, Robert Andrews, Sylvester family, Rogan family, Adcock & McMillan families, Love family, Gabrielle Baker, Paula Cowling, McDermott & Starr families. Repose of the Souls in Purgatory and all deceased parishioners of St Patrick's and St Monica's

We also pray for...

Sick: Anne-Maraie Douaihy, Fred & Odette Harb, Colleen Johnston, Melissa Carter, Kathleen, Patti Murphy, Mary Tito, Fr Bob Bossini, Fatima Rodricks, Azar Al-Ters, Melissa Carter, Terry Pumati, Leonora, Shana, Fr Peter Henry, Nasr Nasr, Athony Tran, Leonardo Close, Michael Perez, Franz Tito, Soane Kikanoi, Sharon Melville, Orvil Noe M Villalobos, Olivia Harb, Maria, Samira, Maria & Tony Obeid, Tony Chang, Francisca Olay, Maximilian Epondulan, Vasvi V Arcot, Stephen Borg, Nicole Slatter, Seini Loto'aniu, Sharon Webb

Special Intentions: YT Hsu & Deanna Hsu, Naleen, Tian, Raveen, Michael Perez, Sarah Ferguson, Kate Middleton, Agnes Patacsil, Patrick N, Madeleine Suttie, Fancesca Ryan, Helen Perrottet, Paul & Mouzel Carson, Stephen Senjak, Peter Newman, Raveen, Felicitas Appathurai, Santiago Tito, Antonio Tito, Dianne Mary Tito, Elizabeth Perez, Dynes Woodrow, Nikola, Ankica, Mara & Stephen Senjak, Vera, Rita & family, Allwyn & Jasmine, Chris Dias, Liam D'Souza, Tian, Arthur Lopez, Rebecca & Alex Mann, Zayne Bumactau, Myrna R Santos, Roser North, Jeanette Joseph, Margaret Jerome, BVM & Infant Jesus, Clara Cabezas

BAPTISMS



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children who were recently baptised here...

Faith Cadion





We also pray for the following couple recently married here...

Elise Pham and Reno Cheong

POPE FRANCIS'

Prayer Intention for May



For the formation of religious and seminarians

"We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel."

From Pope Francis...

From a tweet dated 06 May

"Prayer, the opening of our hearts to the Most High, is essential for purifying ourselves of selfishness, falseness, and injustice. Those who pray receive peace in their hearts and must inevitably become its witness and messenger." #YearOfPrayer

Saint of the Week

18 May - St Erik of Sweden (d.1160), King

Historical records of 12th-century Scandinavia are scanty. Erik existed; he was king; he was a Christian; he is said to have done much to consolidate Christianity in his realm. He led the first Swedish crusade into Finland – an act implicitly confirmed by a Papal bull of the 1170s. He was killed fighting Danish invaders. A chronicle of 1240 says: "The twelfth king was Erik. He was rashly killed in an unhappy moment. He always gave a good example while he lived, and God rewarded him well. Now his soul is at rest with God and his angels, and his bones rest in Uppsala. And he has, with God's help, made and manifested many precious miracles."



Information: Universalis

"Quote of the Week"

"Prayer is the strength of the Christian and of every person who believes. In the weakness and frailty of our lives, we can turn to God with the confidence of children and enter into communion with him. In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God's boundless love, to taste his tenderness."



Pope Francis (b.1936) Homily from 05 March 2014

Did You Know...?

...that the Ascension of Jesus is a frequently depicted issue in art?

Wikipedia makes the following point: "Ascension scenes fall naturally into two zones, an upper heavenly part and a lower earthly part. The ascending Christ may be carrying a resurrection banner or make a sign of benediction with his right hand. The blessing gesture by Christ with his right hand is directed towards the earthly group below him and signifies that he is blessing the

entire Church. In the left hand he may be holding a Gospel or a scroll, signifying teaching and preaching."

Another feature of many Ascension paintings is the representation of Mary.

By Benvenuto Tisi - Web Gallery of Art: Image Info about artwork, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php? curid=15453580







OPENING HOURS TUESDAY TO FRIDAY - 10:00AM TO 3:00PM SUNDAY - 9:00AM TO 1:00PM MONDAY & SATURDAY - CLOSED

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The Kids' Bulletin

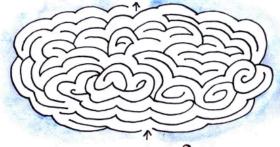
Feast of the Ascension
May 9th or Sunday May 12th, 2024

Forty days after
Jesus rose from the
dead he went up a
hill with His
followers and
disappeared through
the clouds and went
up into Heaven.



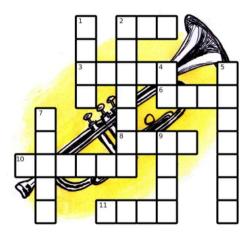
Jesus had promised to send a Comforter to them after He left them.

Can you find your way through the cloud maze?





Psalm 47 Cross-Word



Unscramble the words in CAPITAL letters.
Then you can fit then into the puzzle.
(A means across and D means down.)

LAL (2A) you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness,
For the Lord, the SOMT (8A) HHGI (1D),
the EMOSAEW (2D),
is the TREAG (3A) king
VROE (6A) all the HTREA (7D).
God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;
the Lord, amid UMTPRET (5D) blasts.
GISN (9D) praise OT (4D) God, sing praise;
Sing SIEARP (10A) to our INKG (11A), sing praise.

Jesus has gone back into Heaven!

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead He went with His followers to the top of a mountain, where he told them to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and then he went up through the clouds and returned to God the Father in Heaven.

But Jesus isn't gone forever! He is still with us every time we go to Mass, in Holy Communion. He will also come again at the end of the world.

Sometimes someone that we love goes away from us too. Sometimes people move away, or we move away from our friends. Sometimes people that we love die.

But we know that we will see our friends again, and we will be with the people who died when we die and go to Heaven.



Today let us celebrate Jesus returning to the Father in Heaven, and remember that we hope to join them some day!

> Answers to Psalm 47 Cross-Word: Down: I high, 2 awesome, 4 to, 5 trumpet, 7 earth, 9 sing. Across: 2 all, 3 great, 6 over, 8 most, 10 praise, 11 king.

> > www.thekidsbulletin.com

saint isidore the farmer may 15















SAINT ISIDORE WORKED HARD AND SERVED GOD ALL HIS LIFE. HE DIED PEACE-FULLY AT AGE 60.

SAINT ISIDORE WAS A HUMBLE MAN. HE DID SIMPLE WORK AND NEVER SEEMED IMPORTANT. HE JUST TRIED TO BE HOLY AND HELP THOSE AROUND HIM. BUT HE LOVED GOD SO MUCH THAT HE WAS A SAINT. AFTER HE DIED HIS BODY WAS FOUND INCORRUPT. SOON HE BECAME ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN SAINTS.



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With no recurring government financial assistance, this free legal service relies on your generous support.

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