

Vox Populi

13 May 2026



On Sunday, 17 May, the Church in Australia will celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, one of the great feasts in the Christian calendar.

It celebrates the bodily Ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, 40 days after his Resurrection.

Pope Francis in 2016 said the Ascension represents the entry of humanity into Heaven, following the path of Jesus Christ.

“Let us contemplate the mystery of Jesus who leaves our earthly space to enter the fullness of the glory of God, taking our humanity with him. In other words, our humanity enters heaven for the first time,” he said.

“The Gospel of Luke describes the reaction of the disciples before the Lord who ‘parted from them and was carried up into heaven’ (24:51). They had no sorrow nor dismay, but ‘they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy’ (v. 52).

“It was the return of those who no longer feared the city that had rejected the Master, who had seen Judas’ betrayal and Peter’s denial; who had seen the dispersion of the disciples and the brutality of a power that felt threatened.

“Since that day, the Apostles and every disciple of Christ have been able to live in Jerusalem and in all cities of the world, even in those most afflicted by injustice and violence, because above every city there is the same heaven and every inhabitant can lift his or her gaze with hope.”

While normally celebrated on a Thursday, in Australia the solemnity is moved to the following Sunday.

A week later, the Church will celebrate Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, and marking the end of the Easter Season.