



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

Prayer during the coronavirus pandemic

God of Salvation,
We turn to you with a prayer for protection and healing as the coronavirus is spreading. Help those who are affected and have become sick.

Grant patience to those who live in quarantine.
Give strength to those who care for the sick.

Inspire scientists in their research.

Strengthen between us the sense of togetherness.

Let no one be abandoned, make everyone feel safe together and with You, because You are compassionate.

Through the intercession of Blessed Mary of the Apostles and Fr. Francis Jordan, we thank you, present and faithful God, You who live and love for ever and ever.

Amen.

Salvatorians



Thoughts of Fr Francis Jordan

Truly the Almighty will help you in all your worries and sufferings.
He will never abandon you. He will give you courage and strength.



22 May 2020

Dear Parishioners,

On 24th May we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians, the Patroness of Australia, which this year coincides with the Feast of the Ascension, which we celebrate in Australia this Sunday. Therefore, the liturgical celebration is moved to Monday, 25th May this year. Mary Help of Christians has been the official Patroness of Australia since 1844. The infant Church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. In those early and mostly priestless days, it was largely the Rosary that kept the faith alive. Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary, and was the first nation to choose her, under the title of Help of Christians, as principal Patroness. It is our long tradition that Mary accompanies the Church through her presence and prayers as our mother and as the one whose prayers can support us in all our struggles and challenges.

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Every year in May, the Bishops of Australia meet in Plenary. Normally they gather in North Sydney at the shrine of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, but lately due to building works, they have been gathering in Melbourne. This year, due to COVID-19, they met via video conference. At the meeting this month, the Bishops of Australia acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the lives of Australians, including their worship. They made the decision to entrust the country to the care of Mary Help of Christians on her feast day.

You can read Bishop Anthony's message with more details of how he will entrust the community of the Church of Broken Bay to the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Help of Christians in this weekend's bulletin <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/news-events/bulletins>

It has been very pleasing to see many of you who have had the opportunity to come and join us for the Eucharist after not being able to be together for so many weeks. For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to book for a Mass, Trybooking is now open for next week. We will continue to use Trybooking to ensure that we fulfil the requirements of the 10 people limit. Each week, we will open the bookings for the Masses for the following week on Thursday mornings, until the restrictions have eased. We will also continue to close the bookings at 4pm on the business day prior to the Mass.

I appreciate that many of you have sensed a real deprivation and have a deep desire to return to the sacraments and to worship in the Church, but it is important for us to be considerate to others when booking for the Masses. So, if you have had the chance to come to one of our Masses, it would be much appreciated if you could also give others an opportunity to book. Please feel free to have a look prior to 4pm each weekday to see if there is still availability and if there is, please take the spot.

Once you have booked for Mass your name will be on our list, so there is no need for you to register your attendance if you have booked. However, if you attend our Church for private prayer, please register your attendance on the sheets at the Church entrance for the purposes of contact-tracing if it becomes necessary.

At all times, please ensure that only 10 parishioners are in the Church at any one time, social distancing is being practised and the sanitiser is being used.

I have met some parishioners who were not aware that the Church is open. I encourage you to spread the good news that the Churches are once again open and that you can register for Mass or come for private prayer. I understand that some people are not keen yet to leave their homes. Please be assured that the suspension of Sunday obligation remains for all the Faithful and Fr Richard and myself continue to keep all our parishioners in our prayers.

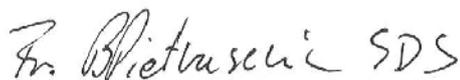
For those that are vulnerable or unwell or have missed out on a place, we will continue to livestream our weekend Masses at 5pm on Saturdays and 10am on Sundays so that all are able to join in Spiritual Communion with us. To join the livestreaming please visit our parish website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/news-events/parish-news/livestream-our-weekend-masses>

To book for our Masses at Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale please visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSE>

To book for our Masses at Maria Regina Church, Avalon, please visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSP>

If you don't have access to a computer and cannot access Trybooking, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office to book your place.

Mary Help of Christians, Pray for us



Fr Broniek Pietrusewicz SDS
Parish Priest



Vinnies

Vinnies changes lives everyday.

Show your support and give to our annual appeal

For the needy, help is available by contacting the Brookvale Centre 9905 0424 during business hours.

Did you know that if you are new to our parish you can register your details through our website or if your contact details have changed you can update them. Simply go to www.pittwaterparish.org, click on the "Welcome" menu item and select "Parishioner Registration" from the dropdown menu. If you have any problems, please contact the parish office on 9157 0999.

LIBRARY

"Due to our Church being closed because of the Coronavirus pandemic, we do not have access to the Library books, however you can still browse our full collection of books and DVDs on the website. Go to Resources> Library>Our books and they can be purchased through Amazon. Books and DVDs will still be reviewed in the Bulletin."

if you have an inquiry you may phone me on 99183973 (Home) 0401613643 (mobile).



Trish Newman

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions For May



For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

We Pray for Recently Deceased

Samantha Langford
Marie Wiggins
Darcie Lowe

If you would like the names of your relatives or friends and offerings included, please drop the envelope in to the Parish Office by Midday on Wednesdays. Thank You.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them
O Lord, And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.
May they Rest in Peace. Amen.
May Their Souls And The Souls Of The Faithful Departed, Through The Mercy Of God, Rest In Peace. Amen.

Deceased Anniversary

Denis Callachor
Monica Callachor
Zofia & Jan Kupczyk
Souls in Purgatory
Veronica Yakubovsky

Prayers for the Sick

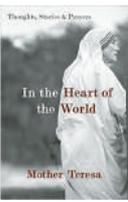
Tayla Riddle
Giovanni Returra
Bill Eyre
Manny Zarb
Philip Maddrel
Gail Reiher
Imelda Vince
Eric Domagas
Vicky Villaluz
Ben Castillo
Moira Howie
Carol Brennan
Jomar
Christine Hills
Donald McRae
Mary O'Connor
Sara Zofrea
Beryl Peo-Duncan
Joe Romeo

The names on this list will be removed after four weeks unless otherwise requested or advised. Thank you

BOOK REVIEW

In the Heart of the World

Thoughts, Stories and Prayers by Mother Teresa



After the inception of her order – Missionaries of Charity – Mother Teresa opened more than five hundred centres around the world to help the destitute and dying. She did not ask for money but for our love and the skill of our hands in sacrifice. She tells us of her daily life experiences and spiritual wisdom. You will be inspired to reach out with love and compassion for others and to work together for peace in our world.

Weekend Masses from our parish will be live-streamed :

Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm and Sunday Morning Mass 10am

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpLC9Gn8yp4qW-TU0GDzsw/videos> or search Pittwater Parish on Youtube

or follow the link on our Parish Website

Please check our website for links to the other celebrations www.pittwaterparish.org or our facebook page for updates.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 24 - 31 May 2020

This coming week is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a week to remember our common faith in Jesus Christ and pray for unity with each other through the Holy Spirit.

Our theme is "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2), which is taken from the kindness experienced by St Paul when shipwrecked in Malta and calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. We recognise that we cannot face the storms of life alone. A boat moves forward when all row together. In the face of difficulties, we recognise the need to pull together and to unite our efforts. We pray that all churches fix their course on Christ, the True Light, and that God will transform the many separations amongst our churches and faiths into harmony and our mistrust into mutual acceptance.



Fr Broniek SDS will be celebrating the 31st anniversary of his Priestly Ordination on 28th May.



May the Anniversary of your ordination be a source of joy for you with the blessing of our Lord for the selfless work you do. Congratulations.



Fr Richard SDS, celebrates his 21st anniversary of Priestly Ordination on 29th May.

Watch the daily Mass on Demand at

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews>

We hope that this will help the faithful to celebrate the Holy Mass online wherever they are



If you are experiencing Domestic Violence.

Ring 1800 RESPECT
1800 737 732

PLANNED GIVING

The money contributed to our parish via our second collection helps us to meet the running costs which our Parish incurs, including wages, electricity, telephones, insurances, rates, building and equipment repairs and maintenance, to name but a few. As we are unable to donate via our second collection at present, our parish will not receive the funds which are truly needed to cover our relentless stream of expenses. Whilst you are unable to attend Mass, if you are able to make your regular donation by way of automatic direct debit from your credit card, please complete the form included in this bulletin. Or donations can be made on our website: www.pittwaterparish.org through the donations and giving tile. If you would prefer not to give by credit card, please contact the parish office, 9157 0999 for other ways that you can contribute.



SAFEGUARDING

We the people of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay and the Catholic Parish of Pittwater are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

Planned Giving Direct Debit Agreement Form for Contributions Via Credit Card

- I am an existing Planned Giving contributor
- I am new to Planned Giving

Or Donate at
www.pittwater-parish.org
Donations and
Giving Tile

Full Name			
Address:			
Telephone:		Email:	

Payment Agreement

<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly
Debit Amount:	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Until Further Notice

Debit from Credit Card

Card Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Card Holder Name:			<input type="checkbox"/> Visa			<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard					
Expiry Date:	/	CCV:		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>					

This authorisation is to remain in force until notice is received in writing for it to be changed.

Signatory of Nominated Account:		Date:	/	/
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Thank you for supporting our planned giving programme.

Please return the completed form to the parish office or email to office@pittwaterparish.org

Terms and Conditions

I/We hereby authorise The Catholic Parish of Pittwater to debit my/our credit card account. Monthly debits occur on the 15th day of each month or the next business day. Weekly and fortnightly debits occur on the Monday of each week or fortnight accordingly. The administration of this agreement is conducted by The Catholic Parish of Pittwater. The Catholic Parish of Pittwater will not change the amount or frequency of drawing arrangements without my prior approval. It is my responsibility to ensure that I/We have sufficient clear funds in our nominated account to enable the direct debit to be honoured by our financial institution. If the Debit request falls on a weekend or public holiday, it will be processed on the next working day. I/We are advised to verify account details against a recent bank statement and if uncertain to contact our financial institution or The Catholic Parish of Pittwater. If our Direct Debit is dishonoured or returned by our financial institution, for any reason, The Catholic Parish of Pittwater reserves the right to re-present the Direct Debit for processing again on the next business day. The Catholic Parish of Pittwater will keep the information about our nominated account at the financial institution private and confidential unless this information is required to investigate a claim made in relation to an alleged incorrect or wrongful debt, or otherwise required by law. I/We may stop, cancel, alter or defer your Direct Debit Request at any time, by contacting The Catholic Parish of Pittwater I/we agree to notify The Catholic Parish of Pittwater if the account is closed.

24th May – Our Lady Help of Christians - Patron of Australia

The Blessed Virgin Mary is a beautiful, beloved, essential and pervasive figure in Christian life and in the Church's calendar. She has been since the early days of the Church. Her feasts are as varied as the cultures of the world, with each having special traditions, customs, and habits of piety. For example, the Church honours Mary every Saturday, recalling both the one full day that Jesus spent in the tomb and the traditional belief that Mary was the disciple who best kept the faith on that day. The early Church took up the practice of keeping faith with her on that day each week.

Since the Middle-Ages, the Church has devoted the month of May to Mary. Many Christians undertake pilgrimages during this month to shrines associated with the Blessed Virgin. In May, there are also three Marian feasts that are celebrated which help us to understand what Mary can teach us about being disciples.



On May 13, we commemorate the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima which recalls the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to three young children in Portugal in 1917. Mary encouraged penance, conversion and praying the rosary, warning the world of a Great War and suffering, but that, "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph".

The Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians, which is celebrated on May 24, dates back to the sixteenth century, which was not a peaceful time in Europe. In 1571, Catholics throughout the continent joined in praying the rosary in hopes of prevailing over military forces that had long sought to expand into Europe. These prayers were answered at the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571, which is now the feast for Our Lady of the Rosary.

Both of these feasts highlight not only the strength we find in asking Mary's intercession, joining our prayers to her intercession, but also the confidence that God continues to act in the world. God hears the cry of those who suffer and God responds.

The third Marian feast for May is the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin on May 31. We remember how Mary journeyed to the home of her kinswoman Elizabeth to care for her as the birth of her son, John the Baptist, drew near.

These celebrations, like all Marian feasts, are really celebrations of Jesus Christ, for she has no privilege that she has not received from God. In these days, we learn how to stay close to him in prayer and through the practice of charity, such as caring for a relative in a time of need, with confidence that our prayers will be answered.

To rejoice in Mary is to celebrate God's greatest creation – the vessel he fashioned to be his own mother, the woman who would bear him into the world. In the life of the "handmaid of the Lord," we learn what it means to say "yes" to life in the Lord and to discover in him the meaning of life.

With maternal love for us, Mary wants what is best for us – she wants Jesus for us, so she urges us, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). Then she helps us as we lead others to know and love her Son too. Her feasts not only empower us to turn to her in prayer, but also to love Jesus and others with a greater love.

The feast day to Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day dates back to the start of the 1800's.

Napoleon Bonaparte had jailed Pius VI who died in jail. When Pope Pius VII was elected he too was jailed by Bonaparte, who kept him prisoner at Fontainebleau.

The Holy Father vowed to God that if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honour of Mary.

The military eventually forced Bonaparte to release the Pope and on 24 May 1814, Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome.

Twelve months later the Pope decreed that the feast of Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May.

The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed except for one brief year until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive.

Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary and was the first nation to choose her under the title Help of Christians, as principal Patroness.

St Mary's Cathedral was dedicated in her honour by the Irish pioneer priest, Fr John Therry, who arrived in Sydney in 1820 and assumed responsibility for the planning and initial construction of the Cathedral.

When Australia became the first country to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness, it became the first country to have a mother-cathedral under the same title.

The altar at St. Mary's, with its statue of Mary Help of Christians, was erected as a memorial to Fr Therry's name.

The statue of Mary, Help of Christians, stands in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart in the Cathedral.

The Church has traditionally focussed on two aspects of Our Lady's help on this feast day.

Firstly, upon the role of Our Lady's intercession in the fight against sin in the life of a believer.



Secondly, Our Lady is one who assists Christians as a community, through her intercession, in fighting against anti-Christian forces.

In the Opening Prayer for Our Lady Help of Christians, the Church prays that through Our Lady's intercession God will "grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens"; so that "under her protection Australia may be granted harmony, justice and peace".

Mary Help of Christians patroness of Australia and of the Military Ordinariate

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts our love of Mary Help of Christians.

Through her prayers and under her protection,

may the light of Christ shine

over our land.

May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.

Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.

Bless especially the men and women

of the Australian Defence Force and their families.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.





Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay
Message for BBNeighbourhoods 20 May 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In 1844, Australia became the first country in the world to adopt the patronage of Mary, Mother of God, under the title Help of Christians. For 176 years, Australians have invoked Mary's heavenly intercession, in joyful times and in times of suffering.

It is with confidence in Mary's love and fidelity that the Catholic Bishops of Australia have turned once more to her intercession in a particular way during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, on Sunday 24 May at the conclusion of the 8.30am Mass at our Cathedral, I will entrust the community of the Church of Broken Bay to the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Help of Christians. I will also celebrate the Mass of the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians at the Cathedral on Monday 25 May at 7am. I hope that people all around the diocese will be able to participate in these Masses, as they will be livestreamed.

To assist you in your families and homes, I have asked our Office for Evangelisation to prepare a prayer resource for use in families and in Parish communities. I commend this beautiful resource to you for your use. The link to access the resource in this week's BBNeighbourhoods.

As our children are returning to school, we entrust them in a particular way to the maternal protection of Our Lady. I am conscious too of so many teachers and staff at our Catholic Schools, as well as many who work in our Public Schools. You too deserve our thanks and our prayers.

Finally, I am always conscious of the many women and men from around our Diocese who are involved in essential services. Your ongoing dedication and service to the community during this health crisis is greatly appreciated. I pray that through Mary's intercession, the Lord will guide and protect you.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

+ **Anthony**



Bishops to entrust Australia to the protection of Mary Help of Christians

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect Australians' lives, including their worship, the Catholic bishops will entrust the country to the care of Mary Help of Christians on her feast day on 24th May 2020, which will be celebrated on Monday 25th May 2020 .

The bishops approved the entrustment of the country to Mary Help of Christians during last week's plenary meeting, conducted using videoconference technology.

The motion read: "That the Australian Bishops entrust Australia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title Our Lady Help of Christians, seeking her intercession for the safety of all our people especially in this time of COVID-19 pandemic."

Mary Help of Christians has been the official patroness of Australia since 1844. Her feast day is celebrated on 24 May, which this year coincides with the Feast of the Ascension. The entrustment of Australia to Mary Help of Christians can therefore take place on the 24th or the 25th, the bishops agreed.

You are invited to join Bishop Anthony as he prays for the entrustment of our Diocese during Livestreamed Mass at our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral 8.30am Sunday 24 May and at 7.00am on Monday 25 May. Join Mass at <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/hornsby>

School Tours Now Available

Looking for that special school to ensure your child reaches their best and beyond! Sacred Heart Mona Vale welcomes new families to join our wonderful community. Please contact the admin office to book a school tour or <https://forms.gle/cy3uZge8rNzVKsdh8> to join one of our Principal's Q&A sessions.



**Join Our Principal's Q&A Sessions
 29 May 10am and 24 June 4pm**



ENTRUSTING AUSTRALIA TO *Mary Help of Christians*

24 / 25 MAY 2020

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference announced that our Nation would be entrusted to Our Lady on her Feast day. On Sunday 24 May Bishop Anthony Randazzo, will also entrust our Diocese of Broken Bay to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title Our Lady Help of Christians.

Entrustment is an invocation of the intercession of Our Lady upon a nation, diocese, group, family or individual.

We invite you to engage with this resource to entrust your families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that she may intercede for your family and cover you all with her protective mantle during this time of pandemic and beyond.



You can join Bishop Anthony as he prays for the entrustment of our Diocese during Livestreamed Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral 8.30am Sunday 24 May and at 7am on Monday 25 May. Join Mass at <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/hornsby>

Marian Theology

Veneration and adoration of Mary goes back to the very beginning of the Church and she continues to hold a special place in the hearts of many. We come to her with great reverence, to honour her as the Mother of God.

We as the faithful, do not worship Mary but invoke her to intercede on our behalf, to her Son, Jesus. We consider her as a true witness of what it is to follow and trust God, understanding that she has a unique relationship with God, is full of grace and shares in the genetic makeup of Christ!

Throughout history during times of uncertainty and difficulty, Mary continually intercedes for her children, and protects us as the loving, compassionate mother that she is.

Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians

Pope Pius VII established the feast in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians in 1815. After being imprisoned by Napoleon Bonaparte, he established the feast in thanksgiving for his release. Australia, a new colony at that time, had no Catholic priests and therefore no Mass available. The faithful recited and relied on the Rosary to sustain the Catholic community. In 1844, Australia became the first country in the world to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness.



Prayer to Mary Help of Christians

Patroness of Australia and of the Military Ordinariate

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts
Our love of Mary Help of Christians.
Through her prayers and under her protection,
May the light of Christ shine over our land.
May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.
Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.
Bless especially the men and women
Of the Australian Defence Force and their families.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

Create a Sacred Space

As you entrust your family to Our Lady Help of Christians consider creating a sacred prayer space dedicated to Mary, a place you can return to with your family to ask for her intercession through prayer, at this time.

1. Find a special place in your home to create a prayer space.
2. Gather sacramentals or sacred objects to place in your sacred space; bible, holy water, candle.
3. Include in this space a statue or picture of Our Lady, Mother Mary.
4. Consider including some flowers to brighten your sacred space. You may choose to use lilies or roses, which are associated with Mary or even rosemary from your garden.



Entrusting our Family to Mary Help of Christians

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender mother of all humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our family (name the members of your family here);

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick the disabled and the elderly;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We commit to you, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who around us who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

Reign over our family, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

All: Amen.



Additional Resources

Entrustment to Mary Help of Christians

Read The Bishops' **Word of Encouragement** to the Catholic people of Australia and download the **Prayer** at <https://catholic.org.au/entrustment>

Vatican News Release:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2020-05/bishops-to-entrust-australia-to-mary-help-of-christians.html>

Additional Resources

How to pray the Rosary:

<https://www.rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/rosary/how-to-pray-the-rosary/>

Reflection on Our Lady Help of Christians – St Columbans Mission Society:

<https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/articles/reflections/2018/reflection-our-lady-help-of-christians-patron-of-australia>

Our Lady Help of Christians – Catholic Weekly:

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/24-may-our-lady-help-of-christians/>

Mary Help of Christians- Why Pope Leo X111 granted canonical Auxilium Christianorum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8tQ30w9Sh4>

What you should know about the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

<https://www.getfed.com/devotion-immaculate-heart-mary-6227/>

Biblical Symbolism of the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

<https://buildingcatholicculture.com/the-biblical-symbolism-of-the-immaculate-heart-of-mary/>

Mary Pages:

<https://www.marypages.com/prayers-to-the-blessed-virgin-mary.html>

Children's Resources

Immaculate Heart of Mary Colouring Page:

<http://www.thecatholickid.com/immaculate-heart-of-mary-coloring-page/>

May Crowning Activities – Catholic Icing:

<https://www.catholicicing.com/may-crowning-ideas-for-home/>

Plant a Mary Garden – Catholic News Agency:

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/cw/post.php?id=502>

As we celebrate the Year of Prayer in our parish... Pope Francis' Catechesis at the General Audience on 13th May 2020

Christian prayer is intimate, trusting, confident



Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we take the second step on the course of the catechesis on prayer begun last week.

Prayer belongs to everyone: to men and women of every religion, and probably even to those people who do not profess any religion. Prayer is born within the secrecy of our beings, in that inner place that spiritual writers often call the "heart" (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2562-2563). To pray, therefore, is not something marginal in us, it is not some second place or insignificant faculty. It is, rather, it is the most intimate mystery of our beings. It is this mystery which prays. Our emotions pray, but it cannot be said that prayer is solely about feelings. The intelligence prays, but is not solely an intellectual act. The body prays, but can speak with God even in the most serious disability. It is, therefore, every part of the human person who prays, if his or her "heart" prays.

Prayer is an impetus, it is an invocation that goes beyond ourselves: it is something that is born within the intimacy of our being and reaches beyond because it senses a nostalgia for an encounter. That nostalgia which is more than a need, more than a necessity: it is a way. Prayer is the voice of an "I" that gropes, that tentatively fumbles, in search of a "You". The encounter between the "I" and the "You" cannot be done with calculators; it is a human encounter and very often one proceeds tentatively to find the "You" that my "I" is looking for.

The prayer of a Christian is born, instead, from a revelation: the "You" has not remained shrouded in mystery, but has entered into relationship with us. Christianity is the religion that continually celebrates the "manifestation" of God, that is, His epiphany. The first liturgical feasts of the year are the celebrations of this God who does not remain hidden, but who offers His friendship to men and women. God reveals His glory in the poverty of Bethlehem, in the contemplation of the Magi, in the baptism in the Jordan, in the wonder of the wedding at Cana. In John's Gospel the great hymn, the Prologue, concludes with a synthetic affirmation: "No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed

Him (1:18). It was Jesus Who showed us God.

The prayer of the Christian enters into relation with the God whose face is most tender, who does not want to instil any fear in men and women. This is the first characteristic of Christian prayer. If men and women had always been accustomed to approach God somewhat timidly, a bit frightened by the awe-inspiring and tremendous mystery, if they had been accustomed to venerate Him with a servile attitude, similar to that of a subject who does not want to be lacking in respect to his lord, the Christian turns to Him daring to confidently call on Him with the name of "Father". Rather, Jesus uses another word: "Papa".

Christianity has banished from the connection with God any type of "feudal" relationship. In the patrimony of our faith, expressions such as "subjection", "slavery", or "vassalage" are not present; but words such as "covenant", "friendship", "communion" and "proximity" are. During the long farewell discourse to the disciples, Jesus says: "I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name He may give you" (Jn 15:15-16). But this is a blank cheque. "Whatever you ask the Father in my name, I grant you"!

God is the friend, the ally, the bridegroom. One can establish a relationship built on confidence with Him in prayer. This is so true that in the "Our Father", Jesus teaches us to present a series of requests to Him. We can ask God for anything, everything; explain everything, tell Him everything. It does not matter if we feel lacking in our relationship with God: that we are not great friends, that we are not grateful children, that we are not faithful spouses. He continues loving us. This is what Jesus demonstrates definitively at the Last Supper, when He says: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you" (Lk 22:20). In that gesture in the Upper Room, Jesus anticipates the mystery of the Cross. God is the faithful ally: if men and women cease to love, He, instead, continues to love, even if love leads Him to Calvary.

God is always close to the door of our heart, and waits for us to open it to Him. And at times He knocks on the door of our heart but He is not intrusive: He waits. God's patience with us is the patience of a father, of one who loves us greatly. I would say, it is the patience of a father and a mother together. Always close to our heart, and when He knocks, He does so with tenderness and with great love.

Let us all try to pray thus, entering into the mystery of the Covenant. Let us place ourselves in prayer between the merciful arms of God to feel embraced by that mystery of happiness which is the Trinitarian life, to feel as those who are invited who have not merited such an honour. And let us repeat to God, in the awe of prayer: is it possible that You know love alone? He does not know hatred. He is hated, but He does not know hatred. He knows only love. This is the God to whom we pray. This is the glowing core of every Christian prayer. The God of love, our Father who awaits us and accompanies us.



O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!



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Tel 9157 0999 ext 13
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Friday 9am to 12 noon

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Maria Regina Church
7 Central Road Avalon

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Sacred Heart School
Tel 9999 3264
Principal: Mrs Suellen Garey

Avalon
Maria Regina School
Tel 9918 2608
Principal: Mrs Kathy Gee

Warriewood
Mater Maria Catholic College
Tel 9997 7044
Principal: Mr Marc Reicher



Pope Francis: St John Paul II a man of prayer, closeness, justice

Christopher Wells Vatican News



Celebrating Mass on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Karol Wojtyla, St John Paul II, Pope Francis described his predecessor as a man of prayer, closeness, and justice.

Pope Francis celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of St John Paul II by offering Holy Mass at the altar where the Polish Pope is buried in St Peter's Basilica.

Joined by a very limited number of the faithful, the liturgy on Monday morning was the first Mass open to the public after almost two months of restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Lord has visited His People

Pope Francis began his homily by reminding us that God loves His People, and in times of difficulty "visits" them by sending a holy man or a prophet.

In the life of Pope John Paul II, we can see a man sent by God, prepared by Him, and made Bishop and Pope to guide God's Church. "Today, we can say that the Lord visited His people".

A man of prayer

Pope Francis focused on three particular traits that marked the life of John Paul II: prayer, closeness, and mercy.

Despite his many duties as Pope, John Paul II always found time to pray. "He knew well that the first task of the bishop is to pray", Pope Francis said, noting that this is the teaching of St Peter in the Acts of the Apostles. "The first task of the bishop is to pray", the Pope repeated. John Paul "knew this, and did it".

Close to the people

St John Paul II was also close to the people, not detached or separated from them, but travelling the whole world to seek them out.

Already in the Old Testament, we can

see how God was uniquely close to His People. This closeness culminated in the Incarnation, when Jesus Himself dwelt among His people.

John Paul followed the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, drawing near to both the great and the small, to those close by and those physically far away.

Merciful justice

Finally, Pope Francis said, St John Paul II was remarkable for his love of justice. But his love for justice was a desire for justice completed by mercy. And so John Paul was also a man of mercy, "because justice and mercy go together". John Paul, who did so much to promote the Divine Mercy devotion, believed that God's justice "had this face of mercy, this attitude of mercy."



Pope Francis concluded his homily with the prayer that the Lord might grant to all of us, and especially to pastors, the grace of prayer, of closeness, and the grace of justice in mercy, and merciful justice.



To ensure that we fulfil the requirements of the 10 people limit, we would like you to use the **Trybooking** website to book for our Masses.

The bookings are now open and will close at 4pm on the business day prior to the Mass. Further Masses will be added over the coming days and weeks, taking into consideration any changes in government restrictions.

Here are some pointers that might help:

1. Once you have selected the Mass you would like to book for, you will need to enter the quantity of tickets at the bottom of the page. Then click NEXT.
2. Once you have read and agreed to the "Additional Information" you will need to select "YES" from the dropdown box that says "I Agree to the Terms Above"
3. You will then need to enter the First Name and the Last Name of each of the Attendees. Then click NEXT.
4. In the Checkout, you will need to complete all the fields, First Name, Last Name, Phone Number, Address, Suburb, Postcode and Email Address. Then click PURCHASE.
5. If you have completed the transaction successfully, you will see "Transaction Successful" on the following page and you will receive an email with the "ticket" to the Mass you have selected.
6. If you do not see "Transaction Successful" and you do not receive an email (please remember to check your junk email) then the items may still be in your cart and you may need to re-complete one of the steps.
7. You do not need to print the ticket. We will have your name on the "Ticket Holder List" for each Mass.

To book for our Masses at Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale, please visit
<https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSE>

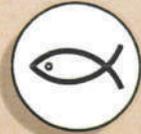
To book for our Masses at Maria Regina Church, Avalon, please visit
<https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSP>

Please do not hesitate to contact the Parish office 9157 0999 if you need any assistance.

Sunday 24 May 2020



WELCOME TO THE SUNDAY OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD



Let us live the hope we have in Christ and be hope in a world that at times seems hopeless. May we always remember that we are an Easter people whose eyes are fixed on our saving hope, Jesus. We are called, through the Great Commission, to share the good news with all those we encounter; to take Jesus to our neighbours so that they may experience the love, hope and saving graces of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 28:19-20

"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"

Read the full text at

<https://www.universalis.com/Australia/mass.htm>

REFLECTION:

"...you will always find that [Jesus] is there, that he will give you the courage to continue God's work in this world that needs God's love so badly."

<https://fatherhanly.com/journey-with-father/the-ascension-of-the-lord-year-a/>



PRAYER:

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/letter-on-the-month-of-may-full-text.html>



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Rosary, Spiritual Sword of Our Lady - Fr Don Calloway MIC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwVdYXyxIn0>

The Ascension - Catholic Productions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkB880VZvoQ>



SAINT:

24 May - Our Lady Help of Christians: In the early days of Australia there were no Catholic priests sent to the colony and Mass was not allowed, except for one brief year, until 1820. In those early days it was the recital of the Rosary which kept the faith alive. Australian Catholics remained faithful to Mary and was the first nation to choose her under the title Help of Christians and principal Patroness. Mary Help of Christians, Pray for us.

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/24-may-our-lady-help-of-christians/>

SONG:

Love Is What We Need - Steve Angrisano:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtDRoj3-o70>

THIS WEEK:

Support a local business by purchasing a coffee or meal to take away and offer them a word of encouragement during this challenging time.

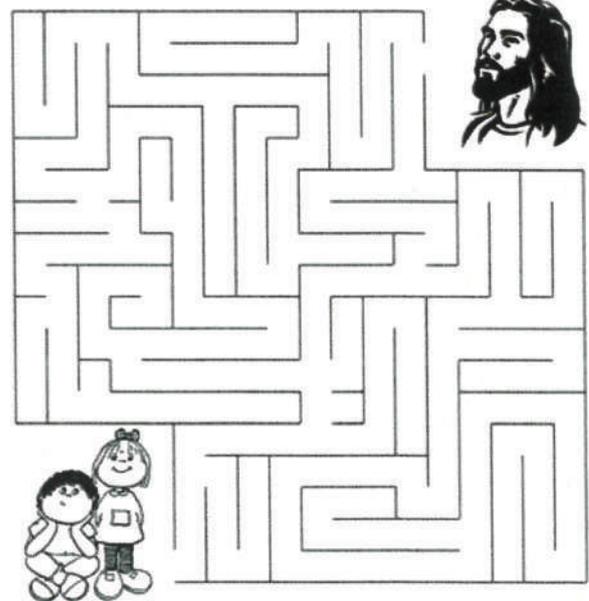
CHILDREN'S RESOURCES:

Jesus' Ascension: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcFw8pLBSIo>

May Crowning: <https://www.catholicicing.com/how-to-plan-a-may-crowning-for-kids/>

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MORE RESOURCES AT:
bbcatholic.org.au/connected



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The *Living* Word

Entrance Antiphon Acts 1:11

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

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 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 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

(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)**

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 who 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 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 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 Mt 28:20

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

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned

at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church). Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.



The Charitable Works Fund

Thank you for your continued contribution. We are so grateful to our community who demonstrate their love for their neighbours by generously supporting the Charitable Works Fund.

The CWF is still working by providing the funds to ensure our trained CatholicCare Pastoral Care Practitioners are available by mobile phone for those in hospitals in our Diocese. With restrictions on visitors, Pastoral Care Practitioners are needed more than ever for the patients, their families and the staff in the hospitals in our Diocese. The CWF is still working by providing the funds to create online resources for students in public schools in our Diocese to receive Catholic Special Religious Education Classes. This vital ministry will assist parents at home continue the valuable faith formation to Catholic students in the public schools in our Diocese.

The CWF is still working by assisting St Lucy's School and St Edmund's College care for students with special needs who are still attending providing additional funds to two schools with students with special needs.

The CWF works every day by providing funds to those who are deaf or hard of hearing through the Ephpheta Centre.

When you give to the CWF, you can be assured that your donation is working for the faith and the people of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

Donations to the CWF can be made online at www.givenow.com.au/cwf and will support our Parish quota.

Donations \$2 and over are tax-deductible.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



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Liturgy for the Week

25/05 Monday **OUR LADY, HELP of CHRISTIANS**
Sirach 4:11-18; 1 Cor 1:18-25; Jn 19:25-27

26/05 Tuesday **St Philip Neri, priest**
Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11

27/05 Wednesday **Seventh week of Easter**
Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19

28/05 Thursday **Seventh week of Easter**
Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

29/05 Friday **Seventh week of Easter**
Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19

30/05 Saturday **Seventh week of Easter**
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25



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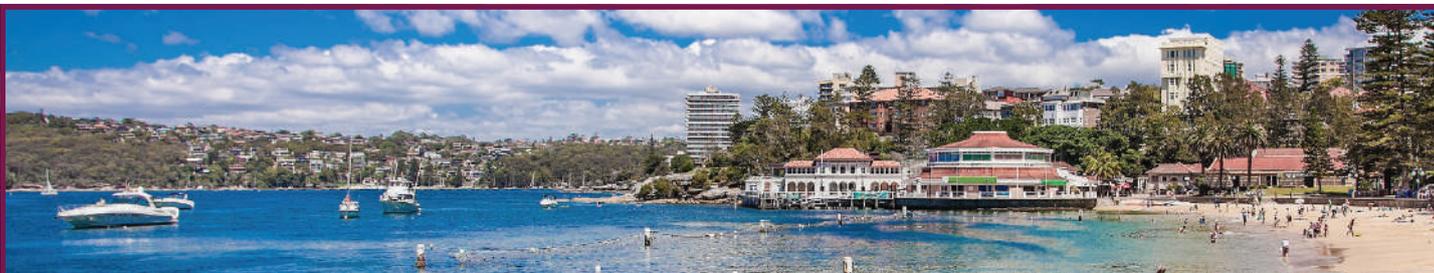
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