

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

Mt 28:19, 20

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 2143. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

## I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

When reflecting on Jesus' Ascension, our liturgical focus has been heavily influenced by Luke's double version of the Ascension; one set on Easter Day in the concluding scene in Luke's Gospel (24:50-52) as Jesus' blesses his disciples at Bethany and departs from them; the other in the opening chapter of Acts (Acts 1:6-11) as Jesus leaves the disciples and is carried into heaven.

Our Gospel today is quite different. It is the concluding verses of Matthew's Gospel. The Risen Jesus gathers with the Eleven on 'the' mountain, the place of divine encounter, already familiar from earlier in the Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Here, at the Gospel's conclusion, Jesus is with the *Eleven*—not the Twelve, a reminder of the failure of one of the key members of the apostolic leadership group (Judas). It is to this group of failed leaders that Jesus, God's authoritative agent, entrusts his final teaching and missionary endorsement. They are to make disciples of all nations. This is an important injunction, given that Matthew's audience which is predominantly Jewish is now encouraged to move into the gentile world.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus offers a universal vision. Baptism and Gospel ethical teaching will become key notes for incorporating members into this renewed community of Jesus. The Gospel concludes on a promise of divine companionship. Jesus, called 'Emmanuel' ('God with us') in the birth narrative (Matthew 1:23), reminds his audience that 'I am with you always ... to the end of time.' This affirmation of Jesus' eternal presence is comforting to Matthew's audience, and us, dealing with life's struggles and cultural challenges.

Fr Michael Trainor

## FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*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 of 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

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. (or Alleluia!)

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*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



Est. 1887

**Ascension of the Lord 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
**St Joseph's Catholic Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street**  
**St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street**

**In the Pastoral Care of the AUGUSTINIANS**

- ▶ Fr Luca Park OSA Parish Priest
- ▶ Fr Francis Park OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- ▶ Fr Brian Buckley OSA Prior

**ADMINISTRATION**

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE  
 Tel: Church & Office 9826 9677  
[secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au](mailto:secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au)  
[www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au](http://www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au)  
 Postal: Box 21 South Yarra 3141



**OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS**

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and the vulnerable is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

**Pastoral and Administrative Support**

- ▶ Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant) ▶ Joel Sanchez (Business & Facilities Manager: Wed - Fri)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa ▶ Aryana Vega (St Joseph's Outreach Services: Mon, Tues, Thurs)
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

**MORNING TEA & CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass  
 Fourth Sunday of the month.  
 (except school holidays and long weekends)  
 St Thomas Aquinas – Morning Tea - last Sunday of the month following 9am Mass

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.10pm – 5.40pm, or by appointment.

**ANOINTING / HEALING MASS**

(*Sacrament of the Sick*) First Tuesday of the month 10am at St Joseph's Church

**HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME**

Anyone ill or housebound may contact us to request a visit for communion at home

**EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

- ▶ RCIA: Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> May 7pm.
- ▶ Sacramental Prep: Sat 23 May 10.30am
- ▶ Liturgy Committee: Thurs. 21 May 6pm

**St Augustine on the Ascension**



Today Our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him.

Listen to the words of the Apostle: If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the

things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth. For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies." (Sermon for Ascension)

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**



Saturday 23rd May 10.30am in the Parish Centre. For children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.



**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

During the Council meeting last Wednesday evening, there was a discussion about the closure of the church

carpark for sealing, a community gathering for a bingo/trivia night on 15<sup>th</sup> August and the Friends of St Augustinian Laity Congress 9-11 October.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Gaston Gori, Margaret Wallin, Anne Rigg, Mitos Gloudemans, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Janine Forster, Christie De Silva, Anita Zai, Maurice & Pauline Sheehan, Rosie Gucciardo, Nichole Garnaut, Enid Netto, David Mills, Andrea Dreher, Greg Sutton, Charles, Tom Greene, Anna Slawek.



**IN LOVING MEMORY**



**Recently Deceased**

✦ Thomas Bedier

**Anniversaries**

- ✦ Peter Dennis
- ✦ Carmine & Celestina Iaconese
- ✦ Daniel Leow Chin Meng
- ✦ Graeme Phillips
- ✦ Cecelia Chung
- ✦ Marie Chung
- ✦ Len Stainsby
- ✦ Francisco Almeida

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY & MORNING TEA**

Families with young children are invited to come to St Joseph's 10.30am Mass next Sun 24<sup>th</sup> May to join in the Children's Liturgy. Parishioners are welcome to join us for morning tea after the Mass.

**CHURCH CARPARK CLOSURE**

There will be no access to the church car park from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May until Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June while sealing work is done. Apologies for the inconvenience.

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC DIGEST & AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS MAGAZINE**

Copies available in churches this weekend.

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 18-24 MAY**

Honours the contributions of volunteers and is a moment to thank those who already give their time to help others. We especially thank our Parish and SJOS volunteers for their valuable assistance.

**FUNERAL FOR THOMAS BEDIER**

The parish is saddened at the loss of Thomas Bedier. We extend our sincere condolences to Thomas' family and friends. Thomas' funeral will be held at Christ Our Holy Redeemer Church, Oakleigh East on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 11am. May he rest in peace.

**MASS COLLECTION 10/05/2026**

<b>Clergy (Augustinian Community)</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection, CDF & bank deposits...	\$ 883.35
<b>Church (Parish Ministries)</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection .....	\$ 381.85
Envelopes.....	\$ 110.00
Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards...	\$ 755.00.
Tap Point Terminals.....	\$ 448.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>	

**Liturgical Calendar** for the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May Ascension of the Lord	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May Bl William of Toulouse		
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May Bl. Clement of Osimo & Augustine of Tarano	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 7 <sup>th</sup> Week of Easter	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 7 <sup>th</sup> Week of Easter	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May St Rita of Cascia	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 7 <sup>th</sup> Week of Easter	9am Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass	

**FEAST OF SAINT RITA OF CASCIA - AUGUSTINIAN - MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>**

Thursday this week marks the feast of one of our Augustinian saints, Rita of Cascia, patron of difficult cases. Rita was a woman of fifteenth century central Italy who lived her Christian vocation in three stages of life, as a wife and mother, a widow and as a contemplative religious.

