

**Diocese of Broken Bay**

**17 May 2026, The Ascension of the Lord**

**Parish Mass Times:**

Monday to Friday: 9am  
Saturday: 9am, 6pm (vigil)  
Sunday: 8am, 10am, 5pm  
Public Holidays: 9am  
Rock Mass: Once a term

**Baptism: Third Sunday of each month by appointment**

Wedding: Contact Parish Office at least 6 months prior notice  
Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday: 8:30am  
Anointing of Sick: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 9am or by request  
Eucharistic Adoration: Saturday 9:30 – 10am concluding with Benediction  
Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30am  
Rosary: Immediately after weekday Mass and Saturday (8:30am)

**Anointing of the Sick/  
Healing Mass**

Every Second Thursday of  
the month  
May 28 at 9am

**Every First Friday of the  
month**

Exposition/ Adoration at  
7pm followed by mass at 7:  
June 5 at 7:30pm

**During term time**

**Every Monday**

Divine Will Prayer Group  
Mon 10-11:30am &  
Tue 7-8:30pm

**Every Friday**

Lectio Divina  
10am

**Every Second Monday**

**Young Adults @ St Ives**

18 May 7pm  
Social tennis  
30 May 7pm Hot Pot Dinner  
& Pool Night

**Every Sunday at 10am  
Mass**

Children's Liturgy  
Morning tea after mass

**Every fortnight on**

**Thursdays**

Parish Social Craft Group  
May 21st at 10 am

**Every Second Sunday  
of the Month**

Morning tea after 8am  
mass



Dear parishoners,

Today and in the coming Sundays we celebrate several major solemnities, marking major events and beliefs:

Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity, Corpus Christi.

When Christ ascended into heaven he did not abandon his disciples.

Matthew's Gospel begins with the words that Jesus will be called Emmanuel, which means 'God-with-us', and ends with the promise of Jesus, "Know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time."

In a special way, Emmanuel (God-with-us) is indeed with us in every Mass: in his Word and in the Eucharist, for he says "This is my body .... This is my blood ..." and from the earliest accounts, his disciples recognise him when they celebrate the Eucharist, the Breaking of the Bread. He is with us always. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I shall be there with them."

This is a promise we can rely on. Recent Popes have written of the Ascension:

"In the Ascension, Jesus withdraws his visible presence, replacing it with a new presence, invisible, yet more profound. It is a presence that we find in

faith, in listening to the Word, in the Breaking of Bread (in the Mass) and in fraternity."

*Pope Francis*

"It is Jesus you seek when you dream of happiness;

he is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; he is the beauty to which you are so attracted;

it is he who provokes you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is he who urges you to shed the masks of a false life;

it is he who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle."

*John Paul II*

"The Ascension of Christ means that he no longer belongs to the world of corruption and death, which conditions our life. It means that he belongs completely to God.

He, the eternal Son, has taken our human being to the presence of God; he has taken with him flesh and blood in a transfigured form. Man finds a place in God through Christ; the human being has been taken into the very life of God. And, given that God embraces and sustains the whole cosmos, the Lord's Ascension means that Christ has not gone far away from us, but that now, thanks to the fact he is with the Father, he is close to each one of us forever.

Each one of us may address him familiarly; each one may turn to him. The Lord always hears our voice.

We may distance ourselves inwardly from him.

We can live with our backs turned to him, but he always awaits us, and is always close to us."

*Pope Benedict XVI*

As a Catholic community, let us renew our faith in the presence of our crucified, risen and ascended Lord.

*Fr Paul*

**CONTACT DETAILS**

263 Mona Vale Road, St Ives  
Phone: 9144 6998

Email: office@corpuschristi.com.au

In an emergency call 9144 6998

Web: www.bbcatholic.org.au/stives

**PARISH OFFICE TEAM**

Fr Paul Durkin, Parish Priest

Fr Tan Nguyen, Assistant Priest

Ed Wales, Parish Finance Officer

Jennifer Perrott, Faith Facilitator

Valerie Dias, Sacramental Co-ordinator

Daniela Ross Molnar, Office Manager

Davina Seeto, Administrative Assistant

**HALL BOOKINGS**

Daniela Ross Molnar / Davina Seeto

9144 6998

Corpus Christi Parish School

Phone: 7256 2114

17 Link Road, St Ives NSW 2075

Web: www.ccsidbb.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Jayne Wheen

Email: ccsi@dbb.catholic.edu.au

**You can now find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiChurchStIves](http://www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiChurchStIves) and**



If you would like to watch Fr Tan's Thanksgiving Mass in Vietnam, please scan in the below QR code:



This weekend, we will be taking up a collection for a gift to Fr Tan on the occasion of his ordination from our parish. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in the marked collection box located in the church foyer.

A fun night of tennis, food & good company!

**MONDAY 18 MAY** | **7:00PM**

**ST IVES TENNIS COURTS**

REGISTER VIA QR CODE!

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PARISH

### Social Justice Corner



### Laudato Si Week: A Call to Action

*'Hope would have us recognise that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something'* Laudato Si', 61

**CatholicCare**  
DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

**SUPPORT AT HOME**  
WE'RE HERE FOR OUR SENIOR PARISHIONERS

For parishioners located across the Hills, North Shore & the Central Coast

Laudato Si' Week (17–24 May) is an annual celebration marking the anniversary of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical on caring for our common home. Sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, this global celebration unites Catholics to listen to and respond together to the cry of creation and to rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life.

This year, the theme **'From Hope to Action'** invites our parish to move from reflection to transformation—turning hope into concrete action for our common home. Catholics worldwide are being asked to intensify their efforts and submit one concrete action for integral ecology on the Laudato Si' Action Platform: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/register/>.

Not sure where to start? The Action Platform can help you choose an action that suits your life, family, or community. It also offers suggestions for projects our parish could plan for the future. Remember, we don't need a big plan. Just one meaningful step.



CatholicCare is the social care agency of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Broken Bay. Under the leadership of Archbishop Anthony, we have been serving our communities for more than 35 years.



We are now providing Support at Home services to our senior parishioners, and will prioritise parish communities before opening more broadly to the public.



The Support at Home program (formerly Home Care Packages) helps older people remain living safely, comfortably and independently in the homes and communities they love.



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**POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY**

**That everyone might have food**

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

**Extraordinary Communion Ministry**

We warmly invite parishioners to consider joining our Extraordinary Communion Ministry for Sunday Mass at 10:00am and 5:00pm.

This is a beautiful opportunity to serve our community by helping distribute the Eucharist during weekend Masses. If you feel called to take part, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the parish office or leave your details on the sign-up sheets in the church foyer.

No prior experience is needed—formation and guidance will be provided.

**Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners**

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and show our respect to the Elders past and present.

We also wish to pay our respects to all Aboriginal people.

**WHY WE DO The Things We Do**

Why do we use incense?

Incense is a symbol of our prayers ascending to God. It also symbolises purification, honour and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Based originally in Old testament tradition, the use of incense in the Christian liturgy dates back to the fourth century in the east, later spreading to the west. The word *incense* comes from the Latin *incensum* (literally, 'something burnt') and from *incendere* ('to kindle').

**FEAST DAYS MAY**

**SUN 24TH—PENTECOST SUNDAY, SOLEMNITY**

**MON 25TH—OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS, SOLEMNITY**

**TUE 26TH—ST. PHILIP NERI, PRIEST, MEMORIAL**

**SUN 31ST—THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, SOLEMNITY**

**Prayer Zone**



**Anniversary:**

Anne Lim

**Please pray for the ill:**

Carmel Hadley; Patricia Chaves; Marina Alburquerque; Fr Sergio Chauira; Jessie Chang; Amy O'Connell; James Frederick Riley; Tom Brewer; Sylvia Fishburn; Nicolette Harris; Marshall O'Brien; Helen McCarthy; Rob Sanders; Anne Jardane; Vanessa Park; Rebecca Davies; Grace Cheah; Elizabeth Walsh; Maria Garcia; Jose Mestres; Meacheal; Estelle Sok; Thi Nguyen; Fergus O'Brien; Michelle Soumier; Gracie Spencer; Brendan Stone.

*If you know of anyone who can no longer attend mass due to illness; or if you have noticed one of our parishioners is no longer attending mass, could you please let Daniela or Davina know.*

**Liturgical Formation Series II : Accompanying in Hope:**

**Care of the Sick, Funerals and Ministry to the Bereaved**

Clergy, Parish Teams, Parish Bereavement teams, Ministers of the Sick, and all interested parishioners are invited to attend this Formation Day. *Accompanying in Hope* offers a liturgical and pastoral exploration of the Church's ministry of accompaniment in times of illness, death, and grief. Participants will deepen their understanding of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church's Funeral Rites, and the ministry of compassionate accompaniment of the bereaved.

**DATE:** Saturday 27 June 2026

**TIME:** 9:30am – 3pm

**VENUE:** Caroline Chisholm Centre

Satellite Hub: Ambrose Centre, The Entrance

**PRESENTERS:** Fr Alex Peter Selvaraj MSFS, Chris Ohlsen and Libby McManus  
To register please scan QR code:



**PARISH SOCIAL CRAFT GROUP**

A happy group for a relaxing morning every fortnight - bring your own craft or handiwork if you wish.  
**Thursday 21st May 10am in the Parish Hall**  
Contact: Angela—0405 507 982



**PIETY STALL**

Our piety stall is now fully restocked—we've got a full cabinet ready for you.  
Please stop in on your way out and have a look, especially if you're looking for meaningful gifts.



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## The Catenians

**Strengthening family life through  
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Catenians meet every month to pray together, to enjoy each others' company and to support their Clergy and Parishes.

For further information phone

President - Harry Hull 0411 818 132

Secretary - David Conoulty 0412 267 538



## The Word

### Sunday 17th May 2026: The Ascension of the Lord

#### Collect

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,  
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,  
for the Ascension of Christ your Son  
is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone  
before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

#### First Reading

From the Acts of the Apostles Acts 1:1-11

*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.*

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

From the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians Eph 1:17-23

*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 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

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

#### Gospel

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 28:16-20

*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.

## Reflections on today's readings from Fr. Paul:

**First reading (Acts 1:1-11).** Luke has the Ascension happening on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem and coming some forty days after the Resurrection, as a solemn finale to his Resurrection appearances. The Ascension marks the close of his earthly appearances.

At the beginning of his second volume (Acts), Luke gives a brief recapitulation of the Gospel. Then he passes to a summary of the conversation of Jesus with the apostles after his resurrection.

We then have a final appearance during which he promises to send them the Holy Spirit, a power that will enable them to be his witnesses. Through them the message of Jesus would reach out from Jerusalem in ever-widening circles. The passage concludes with a description of the Ascension.

### **Second Reading (Ephesians 1:17-23).**

Here Paul expresses the theological meaning of the Ascension: God has glorified Jesus, raising him above all earthly powers, and making him head of the Church and Lord of creation.

However, Paul is more interested in the consequences of all this for Christians. He talks about the hope the Ascension holds out for us: we are destined to share in the glory of Jesus.

**Gospel (Matthew 28:16-20).** Matthew has the Ascension happening on a mountain in Galilee. As in the First Reading, Jesus gives a mission and a promise to his followers.

Jesus solemnly declares that the Father has given him total power over all creation. So he commissions his representatives and sends them into the world to make disciples of 'all nations'. His own ministry was confined to Israel; now the Good News is for all.



One becomes a disciple through baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - undoubtedly the formula that was in use in the baptismal liturgy of Matthew's community and the Church has remained faithful to it. The apostles are to teach all they received from the Lord.

Matthew concludes his Gospel with a word of encouragement for the disciples: the promise of the Lord to be with them always. The Ascension does not represent his removal from the earth. It represents his liberation from all restrictions of time and space, so that he can be present everywhere on earth.