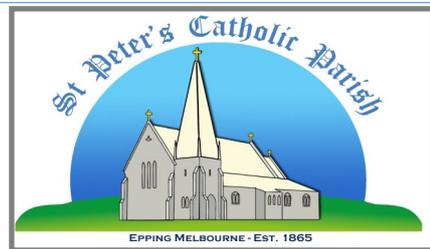


**The Ascension of  
The Lord  
Year A  
24th May, 2020**

The Parish of St. Peter's, Epping, Epping North and Wollert as a community of faith inspired by Love for God welcomes everyone who joins us as we worship together the same Lord in the same Tradition. Our vocation is to listen, share and live the Word of God actively.



**Parish Priest:** Fr Anh Nguyen  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Nathan Rawlins  
**Pastoral Worker:** Sr Yen Phung LHC

**Parish Business Manager/Accountant:**  
Gil Bell

**Parish Secretary:** Michelle Hood  
[Mon- 9-3pm, Tue-Wed 9.30am-3.30pm]

**Parish Office and St Peter's Church:**  
13 Davison St, Epping  
Ph: 9401 6300  
Email: epping@cam.org.au  
Web: www.cam.org.au/epping

**WEEKEND MASSES**  
St Peter's

Saturday 9.15am, 6.30pm,  
Sunday 9am & 10.30am

**St Mary of the Cross:**  
Saturday 5.00pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
St Peter's

9.15am Tuesday - Friday  
(Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)

**St Mary of the Cross**  
12 noon on Fridays during school terms only

**Baptism**

Baptism is celebrated on the Second and Fourth Sunday of each month at 12pm. A Baptism preparation class for parents of the child to be baptised is required.

**Reconciliation**

Saturday 9.45-10.30am following the 9.15am Mass

**Marriage**

By appointment and three month notice required. Please contact the parish office.

**Sacramental Programs for none-parish school children**

9401 6300

**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop 5.00pm  
St Peter's 10.30am

**Parish Schools/College**

St Peter's Catholic Primary School  
32 Wedge Street, Epping  
Principal: To be appointed  
Ph: 9401 1157

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop  
47 Farmhouse Boulevard, Epping North  
Principal: Geraldine Dalton  
Ph: 8432 4500

Glowrey Catholic Primary School  
10 Baltrum Drive, Wollert  
Principal: Tim Kelly  
Ph: 8579 6505

St Monica's College  
400 Dalton Road, Epping  
Principal: Brian Hanley  
Ph: 9409 8800



**The Continuing Presence of  
Our Lord**

From: mycatholic.life

**Ascension of Our Lord**

Jesus completes His mission on Earth and ascends into Heaven to take His seat on His glorious throne for all eternity. Or does He? The answer is yes and no. Yes, He does take His seat on His glorious throne, but no, He does not complete His mission on Earth. The Ascension is both the end and the beginning. It's a transition to the next phase in the perfect plan of the Father. And understanding the way this plan unfolds should leave us in wonder and awe.

Sure, the Apostles were probably somewhat frightened and confused. Jesus was with them, then He died, then He rose and appeared various times, and then He ascended to the Father before their eyes. But He also told them that it is good that He goes. In fact, He said that it's better that He goes. They must have been confused. Jesus also told them His Advocate would come to lead them into all Truth. So the Apostles went from joy, to fear, to relief and more joy, to confusion and sorrow, to curiosity and uncertainty.

Sound familiar? Perhaps that's the way some find their lives to be. Ups and downs, twists and turns, joys and sorrows. Each phase reveals something new, something challenging, something glorious or something sorrowful. The good news is that the Father's plan is unfolding perfectly.

The part of the perfect plan we find ourselves in with this solemnity is the part where Jesus begins to direct His mission of establishing the Kingdom of God from Heaven. His throne is, in a sense, the driver's seat of our lives. From Heaven, Jesus suddenly begins to descend continuously into our lives fulfilling His mission in and through the Apostles, as well as all of us.

The Ascension does not mean Jesus is gone; rather, it means Jesus is now present to each and every person who turns to Him and surrenders their life to His mission. From Heaven, Jesus is able to be present to all. He is able to live in us and invites us to live in Him. It's the new beginning of the Church. Now all the Apostles need to do is wait for the Holy Spirit to descend.

Reflect, today, upon the abiding and intimate presence of our Lord in your life. Know that Jesus invites you to share in His mission. From His glorious throne He wants us to "preach everywhere." He wants to invite each one of us to do our part. The part of the Father's plan entrusted to each one of us is not entrusted to another. We all have a share in that plan. What is your part? How does Jesus direct His mission through you? Ponder this question today and know that He accompanies you as you say "Yes" to your part in the glorious unfolding of His perfect plan.

**Let us pray for the sick:** Nicholas Ludersamy, Palmera Tanse, Cherryl D'sa, Mark Paul Flavier, Rita Carusi, Dominic Prattico, Janey Hoorigan, Jay Larkas, Jennifer Harbour, Shanon Farrugia, Sabrina Jansz, Carmel McKenzie, Faten Elmenawi, Michael & Roni Donovan, Carmen Caruana, Rosa Maria Santos, Mario Paola, Laura Patullo, Dean Scerri, James Sheppard, Madison Parker, Mary Attard, Bernadette Arathoon, Judeland Anthony and Justin Bordon, Gerard Devion, Francis Xavier, Frank Caputo.

**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversary:** Maria Teresa Chiodo

**Welcome to our Parish  
For Baptism**



We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children in our Church

# The Ascension of The Lord, Year A

## 24th May, 2020

### 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.

### First Reading **Acts 1:1-11**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. 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.)**

2. 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.)**

3. 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  
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.

### Gospel Acclamation

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  
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.'

### Communion Antiphon

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



Dear Parishioners,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to those who have given their generous support of the presbytery building. It is scheduled to complete at the end of June.

However, in digging the sewer drains' trench, the plumbers have found lots of big volcanic rocks as seen in the photos. That also means the cost of the project is expected to increase. The parish entirely relies on generous contribution from you. Any contribution, no matter what size, will make a difference to the life of the parish.

Every blessing,  
Fr. Anh

### THANKSGIVING PLEDGES

At the present time many parishioners are unable to meet their pledges through the Thanksgiving Envelopes due to the inability to attend the church.

You may drop your envelopes into the letter box at the parish office during work hours.

**OR**

Parishioners may change to direct debit of their weekly pledge.

### The Parish details for Direct Debit are

BSB : 083 347

Account No: 65880 7871

Account Name : EPPING CATHOLIC PARISH CHURCH

Thank-you to all for your continued support of the parish during this difficult time. We continue to pray that we may all resume a *normal life* soon.

**MASS THIS SUNDAY - 24th May 10.30am**

<http://www.facebook.com/StPetersCatholicParishEpping/>

### Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul. As I cannot receive You sacramentally now, come at least spiritually in my heart. As if You were already come, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Do not permit me to be ever separated from You. Amen.

**PLEASE CHECK THE PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ANY UPDATED NEWS ABOUT BEING ABLE TO RETURN TO MASSES IN THE CHURCH.**

**FATHER NATHAN WILL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION WHEN FATHER ANH IS HAPPY THAT THE PARISH CAN MEET THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.**

### St Peter's School

Any families wishing to enrol their child for Prep 2021 are asked to download an [enrolment form](#) from the [school website](#) or call the school office (9401 1157) to request a form.

**Small School, Big Vision**

**ENROL NOW!**

Enrolments are currently being accepted for Year 7, 2021 – 2023.

Please note that 2022 enrolments will close on **Friday 21 August, 2020.**

You can **Enrol NOW** online, please go to the College Webpage. [www.stmonicas-epping.com](http://www.stmonicas-epping.com)



## 25th May – Our Lady Help of Christians

ess of



Patron-  
Australia

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.*

[catholicweekly.com.au](http://catholicweekly.com.au)

### GENERAL NOTICES.

**BAPTISMS:-** Families wishing to book a Baptism are invited to contact Sister Yen at the parish office to make these arrangements. Guests are limited still.

**WEDDINGS:-** Bookings for weddings are also being taken.

**PRIVATE PRAYER IN THE CHURCH:-** The church will be open for private prayer during parish office hours - BUT YOU MUST COME TO THE PARISH OFFICE FIRST TO SIGN IN.

Numbers in the church are still limited and hand sanitizer and wipes for the pews will be available. If you are unwell please do not attend.

**RECONCILIATION:-** If you wish to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, please continue to contact the parish office and speak to one of our priests.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS FOR PARISH CHILDREN (Confirmation, Eucharist & Reconciliation):-** are still on hold for the present time until further notice.

May the Lord keep us safe and protect our loved ones.