



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

Feast of the Ascension

Year C Cycle 1

1 June 2025



Witness

What is the difference between an onlooker and a witness? An onlooker does just that: looks on. A witness looks on, too, except that what they have seen or heard leaves an impression, one which they may feel impelled to share. Not everyone, of course, is willing to be a witness. Witnesses run the risk of being laughed at, disbelieved, or closely interrogated. Where a crime has been committed, they may be afraid to disclose what they know. It is not uncommon for police to have to appeal for witnesses. Coming forward is the prelude to speaking out, and for many people, even that first step into the public arena is a step too far.

The death of Jesus was observed by huge crowds, and many witnessed his resurrection. Our Lord's body certainly had a story to tell! For a period of forty days, Jesus revealed himself alive on numerous occasions. People had long regarded him as a prophet: now they were beginning to perceive a truth more wondrous still... that in Jesus, they were seeing God! As he was lifted into heaven, they fell to their knees in worship. Speaking out about all this was dangerous. It was not the kind of news the authorities wanted broadcast. Even so, Jesus' friends did speak out, not just with courage but with joy! Most fearless were those to whom the ascending Lord now entrusted his mission. He promised them a share of that same powerful Spirit who had raised him from the dead and who was now lifting him to his rightful place at God's right hand.

As the Apostle John was later to write: "We saw for ourselves... and we testify!" They were witnessing, not just to the truth of external events, but to an inner reality: to the continuing life of Jesus within them. The Spirit was more than an injection of courage: God was changing them to be Jesus in their world.

Sunday Living Word Majellan Family Media

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Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents & the Elderly

Throughout this Year of Jubilee there are special celebrations highlighting aspects of Church life. This week the Jubilee celebrates the importance of the family unit, recognising the unique roles played by children and grandparents; and also honours the elderly members of our communities, some of whom are without family members of their own.

“You are fathers, mothers and children, grandparents, uncles and aunts. You are adults and children, young and old. Each of you brings a different experience of family, but all of you have one hope and prayer: that God will bless and keep your families and all the families of the world. All of you married couples, in building your family, made, with the help of Christ’s grace, a courageous decision: not to use freedom for yourselves, but to love the persons that God has put at your side. Instead of living like little islands, you became “slaves of one another”. That is how freedom is exercised in the family. There are no “planets” or “satellites”, each travelling on its own orbit. The family is the place of encounter, of sharing, of going forth from ourselves in order to welcome others and stand beside them. The family is the first place where we learn to love. We must never forget that the family is the first place where we learn to love.

“Jesus tells the Apostles, ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you’ (Mt 28:19-20). These words are also addressed to us today. They help us better understand that our vocation is to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Never forget this. It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

“I want to tell you that you are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow: the world in which we, together with our children and grandchildren, will live once the storm has subsided. All of us must take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies. Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than anyone else, can help to set up. Those three pillars are dreams, memory and prayer. The Lord’s closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.”

Excerpts from Pope Francis’ *Homily for the X World Meeting of Families* and *Message for the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*

Grandparents’ Testimony

As grandparents we came to realise quite quickly that the opportunities to serve, as Jesus commanded us, multiplied as more grandchildren came our way. Our experience of caring for our grandchildren as the parents went off to work was that it built a fruitful basis for meaningful communication and oftentimes, an eventual path to peace in the family.

The Catholic Weekly Steve & Stella Buhagiar

Masses: Saturday Vigil 5pm | Sunday 8am & 9:30am | Reynolds Court 11am | Maronite Mass 5pm

Weekday Masses: Monday - Thursday 9am | Friday 11:45am | Saturday 9am

Reconciliations: Saturdays 9:30am - 10am | 4pm - 4:30pm

Liturgy of the Hours: Saturday 8:40am

Rosary: Monday-Thursday 8:35am | Friday 11:20am | Saturday 9:30am

Cenacle Prayer Group: Wednesday 9:30am

Christian Meditation Group: Friday 10:30am-11:30am Reynolds Room



A Beacon of Faith, Hope & Love

Welcome Back Fr Rosan!

Fr Rosan is finally returning from his adventures at home in India with his family. Fr Rosan departed shortly after his Ordination to celebrate with friends and family in India, including his brother Mark who is also studying for the Priesthood. (Mark is pictured here with Fr Rosan's parents who we met when they came to Australia for the Ordination.) We have missed Fr Rosan and look forward to him sharing his stories of the trip, and celebrating Mass and the Sacraments again here with us.

(The family is pictured in the High Ranges in Kerala looking out to Tamil Nadu.)



Thank You!

With the recent absence of Fr Brian and Fr Rosan we had the pleasure of several Priests supplying for us. We thank Fr Hill in the first instance, who persevered though having a back injury, and Fathers Raul and Alex, who came from Wyong Parish, as well as Fr Stevens, who was able to fill in at short notice. We are blessed to have so many Priests available for our Masses.

Congratulations RCIA & RCIC Candidates

This weekend we give a big welcome to our new families who are presenting for Reception into the Church with Baptisms, Confirmations and First Eucharists! We have Nikki and Willow Ardrey; James, Kat and Sophie Frize; Blair, Cody, Grayson and Parker Creevey; and Jake, Adelle, Henly and Ollie Owens. Congratulations to you all – we are very happy to have you with us!

Vinnie's Winter Appeal

This winter, Vinnies volunteer members across Australia are seeing an unprecedented demand for homelessness services and support. Your generous support can help vulnerable people in our communities at risk of or experiencing homelessness with the urgent help they need to break free from the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

You can help give them food so they are not going hungry and clothes so they are not cold. A helping hand with essential bills or the rent could be all that's standing between people and homelessness. Sadly, domestic and family violence is one of the key drivers of homelessness. You can help ensure that people who are no longer safe at home have somewhere to turn.

You can help them find safety and support by donating through the Winter Appeal envelopes which will be available in the Church on the weekend of 14/15 June, via phone at 13 18 12 or online at vinnies.org.au

The Ascension of the Lord Acts 1:1-11 | Eph: 1:17-23 | Lk 24:46-53

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.

Responsorial 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!

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



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Please Note

World Communications Day

Today is World Communications Day, when we remember the important role of journalists and filmmakers in celebrating human achievement, highlighting need, and pressing for justice.

Welcome

We welcome the Cianci Family for the Reception of their child who will be baptised in the near future.

Feast Days this Week

St Charles Lwanga & Companions 3 June. St Boniface 5 June.

Anointing of the Sick

Anointing is celebrated on the first Friday of the month, 6 June, during the 11:45am Mass.

First Friday Cuppa

Following the Anointing Mass join us for a lovely hot cuppa and bickies in the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome! Bring a plate to share – no need to rush off!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration is held on the first Saturday of the month, 7 June, following 9am Mass for one hour.

Nursing Home Mass & Anointing

Will be celebrated on Tuesday at Killarney Court Killarney Vale at 11am.

Holy Souls Crusade

Please join in prayer with others around the world for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Tuesdays after 9am Mass in the Church. Enquiries: 0438 320 927.

Part-time Live-in Carer Needed

Suitable qualified person to assist 96 year old male at Toukley. Enquiries: Toukley Parish 8379 1730.

The Catholic Weekly

Now on sale on the information tables. \$2 to the poor box please.

Keep Us in Your Prayers

Recently Deceased: Wilbroda Omwandi (Fr Stephen Wayoyi's mother), Olive Mansfield, Grahame Rumble, Maurie Carr, Damian Allport, Jose Malinao, Arcangel Tatlonghari, Pauline Cornwell.

Anniversaries: George Grech, Irene & Frank McCudden, Neliya de Silva, Ruth Jayesuria, Ron Myers.

Remembrances: Jill O'Sullivan, Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, John Giutronich, Sam & Carmen Ghirxi, Martin Ghirxi, Mario Cauchi, Delma Clarke, Ralph Jayesuria (birthday), Frank Grech, Carolyn Finch, Joe Bond and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Sick: Helen Freeman, Janine Harpley, Patrick Yeo, Loui Abraham, Stjepan Tuka, Peter McCarten, Pam Elliott, Graham Henneberry, Pauline Fowler, Antonio Palagiano, Beau Davis, Max Leete, Anne Clancy, John McClement, Anne & Trish Knoke, Emma Horton, Linda Read, Kelly Will.

Families: Grech, Zahra, Grima, Cassar, Sciberras, Camilleri, Falzon & Patterson.

Welcome Newly Baptised: Brooklyn Read, Arwen, Theodore & Lewin McVey, Elayne Chase, Elouera & Ochre Bond.



Our Lady of the Rosary Sacred Gifts

Welcome to OLR Sacred Gifts

OLR Sacred Gifts is open on Saturdays before and after the 5pm Vigil Mass and Sundays before and after the 9:30am Mass.

You'll find us in the foyer of the Church.

Enquiries: 4332 2216