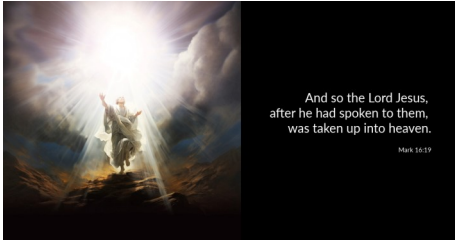




St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 12TH MAY 2024



And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven.
Mark 16:19

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hour: Monday—Friday 9 am—5 pm
Lunch: 1pm – 1.30pm (*Office closed*)
Telephone: (02) 4721 2509
Email: enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au
Website: www.stnicholasofmyra.org.au
Facebook: @SNOMPenrith
Parish Emergency Number: 4732 3039

PARISH PRIESTS AND DEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Manjaly
E: joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au
Asst Priest: Fr Chinonye Akamadu
E: chuk.akamadu@parracatholic.org
Deacon: Wilfredo (Willy) Limjap
Nepean Hospital Chaplain:
Fr Chadi Ibrahim SBD

STAFF

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Volunteer Admin Support: Margaret Cobden
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E: enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au
Health & Safety Officer: Craig Walsh
P:0428 284 568

ORGANISATIONS

St Vincent de Paul
Hub: 8861 9770
Catholic Care
E: enquiries@ccss.org.au
02 8843 2500

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Nicholas Primary Ph: 4752 3300
Principal : Mr. Tim Vane -Tempest
St Mary Mackillop Primary Ph: 4724 3200
Principal: Mr. Scott Buchan

GOSPEL REFELCTION

This passage makes up the concluding verses of the Gospel of Mark. Actually, literary criticism of the Mark gospel suggests that the original gospel ended at 16:8 with the women fleeing from the empty tomb in fear. Verses 9-20 appear to be a later addition to the gospel. The community in which this gospel was written expected Jesus to return within their lifetime and so the dramatic and suspenseful conclusion of the gospel at the discovery of the empty tomb makes perfect sense. However, it soon became apparent that Jesus’ return was not going to come as soon as the believers had hoped and so the post-resurrection appearances and the commissioning to continue on with Jesus’ work became much more important.

If we were to read this passage literally, we would believe that to be a Christian one had to be able to perform exorcisms, speak in tongues, handle snakes, drink poison and heal by touch. If this were literally true, I guess there wouldn’t be too many Christians around today! Rather, the purpose of the passage is that Jesus sends his followers out ‘to the whole world’ to continue his ministry. It is the ‘whole world’ to which they are sent; not just their cosy little corner of the world but the whole world. It’s what Christian people for the last 2,000 years have been called to do: continue Jesus’ ministry to the whole world. It’s what each and every one of us is called to do today: ‘proclaim the Good News to all creation’. That doesn’t mean standing on street corners with a Bible in our hands but it means proclaiming the Good News through our everyday actions and by being open and honest about our faith. It means treating all people as Jesus would.

Living the Gospel – Proclaim Good News

Francis of Assisi is credited with saying, ‘Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use words!’ In every interaction we have we say so much about who we are, what we think of the other person and what we believe – even without opening our mouth. Our actions and attitudes proclaim our beliefs more powerfully than our words ever do. If we claim to be concerned about justice and yet behave unjustly then it is our actions, not our words, that will be heard! When we are called to ‘proclaim the Good News’ we are called to do this first and foremost in action.



Scriptural context – Acts

Throughout this Easter season, the first reading in the Sunday liturgy is taken from the Acts of the Apostles and so both the first and second readings come from the New Testament. (Normally, the First Reading is taken from the Old Testament.) This week’s first reading account of the Ascension is the very beginning of the book of Acts. This book and the Gospel of Luke are now recognised as being by the same author. The book of Acts records the events involving the followers of Jesus after his death and the growth of communities of believers who sought to follow Jesus’ ways.

Different View – Snake handlers and Faith healers

There are certainly Christians who interpret literally Jesus’ description of the signs that will be associated with believers. We have all seen images of old Revivalist meetings where people were called forth to be healed by touch and have evil spirits driven from them. Much of this practice can be traced to this week’s gospel. The many evangelical churches and the tele-evangelists who dominate our early morning television screens operate out of this tradition and generally have a very literal interpretation of scripture. It is based in a belief that God acts in the world through miraculous intervention rather than through the slow and steady presence of individuals like you and me.

✉ Greg Sunter
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Image Credit: Liturgy Help 2024

Standard 3: FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ARE INFORMED AND INVOLVED



The Diocese is committed to keeping children, young people, and vulnerable adults safe. We have processes in place to keep this commitment.

Our relationships with our children place us in a privileged position where we can have conversations with our children about how they can keep themselves safe, and who to talk to when they don't feel safe.

The Diocese Safeguarding website has links to Government and non-Government safeguarding websites with useful information for parents in relation to keeping their children safe <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding>

It's not always easy to know where to start the "safety" conversation, but a range of resources are available to parents on the internet which can help parents know what to discuss and even how to have the conversation!

Age Specific Information raisingchildren.net.au
 Personal Safety [NAPCAN](https://www.napcan.org.au/tips-for-talking-to-children-about-personal-safety/)
 Online Safety [eSafety Commissioner](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents)

For more information on Diocesan Safeguarding go to <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding> or Ph: 02 8838 3429

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
John Costa
 and for his family

His funeral service will be held on
Tuesday 14th May at 11.00am

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Anthony Raymond
 and for his family

His Requiem Mass will be held on
Thursday 16th May at 11.00am

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED: John Costa, Gladys Duck, Anthony Raymond

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES: Josip Blazevic, Adrian Dalais, Leonardo Ragaza, KB Ragaza, Efren Fabros, Claude & Evelyn Fernandez, Josefina Aytona.

DECEASED: Tania Felice, Margaret Mary Sullivan, Margaret Donnelly, John Nettar, Ruza Baristic, Slavko Saric, Sheila Fullerton and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

SICK: Bernadette Tecson, Mary Wheller, Peter Gale, Mary Roberts, John Slater, Carmela Talos, Venus and Shan Cabacar, Ursula Gomez, Michelle Zotz, Aiden Campbell, Mick C, Olive Gyford, Raymond D'Lima, Stanley Mascarenhas, Genaro Chan, Pam Pizzuto, Lyn O'Hare, Jose & Norma Calabetto, Claudia & Alfredo Cabrera, Ric Limjap, Elsie Pajeta, Karen Goderie, Christine Dagworthy, Connie Farrugia, Eneliko Tuliatu, Jim Fullerton, Nathan Martin, Wilfredo Alcantara, Susan Voros, Bob Wrightson, Roseanne Shirley, Fr David Catteral, Kyla Aggar, George Try, AJ, Charlie Spiteri, Eric Nepomuceno, Janice Cannon, Sabbir Siddique, Thomas Zotz, Peter Gill, Isabella Agius, Karan Bradburn, Aiden Burke, Elwyn Geerin, Susan Wheelahan, Gregory Hurney, Marios Pericleous, Ivan Brcar, Daryle Young, Connie Xerri, Maria Nyss, Nympha Miller, Robert Galino, Theresa Jordan, Nad Coder, Herve Rochecousta, Ariane Robert, Charles Tabone, Billy Downes, Heather Whitborn, Michael Vella, Trevor Rowe, Nicholas Agius, Baby Capri Marshall, Melisa Maisseh, Tracy Mulla, Lou Doyle, Norm Heffernan, Lisa Sperineck, Roger Wilkom, Margaret Bell, Antonio Malicdem, Jenet Arellano, Marianne Brigden, Nancy Galon, Peter Farrugia, Tadeus Gwiazda, Danielle Kazare, Ting Cecila, Moises Millena, Olga Kiss, Sydney Morris, Thanda Manjaly, Adelia Delapaz, David Wakeling, George and Lena Caruana and all who suffer from COVID-19.

Happy Mothers Day to all mothers, spiritual mothers and mother figures in our Parish.

A Prayer for Mothers

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

Amen.



Our Lady, Help of Christians Feast Day

Friday 24th May.

We will be praying the Rosary from 7.00pm followed by Mass outside, at the Grotto which is dedicated to her.



Please bring your own chair or rug and join us for this special celebration.

DRAFT DIOCESAN PLAN -THINK TANK SESSIONS

The Diocese is holding Think Tank Sessions, giving leaders and anyone involved in ministry to offer feedback on the Draft of the Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church, and contribute ideas for the practical implementation of our Diocesan Plan. You can view the draft plan, read information on the Think Tank Sessions and register for a session at parracatholic.org/synod

You must read the plan before attending a session.

Sessions Dates and Venues

Theme 3: May 15th, St Michael's Church, Baulkham Hills

Theme 4: May 22nd, The Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton

Theme 5: May 29th, St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith

Theme 6: June 5th, St Oliver Plunkett, Harris Park

All sessions are 6.30pm - 9.00pm

PLANNED GIVING

We are grateful for your stewardship during these difficult times
FIRST COLLECTION goes to the Clergy Foundation

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SECOND COLLECTION goes to the support of the Parish

BSB 067 950
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Acct Name Penrith St Nicholas Catholic Church
Reference [ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME]

PARISH NEWS

Mass Readings for 18th / 19th May Pentecost Sunday Year B

1st Reading	Act 2: 1 - 11
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 103: 1, 24, 29 - 31, 34
2nd Reading	Galatians 5: 16 - 25
Gospel	John 15: 26- 27, 16: 12 - 15

NEW PARISHIONERS

We wish to welcome all new parishioners who have started attending Mass here within the last 12 months on Pentecost Sunday the 19th of May at our 10.00am mass. Please call the parish office by **Tuesday 14th May** to give your name and details for us to prepare your welcome.



St Nicholas of Myra
8-10TH JULY
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Holiday Day Camp 2024

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TIME 10:30-3:30pm
WHERE St Nicholas of Myra Parish Hall
326 High St Penrith NSW 2750

No. Days Attending	Cost For 1 Child	Family rate (cost for 2 or more children in the same household)
1	\$40	\$30 per child
2	\$80	\$60 per child
3	\$100	\$80 per child

REGISTER NOW! 

Applications close June 15 2024



Lowana This camp is being funded by the St Nicholas of Myra Parish Community Fund. For more information contact Christine on 0490 209 333 www.lowana.org.au

Multi-cultural Mass and 'Welcome' to New Parishioners on ' Pentecost Sunday May 19th at 10.00am.

We invite all parishioners to wear
your cultural attire
or the colour **red**

Please bring along a plate of food
representing your culture to share
after the Mass

Sacramental Program Holy Communion Family Session 2 Saturday 18th May 4.30pm Sunday 19th May 8.30am

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our Children's Liturgy will be held
at the 10.00am mass every Sunday

MINISTERS ROSTER

The roster for May to July has been emailed and copies are available in the sacristy.

Love One Another as I have loved you

John 15:12



Worldwide Marriage Encounter [WWME] is a weekend getaway, offering couples a special 'time-out' to enrich their marriage. Take this opportunity to step back from daily distractions and rediscover your relationship.

When: 28th - 30th June 2024 and 25th - 27th October 2024

Where: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW 2566

Marriage Encounter volunteers will tell you more about this on the weekend of 04/05 May 2024.

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or

contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or

email: nswbookings@wwme.org.au

The Parish will be taking photos during major liturgical celebrations and other events to promote the Parish mission and may use these photos in the Parish Bulletin, Facebook page or website. If you have any concerns please contact the Parish Office.

CALENDAR

Mon 13/5	Tue 14/5 St Matthias Feast	Wed 15/5	Thu 16/5	Fri 17/5	Sat 18/5	Sun 19/5 Pentecost Sunday
9.30am Mass	6.45am Mass 9.30am Mass 11.00am Funeral: John Costa 6.30pm Prayer Group 7.00pm Mother's Who Pray for their Children	9.30am Mass 10.30am: Mass Summit Care 11.00am Legion of Mary PMR1 6.30pm RCIA PMR1 7.00pm Mass & Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena	9.30am Mass 10.30am Mass The Royce 11.00am Funeral Anthony Raymond	6.45am Mass 12.10pm Mass 7.30pm BNP Mass	9.00am Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation 4.30pm Holy Communion Family S2 5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil Mass	7.00am Mass 8.30am Holy Communion Family S2 8.30am Mass 10.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass

PARISH ROSTER 18th / 19th May 2024

If you are unable to attend the Mass please organise a replacement.

	Acolyte MATA	Altar Servers	Community Rep	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers	Music	AV
Vigil	Joe Buttigieg Damian Wheelahan	Lucas Besa	Sharon Falleiro	Natasha Joseph	Jim Fullerton Allan Linga	AMEN Choir	Mia Xiberras
7.00am	John Sweeney	Irene Jobin	Kathleen Smith	Stuart Paterson	Louisa Davie Sue Sweeney	No Music	Vinita Jobin
8.30am	Caitlin Nepomuceno Margaret Cobden	Jostick Joseph Zachary Christie	Peter Nematalla	Sue Von Bock	Orlan Nugpo Helen Wakeling	Victoria Sebi	Lesi Nagata
10.00am	Jun Relunia Remy Wood	Manuel Credo Marco Credo	Dominic Dawson	Olga Kiss	Carmen Vella Andrew Kosman	BNP Chapter	BNP
6.00pm	Aish Sebastian Cheryl Clark	Angelo Aish	Carolyn D'Mello	Margaret Wilson	Lynda D'Lima Kathryn Wrightson	Br David & Marian Choir	Sharon Shahoud

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