

St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn South & St Timothy's, Forest Hill



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

The Ascension of the Lord

Year A - 17th May 2026



Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11, Ps 46: 2-3, 6-9, Eph 1:17-23

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 28:16-20

Meditation: Why did Jesus leave his disciples forty days after his resurrection? Forty is a significant number in the Scriptures. Moses went to the mountain to seek the face of God for forty days in prayer and fasting. The people of Israel were in the wilderness for forty years in preparation for their entry into the promised land. Elijah fasted for forty days as he journeyed in the wilderness to the mountain of God. For forty days after his resurrection Jesus appeared numerous times to his disciples to assure them that he had risen indeed and to prepare them for the task of carrying on the work which he began during his earthly ministry.

The Risen Lord is with us always to the end of time: Jesus' departure and ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. While it was the end of Jesus' physical presence with his beloved disciples, it marked the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. Jesus promised that he would be with them always to the end of time (Matthew 28:20). Now as the glorified and risen Lord and Saviour, ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit who would anoint them with power from on high on the Feast of Pentecost, just as Jesus was anointed for his ministry at the River Jordan (Luke 3:21-22, 4:1,18). When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the apostles, they were not left in sorrow or grief. Instead, they were filled with joy and with great anticipation for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The Risen Lord empowers us to carry on his work: Why did the Risen Lord ascend into heaven? The Father raised the glorified body of his Son and enthroned him in glory at his right hand in heaven. The Lord Jesus in his glorified body now reigns as Lord over the heavens and the earth - over all that he has created. The Risen Lord reigns from the throne in heaven as our Merciful Redeemer and Gracious King. He intercedes for us and he empowers us through the outpouring of his Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus gives us new life in his Spirit and he strengthens us in faith, hope and love so we can serve him and carry on his work as citizens of his kingdom here on earth.

You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth: Jesus' last words to his disciples point to the key mission and task he has entrusted to his followers on earth - to be his witnesses and ambassadors to the ends of the earth so that all peoples, tribes, and nations may hear the good news that Jesus Christ has come to set us free from sin, Satan, and death and has won for us a kingdom of peace, joy, and righteousness that will last forever. How can we be effective witnesses for Christ? Jesus told his disciples, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you - and you shall be my witnesses... to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Jesus gives his followers the same power he received when the Holy Spirit came upon him and anointed him at the beginning of his mission (John 1:32-33). The Gospel is the power of God, the power to release people from their burden of sin, guilt, and oppression, and the power to heal, restore, and make us whole. Do you believe in the power of the Gospel to change and transform your life?

We are ambassadors for Jesus Christ: Paul the Apostle reminds us that we are called to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ. Just as ambassadors are appointed to represent their country and to speak on behalf of their nation's ruler, we, too are appointed by the Lord Jesus to speak on his behalf and to bring others into a close and personal encounter with the Lord and Ruler of heaven and earth. This is the great commission which the risen Christ gives to the whole church. All believers have been given a share in this task - to be heralds of the good news and ambassadors for Jesus Christ, the only savior of the world. We have not been left alone in this task, for the risen Lord works in and through us by the power of his Holy Spirit. Today we witness a new Pentecost as the Lord pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people to renew and strengthen the body of Christ and to equip it for effective ministry and mission world-wide. Do you witness to others the joy of the Gospel and the hope of the resurrection?



Picture: Ascension, John Singleton Copley (1775), Oil on canvas © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
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Office (for both Churches): 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133 (St Timothy's)

Parish Office tel: 03 9412 8499; Presbytery tel: 03 9877 2292

St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Web: sttimothys.org.au / Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: blackburnsouth.org.au

Parish Priest

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL)

Sunday: 8:30am (SL)

10:30am (ST)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. 6:30pm (SL)

Wed. 9:15am (ST)

Thurs. 11am (ST) Funeral

Fri. 6.30pm (ST)

Sat. 9.15am (SL*)

**Rosary after Mass*

RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm

Sat 9.45 - 10.15am

Sat 4.30 - 4.50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

**EXPOSITION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT &
EVENING PRAYER**

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

**HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS
AT ST. LUKE'S**

Second weekend of each
month - bring a plate to
share (optional)

YOUNG ADULT GROUP -

Wednesday 17th June @
7pm - venue TBC

LEGION OF MARY -

Friday 22nd May @
10.15am at St Luke's
Parish Hall Kitchen.

Enquiries to

Lucy 0419 591 423

Melbourne
Corpus Christi
Procession

Jesus himself came near
and was walking with them.
LUKE 24:15

SUNDAY 7 JUNE, 2PM
STARTS AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
CONCLUDES AT FED SQUARE

Together with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, let
us bring Christ in the Eucharist—our light—into
the heart of the city of Melbourne.
Communities are invited to bring their banners!

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Next Week's Daily Readings 18 - 24 May (7th week of Easter)

MONDAY May 18: Acts 19:1-8, Ps 67:2-7, Jn 16:29-33
TUESDAY May 19: Acts 20:17-27, Ps 67: 10-21, Jn 17:1-17
WEDNESDAY May 20: Acts 20:28-38, Ps 67:29-36 Jn 17:11-19
THURSDAY May 21: Acts 22:30, 23:6-11, Ps 15:1-11, Jn 17:20-26
FRIDAY May 22 Acts 25:13-21, Ps 102:1-20 Jn 21:15-19
SATURDAY May 23 Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, Ps 10:4-5, 7 Jn 21:20-25

PENTECOST SUNDAY May 24:

Acts 2:1-11, Ps 103:1, 24-34:34: 1 Cor 12:3-13 Jn 20:19-23

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

16 and 17 MAY

Godfrey Thong
Liliana Restrepo
Michelle Chen

23 and 24 MAY

Steve Kilroe-Smith
Peter McKeown
Molly Hemsley

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

Lynda Kilroe-Smith
Michael Ballek
Susan Chen

Anne Lobo
Melina Barcellona
Laura Cigana

SLIDE OPERATORS

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

Choir
David Prabha
Lee Min Yee

Choir
Megan McLean
Manny Gonzalez

SL WELCOMERS 16 - 17 May.

5pm Libby Theodore
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

30th May - Bernard's team
Bernard O'Malley, Joanne Nolan,
Melina Barcellona & Anne Allsopp

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

16th May - Kate Skowronska
23rd May - Ellen Donoghue

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 23 - 24 May.

5:00pm Edna Lee
8.30am Margaret Gearon
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

22nd May
Liliana Restrepo & Jackie Kha

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 5:
Anico Yee & Wilson D'Souza
Next week Team 8:
Sarah Ahmed & Ann Abrero

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Shirley Prabha, Helen MacKay, Kevin Ryan, Suzy Bookluck, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Agatha Wink, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died, especially Frances O'Donoghue, Grace Dimattina & Juliana Thong who died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Lise Marot, Tony O'Hanlon, Frank James, Maria Getto, Patricia Gribbin, Mark Kowacki, Carmel Hurley & Lisa Millichamp.

May they rest in peace.

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.

ROSTER SIGN-UP SHEETS AT ST LUKE'S: Can you offer your help to make our parish Masses run smoothly? Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer at St Luke's for the next lot of rosters for readers, eucharistic ministers, slide projector operators, procession of the gifts volunteers and welcomers. New volunteers would be very welcome. Training can be provided if required.

PARISH & SCHOOL FETE: St Luke's Fete, in partnership with St Timothy's, will be held on **Sunday October 18th**. The next fete committee meeting will be on Thurs. 21st May at 7pm in St Luke's school. We are currently asking all parishioners and school families if they run a market stall and would like to take part or have a business that would be interested in sponsoring our fete. We are also looking for stall coordinators for our Pre-loved Books, Silent Auction, Beer Garden/Wine & Cheese & BBQ stalls. Contact Sonya in the parish office or email stlukesfete@gmail.com. **More volunteers are very welcome to join us, as many hands make light work!**

A WARM WELCOME: to Henry Ang and Maja & Mila Hartman who are presenting to the parish community this weekend ahead of their baptisms on the weekend of May 23 & 24.

THE WONDER OF PENTECOST, A SACRED MUSIC CONCERT AT ST PETER'S:

Friday 22 May 2026 at 7pm at St Peter's Catholic Church, 581 Toorak Road, Toorak. BOOKING: trybooking.com/DJRJP

SET OF DOUBLE BUNKS & TRUNDLE BED AVAILABLE: Could you or someone you know use a set of near new double bunk beds with mattresses and a trundle bed in perfect condition? If so, please contact the parish office.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Preparing for the Melbourne Corpus Christi Procession](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Our Common Home](#)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.

The Second collection is for parish expenses.

Please note that collection totals will no longer be published each week in the newsletter. Presbytery and Church donations will be reported on a monthly basis at all weekend Masses. To donate regularly via envelope, credit card or bank account, please contact the parish office.

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters:

Kelvin & Susan Chen (ST),

Margaret Gearon (SL)

Baptism Preparation: *Fr Alex*

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalewski

Parish Safeguarding Committee

Fr Alex, Sonya O'Farrell,

Darren McLean & Janette Clark

Parish History

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL & ST: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Roster of Parishioners

SL: Greg Grant

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

ST: Susan Chen

Church Linen: *SL: Beryl Chelliah*

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Miguel Ilagan

SL: Fr Alex

Bible Timeline: *Chris Lim*

ALPHA: *Lynda Kilroe-Smith*

Young Adult Ministry:

Sarah Santilli & Jersy Soesanto

RCIA: *David West*

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

ST: John McCoy

SL: Margaret Gearon &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

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.

Response to the Psalm: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for 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!

Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

ST TIMOTHY'S: Sunday 24th May at the 10.30am Mass. This will run on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.



ST LUKE'S: Family Mass will run on the 2nd Saturday of each month starting from June 13th.

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2026

First Reconciliation - May 26th & 27th from 3.30 to 5.30pm

Confirmation - June 25th @ 6pm

First Eucharist - August 1st @ 5pm

Parents of children who do not attend Catholic schools are asked to contact the parish office asap to enrol in preparation sessions for any of the above sacraments.

FUNERAL FOR KATHLEEN BARRITT

The funeral for Kathleen Barritt will be at St Timothy's on Thursday 21st May at 11am with Rosary from 10.30am.

Kindly note that there will be

NO 9.15AM MASS

on this day due to the funeral.

ITALIAN DAY - VOLUNTEER REQUEST

St Luke's School is celebrating Italian Day on Thursday May 28th and they are looking for volunteers of Italian background who could come and teach the kids how to play 'Scopa' between 9am and 1.30pm on that date. You must have a valid Working with Children Check to volunteer. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Sonya in the parish office, contact details on page 1 of this newsletter.

FUNERALS AT ST LUKE'S

Please note that the funeral for Grace Dimattina will be on Wednesday 27th May at 11am and the funeral for Frances O'Donoghue will be on Friday 29th May at 11am. Both will be followed by refreshments in the parish hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend both funerals.



Free call: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/unity



This year marks 100 years of World Mission Day, a time in which the global Church celebrates God's mission through prayer and generosity.

Today, that mission continues in places like Malawi, where communities are rebuilding after devastating floods and families are striving to create a future for their children.

In the coming weeks, we will share how the Church is walking alongside these communities, and how you can be part of this living mission of love.

To learn more about Catholic Mission and our work, please go to catholicmission.org.au/unity.

Please note that:

The Annual Collection for Catholic Mission will be held on the weekend of June 6 & 7

"SYNOD CORNER"

9. Synodality and the laity



Synodality affirms that the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of all the baptised. Lay people are not simply helpers of clergy; they are active disciples called to witness to Christ in families, workplaces, and society. A synodal Church takes this vocation seriously.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

Our pilgrims, following in the footsteps of St Paul, have visited many places in Greece, Turkiye & Rome and most are now safely home after their adventures. You can access their blog by scanning this QR code:



Jesus was taken into heaven



The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

Draw Jesus ascending into heaven.



Even though Jesus ascended into heaven he is always with us. Complete the sentences below.

Jesus is with me when....

Jesus is with me when....

Jesus is with me when....



How many words can you make from the letters in the word ASCENSION?

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD— 17 MAY 2026



COLLECT

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,
for the Ascension of Christ your Son
is our exaltation,
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,
the Body is called to follow in hope.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

Our bodies exist in time and space. They are located at a particular place. We have seen in the resurrection stories of Christ that here we are dealing with a reality of a different order. The risen Christ stands in the midst of his disciples when the room is locked. The disciples going to Emmaus only recognise him in the breaking of the bread and then he vanishes from their sight. The risen Lord is not constrained by time and space.

The Ascension of the Lord celebrates the glorious presence of the risen Christ which fills the whole of creation. Next Sunday, Pentecost, rejoices in the risen Lord through the presence and action of the Holy Spirit. Christ's resurrection, the Ascension, the coming of the Holy Spirit are all expressions of one and the same Easter mystery.

Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time!

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

or

R. Alleluia.

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.**

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.**

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**

First Reading

On the first Easter morning, when Mary Magdalene and her friends come to the tomb and find it empty, they encounter a man dressed in white (an angel) who tells them that Christ is risen. In fact, in Luke's gospel there are two of them. These two reappear here as the risen Christ is taken from the apostles' sight. They witness to the new reality that the risen Lord is beyond earthly time and space.

Embedded in this event of the Ascension is the Holy Spirit – the apostles will be baptised with the Spirit and will receive the power to witness to Christ through the Holy Spirit. Today's feast looks back to Easter and forward to Pentecost.

The variety of material – reporting, instruction, dialogue and action – make this an interesting text for readers to proclaim and for the assembly to receive. But all should be aware of the strangeness of the content – the forthcoming sending of the Spirit and the still unknown challenge of the apostles' mission, the 'hiding' or withdrawal of the risen Christ and the appearance of the angels in white.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 46/47 is a noisy psalm – there is clapping, shouting, trumpet blasts and singing. It suggests a festive procession or some other exuberant liturgical rite of enthronement. It is a psalm of joyous praise. The content of these lines gives the cue for the way it should be proclaimed by the cantor/reader.

No doubt it was chosen for the Ascension because of the lines about the Lord 'going up' with shouts of joy and trumpet blasts. In the response, these lines are combined with the last line to read: 'God mounts his throne...' This two part response will be easier to handle if it is sung.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1:17–23

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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20

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.'

Second Reading

This beautiful prayer of blessing from Paul elaborates the phrase from the first reading that Jesus has been taken up into heaven. We have the image of the risen Lord reigning in glory, seated at the right hand of God the Father. Here, he is not remote or distant; rather he is the ruler of everything and his presence *fills the whole creation*.

This reality is only seen with 'the eyes of the mind', with a spirit of wisdom, a discernment of the heart. This is how we understand the revelation of Christ's glory, and the promise of hope it holds out for us believers.

The reader should present this text expansively and with warmth. Evoke a sense of majesty, and pace the reading deliberately. Be very careful of the long and complex sentences, especially the one beginning halfway through: This you can tell... Mark the pauses.

Gospel

Unlike Mark and Luke, Matthew does not mention the ascension of the Lord. He recounts a single encounter between the apostles and the risen Lord. It takes some of them a little time to grasp the astonishing reality of the resurrection: they hesitated.

It is on this occasion that they are given the mission to baptise and teach, to go out and make disciples of all nations. In the first reading, the Acts of the Apostles suggested that their commissioning would come with the release of the Holy Spirit.

Last week, in John's gospel, we heard Jesus tell his apostles that he would not leave them orphans; though they would no longer see him, he would be with them, in them. This is the message of the final sentence in Matthew's gospel: *I am with you always; yes, to the end of time*.

This is the essential meaning of the Ascension – not that Jesus is leaving them, but that he is present with them in a new and different way.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (The Ascension of the Lord)

May almighty God bless you,
for on this very day his Only Begotten Son
pierced the heights of heaven
and unlocked for you the way
to ascend to where he is.

Amen.

May he grant that,
as Christ after his Resurrection
was seen plainly by his disciples,
so when he comes as Judge
he may show himself merciful to you for all eternity.

Amen.

And may you, who believe he is seated
with the Father in his majesty,
know with joy the fulfilment of his promise
to stay with you until the end of time.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ascension of the Lord, Roman Missal p. 713)



ST. LUKES SCHOOL
BLACKBURN SOUTH



St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

SCAN TO
BOOK A
TOUR



St Luke the Evangelist Primary School Blackburn South
9877 4023 | www.slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au

We are Companions on The Journey

2026

