



# St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish



## The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord - Year A 16 / 17 May 2026



All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations. Matthew 18:18-20

### 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:** @SNOMParrish  
**Parish Emergency Numbers:**  
**4732 3039 or 0416 910 334**

### PARISH PRIESTS AND DEACON

**Parish Priest:** Fr Joe Manjaly  
E: joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Rojan George  
E: rojan.cheriyadan@parracatholic.org  
**Deacon:** Wilfredo (Willy) Limjap  
**Nepean Hospital Chaplain:**  
Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic  
E: Zvonimir.Gavranovic@parracatholic.org

### STAFF

**Office Manager:** Rodney Howard (M, Th, F)  
E: parishmanager@stnicholasofmyra.org.au  
**Admin Assistant:** Sharon Clarke (Th, F)  
E: reception@stnicholasofmyra.org.au  
**Sacramental Coordinator:** Rodney Howard (T,W)  
E: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au  
**Catechists Coordinator:** Margaret Wilson  
E: catechist@stnicholasofmyra.org.au  
**Volunteer Admin Support:** Margaret Cobden  
**RCIA Coordinators:** Allan & Josephine Linga  
E: enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

### 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 : Miss Kirsty Reynolds  
**St Mary Mackillop Primary** Ph: 4724 3200  
Principal: Mr. Scott Buchan

### PARISH PRIEST MESSAGE

#### One Spirit, Many Cultures – Pentecost Multicultural Mass

Please join us for our joyful Pentecost Multicultural Mass at 10am as we come together to celebrate the many cultures and communities that make up our Parish family. We warmly invite everyone to wear their traditional cultural attire or something red, symbolising the fire of the Holy Spirit.

**During this special Mass, we will also officially welcome our new parishioners into the Parish community. If you are new to the Parish and would like to be part of this welcome, please contact the Parish office.**

Following the Mass, we will share a special international food gathering in the Parish hall. We invite parishioners to bring a plate of traditional food from their culture to share with others. This year, we hope to have food tables representing many different communities, including Maltese, Filipino, Indian, Sri Lankan, European, Australian, and Asian cultures. We warmly encourage families and individuals from these backgrounds to bring along a traditional dish that represents their heritage and drop it into our Parish hall before the 10am Mass. Come and celebrate the richness of our Parish community through prayer, friendship, culture, and food.

All are welcome.

Fr. Joe  
Parish Priest



### GOSPEL REFLECTION

The short gospel passage for today is taken from the final words of the gospel of Matthew. It is known as 'The Great Commission' as Jesus is portrayed commissioning his disciples to go out to the world and spread the good news. They are charged to 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.' This is the basis of much of the missionary work of the Church that has gone on ever since then.

However, the focus of today's feast is much more on the first reading than the gospel. The opening verses of the Book of Acts, from the author of Luke-Acts, describe the final instructions of Jesus to his disciples and then his 'lifting up'. The Luke-Acts writer is the only gospel writer to actually describe the Ascension. The fact that the other gospels don't discuss the Ascension in any detail at all is a good indication that this description should not be taken literally.

However, the message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus, the human incarnation of God on earth, was limited to a specific time and place in history. Despite the physical limitations of his life on earth, Jesus ensured that his message and ministry would continue through those he had taught. Knowing that the disciples would need time to grieve and come to terms with all that had occurred in a relatively short space of time, Jesus promised that the Spirit would come upon them in the days to come. That visiting of the Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost was the motivation to set about doing what Jesus had charged them to do. Without the Ascension, there is no Pentecost.

#### Living the Gospel – You will be my witnesses

A witness in a court of law is called to give evidence about a matter; to 'testify' to the truth of what they have seen or what they know to be true. Some people are very good at being a 'witness' to their faith by testifying to others about what they believe. Many others provide witness to their faith by simply living what they believe. Living a life based on Christian principles, including regular prayer and worship in your life, working for justice in the world and taking time to celebrate the beauty of everyday life is a powerful witness to others.

#### Questions for Adults

Q. What are some of the actions of being a witness that might speak louder than words?

Greg Sunter

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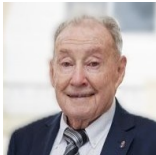
Image Credit: Liturgy Help 2026

## PARISH NEWS

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026

**FAMILY SESSION 2**  
Saturday 23 May at 4.30pm  
Sunday 24 May at 8.30am

### RECENTLY DECEASED



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**Kevin Douglass**

and for his family

His Requiem Mass will be held on

**20 May at 11am**



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**John Walsh**

and for his family

His Requiem Mass will be held on

**21 May at 11am**

### PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Kevin Douglass, John Walsh, Carol Steele, Patricia Gomes, Linda Hill, Hanna Teklic

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:** Margaret Mary Sullivan, Claude & Evelyn Fernandez, Mary Wheller, John Nettare, Tania Felice, Frank Felice, Louie Neri, Nimfa Relunia, Perry Atega, James Gill, Maurice Gonsalves, Celine Baptista, Florencio, Emerciano, Olempio & Robencio Mendoza, Anastasio Cataluna, Demitria Mamporte, Felissa Atienza

**DECEASED:** Tania Felice, Margaret Mary Sullivan, John Nettare, Margaret Donnolley, Paul Borg, Fred Galea

**SICK:** Lara Langon

Mark Agar, Isabella Agius, Nicholas Agius, Jenet Arellano, Kimberley Balandra, Zig Barglik, Ralph Beck, Margaret Bell, Ingrid Bentham, Vicenta Bernante, Noel Bernardo, Alex Biana, Ivan Brerar, Karan Bradburn, Julie Brenner, Marianne Brigden, Aiden Burke, Ting Cecila, Cliff, Mick C, Claudia & Alfredo Cabrera, Brenda & Ronwald Cadandy, Jose & Norma Calabetto, Aiden Campbell, George & Lena Caruana, Steven Clauser, John Cluney, Mark Cluney, Nad Coder, Dylan Conway, Christine Court, Elizabeth Dawson, Adelia Delapaz, Raymond D'Lima, Diana Dooley, Lou Doyle, Helen Dowling, Holland D'Souza, Debbie Dunn, Joe Farrugia, Peter Farrugia, Theo Fitzgerald, Sister Theresa Formosa, Cheyne Fynn, Robert Galino, Nancy Galon, Elwyn Geerin, Peter Gill, Tadeus Gwiazda, Olive Gyford, John Hill, Kellie Huggett, Kelly Ibram, Kellie Imray, Theresa Jordan, Danielle Kazare, Baby Alfred Knowles, Baby Yuri Pavon Lara, Helen Lazarus, Ric Limjap, Nikola Ljubic, Mary Kukac, Josephine Magro, Melisa Maiseeh, Angelique Kara Manolis, Baby Capri Marshall, Nathan Martin, Sue Martin, Stanley Mascarenhas, Bryan & Kay McInerney, Moises Millena, Nympha Miller, Sandra Miller, Sydney Morris, Fr Chris Mithen CP, Tracy Mulla, Jacek Nawrot, Delia Nazal, Herminigilda & Donnel Nazel, Dianne Nelson, Eric Nepomuceno, Bruce Newham, Colleen Nolan, Maria Nyss, Zeny Oringo, Aurora Ostrea, Elsie Pajeta, Maria Pamen, Stuart Paterson, Marios Pericleous, Pam Pizzuto, Baby Harold Francis Eastman Reid, Ariane Robert, Herve Rochecousta, Luisa Emily Rosales, Trevor Rowe, Daniel Solomon Rowlands, Arren Samia, Norman Samuelu, Jason Sanderson, Brian Scott, Roseanne Shirley, Sabbir Siddique, Valentino Smiroleo, Lisa Sperineck, Brian Sullivan, Joe Tabone, Lorie Tabone, Alan Tago, Carmela Talos, Maria Tamer, Theresa M Taylor, Alicia Tecson, George Try, Robert Turner, Baby Charlotte Vella, Michael Vella, Darryl Von Bock, Susan Voros, Ron Vukovic, Edward Wagner, Milton Watts, David Wakeling, Heather Whitborn, Bob Wrightson, Connie Xerri, Baby Stella Maiia Zanette, Michelle Zotz, Thomas Zotz.

COME JOIN OUR


## CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

THURSDAY 4 JUNE | 6PM

6PM MASS AT OUR LADY OF LEBANON CO-CATHEDRAL, HARRIS PARK

7PM PROCESSION TO ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA

8PM ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT THE CATHEDRAL FORECOURT



The Diocese of Parramatta and the Maronite Eparchy are hosting a Eucharistic Procession through the streets of Parramatta on **Thursday 4th June from 7pm to 8pm**. It would be wonderful for a Penrith parish group to be represented with our Parish banner/church photo as a sign of unity and faith. Please let us know if anyone is available to join the procession with our banner/photo. Parish office can arrange the photo/banner.

### YOUNG AT HEART GATHERING



**(For over 50s)**  
**Tuesday 19 May**  
**After the 9.30am mass**  
**at 10.15am in PMR1**

Please come along with your friends to enjoy some light refreshments and to have a chat.



**Please come and join us.**

### New Ministers

We congratulate the following parishioners who were commissioned into their ministry by Very Rev Fr Peter Williams on Tuesday 12 May at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

**Ministers at the Altar:** Angelo Aish, Ryan Clarke, Amanda Clarke, Janine Jensen, Christine Besa, Paulo Ravunakaidere

**Lectors:** Carlie Christie, Queenie Reales

**Eucharist Ministers:** Colleen Scott

### PLANNED GIVING

*We are grateful for your stewardship*

**FIRST COLLECTION goes to supporting the Priests of the Diocese.**

<b>BSB</b>	067 950
<b>Acct No</b>	100003570
<b>Acct Name</b>	Parramatta Diocesan Clergy
<b>Reference</b>	6029 [SURNAME]

**SECOND COLLECTION goes to the support of the Parish**

<b>BSB</b>	067 950
<b>Acct No</b>	100001692
<b>Acct Name</b>	Penrith St Nicholas Catholic Church
<b>Reference</b>	[ENVELOPE # OR SURNAME]

## PARISH NEWS

### Mass Readings for 23 / 24 May Pentecost Sunday Year A

<b>1st Reading</b>	Acts 2: 1 - 11
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	103: 1, 24, 29 - 31, 34
<b>2nd Reading</b>	1 Corinthians 12: 3 - 7, 12 - 13
<b>Gospel</b>	John 20: 12 - 23



Across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, people turn to the Church for care, hope, guidance and belonging. Through the Bishop's Good Works Appeal, our Diocese supports vital ministries including Holy Spirit Seminary, Catholic Care, the Ephpheta Centre and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

Over the coming weeks, this Appeal will support the **Holy Spirit Seminary at Harris Park**, helping form the future Priests our Diocese will need in the years ahead. Your generosity provides education, spiritual formation, pastoral training and safe accommodation for seminarians as they answer God's call.

Please give generously at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or scan the QR code. Thank you for supporting the future priests of our Church.



Gifts over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

### THE APPEAL WEEKEND IS THE 16 / 17 MAY

### PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

The Parish Council consists of **10 elected members**, along with ex-officio members.

**You may nominate yourself or others.**

Nomination forms are available in the foyer of the Church. Return completed forms

- via the collection plate or
- emailed to Fr. Joe at [joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:joe@stnicholasofmyra.org.au) or
- dropped to the Parish Office

**Nominations close: Monday, 18 May 2026**

Nominees will be invited to an information session.

### Update on Stuart



Mr Stuart Paterson has been our dedicated Sacristan for more than 60 years. Many of you will know him from his faithful service at every Mass, funerals, and for his tireless work in caring for the Church and its surroundings. His commitment and devotion to the Parish have been truly praiseworthy and deeply appreciated by our community.

As many of you are aware, he recently suffered a fall in his unit and has been in hospital since then. While he has been recovering well, the doctors have advised that it is no longer safe for him to return to independent living, as he now requires 24/7 care. He also told me that he is no longer confident to go back to his unit. After much consideration, a decision has been made for him to move permanently into a nursing home. We are grateful that he is happy and comfortable in his new home, and he likes the place very much. He is now residing at Thornton Nursing Home.

Thanks to Mrs Elvie William for her selfless love and commitment in looking after him and arranging everything for his good.

Please continue to keep Stuart in your prayers. He would also greatly appreciate visits from parishioners and friends.  
Fr. Joe

### The Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians

**Monday 25 May.**

We will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians, the patronal feast of our nation Australia and the feast of our Grotto.



There will be rosary, crowning of Mary, flower offerings and Mass at the grotto, **starting at 7pm**

Please bring **flower offerings to Mother Mary.**

Rosaries and cars will be blessed by the Priests after the Mass.

### NATIONAL COUNT OF MASS ATTENDANCE

**This weekend: Male and Female Mass attendance.**

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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 18/5	Tue 19/5	Wed 20/5	Thu 21/5	Fri 22/5	Sat 23/5	Sun 24/5 Pentecost Sunday
9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass	6.45am Mass 9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 10.15: Young at Heart 10.30am Mother's who Pray for their Children 7pm Mother's who Pray for their Children	9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 10.30am Mass Summit Care 11am Funeral Kevin Douglass 11am Legion of Mary 6pm RCIA 7pm Mass followed by Novena of our Lady of Perpetual Help	9am Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 9.30am Mass 10.30am: Mass The Royce 11.00 Funeral John Walsh 7pm Zumba	6.45am Mass 11.40am: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Rosary 12.10pm Mass	9am Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation 4.30 First Holy Communion Family S2 5pm Reconciliation 6pm Mass	7am Mass 8.30am Mass 8.30am First Holy Communion Family Session2 10am Mass - Multicultural Mass - Children's Liturgy 6pm Mass

## PARISH ROSTER 23 / 24 May 2026

*IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFIL YOUR MINISTRY IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ORGANISE A REPLACEMENT*

	Acolyte MATA	Altar Servers	Community Rep	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers	Music	AV
Vigil	Jenny Hogan Johan Soertsz	Nathan Couto Dominic & Lucy Lenihan	Natasha Joseph	Joan Torres	Jessica Couto Lee Scully	Heart & Soul	Sheldon Couto
7.00am	Alan Barnes Margaret Cobden	<i>Not required</i>	Agnes Suluape	Sherica Valladores	Luisa Davie Mary-Stella Sultana	No Music	Vinta Jobin
8.30am	Maryanto Josio Michael Tolentino	Claire, Vincent & Collette George	Jennifer Letran	Sue Von Bock	Erik Deveza Peter Nematalla Lyn Olander Peter Spiteri Rebecca Spiteri	Jeffrey Mizzi	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
10.00am	Manuel Credo Jnr Jun Relunia	Marco & Manuel Credo Andrew Johnson Amelia Ross	Allan Johnson	Hanna Evangelista	Arnel Alimagoohan Lilian Martinez	Br David & Marian Choir	Mark Johnson
6.00pm	Jose-Elmer Simeon Aish Sebastian	Angelo Aish Francis Obama	Nonye Amah	Janell Ilagan	Ninea Nepomuceno Marcel Ugochukwa	JY Family Choir	BK Ugochukwa

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2019 | Kingswood

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