

# WELCOME TO ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

Ascension of the Lord (Year A)

20 & 21 May 2023

## Weekday/Weekend Mass Timetable:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am  
Tuesday - Friday 9:15 am  
Saturday: 9:15 am

Reconciliation - Saturdays from 9:45 am  
Baptisms, marriages and funerals, by appointment only.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and celebrate that this land is of the Wangal people of the Darug nation on which we are gathered. We commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation, justice and peace.



## SUNDAY READINGS:

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11  
St Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23  
Matthew 28:16-20

## Responsorial Psalm:

Goud 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!



## FOR OUR DEAD

Please remember those who have gone before us:

Yvonne MacDonald  
Ronnie Africa  
Giovanni Biordi  
Josephine Cameron - Smith  
Joyce Parisi  
Lui Farre

## CWF THANK YOU

Thank you for supporting the CWF May Parish Appeal.



In his parting words in Matthew's gospel, Jesus declares, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me". The author of the letter to the Ephesians is more expansive. Christ is "above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination . . . not only in this age but in the age to come". These absolute claims once disarmed the powers of pagan gods and the Roman emperor. Ever since they have put the imperious demands of all worldly authorities on notice.

Nonetheless they pose a serious challenge for Christian believers. In a world of brute force, despotic rulers, economic exploitation, technological disruption and ecological vandalism, what are we to make of the authority of Christ? In an era where the moral authority of the Church has been severely shaken by major cultural shifts and especially the sexual abuse crisis, how can Christ be claimed as the ultimate authority?

At the global level, Christians face a test of collective faith. They are being reminded more than ever that Jesus' path to universal lordship was by way of the cross. It was by being dispossessed of everything, even of his life, that Jesus was freed to reign. At the local level, believers would be wise to take note of every occasion where love, truth, beauty and goodness prevail. These are precious moments of grace that feed our faith.

**Source: Liturgy Brisbane**

St. Anne's Strathfield South Parish

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St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

Principal: Mr Philip Townsend  
St Anne's Square  
Strathfield South NSW 2136  
Phone: (02) 9642 6149  
Website: <https://www.stastrathfield.catholic.edu.au/>

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### FR. JACEK CICHY ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

The Parish would like to extend our prayers and well wishes to Fr. Jacek who celebrates 37 years of Ordination on Saturday 20th May. May God continue to bless you in your ministry as you serve the People of God.



### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion in our Parish will be held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 12.00 pm. Preparation classes continue on Sundays at 9 am or Wednesdays at 4 pm.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal will take place in our Parish this weekend 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> May. A representative from St Vincent de Paul will speak at all Masses. Envelopes are available in the pews.



### SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

It is important that all Parishioners are aware of the importance and responsibility of our Volunteers to meet the Child safety requirements. This week I bring your attention to the requirement of a Working with Children Check.

All Safeguarding requirements are on the Archdiocese Website and the website of the Office of the Children's Guardian.

**Office of the Children's Guardian** regulates and oversees organisations in NSW because children and young people have the right to be safe.

The Archdiocese Safeguarding Office has been advised that Churches within the Archdiocese will be audited by the Office of the Children's Guardian this year.

It is the Church's obligation to participate in the audit but more importantly, we are required to meet the Regulations set down for Volunteers.

The first responsibility (among others) is to ensure that volunteers in certain Parish roles that DO require a WWCC, have one.

In our Parish the following roles are required to hold a WWCC which must be verified by the Parish:

Parish Secretaries, Sacramental Group Leaders, Catechists in State Schools, Acolytes and Senior Altar Servers, Ministers of the Word/Readers/Lectors, Parish Collectors and Eucharistic Minister.

If we do not meet the requirements of the Office of the Children's Guardian, the Priest and the Church will be fined and the amounts are substantial.

I urge any volunteer in the above categories that do not have a WWCC to immediately obtain one and forward a copy to the Parish Office. Please check that your WWCC has not expired, and you need to renew it. There is no cost associated with holding a WWCC and if you have any queries, please contact the Parish Office on a Tuesday and we will be able to answer your queries.

## WALK WITH CHRIST - SUNDAY 11TH JUNE

**1:00pm - Festival at Martin Place**

**2:30pm - Procession from Corner of Martin Place and Pitt St**

Join us for this year's 'Walk with Christ' annual Eucharistic Procession through the streets of Sydney to make a joyful public proclamation and act of worship towards the person of Jesus Christ (as King), and to invoke His blessing upon the city.

The presence of the Eucharist in this joyful liturgical act invokes the benevolent spiritual blessings of Christ onto the city and all who live there. The blessing is derived from He who has been "anointed to proclaim the good news to the poor ...to proclaim freedom for prisoners and sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." It is in this way that the Walk with Christ is part of the spiritual and civic life of the city and Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

*"Wherever it is possible in the judgement of the diocesan Bishop, a procession through the public streets should be held, especially on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ as a public witness of reverence for the Most Holy Sacrament, for the "devout participation of the faithful in the Eucharistic procession on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ is a grace from the Lord which yearly fills with joy those who take part in it"*

*– Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, Ecclesia de Eucharistia*



21 May The Ascension of the Lord (Ascension has always been a part of the joyful celebration of the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost but was singled out for commemoration on the fortieth day (see Acts 1:3) toward the end of the 4th century. The feast develops the glory of the resurrection by acclaiming the exaltation of Christ as Lord of heaven and earth. It serves to prepare the Church, toward the end of the season of Easter, for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.)

**Source: Liturgy Brisbane**



## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This annual event is being celebrated between Ascension and Pentecost, **21-28 May 2023**. This prayer takes on particular significance if it is celebrated with other local Christian congregations. Yet, even if this is not possible, the parish is encouraged to make prayer for Christian unity a focus of that week.

The theme for the Week in 2023 is  
"Do Good; seek Justice" (Is 1:70).

Resources have been prepared for the Holy See and the World Council of Churches by a multi-denominational group in Minnesota USA, and have been slightly adapted for use in Australia. The resources include a poster for notice boards, with space to write in the details of any local celebration. The full list of resources is available at

<https://www.ncca.org.au/faith-and-unity-resources/wopcu23>.

Dear Parishioners, Parents and Carers,

## Principal's Message



A focus in our Annual Improvement Plan at our school this year is reading comprehension. Reading is important but it can also be fun. Last Friday afternoon in the glorious sunshine Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 participated in the first of a series of Reading Picnics. Boxes of books and picnic rugs were available for parents and carers to use to read to a group of students. The enthusiasm of the adults was evident. Mrs Melissa Hall, our Assistant Principal, was the brains behind this operation.

On Wednesday 24 May our school is participating in the National Simultaneous Storytime event. Schools across Australia will all be reading the same book on the same day. This year the book is 'The Speedy Sloth' by Rebecca Young.

Earlier in May a team of our primary students engaged in the first Maths Olympiad for 2023. They had prepared for this occasion by working through past papers. One of the questions was 'A group of 8 equally skilled workers assembles 1000 toys in one hour. When two workers of the same ability are added to the group, how many toys will all the workers assemble in an eight-hour day?' If you would like a clue, Nandakee in Year 6 might help. She was our top scorer.

Warm regards  
Phil Townsend

## Become a CatholicCare Companion

CatholicCare is searching for local volunteers to be with people as they experience times of change, challenge and uncertainty.

If you are a good listener who is caring, non-judgemental and compassionate, we'd love to hear from you.

The next volunteer training will be held on Tuesday 16 May.

To find out more, please call Jacqui Willoughby, Volunteer Coordinator on 0426 773 658 or 13 18 19.

To find out more call

# 131819

Catholiccare.org

connect@catholiccare.org



## MISSION: TRANSFORM LIVES- THEIRS.... AND YOURS

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development.

Explore 35 positions on our website ([www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)), where you can also read stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Contact us for further information on potential assignments for you or someone you know. Phone: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.

## CHORAL EVENSONG IN NEWTOWN

Experience the beauty of Choral Evensong, one of the newest forms of the Divine Office approved within the Roman Rite.

**Sunday 28 May**

St Joseph's Church

49 Bedford St, Newtown

4pm

Held every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

All welcome.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. **Website:** [Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection](http://Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection)

