



**ST PATRICK'S  
CATHEDRAL**  
PARRAMATTA

**17 May 2026 - The Ascension of the Lord (Year A)**

1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW 2150

(02) 8839 8400

[www.stpatscathedral.com.au](http://www.stpatscathedral.com.au)

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

## Mass Schedule

### WEEKENDS

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)  
5:00pm Reconciliation (till 5:30pm)

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8:00am Mass (No Adoration or Confessions)

### WEEKLY PRAYER GROUPS

Monday 7:15pm - Legion of Mary  
Tuesday 9:30am - Christian Meditation  
Tuesday 7:30pm - RCIA (Sept - April)  
Friday 1:00pm - Cenacle Prayers

### MONTHLY PRAYER GROUPS

First Friday Devotions: 7:00pm in Chapel  
True Life in God: Last Friday @ 6:00pm in the Cloister Cafe

### OTHER GROUPS

#### Credo Youth Ministries

Contact the office or find information on

**Facebook:** [credo.stpats](https://www.facebook.com/credo.stpats)

**Email:** [credo@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:credo@stpatscathedral.com.au)

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## "...a cloud took him from their sight."

THIS WEEKEND marks the beginning of the final week of Eastertide, the longest season of the Church's liturgical year, fifty days of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, without which our salvation would not be possible.

Prior to the great feast of Pentecost that we will celebrate next Sunday, we celebrate the Ascension, the time when Jesus departed as the Risen Christ from his disciples in order that the Spirit of Christ, not being confined by space and time, may animate the universal Church. We hear in our first reading from the beginning of Luke's Acts of the Apostles, that as the apostles conversed with Jesus "...he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight."



Our human minds being what they are, it is natural that many of us would think that the ascension of Jesus was about a physical movement from earth "up into the clouds." In essence, the ascension of Jesus is about his leaving the earth, but the manner of his leaving is of no importance to us, much as we might want to know!

But the departure of Jesus was not about simply handing on the mission to a group that he had mentored, confident that they were now "fit for the job." Jesus stresses that he will return at the end of time, but also stresses in today's Gospel, the final few verses of the Gospel of Matthew, that he is with us always, "to the end of time." The apostles were not left to their own devices, putting Jesus' teachings into practice; they were animated, informed and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

How is this so? Thinking in strictly human terms, if someone leaves us, they can no longer be with us. Either they are with us or they are not. Of course, people can be with us in our hearts and minds when they are no longer with us physically, but Jesus is not speaking of this. In the very famous verses of today's Gospel, often referred to as The Great Commission, Jesus shows that he will be present in a very real way into the future, bearing in mind his last words on earth, according to the Evangelist Matthew, are that he will be with us always.

And he is with us by virtue of our baptism, by opening up discipleship to all people, regardless of nationality, race, gender and so on, and through our manner of living, as we make Christ truly present in our relationships with others, the one marker which makes us truly distinct from those who reject God in their lives.

This last point, of course, is crucial and challenging to us as a baptised people. Christ is now made manifest in the world because all people who open their hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit are motivated to live and love like Christ. This is what Jesus means when he tells the disciples to "teach them to observe all the commands I gave you." Essentially, there is only one command: to love, but to love in the manner modelled for us by Jesus during his years on earth.

Let us pray that we can respond to this command with joy and enthusiasm, rather than with a begrudging sense of obligation, and so make Christ present to all whom we encounter.

*Wishing you a blessed and joyful week ahead,*

*Fr Robert*

# THE BULLETIN

## STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

### Dean and Administrator

Very Rev Robert Riedling EV  
8839 8420 - dean@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Assistant Priest

Rev Andrew Rooney  
8839 8423 - assistantpriest@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Assistant Priest

Rev Dr Vincent Ojo  
8839 8400 - assistantpriest2@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Deacon

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

### Priest in Residence

Rev Dr Philip Alesin

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

### Parish Coordinator/Safeguarding Champion:

Pascal El-Hage (Mon - Fri)  
8839 8419 or coordinator@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Parish Secretary: Donna Missio (Mon, Wed, Fri)

8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Parish Secretary: Pat Preca (Tue, Thu, Fri)

8839 8412 or secretary@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team

8839 8400 or secretary@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Director of Music: Bernard Kirkpatrick KSS HonFGCM

8839 8400 or music@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Assistant Director of Music: Eric Grella

8839 8400 or music@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Assistant Organist: Patrick Newman

8839 8400 or music@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### MC & Liturgy Coordinator: Jorel Mateo

8839 8400 or liturgy@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Assistant MC: Blake Bano

8839 8400 or liturgy@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Youth Coordinator: TBC

8839 8400 or credo@stpatcscathedral.com.au

### Gift Shop Manager: Contact Parish Office

8839 8400 or giftshop@stpatcscathedral.com.au

## Sacraments

**Baptisms** are celebrated in the Cathedral on most Sundays after the 11:00am Solemn Mass, at around 12:45pm. 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 Secretaries.

## Hiring of Rooms

For hire of Cloister Function rooms, call the office on 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatcscathedral.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 Secretaries, Pat or Donna, by **12:00 noon on Thursday**.

## National Count of Attendance

During May 2026, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will conduct the National Count of Attendance across all parishes in Australia.

This count will be held over the following weekends:

- 16/17 May and 23/24 May

This important exercise helps provide an accurate picture of Mass attendance across the country and supports planning for the Church's mission and pastoral care.

During the first weekend of the count, a total of **1501** parishioners attended Mass across our parish. During the second weekend, the total attendance was **1802**.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish community.

## Safeguarding in our Parish

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. It helps ensure that children, young people, and vulnerable adults are safe, respected, and protected within our parish community. **All volunteers and ministry members** are required to complete safeguarding training. Training can be completed online — please contact coordinator@stpatcscathedral.com.au to access the online modules.

An in-person training day is available at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Saturday 30 May. The day will run from 8:45-1:30pm in the Cloister Hall. Modules 1, 2, and 3 will be covered during the session.

**Register here (or email coordinator@stpatcscathedral.com.au):**

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

For more information, please visit the Diocese of Parramatta Safeguarding website: <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/>

Thank you for helping keep our parish a safe and welcoming place.

**Please note due to low number registration the Tuesday evening sessions on 19 May, 26 May & 02 June have been cancelled.**

## Corpus Christi Procession

**What:** Corpus Christi Procession

**When:** Thursday, 04 June 2026

**Where:** Our Lady of Lebanon to St Patrick's Cathedral

**Details:** To follow shortly



## Our Commitment to Safeguarding

At St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta, we are dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community, especially children and vulnerable adults, in line with the "Parramatta Way."

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to...

- Act with justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person;
- Act with justice, and ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount.

# PARISH NOTICES

## Parish Office Announcement

After 13 years of dedicated service to the St Patrick's community as our Parish Secretary, Pat Preca has decided to step down from her role.

Throughout her years of service, Pat has been a welcoming and familiar presence in the parish office, supporting parishioners, clergy, volunteers, and visitors alike. Her commitment, generosity, and care for our parish community have been deeply appreciated and will be greatly missed.

As she begins an exciting new chapter, we thank her sincerely for the many years she has devoted to St Patrick's Cathedral Parish. We are grateful for all she has contributed to parish life and for the countless ways she has supported our community behind the scenes.

Please join us in thanking Pat, for her faithful service and in wishing her every blessing in the years ahead. Pat's last day will be Friday 05 June.

We will soon begin recruiting for a Parish Secretary position to work three days per week alongside Donna in the parish office. Further information and updates will be shared in the coming weeks.



Across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, people turn to the Church for care, hope, guidance and belonging. Through the Bishop's Good Works Appeal, our Diocese supports vital ministries including Holy Spirit Seminary, Catholic Care, the Ephpheta Centre and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

Over the coming weeks, this Appeal will support Holy Spirit Seminary at Harris Park, helping form the future priests our Diocese will need in the years ahead. Your generosity provides education, spiritual formation, pastoral training and safe accommodation for seminarians as they answer God's call. Please give generously at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or scan the QR code. **Please remember to nominate the Cathedral as your parish.** Thank you for supporting the future priests of our Church!

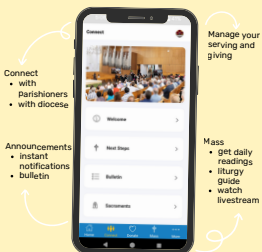
## Open Arms of St Patrick's Parish

**WE NEED HELP:** As you would be aware, the Open Arms core group has consisted of five people, which is the minimum number for a community support group in the CRISP (Community Refugee Integration Support Pilot) program. Unfortunately, two of the group members have some personal issues that mean they are not available for quite a while. Therefore, we are appealing to other members of St Patrick's parish to join us in this parish project. If you would like more information, or to volunteer, please contact Dianne Starkey on 0408 161 443.

## Join the Parish Pastoral Council

Expressions of interest are invited for three casual vacancies on the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) until the end of the current PPC term (mid 2027) with the possibility of extending this commitment after this date. The PPC advises the Parish Priest on pastoral matters such as pastoral planning, support for parish ministries and outreach as well as help to shape parish life and programs. Commitment to the PPC requires attending meetings on the third Monday of each month (except in January) in the Parish Office from 7:00pm - 8:30pm.

If interested please contact Kerry Giumelli, PPC Chairperson, at [ppc@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:ppc@stpatscathedral.com.au) for more details. Closing date for expressions of interest is **Friday 22 May**.



## How to Download the App

1. Scan QR Code to go to Google Play Store or Apple App Store on your mobile device.
2. Tap the "Install" button to download and install the app.
3. Once installed, open the app and finish setting up your profile.

The App can also be downloaded via the Cathedral website: [www.stpatscathedral.com.au](http://www.stpatscathedral.com.au)

# PRAYER INTENTIONS

## We pray for...

**Sick:** Shirley Tanoto, Priscilla Newman, Marie Docas, Romeo D'Souza, Jenny Cheung, Karl Fortado, Felixberto de la Pena, Hamish J Pereira, Udaya Rajam, Catherine Ramos, Betty Patinglag, Linda Popic, Charles Dickens, Ghalie Koura, Sebastiao Bugo, Linda Passaro, Ravi Prakash, Rosie Rezk, Mark A Mirando, Adriana Villada, Sharon Webb, Silvana Rechichi

**Special Intentions:** Nell Gomes, Rohan & Casilda Britto, Vadim Szulczuk, Tian, Emerlinda Sarreal, Naleen, Raveen, Cedric & Suzanne D'Souza, Ankica, Stephen, Nikola, Mara & Ruzica Senjak, Romeo D'Souza, Aaron Bugo, Esther Lopez

**Anniversaries:** Robert Meader, Lucy D'Mello, Mathew Paikada, Josefa Antonio Manubay, James McKee, Aidman O'Domhnaill, Vittoria Teuma, Doyle D'Costa, Rufino R. Nubla, Anton Poropat, Rosetta Raffaele, Frere Alexandre Anh, Aloma Pospischil, Dr C. O. Sioson, Juan & Maria Valdez & family, Juan Montesco, Constance C Valdez, Victor Dominquez, Erwin Mendoza, John Doolub, Danny Doolub, Pasquale Altamore, Bernard Rodricks, Gracie Rodricks, Irima Muller, Agapito Antonio, Dionisia Antonio

**Recently Deceased:** Elizabeth Tobin, Ching Kee (Tony) Hui, Dr Flor Lacanilao, Patrick Condon, Michaela Anu, Romula Romy Pena

**Deceased:** Deanna Hsu, Efen de los Santos, Meynard V. Guilles, Lucy D'Mello, YT Hsu, Deanna Hsu, Francesco Davino, Maria Megale, Meynardo Guilles, Robert Valentin, Roydon Fernandez, Peter Netto, Shierly Tan Lorenzo

**Anniversaries:** Maria Davino, Joseph Davino, Rafaela de la Pena, Teresa Van Tilburg, Pedro Obar Morales

**Perpetuals:** Efen de los Santos, Thanh Hung Le, June Schembri, Antoine Morvan, Leo Bardetta, Carmen Train, Joan Brady, Rudy Rupac, Frank Agostino, Wendy A Smith, Louisa & Arthur Baxter, Paul Mahoney, Nat Fedyk, Robert Dearie, Norm Hector, Bokeyar family, David family, Japour family, Paula Loto'aniu, Peter, Teresa & Annette Van Tilburg, Margaret Angela Roberts, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood family, Pat & Jim Hartman, John Ryan, Mark Fletcher, Royan & Andrews families, Don & Pat Andrews, Juliet & Peter Noronha, Vijaya Sawant, Dr Joseph Malouf, Abel Moses, Jimmy, Anna & Frank Grainda, 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

## BAPTISMS



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

**Aria Lavin**

**Grace & David Szpitalak-Hron**

## WEDDINGS



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

**Miguel Tarazona & Delia Valdizan**

## POPE LEO'S...

### Prayer Intention for May



### *That everyone might have food*

"Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food."

From Pope Leo...

"X" post dated  
09 May

"Peace begins in the human heart, passes through relationships, takes root in neighbourhoods and peripheries, and expands until it embraces the entire city and the world. Peace is built by promoting a culture that rejects violence, through daily gestures, education, and practical acts of justice."

## Saint of the Week

20 May - St Bernardino of Siena (1380-1444), Priest

Bernardino ("Little Bernard") was born in Tuscany. His parents died when he was a child. While still a student at the University of Siena he took charge of the hospital there when an epidemic killed most of the staff. Later he looked after a bedridden aunt until her death; and then, at the age of 22, he became a Franciscan.

Inspired by St Vincent Ferrer, he was an energetic and popular preacher and spent years travelling on foot through Italy preaching to enormous audiences. He denounced usury, promoted peace among the warring Italian cities, and worked hard for the reform and discipline of the Franciscan order, and for church unity.



Information: Universalis

### "Quote of the Week"



"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."

**Vaclav Havel**  
(1936 - 2011)  
Czech statesman and playwright

### Did You Know...?

**...that the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord was celebrated last Thursday, 14 May, in some parts of the world?**

The scriptures tell us that Jesus appeared for forty days after his resurrection before ascending to heaven (Acts 1:3). The fortieth day after Easter Sunday falls on the Thursday of the sixth week of Easter, and so some parts of the world celebrate the Ascension on this day, a decision made by the local conference of Bishops.



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