

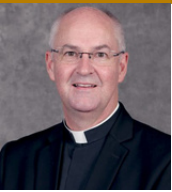
# 17 May 2026 St John Bosco Parish Niddrie

Ascension of the Lord, Year A

White is the colour of rejoicing



## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR..



During his weekly General Audience, Pope Leo XIV recalls various highlights from his recent Apostolic Journey to Algeria, Cameroon, Angola, and Equatorial Guinea from April 13 to 23.

[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

“I thank the Lord for granting me the opportunity” to undertake an Apostolic Journey across four African countries and “to experience it as a message of peace at a time in history marked by wars and serious and frequent violations of international law,” Pope Leo XIV said during the Wednesday General Audience in St. Peter’s Square on April 29.

Pope Leo visited Algeria, Cameroon, Angola, and Equatorial Guinea from April 13 to 23, where he followed in the footsteps of St. Augustine, appealed for peace in tension-filled areas, was welcomed by people singing, dancing, and cheering, and more.

“I cannot forget what happened in the prison in Bata, in Equatorial Guinea,” the Pope said in his catechesis, regarding one of the moments of his journey. The Pope underlined how he undertook this visit as a “Shepherd, to meet and encourage the people of God.”

For the people of Africa, the Pope said his visit was “a chance to make their voices heard, to express the joy of being God’s people and the hope for a better future, of dignity for each and every one.”

“I am happy to have given them this opportunity, and at the same time I thank the Lord for what they have given me, an inestimable treasure for my heart and my ministry,” he said, expressing his gratitude to the civil authorities and religious and Church representatives who welcomed him. Pope Leo XIV’s first stop was in Algeria, where he followed in the footsteps of his spiritual father, St. Augustine, and also met with the minority Catholic community and representatives of other religions.

He also underscored that St. Augustine today is an important role model for Christians and not only, as “he is a master in the search for God and for truth.”

Populations thirsting for justice

The Pope then travelled to the predominantly Christian countries of Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea, where he said he was warmly welcomed in a festive atmosphere.

He also emphasized how in these nations he saw the populations “thirsting and hungry for justice” and so came to them to recognize their faith and proclaim how “blessed are the poor, blessed are the meek, blessed are the peacemakers.”

In Cameroon the Pope was able to “reinforce the call to work together for reconciliation and peace.” He especially highlighted his visit to Bamenda – an area in the Anglophone region marked by hostilities due to separatist groups – where he encouraged people to work for peace.

The Pope also explained that “Cameroon is known as ‘Africa in miniature,’ in reference to the variety and richness of its natural environment, its resources.”

However, he continued, “we can also interpret this expression to mean that the great needs of the entire continent are found in Cameroon: the need for a fair distribution of wealth; the need to provide space for the young, overcoming endemic issues; that of promoting integral and sustainable development, countering the various forms of neo-colonialism with far-sighted international cooperation.”

In Angola, the Pope noted that despite a bloody civil war after achieving independence in 1975, “in the crucible of this history, God has guided and purified the Church, increasingly converting her in the service of the Gospel, human promotion, reconciliation, and peace.”

“A free Church for a free people!” he emphasized.

The Pope also assured the Catholic Church’s willingness to continue to help in this respect, especially “in the field of healthcare and education.”

The Pope then turned to the fourth leg of his Apostolic Journey and recounted the particularly strong moment when he visited a prison in the northwestern city of Bata.

“The prisoners sang at the top of their voices a song of thanksgiving to God and to the Pope, asking him to pray ‘for their sins and their freedom’. I had never seen anything like it,” he said.

*The Parish of St John Bosco and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and the vulnerable in our community. Protection and the dignity of every person is our responsibility.*

### Contact Us

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29 Muriel Street Niddrie Vic 3042  
Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-4pm  
Charles Meneze, Secretary

### Pray With Us

#### Holy Mass Times

Wednesday - Friday: 9.30am Mass  
Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass  
Sunday: 10.30am Mass  
Holy Days and Feast Days as announced

#### Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 4.30pm  
First Friday 9am, or any time on request  
Please call Fr David on 9337 9994

#### Rosary

Recited at 9am before weekday Mass

#### Benediction

First Friday after 9.30am Mass

#### Baptisms

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month 11.45am, please contact the office. Or by arrangement.

#### House Blessings/ Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the presbytery

### Support Us

Thank you for your generosity toward our parish: physically, spiritually and financially. If you are not a regular contributor, we invite your support- please contact the Parish Office.

Tap and Go machines are available at the weekend Mass in the narthex.

Direct Credits can also be made:

Presbytery Account (1<sup>st</sup> collection, for clergy and presbytery support)

- BSB:083 -347 Acc No.: 6616 52479

Parish Account (2<sup>nd</sup> collection, for parish expenses) BSB:083 - 347 AccNo.: 6568 74974

*The parish relies solely on your support. We receive no funding from external sources or the Archdiocese. We thank you for your ongoing support which enables us to continue the work of the Gospel.*

*“God loves a cheerful giver!”*

### Parish News

The Daily readings for Mass are now accessible on the parish website.

Don’t forget to ‘Like’ and Follow us on Facebook:

*St John Bosco’s Catholic Church Niddrie* and *St John Bosco Young Adults*

#### New to the Faith? Want to Know More?

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic, seeking baptism & reception in the Church? Please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr David.

#### A Word from the Pastor (continued)

“And then they prayed the ‘Our Father’ with me in the pouring rain. A genuine sign of the Kingdom of God!”

Then, the same day and still in the rain, the Pope met with young people in the city’s stadium in “a celebration of Christian joy, with moving testimonies from young people who have found in the Gospel the path to free and responsible growth.”

“This celebration culminated in the Eucharistic celebration the following day, which worthily crowned the visit to Equatorial Guinea, as well as the entire Apostolic Journey,” the Pope concluded.

Dedication of the Parish to Our Lady Help of Christians

St John Bosco had a very special devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians, whose Feast day falls on May 24, which is Pentecost Sunday this year. On this day, we will dedicate our parish to Our Lady, Help of Christians, who is the co-patroness of Australia (along with St Mary of the Cross McKillop). It seems appropriate to do this in the 60th year of our church building celebrations. On this day, we will have Eucharistic Adoration from 9.30am-10.20am, before the 10.30am Mass. Confessions will be available from 9.30-10am. We will pray the Rosary at 10am in the church. At the end of Mass, we will pray together the Prayer of Dedication of the Parish. Please join us for this special day in the life of our parish.

Thank you to those who supported the Mother’s Day cake stall last weekend.

#### First Holy Communion

The Year 4 children will celebrate their First Holy Communion on 30 May at Masses at 3pm and 5pm here.

***The new sets of Thanksgiving envelopes are available in the foyer of the church .***

#### Ministry at our weekend Masses

We are blessed to have a good number of volunteers who assist at our Masses with reading, collecting etc.

We would like to expand our ministries in the area of music and altar serving. Currently we have a fledgling music ministry at both Masses, which we are very keen to expand. If you would like to join with singing or playing an instrument, please see one of our musicians after Mass or speak to Fr David. You don’t need to be an expert, just willing to learn. If you would like to assist with Altar Serving or music on Sundays, please see Fr David or contact the parish office ([Niddrie@cam.org.au](mailto:Niddrie@cam.org.au))

### Stewardship

The first collection is for the support of the Parish Priest, for retired and sick priests, parishes in need and the Archbishop.

The second collection is for parish expenses like wages, utilities, insurance etc.

#### Last week:

1<sup>st</sup> collection: \$1,048

2<sup>nd</sup> collection: \$1,728

You can also donate to our Presbytery & Parish accounts using this QR code:



#### We recall in Prayer

##### Those who are sick

Maurice & Loretta; Sayde Hadchiti

##### Recently Deceased

All the recently deceased in our community

##### Anniversaries and Remembrances

Jeanette Eims; Byron Lopes; Vincent McCambridge; Desmond & Yvonne Leahy

#### Mass Intentions this week

Wednesday: Peace in the Middle East

Thursday: souls in purgatory

Friday: devotion to Our Lady

Saturday: youth of the parish

Sunday: *Pro populo*

### Our Liturgical Life

#### Standing for the Gospel

Because of the unique presence of Christ in the proclamation of the Gospel, it has long been the custom to stand in attentive reverence to hear these words. The priest will again greet us with “The Lord be with you.” He then introduces the Gospel reading while marking a small cross on his forehead, lips and heart with his thumb while praying silently that God cleans his mind and his heart so that his lips may worthily proclaim the Gospel. In many places, the congregation performs this ritual action along with the priest. The Gospel reading concludes with the ritual formula “The Gospel of the Lord” and we respond, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,” again proclaiming our faith in the presence of Christ in the Word.

[sdcatholic.org](http://sdcatholic.org)

### Our Spiritual Life

#### What is the reason for prayer?

**Prayer takes effort.** We will have to overcome our own objections to get started, i.e. I am too busy, prayer is an unproductive use of time, I felt nothing, and so on (2725 – 2728). Any relationship that we want to develop takes effort.

**You will have to overcome difficulties in prayer.** Some of the main difficulties are tiredness, distraction, aridity, and a lack of faith (i.e. God doesn’t hear me). In fact, the Catechism of the Catholic Church goes so far to say that ‘prayer is a battle’.

From [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)

Please return all CatholicCare envelopes to the church by **Sunday 17 May** so that the funds can be remitted to CatholicCare as soon as possible.

#### St John Bosco’s 60th Anniversary of the Opening of the Church May

24 May: Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Adoration, Rosary and Dedication of our Parish to Our Lady on Pentecost Sunday.

#### June

7 June: Corpus Christi Procession. A Way to honour Our Eucharistic Lord in a public manner.

#### July

Senior parishioners ‘High Tea’ and Benediction. Afternoon tea in the hall for our parishioners.

#### August

Parish Local pilgrimages. An opportunity to visit some different places for prayer and fellowship.



#### Wisdom of the Saints

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton: “O Jesus, sure joy of my soul, give me but a true love of you. Let me seek you as my only good.”

#### Thought for the Week

A hypocrite is a fellow who isn’t himself on Sunday.

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  
I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is adored and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins,  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.

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

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.



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.

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.