

Entrusted to the Salesians of Don Bosco

# Our Lady of the Rosary

Catholic Church

26 Swanston Street, St Marys, NSW 2760

Tel: (02) 9623 1962

Parish Email: [secretaryolrchurch@iinet.net.au](mailto:secretaryolrchurch@iinet.net.au)

Parish Website: [www.olrchurchstmarys.org.au](http://www.olrchurchstmarys.org.au)

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - Year A -

17 May 2026

### Entrance Antiphon:

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?

This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, **Alleluia.**

### First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

*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 to 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:

**(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: Eph 1:17-23

*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 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.

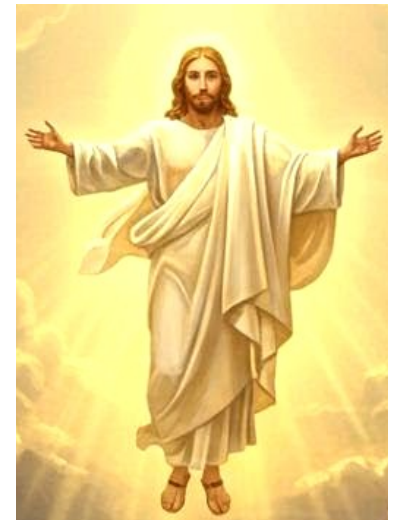
**The Word of the Lord**

### Gospel Acclamation:

**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

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

**The Gospel of the Lord**

### Communion Antiphon:

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

**Alleluia.**



# IN OUR PARISH

## PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr. Jeff Miller SDB  
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Gersio Amaral SDB  
 Parish Secretary: Fleur Mathias  
 Asst. Secretary: Violetta B (Monday)  
 Parish Telephone: 9623 1962  
 Parish Email: [secretaryolrchurch@iinet.net.au](mailto:secretaryolrchurch@iinet.net.au)  
 Parish Website: [www.olrchurchstmarys.org.au](http://www.olrchurchstmarys.org.au)

**Enquiries:** Please phone the Parish Office between 9:30am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 3:30pm, Monday to Friday.

**Salesian Community:** Phone: 9623 1220

**Don Bosco Youth Centre:** Phone: 9623 0450  
 Director: Fr Joseph Huong SDB

**Salesian Sisters:**  
 Community Leader: Sr Edna Mary McDonald

**Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School**  
 Principal: Ms Jackie Willard Phone: 8856 8301  
 Email: [olorstmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olorstmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
 Web: [www.olorstmarys.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olorstmarys.catholic.edu.au)

**Emmaus Catholic College**  
 Principal: Mrs Gabriela Osterlund Phone: 9670 4588  
 Email: [emmaus@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:emmaus@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## RECONCILIATION TIMES:

Saturdays: 9:00am - 10:00am and 5:00pm - 5:30pm  
 Mon to Fri: 7:30pm to 8:00pm (after the 7pm Mass)

## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Sat 16 May ST ALOYSIUS ORIONE**  
 6:00pm Susan Avila & siblings

**Sun 17 May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**  
 7:30am Ivan Ritossa  
 9:00am Bill & Dorothy Johnson  
 10:30am Michael & Rossel Sebastian  
 5:30pm Pro Populo

**Mon 18 May ST JOHN I**  
 6:30am Julian Ritossa  
 9:00am Juan Chito Redoblado Jnr  
 7:00pm Ratnavady Raja Sombat

**Tue 19 May**  
 6:30am Clare Le Grand  
 9:00am Cyril & Constance Wijeratne  
 7:00pm Minu Paulose

**Wed 20 May ST BERNADINE OF SIENA**  
 6:30am Gerard Marcelo  
 9:00am Julie & Victor Sequeira  
 7:00pm Daisy Peters

**Thu 21 May ST CHRISTOPHER**  
 6:30am Ivan Canic  
 9:00am Gianfranco, Jack & Kate  
 7:00pm For the Unborn

**Fri 22 May ST RITA OF CASCIA**  
 6:30am Holy Souls in Purgatory  
 9:00am Elizabeth Ann O'Reilly  
 7:00pm Ostonu Vaurasi

**Sat 23 May**  
 8:00am Silvino & Magdalena Andaya

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

### Jesus the Healer, we commend to your gentle hands

Valverde, Marylin Villamor, Margaret Gallagher, Rose Cauci, Emmanuel & Josephine Vella, Maya Glinski, Ruth Magnaye, Jorge Oliveras, Josephine Evans, Brian Xerri, Tenesha Faulkner, Rudy Rupac, Elinda Lopez, Norma Sulvita, Michael McDermot, Reynaldo Handog, Wayne Reynolds, Maryanne Santos, Denise Blanche, Patrick Levelle, Fr Bob Bossini, Dexter Assey, Peyton Daley, Mario Cauchi, Robert Engelebrecht, Reynaldo Bendayral, Vanessa Trujillo, Renee Azzopardi, Juliet Lee, Margaret Lawrence, Ashton D'Costa, Rolando Aguda, Hugo Labra, Andre Rodriguez, Ginnah Alia, David Freeman, Susie Lipstack, Charlise McMillan, Crystal Darcy, Zdravko & Marija Palovic, Evotia Letele, Karen Barret, Josephine Mitchell, Emelita Howlett, Richard Dauglash, Emma Tucker, Allan & Jackie Cullen, Esperanza Mirafeuntes, Abraham Thomas, Reetahmma Abraham, Sophia Furey, Alicia Bulatao, Mhom Samson, Aurora Jimenez, Adam Burton, Annabelle Rego, Arou Akot, Jozef Karkowski, Ronald Manzano, Anna Juresa, Jose Maria Pepingco, Ronnie D'costa, Beatrice Leary, Lorraine Damian, Fr J B, Monica Thomas, Shuashawnee Hancock, Miloh Molesi, Blanche Jones, Clare LeGrand, Renato Manongdo.

## PRAYERS FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

### Please remember in your prayers our deceased parishioners, family and friends especially

David Reddin, Noelene Trower, Evelyn Bates, Peter Nicholson, Remon Goldstone, Maria Pace, Dominica Rositano, Vijaya N Perera, Pauline Harris, Pauline Carr, Phyllis Cross, Ellen Buss, Joseph Khanh Le, Bill Burke, Rainer Cruz, Henryk Kowalczyk, John Ross Birch, John Rodriguez, Argyna Santiago, Pope Francis, Nozha Mey, Denis McGee, Rodney Blundell, Jamie Dowsett, Ivan Canic, Josh Bulloch, Ruth Borg, Ostono Vaurasi, Len Dettling, Damian Bonser, Sr Joanna Healey, Clementina Canuto, Ross Graham, Paul Muscat, Lenin Nunes, Frank Stricek, Christine Walker, Paz Jacinto, Perry Peisley, Beryl Martin, Pauline Rogers, Carmel Jeffery, Greg Whitby, Charlie Kirk, Marie Rosario, Suzana Stojcevski, Fr John Briffa SDB, Fr Frank Moloney SDB, Mary Kumar, Serge Nalletamby, Peter Aquilina, Angela Barca, Victoria Borg, Deacon Petelo Savea, Andrew Vaessen, Milly Martin, Alicia Bulatao, Pasquale Bellino, Br Rey Pongo, Tony Martin, Patricia Armstrong, Stephen Neville, Raymond Clarke, Sarafino Enadid, Felicia Sisinni, Eileen Morrow, Vincent Leary, Pellegrino Penna, Lucija Jeroncic, Chito Redoblado, Vicky Xerri, Linda Weightman, Norma O'Sullivan, Peter Gatchalian.

**Eternal rest grant unto their souls O Lord, let light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen**  
**may they rest in peace. Amen**

## 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections:

**We Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support.**

**If you prefer to donate via ONLINE BANKING,**

**Please refer to details below:**

**(1st Collection) - For the Clergy's sustentation & care**

**BSB NO:** 067 950 **ACCOUNT NO:** 00004414

**ACCOUNT NAME:** St Marys Pastoral Revenue

**(2nd Collection) - Parish Ministry & Maintenance**

**BSB NO:** 067 950 **ACCOUNT NO:** 100000329

**ACCOUNT NAME:** St Marys Catholic Church

*First Collection (previous weekend)* \$1698.25

*Second Collection (previous weekend)* \$3005.20

*Tap & Go Donations* \$2348

**Collections are no longer conducted during weekend Masses. A collection box is located at the back left of the church on weekends only.**

## TAP & GO MACHINES

**The two Tap & Go machines in the church, donations will go to the Church 2nd collection.**

*Kindly Select your donation amount \$5, \$10, \$20 or other.*

### **Parish Council Nominations**

Three members of our Parish Council have completed their term and we are now inviting nominations for new members to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council.

If you or someone you know is a committed member of our parish and willing to serve the community, we encourage you to nominate.

Nomination forms are available at the back of the church. Please place the completed forms in the box provided or to the Parish Office.

Let us prayerfully consider those called to serve our parish.

### **TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE (TLC)**

TLC volunteers will be selling raffle tickets this weekend 16/17 May after all Masses.

Proceeds will go directly to support their free legal clinic provided for disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable people. Kindly support.

Raffle Tickets \$2.00 each or \$20.00 for a book of 10 tickets (10 Prizes to be won).

There will be pancakes on sale: 2 for \$5.



### **CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 2pm

Celebrant: Fr John Puli

Campion College Chapel, 10 Austin, Woodbury Pl, Toongabbie. All Welcome.

### **LIVE CHRIST ... SHARE CHRIST**

#### **OLR Parish Faith Formation**

Date: Friday 22 May 2026, Parish Hall

Time: 7:45pm to 9:00pm, soon after the 7pm Mass

Speaker: Anthony English

Talk: The fire and the sword - Enter the mystery of the Sacred Heart of Jesus & Immaculate heart of Mary.

Contact Alan D'souza - 0436 308 178

**The St. John Paul II Pro Life Alliance would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to those who supported our fundraiser for Mother's Day**

We raised approx. \$1300 for mothers in crisis in our community and will be creating a resource stockpile with those funds. Thank you so much for your support and if you want to get involved call us on 0404771872 or [st.jpii.lifealliance@gmail.com](mailto:st.jpii.lifealliance@gmail.com)



### **IMMACULATE MARY STATUE**

The statue will remain in the Church during May, the month of the Holy Rosary.

If you would like the Rosary Statue in your home for a week, kindly contact Mr & Mrs Johnson 0404 028 823.

### **Bishop's Good Works Appeal**



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.

### **COME JOIN US!**

#### **Pilgrim Mother Apostolate**



When: Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Time: 11:45am (after 10:30am Mass)

Venue: McKillop Centre, Collins St.

Followed by a light lunch (provided)

Enquiries: Fenina - 0431 867 491

### **PROJECT 72**

Parish Evangelisation Formation Course commences on **Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May**, six-sessions.

#### **What is it?**

PROJECT 72 commences on 29 May with a 6 session Parish Evangelisation course which will seek to equip 72 practising Catholics with the formation and practical tools they need to venture out into the broader St Marys community and speak to those they meet with confidence about Jesus Christ and His Church.

#### **Session Content**

1. What is Project 72?  
*An integrated Parish Approach to Evangelisation.*
2. Go out to the Whole world!  
*Why and how does the church evangelise?*
3. We cannot give what we do not have!  
*How am I travelling spiritually?*
4. Navigating the world we live in.  
*Lights and Shadows.*
5. Ambassadors of Jesus Christ.  
*A Marian Model - Living Tabernacles.*
6. The Salvation of Souls.  
*The Ultimate Duty of the Church.*

#### **Register to participate**

Please register your interest to participate in the Project 72 formation sessions by scanning the QR code. Once registered, please check your inbox for further information in the lead up to the commencement of Session 1, Friday evening 29 May at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.



**Register now by scanning the QR Code.**

## COMING EVENTS:

20 May: MacKillop Committee meeting, 2.30pm (Shroud Room)  
22 May: Faith Formation, 7:45pm (details inside the bulletin)  
25 May: Catechist Meeting, 10am  
Our Lady Help of Christians Feast, Rosary after 7pm Mass  
29 May: Project 72 (details inside the bulletin)  
30-31 May: First Communions  
**9 & 11 June: 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Parent Info night, Church, 7:30pm**

## MASS TIMES:

**Monday - Friday:** 6:30am, 9am, 7:00pm  
**Saturday:** 8:00am, 6:00pm  
**Sunday:** 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 5:30pm

## REVERENCE AND PARTICIPATION AT MASS

### THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Eucharistic Prayer is the center and summit of the entire Mass, where the eternal sacrifice of Jesus to the Father is represented on the altar. It is the most significant event taking place at any given moment, anywhere in the universe. For this reason, the Church is adamant: "the Eucharistic Prayer demands that all listen to it with reverence and in silence" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal, n.78*). Of course, all the parts of the Mass demand sacred silence because the whole Mass is sacred (*GIRM, n.45*), but the Eucharistic Prayer demands the utmost silence, because it is the utmost sacred. Silence is far more than the incidental absence of noise; intentional silence is one of most concrete ways of expressing that we genuinely revere and take seriously what we are doing. The secular world understands this all too well, with "a minute's silence" regularly being used as a sign of reverence and respect at solemn memorials.

Because the Mass demands silence by its very nature, it is not unreasonable for the faithful to expect it. Certainly, not all children and infants are capable of remaining still and silent for the duration of a Mass, yet neither does the Church insist that they attend; merely ecclesiastical laws, including the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Days of Obligation, are only binding upon those who are at least seven years old, and even then, presumes they have attained an adequate use of reason (*Code of Canon Law, 11*). While children under seven are welcome to attend Mass, the Church is not so unreasonable as to demand attendance from those who are formatively incapable of affording the reverence it demands.

Similarly, the Church is not so unreasonable as to demand the attendance of those who must care for infants and children; in the *Catholic Catechism*, the Church teaches that the faithful can be excused from their obligation to attend mass for a serious reason, suggesting as examples: illness, and the care of infants (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, n.2181*). The motivation behind both suggestions is not dissimilar; in the case of illness, we can readily appreciate that it is far more charitable to allow ill people to stay home - charitable for themselves so they can recuperate, and charitable for the congregation that they don't pass on any illness. For similar reasons, if parents have children who need more care and attention than can be afforded them during Mass, the more charitable option for the children is to allow the parents to stay home and care for them.

We will continue to reflect on this point next week.

Yours faithfully,  
Fr. Jeff