



WHITSUNDAY CATHOLIC PARISH

St Catherine's - St Martin's - Whitsunday Islands

The Ascension of the Lord, Year A — 17th May 2026

GOD'S WORD

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.'

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

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

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.)

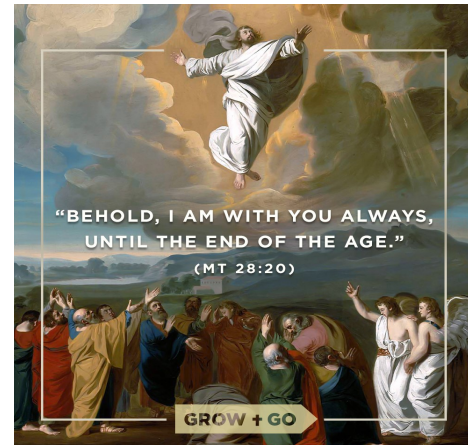
God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

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.

Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!



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

O Lord Jesus, I adore you,
Son of Mary, my Saviour and my
Brother, for You are God.
I follow You in my thoughts,
O first-fruits of our race, as I hope one
day by Your grace to follow You in
my person into heavenly glory.
Until then, do not let me neglect the
earthly task which You have given me.
Let me labour diligently all my life with
a greater appreciation for the present.
Let me realize that only by
accomplishing true human
fulfillment can I attain Divine
fulfillment and ascend to You at the
completion of my work.

Amen.

Welcome to Visitors and New Parishioners

A warm welcome to all of you! Our community is built on faith, love, and service, and we are excited to have you with us. We would love to connect with you. Please feel free to visit us in the office during office hours.

Parish Notices

Reconciliation

There will be a Reconciliation this Saturday, the 16th of May at 10 Am at St Catherine's Church. We're inviting those who are able to come to take this opportunity to come together in faith, seek God's mercy, restore broken relationships, and renew our hearts through forgiveness and grace.



Baptism

This weekend, Saturday, Harry , Thomas , and James Gibbs. Will be receiving the Sacrament of Baptism.



Please these children in your prayers that may their lives be filled with grace and guidance.

Memorial Service

A memorial service for the late **Regie Gillen** will be celebrated on Saturday 16th of May at 2pm at St Catherine's Church.



Our condolence to Pat and their whole family. Please include them in your prayers.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Last Sunday's Collection

1st Collection 2nd Collection PG Env PG DD
\$ 446.70 \$ 280.90 \$515.00 \$ 290

Planned Giving Program: For your contribution to the parish, you can direct deposit it to the parish account: Whitsunday Catholic Parish BSB 034-207 ACCT 810014 Reference: PG_Name



Scan to donate

You can also scan the QR code to make donations or payments. Thank you for your generosity!

This Week's Anniversaries

- 17 May— John Fenton, Karl O'Sullivan, Annunziata Maria Fiorito Deni Linfort
- 18 May— Eileen Mary Nicol, Daniel Patrick Hurley, Maria De Andrea, Eric John Farrell, John David O'Farrell
- 19 May — Margherita Valmadre, Angela Demartini, Terrence Godfrey, Duffy Nino (Jimmi), Marianni Mary Nicholas, Father John Hay
- 20 May - Margaret Law, Patrick Hayes, Phyllis Merle Grosskreutz, William Dobbins, Salvatore Falconieri
- 21 May- Dorothy June Hiscox
- 22 May- Francis Findley, Robert Eckel, Verbena Raiteri, Samuel Paul Faust, Juanita Jean Burnett

MASS ROSTER

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, if you are unable to attend your roster, please contact Margaret Annells at 0402 390 627 . We ask that you come at least 15 mins before the mass begins please. Thank you!

May 16 & 17					
	Welcomer	READERS	COMMUNION	COLLECTION	LAPTOP
SAT 6pm Mass	Peter O Christine	Suzanna F Mary F David D	Bill B Chris D	Raymond Brian	Aleena
SUN 8am Liturgy	Joan H Jill F	Alice H Margaret A Jill F Joan M	Joan M	Dan Miller	Mandy
SUN 6pm Liturgy	Lynne E	Paul C	Paul C		Isaiah

May 23 & 24					
	Welcomer	READERS	COMMUNION	COLLECTION	LAPTOP
SAT 6pm Liturgy	Peter O Julia B	Margaret A Joan M Bill B Isabell O	Chris D	Raymond Brian	Aleena
SUN 8am Mass	Joan H Jill	Sarah V Jimmy B David D	Margaret P Pauline O	Dan Miller	Jill
SUN 6pm Mass	Lynne E		Paul C		Isaiah

PARISH CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

SAT 16	SUN 17	MON 18	TUE 19	WED 20	THU 21	FRI 22	SAT 23	SUN 24
10 am Reconciliation Proserpine 2 pm Memorial Service for Regie Gillen	8 am Liturgy Proserpine		930 am Liturgy NursingHome	730am Rosary Novena & Liturgy Proserpine	9 am School Mass Proserpine	8 am Mass Proserpine		8 am Mass Proserpine
6 pm Vigil Mass Proserpine	6 pm Liturgy Cannonvale			6-7 pm Sacramental Programme Parish Hall			6pm Liturgy Proserpine	6pm Mass Cannonvale



May 17, 2026

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 | Eph 1:17-23 | Mt 28:16-20

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

This year, I cannot help but notice how kingdom-centric the readings for the Solemnity of the Ascension are. In our first reading, Jesus appears to his disciples for forty days after his resurrection and speaks to them about the kingdom of God. Our psalm beckons us to rejoice that God is mounting his throne – another kingdom image! Our second reading tells us that God has given Christ authority over “every principality, power, and dominion” – a clear sign that he is the one reigning over all. These references seem to be telling us that today’s feast is Jesus’ “coronation day” – the day he takes his rightful place at the right hand of the Father. From the moment Jesus ascends to heaven, he is reigning. What a consoling thought for us, who may at times find ourselves discouraged by our lives or the state of affairs around us. We have hope because we know that despite appearances to the contrary, Jesus reigns, and it is only a matter of time until the Father puts all things beneath Christ’s feet.

REFLECT Oftentimes, we think of the Ascension as Jesus leaving us after the end of his earthly ministry. But Jesus promises that he does not leave us, but rather, that he is always with us, “until the end of the age.” Spend some time this week reflecting on the ways that, having taken his seat at the right hand of the Father, Jesus is now ever-more present, pouring out his grace and his Spirit upon us at every moment.

REFLECTION

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord commemorates the fortieth day after the Resurrection when Jesus ascended body and soul into Heaven and took His seat at the right hand of His Father. Traditionally, the location of the Ascension is believed to be less than a mile east of the Old City of Jerusalem, and that spot is marked by the Chapel of the Ascension, which is said to contain a miraculous imprint of the footprints of Christ before He ascended. The event of the Ascension is found in the Gospels and Acts ([Mark 16:19-20](#); [Luke 24:50-53](#); [Acts 1:6-12](#)). It is also alluded to in various other passages ([John 6:62](#); [Ephesians 4:7-10](#); [1 Timothy 3:16](#); [1 Peter 3:21-22](#)).

Only Jesus and His Blessed Mother have entered into the glories of Heaven, body and soul. Jesus’ Ascension implies that He did so by His own authority and power. The Blessed Virgin Mary’s Assumption implies that she entered Heaven, body and soul, by God’s power, and not her own. The Ascension marks the completion of Jesus’ earthly mission. He first united His divine nature with human nature through the Incarnation at the moment of the Annunciation. Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches that from that moment on, Jesus, the Son of God, experienced three types of knowledge. First, being God, He had beatific knowledge, that is, a direct knowledge of His essence, the Father’s essence, and the Holy Spirit’s

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples – and us – to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” It’s a tall order – bringing every nation under the reign of Christ. But we needn’t be intimidated. The Ascension offers us hope, for – as the Catechism reminds us – “Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” (667) Jesus ascended into heaven and now is constantly interceding for us before the Father, constantly pouring out his Spirit on us! In all our efforts to evangelize, we have that constant support and grace being sent our way to equip us for this work.

essence. Second, He had the perfection of infused knowledge, that is, a bestowal of all truths given to the angels in Heaven, especially those truths necessary for the completion of His divine mission. Third, He began to acquire learned knowledge, or experiential knowledge. This was the form of knowledge attained through His human nature from the senses and His human reason.

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Prayer for the Sick

We humbly ask all parishioners to keep our sick brothers and sisters in their prayers, that they will receive fast healing and renewed strength. Please let us know if you know someone who needs pastoral care.

Synodality is about breaking down walls between "us" and "them" to realise there is only "us" united in Christ.



Parish Groups

Catholic Women's League

Fourth Thursday of the month at 09:40am in the Parish Hall.

Care and Concern

A group reaching out to the lonely, grieving and most in need, needs communion, offering friendship and support. If you'd like to help and join the group. Please see the office.

Marian Devotees

Wednesdays at 7.30am, St. Catherine's Church. A group of people say a Novena to Miraculous Medal and pray a Rosary .

When I was a Stranger

Every last Sunday of the month, we gather after the 6pm mass St Martins Church. Please bring a plate to share.

Young Family Group

Each first Sunday of the month for the Eucharist Celebration, followed by the Parish Hall.

Diocesan Notices

Synod26: Formation & Spiritual Growth

One of the strongest themes to emerge is a hunger for faith and formation. Many people want to grow in their understanding of Scripture, prayer, and Church teaching especially as adults. For many, formation has been limited to childhood or sacramental preparation. There is a clear call for opportunities to continue growing in faith throughout life. As a Diocese, we are being invited to become a community of lifelong learners and disciples, deepening our relationship with Christ and our understanding of the faith.

Our Voices Matter in the Digital Age

In his World Communications Day message, Pope Leo XIV reflects on human dignity in an age of artificial intelligence. Our faces and voices express our unique identity and must be safeguarded. While recognising the benefits of digital technology, he warns against overreliance on AI, which can weaken critical thinking, distort relationships, and spread misinformation. He calls for responsibility, cooperation, and education, urging us to ensure innovation serves truth and the common good. Read the full message at tsvcath.au/CommsSunday2026.

National Mass Attendance Count

A National Count of Mass Attendance is undertaken in all parishes and communities across Australia in the same year as the five-yearly Census. Conducted over the first four weekends of May, the count provides valuable insights into Mass attendance and helps the Church understand long-term trends. This nationwide effort supports pastoral planning and mission, ensuring we respond more effectively to the needs of our communities today and into the future. In the Diocese of Townsville, a count of attendance is undertaken every year over three weekends in May.

Our Team

Administrator:

Fr Sibichan Kaippanplackal

Secretary: Mariz Fletcher

Mission Leadership Team Chair:

Jill Farinelli

Mission Council Chair:

Mandy Ayers

Mission Finance Council Chair:

Chris Lane

St. Martin's Committee Chair:

Lynne Erricker

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St Catherine's Catholic College

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[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/StCatherinesCatholicCollege)

StCatherinesCatholicCollege

Principal: Sam Hinton



Mass at 9.30am

Followed by Guest Speakers

Youth Ambassadors from Saints College

Liturgy involvement by students representing our local Catholic Schools

Morning Tea \$18

Multi Draw Raffle and Lucky Door Prize

Tickets to be purchased Online

www.trybooking.com

Bookings Open 4 May - Close 25 May

Information: Ph or Txt

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Blanche 0428 736 726