



The Parish of St Paul of the Cross - Glen Osmond/Parkside

16th - 17th May 2026 ♦ The Ascension of the Lord Year A

We are an inclusive Catholic Community connecting people to God and to one another.

Today's Theme:

CHRIST'S ETERNAL GLORY

We celebrate today Christ's ascension to his eternal glory in heaven and express our Christian hope that where he, our Head, has gone before us, we, his Body, will one day follow, to live for ever in the Kingdom of our Father.

Entrance Antiphon: Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking in the sky? The Lord will return, just as you have seen him ascend, alleluia.

Response to the 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: Christ, offering a single sacrifice for sins, is seated for ever at God's right hand, alleluia



HOME ROSARY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

The next home rosary will be held next Friday 22 May 2pm at the home of Teresa de Filippo, 94 Lipsett Tce, Brooklyn Park. Everyone is welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Br. Phuc who just renewed his vows as a Passionist for another 12 months. We give thanks for Phuc's faithful witness and the generosity with which he continues to serve God and the community. Please keep him in your prayers as he enters this next year of his vocation, that he may be strengthened in faith, joy, and perseverance in his calling.

GIVE EASY

Please scan the QR code for a link to our collections:

- 1st Collection**
Support of Clergy
- 2nd Collection**
Support of Parish



LET US REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Sick: George Piazza, Glenn, Yap CC, Anton Sylvester, Gloria Phillips, Amalie Leditschke, Chris Harwood, Amy & Jude

Recently Deceased: We pray for those who have died.

Anniversaries: Albert & Angeline Pereria, Elizabeth Honner, Pietro Spiniello

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our parishes, communities and offices stand and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We commit ourselves to actively work alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice.

MASSES FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK 16th - 22nd May

	St Raphael's	St Paul's
Saturday	5:30pm	6:00pm
Sunday	9:30am	8:00am 10:30am 5:00pm
Monday		9:30am
Tuesday		9:30am
Wednesday		9:30am
Thursday	9:30am	
Friday	9:30am	

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Raphael's Church

Thursday	10:00am <i>until</i> 1.30pm
Friday	10:00am <i>until</i> 1.30pm
Saturday	12:00pm <i>until</i> 3:30pm
Sunday	10:30am <i>until</i> 4:00pm

Roster for 23rd - 24th May

St Paul's		St Raphael's	
6:00pm	R: Alison Goss E: Angela H.	5:30pm	R: Samuel C. E: Elizabeth D.
8:00am	R: Brian W. E: Bernie S.	9:30am	R: Carmel G. E: Rosa F.
10:30am	R: Malgorzata P. E: Marie O.	Count Team: 2	
5:00pm	R: Alison G. E: Dinesh A.	Altar Society: Melanie	

Next Sunday's readings: Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Gen 11:1-9

2nd Reading: Rom 8:22-27

Gospel: Jn 7:37-39

SOUL SEEING—THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

"I am with you always"

As I began reflecting on the mystery of the Ascension at the start of this week, I thought it would be simple. But the more I sat with the Gospel, the further the reflections seemed to lead me. The Ascension wasn't another event in the life of Jesus, like his birth in the stable, his presentation in the temple, his miracles, his last supper, and arrest. Perhaps different to his resurrection. The Ascension is more something happening about us. I found myself thinking what his continuing presence might actually mean.

Years ago, there was a wonderful woman on the ABC (2BL, as it was then) - a theologian who hosted a sacred music program every Sunday morning. Apart from introducing glorious music, she would often offer brief reflections on the feast of the day. One Ascension Sunday she said something I have never forgotten: "Thinking about the Ascension of Jesus, I don't care if he climbed a ladder into heaven like Jack up the Beanstalk, as long as I still find him with me." I have loved that line ever since because it cuts through so many of our complicated images and arguments. The real question of the Ascension is not 'How did he go?'. It is presence. But 'How is he still here?'.

And perhaps that is exactly where Matthew's Gospel wants us to begin. Matthew's Gospel story of Jesus' ministry begins on a mountain and ends on a mountain - the Sermon on the Mount, the Mountain of the Ascension. At Jesus' birth, with the astonishing promise: "His name shall be Emmanuel - God with us". And it ends with another promise equally intimate and daring: "Know that I am with you always, even to the end of time." The whole Gospel is framed by the Promise of PRESENCE.

Matthew wants us to understand that the story of Jesus is not about a divine visitor from heaven who briefly passed through history and then departed again. It is God's promise to dwell with us completely and forever. And it didn't start when Jesus was born, it started when God breathed the world into being, and been breathing it ever since. God's breath is DNA of everything that is. Even ourselves, so recently arrived on the planet. Matthew's account of the Ascension is very simple. There are no clouds carrying Jesus away. No angels asking the disciples why they are staring into the sky. No there is only Jesus and his fragile group of followers. Still traumatised: "They worshipped him, but some doubted."

Even here, at the threshold of resurrection faith, there is uncertainty and hesitation. Perhaps Matthew leaves that line there because the Christian journey has never really been about possessing certainty so much as learning to trust their own experience. Jesus still Present? Impossible but True? Much Ascension preaching and art focuses on the "up." Jesus ascends into a heaven somewhere above the clouds. We speak about his departing, disappearing from sight, leaving earth behind and going away to another realm. But Matthew's Gospel takes a different perspective, The Ascension is not about LOCATION, it's about COMMUNION.

Over the last few weeks, our Sunday Gospels have circled around the same theme. Again and again Jesus speaks about INDWELLING. "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." "You are in me and I am in you." "I will not leave you orphaned." "I will come and make my home in you." These are not the words of someone preparing to disappear. They are the words of someone preparing his friends for a deeper and more expansive kind of presence.

Jesus had walked the roads of Galilee, Judaea, Samaria. One moment he is in Capernaum, then Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethany. His disciples watch him heal this cripple, give sight to that blind man, forgive a tax collector, feed a hungry crowd, console a widow, comfort a grieving mother, reassure an anxious parent. And all the while, their own growing love for Jesus, and his gift of himself to them, was quietly transforming their lives.

Then came Calvary. And afterwards, everything changed.

Yet Jesus had not disappeared - far from it. Somehow, they found their relationship continued to grow. Not just as precious memories of what they once shared, but living life giving presence continuing its transforming work among them. They probably could not have explained how. They only knew that he was not gone. He is no longer simply walking beside us; he is within us. We no longer hear him with our ears, but with the heart. We no longer see him with our eyes, but with the soul. His presence is no longer outside, alongside us, it becomes interior, expansive, woven into our lives, upbringing, our personal journeys, our stories. Our consciousness itself.

Perhaps that is why Jesus says the world will not see him, but the disciples will. He is speaking about awareness - about learning to perceive reality differently. Our Christian tradition has often spoken about "the eyes of the heart." John O'Donohue the Irish spiritual writer, wrote about the hidden depth shimmering beneath ordinary existence. And the Irish Poet, Pádraig Ó Tuama speaks of the slow work of learning to listen deeply enough. Because underneath our words and actions to hear what the deep silence might be telling us beyond words. Hearing Christ and seeing Christ is less about voices and visions than about cultivating awareness.

This awareness, however, is not automatic. It is not inbuilt at birth, nor infused into us through baptism. Like love, compassion, music, contemplation, or friendship, it requires formation and practice. The disciples themselves had to learn slowly. They walked beside Jesus for years and still misunderstood him repeatedly. The journey of discipleship is therefore the gradual training of perception - learning to listen with the heart, to see with the soul, to pay attention.

Simone Weil, I've quoted before, wrote that attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity. Perhaps prayer itself is ultimately a form of attention: learning to become present enough, quiet enough, awake enough, that we begin to recognise the indwelling Christ already alive within the world and its story.

And perhaps that is what Pentecost will reveal next: that this indwelling presence does not remain private or hidden, but begins to breathe and speak and burn within human community itself.

TAA

Before bed, write down one thing you saw today that wasn't "beautiful" in a traditional sense, but genuinely beautiful because it was real. That is God's breath at work.



SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN

Enrolment forms for Confirmation and First Communion for children in 2026 are now available in the church foyers, on the website and attached to the e-bulletin. Parents and carers are asked to discern if their children are ready to receive these sacraments. Children who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation before January of this year, may be enrolled for these Sacraments.

Please fill in the form and return it to Sue Schulz at the Parish Office or email sue.schulz@themonastery.net.au by **Monday 25th of May**. You will receive more details regarding the Parent Information night once the enrolment form is received.

MANY THANKS - SPA IN A JAR

I would like to extend my thanks to all the wonderful parishioners who supported our "Spa in a Jar" project for the second year.

The idea was conceived after hearing Teresa Branch speak at the Br Michael Hamper launch luncheon two years ago. She explained that so often the "essentials" are covered for both the women and children but those "luxury items" which can make a difference to how someone is feeling about themselves are often harder to come by. And we know that often parents sacrifice those luxury items and sometimes the essentials, so children don't go without. A plan was hatched so that on Mother's Day the children would be able to pick a jar to gift to their mothers. This year we put together 25 jars and delivered them to Oznam House where they would be taken to the shelter in time for Mother's Day.

So, once again, THANK YOU to the parishioners, my Mum and her coffee ladies who all donated luxury items such as face masks, foot masks, hand cremes, etc, or cash and our "Helping Hands" group who filled the jars with goodies, for making this outreach come to fruition.

KNIT AND NATTER

Anyone interested in knitting some beanies, handwarmers or scarves for the homeless as we head towards winter is invited to come to our first Knit and Natter session in the Sebastian Centre on Monday the 18th of May at 10am. I have quite a large supply of wool so bring your own needles, and we can get clacking on some warm, useful items for those who need them. If you have a pattern you would like to bring and share, I can arrange photocopying. At our first gathering we can decide how often to meet, weekly, fortnightly, monthly?? And if you can't make it to the session but would like to be involved, contact Sue in the office (83381277 or sue.schulz@themonastery.net) and I can arrange some wool and a pattern if needed.

CONVERSATION CAFÉ

Our next Conversation Café is on the 21st of May at 10am in the Sebastian Centre, come along and share a cuppa, a sweet treat and a story with a friend or two. All welcome from mums with little ones, to retirees, to new parishioners or more experienced.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK (18–24 MAY)

This week reminds us that strong relationships and shared responsibility create safe and welcoming communities. Our parish flourishes because of volunteers who generously share their time and talents across ministries, pastoral care, programs like Spa in A Jar, Bags of Love and the Brother Michael Hamper Appeal, while also meeting safeguarding requirements and supporting safe practices. This year's theme, "Your Year to Volunteer," encourages us all to step forward as we thank all who serve with dedication and care.

St Paul of the Cross community and staff would like to invite all volunteers to an afternoon tea on the 24th of May at starting at 2.30pm in the Sebastian Room. Tea, coffee and soft drink provided, BYO alcoholic beverages and glasses.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL 2026

The annual Vinnies Winter Appeal will be held after all Masses over the weekend of 16/17 May. Conference members will be attending each of the Masses to receive donations which will assist the local Conference and the Society in providing food and clothing to those in need.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. The Society needs your support.



THE MONASTERY CONFERENCE AND FUNCTION CENTRE

Have you ever wondered what the Monastery Retreat & Conference Centre is and what it offers?

The Monastery is a place of peace and purpose, offering a range of spaces for spiritual and wellbeing retreats, corporate training sessions, functions, and special events.

Our dedicated catering team operates from a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen, providing a wide selection of high-quality catering options tailored to your needs.

As a Passionist Community, all funds raised support both the daily living costs of our Passionist priests and the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Monastery – including insurance and utilities such as electricity, gas, and water. In addition, your support helps sustain our missionary and outreach work in Vietnam and Papua New Guinea.

If you would like further information or to make a booking please contact us on 8338 8700.

UPCOMING SYNOD LITURGY - ALL ARE WELCOME

Opening Mass of the 2026 Archdiocesan Synod (Amended- Please note correct date below)

29 May 2026, 5:45pm at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
All are welcome to join in the opening Mass of the 2026 Archdiocesan Synod. A simple meal in the hall will follow.

Parish Mission Statement

Guided by the Gospel, our Catholic tradition and inspired by the Spirituality of the Passionists we are a welcoming, diverse community with a strong focus on equality for all. We seek God through our gathering to celebrate the Eucharist and to share in liturgies which nurture our stewardship, commitment to social justice and providing spiritual nourishment and hospitality.

WITTUNGA BOTANIC GARDEN TOUR- LAUDATO SI' WEEK EVENT

The Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide invites you for a guided tour of the Wittunga Botanic Garden to celebrate Laudato Si' Week 2026. The event will occur on Saturday 23 May from 1pm-3pm. Places are limited so register early at <https://www.trybooking.com/DJXWY>

MARIST BROTHERS ALBERTON – 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The Maris Brothers are celebrating 100 years since their move from Port Adelaide to Alberton. 1926 – 2026:

A century of faith, education and community spirit. Friends and Old Scholars are invited to join us.

The invitation is also extended in a particular way to Old Scholars of Mount Carmel Girls School, whose shared history and close association forms an important part of this story.

The date: Tuesday 2 June 2026. The Venue: Alberton Hotel – 124 Port Road, Alberton. At 12 noon.

FEAST DAY OF ST CHARLES LWANGA, ST KIZITO & COMPANIONS CELEBRATION

Sunday - June 7, 2026 – all are Welcome!

You are invited to join the African Catholic Community to celebrate the feast of St Charles Lwanga, St Kizito & Companions Mass- on Sunday 7 June 2026 at 2.30pm, at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral.

St Charles Lwanga (24) is the Patron Saint of Youth and St Kizito (14) is the Patron Saint of Primary School Students!

Attention: Young People: Please come to this Mass and feel free to wear Yellow Red or Green – colours to embrace both of these amazingly brave and courageous saints.

For more information, please contact the Justice Healing and Inclusion Office on E: jhi@adelaide.catholic.org.au

FEAST OF ST ANTHONY OF PADUA 2026

The St Anthony of Padova Committee Payneham invites you to the 55th Feast of St Anthony of Padua at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 7 Marian Road, Payneham commencing with a Triduum from 10 to 12 June with the day of the Festa on Sunday, 14 June 2025. Fr Bortolino Maistrello OFM Conv from Italy will preach the Triduum and the Festa Day Masses. There will be two first class relics of St Anthony present for veneration during the Triduum and Feast Day.

Mass times are:

- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 10am (Italian & English) and 7pm (English).
- Saturday - 10am (Italian & English); 11.30am (Croatian); 6pm (English).
- Sunday - 8am (English), 9.15 am (English), 11am (Italian), 2pm (Tagalog - Filipino Community) and 4pm (English-Indian Community)

Confession times are:

- Wednesday and Friday – 9.30am-9.50am & 6pm-6:50pm
- Thursday – 9.30am-9.50am; 6pm-6:50pm & 7.30pm-8.30pm
- Saturday – 9.30am-9.50am & 5pm-5:50pm

St Anthony's Bread will be distributed after all Masses on 13 and June with a special blessing for children. Throughout Sunday afternoon there will be food, beverages and local entertainment in the parish grounds.

For further information or enquiries please telephone – 08 8369 8082 or email office@paynehamcatholic.org.au

Parish Pastoral Team

Parish Priest:

Fr Tom McDonough cp

Assistant to the Parish Priest:

Fr Cao Anh Phi cp
Fr Pastor Mumburi cp

Passionist Community Members:

Fr Tony Egar cp,
Fr Paul Kien cp,
Fr Pham Quang Vinh cp,
Bro. Mark Wells cp.
Bro. Phuc Van Nguyen

Pastoral Associate:

Sue Schulz

Parish Secretary:

Carmela Pannunzio

Admin Assistant:

Claire Hamlyn

WHS Co-Ordinator

Donna Cooper

Child Safe Contact Person

Sue Schulz

Parish Pastoral Council

Mr Peter McLoughlin

Finance Chair:

Mr Brian Lilley

Passionist Sisters:

Sr. Shiji (Community Leader)
Sr. Jasmine, Sr. Nithya,
Sr. Mary Jasmine

Parish Office Hours

9am – 4pm Monday to Friday
Phone: (08) 8338 1277

Address

St. Paul's & The Monastery
15 Cross Rd. Urrbrae 5064
St. Raphael's, Young St.,
Parkside 5063

Email

parish@themonastery.net.au

Website and Facebook

themonastery.net.au

[www.facebook.com/
StPaulsRetreat/](http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsRetreat/)

Holy Spirit Province website:
www.passionists.com

St Raphael's Primary School

114 Glen Osmond Road,
Parkside
Ph: 08 8274 4900
Mrs Emma Fowler (Principal)