

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 28:19, 20
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
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.
All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
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 commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.’

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY
PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.
I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
P. We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OR II OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
After the Preface, we sing or say:
All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION
P. The mystery of faith.
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE
P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...
All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...
R. Amen.
P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD
All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 28:20
Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
P. Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD
I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS
When reflecting on Jesus’ Ascension, our liturgical focus has been heavily influenced by Luke’s double version of the Ascension; one set on Easter Day in the concluding scene in Luke’s Gospel (24:50-52) as Jesus’ blesses his disciples at Bethany and departs from them; the other in the opening chapter of Acts (Acts 1:6-11) as Jesus leaves the disciples and is carried into heaven.

Our Gospel today is quite different. It is the concluding verses of Matthew’s Gospel. The Risen Jesus gathers with the Eleven on ‘the’ mountain, the place of divine encounter, already familiar from earlier in the Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Here, at the Gospel’s conclusion, Jesus is with the *Eleven*—not the Twelve, a reminder of the failure of one of the key members of the apostolic leadership group (Judas). It is to this group of failed leaders that Jesus, God’s authoritative agent, entrusts his final teaching and missionary endorsement. They are to make disciples of all nations. This is an important injunction, given that Matthew’s audience which is predominantly Jewish is now encouraged to move into the gentile world. In Matthew’s Gospel Jesus offers a universal vision. Baptism and Gospel ethical teaching will become key notes for incorporating members into this renewed community of Jesus. The Gospel concludes on a promise of divine companionship. Jesus, called ‘Emmanuel’ (‘God with us’) in the birth narrative (Matthew 1:23), reminds his audience that ‘I am with you always ... to the end of time.’ This affirmation of Jesus’ eternal presence is comforting to Matthew’s audience, and us, dealing with life’s struggles and cultural challenges.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR
A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS
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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

17 MAY 2026

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS. When Christ ascended into heaven he did not abandon his disciples. Matthew’s Gospel begins with the angel’s words that Jesus will be called Emmanuel, which means God-is-with-us, and it ends with Jesus’ promise: ‘Know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.’ In a special way Emmanuel is with us in this Eucharist for ‘where two or three are gathered in my name, I shall be there with them.’

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Acts 1:11
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.

GREETING
P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT
P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. Your are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

GLORIA
Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

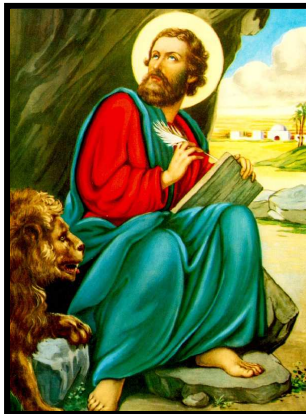
COLLECT
P. Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD
FIRST READING Acts 1:1-11
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.
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 of 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.’
The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.



RESP PSALM Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6
R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (or Alleluia!)
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
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.
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.
The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.



St. Mark's Parish, Fawkner

St. Mark's Parish is committed to the safety, well being and dignity of all children, people and vulnerable adults.

Parish Priest: Fr. Colin J. Xavier

9 Lee Street, Fawkner, 3060

Phone: 9359 3111

Email: fawkner@cam.org.au

Website: <https://www.melbatholic.org/fawkner>

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10:00am to 3:30pm

Principal: Peter Wilson

St. Mark's Parish School

Phone: 8335 4100

Email: principal@smfawkner.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.smfawkner.catholic.edu.au

"I will not forget you... I have carved you on the palm of my Hand" (Is 49:15-16)

Weekday Mass Times:

Monday to Saturday: 9:00am.

Weekend Mass Times:

6:00pm: Saturday Vigil Mass.

10:00am: Sunday Morning Mass.

6:00pm: Sunday Evening Mass.

First Sunday of the Month:

Renewal of Marriage Vows.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 9:30am and 5:15pm.

Or feel free to phone Fr. Colin.

Every Thursday of the Month:

5:30 - 7:00pm: Hope Café (Free Dinner).

First Wednesday of the Month:

7:00pm: Baptism Preparation Meeting.

First Saturday of the Month:

10:00 - 11:30am: Working Bee.

Parish Advisory and Safeguarding

Committee: Fr. Colin Xavier, P. Wilson, A. George, L. Rahme, L. Grech, D. Abela, E. Bathan.

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH, MASS TIMES

Tuesday - Friday: 9:30am. Saturday: 5:30pm. Sunday: 9:00am and 10:30am (Italian).



Are you planning a Marriage in the near future?

If so, in order to avoid disappointment, it is most important to first make an appointment with the Parish Priest prior to making any other bookings.



Do not leave your mobiles, purses, wallets, handbags unattended - others may think it is an answer to their prayers...

BEQUEATHING

Would you like to remember the Parish in your Will? Property, Money, Artwork, Plants...

There are many ways you can be remembered.

Do contact the Parish Office (03) 9359 3111 for further information. May God bless you!

ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC PARISH

A warm welcome to new parishioners.

Please let us know that you have joined our community and if there is anything we can do for you.



New to our Parish? ☐

Changing address? ☐

Need Thanksgiving Envelopes? ☐

Please Complete the details below and place in the collection plate at Mass or send to the Parish office.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

PARISH PRAYER

God our Father, bless this parish so that we may love you more.

Help parents to be good examples to their children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care.

To the sick and the weak grant health, to the aged bring serenity, and to those in sorrow, joy.

May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living.

Amen.

QR CODE AND ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR THE THANKSGIVING PLEDGE



To make a thanksgiving payment, parishioners simply scan your MelbCatholic QR code with your mobile phone camera and follow a few easy steps. This QR code is unique to St. Mark's Church. Alternatively please make a direct transfer to our Parish Account.

Account Name: St. Mark's Church

BSB: 083-347

Account No: 825284554

Account Name: St. Mark's Presbytery

BSB: 083-347

Account No: 673272043

We thank you for your continuous support and help!



Next Weekends Rosters:

23rd May (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: J. Degran.

Extraordinary Minister:

24th May (Sun):

10.00am: Reader: G. George & P. Betham.

Extraordinary Minister: F. Cortara & N. D'Souza.

6.00pm: Reader: B. Leeds.

Church Cleaning:

21st May (Thu) Team 3

I. Laskowski, R. Caruana & S. Watson.

Counters:

19th May: L. McGowan.

26th May: M. & N. D'Souza.

Thanksgiving: \$559(Env) \$707 (Loose). Presbytery: \$225 (Env) \$617 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.



all that's missing is U!



MONTH OF MARY, MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, PRAY FOR US.

Pilgrim Virgin: 14th May - Markus Family. 28th May - Gulizia Family.

This Weekend : Solemnity of The Ascension of the Lord.

24th May (Sun): Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday.

Easter House Blessing: Those who wish to have their homes blessed during this Easter time please contact the Parish office.

A person is emperor, *not by property,* *but by freedom*



TRUTH FINDS ITS IDENTITY IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

"For the Christian tradition," the Holy Father recalled that truth "is not merely an intellectual ideal or an abstract concept." Rather, truth, he said, "finds its identity in the person of Jesus Christ Himself, who reveals

Himself as the Truth, and who fully reveals man to himself and shows him his supreme vocation."

"From this perspective, truth sought with intellectual rigor and scientific honesty," he said, "finds in charity its horizon and ultimate criterion." The reason for this, he noted, is that "for a Christian, speaking the truth is an act of love that builds up, heals, and guides the person toward fulfillment."

The Pope said how important it is to recognize that Truth has a personal and relational dimension. Such recognition, he insisted, "preserves knowledge from becoming a tool of domination, exclusion, or mere utility," and instead "directs it toward the service of justice and the dignity of every human being, especially the most vulnerable."

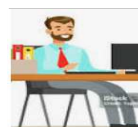
POWER OF PRAYER

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation - not just our last resort. Pray for friends and family, and especially for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you. Teach others how to pray. It has been said that teaching someone how to pray is the best gift you can give someone.

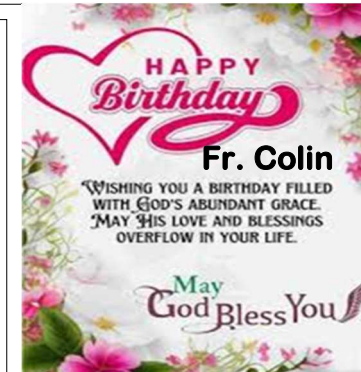
"I am so BUSY...IF I COULD ONLY carve out a few more minutes each day...I just don't have the TIME..." These comments are on the lips of many people, young and old, in our society today. Many of us race from task to task, most of which are very good things but we find ourselves mentally, physically and spiritually exhausted. Prayer is the answer to guide us through each day. "The prayer of a righteous person has great power."

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 18 - 24 MAY 2026

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every volunteer across our parish. Your generosity, compassion, and willingness to serve make a profound difference in the lives of others. Whether your contribution is seen or unseen, large or small, extensive or short, it is deeply valued and appreciated. Thank you for everything you do. Your partnership with the Safeguarding Unit is deeply valued, and together we continue to build a Church community that is welcoming, safe, and full of purpose.



A guy went for an interview in a Big IT company for the position of "Computer Hacking Investigator." The HR asked him, "So, what makes you suitable for this job?" "Well" he replied, "I hacked into your Computer and invited myself to this interview."



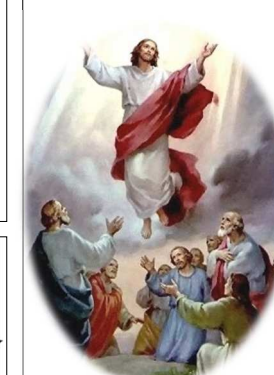
Happy Birthday Fr. Colin

"Wishing you a blessed and joyful birthday! We thank God for the gift of your life and priestly ministry." May God grant you continued strength and peace as you spread His message of hope and love. Happy Birthday, Father.

We will have a celebration in the Hope café after the morning mass. Everyone is Welcome!

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The ascension is about presence not absence. Jesus has not left us. Rather Christ has filled us.



The Ascension completes the mission of the Son of God. Today we honour that definitive moment when God the Son, in His transformed and resurrected human nature, ascends by His own power to the Father, bringing with himself our humanity so that all humanity may ascend with him.

As we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus, we must listen to the teachings of Jesus and embrace His words without hesitation. And we must unite ourselves with His own death, dying to sin, so that we may also share in His Resurrection.

The Ascension was the end of Jesus' life on Earth but also the beginning of our sharing in the life of Heaven. As Jesus ascended, He commissioned His disciples to go forth and "preach the gospel to every creature." They were to preach to all about the saving plan of God.



Thank You to all our parishioners and visitors for your generous contribution towards CatholicCare Sunday Appeal. We collected \$837 towards the appeal.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

58. Why does God permit evil?

Faith gives us the certainty that God would not permit evil if he did not cause a good to come from that very evil. This was realized in a wondrous way by God in the death and resurrection of Christ. In fact, from the greatest of all moral evils (the murder of his Son) he has brought forth the greatest of all goods (the glorification of Christ and our redemption).



9. Synodality and the laity

Synodality affirms that the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of all the baptised. Lay people are not simply helpers of clergy; they are active disciples called to witness to Christ in families, workplaces, and society. A synodal Church takes this vocation seriously.