

Saints and Masses this Week **Tuesday 12 May** – Easter wk6,
Wednesday 13 May – Easter wk6, **Thursday 14 May** – St Matthias, **Friday 15 May** – Easter wk6, **Saturday 16 May** – Votive BVM, **Sunday 17 May** – Ascension
St Mary's Parish Fundraising Initiative The Jack Riley Gift Box comes with two 750 ml bottles of Prosecco from a local boutique winery, a waxed-cotton wine cooler bag, a gift card, and a booklet about Jack Riley's life. Each box costs \$55, with \$30 from every sale supporting St Mary's Parish. To order, please email John Bacash at info@jackriley.com or call 0411 615 202. Remote Sellers Liquor Licence 36309169. To pay, use BSB 083 004 and Account 850804443. We offer free delivery in Seymour, or you can arrange to pick up your order from the back of the church. Bank statements will confirm all transactions.

Parish Working With Children Check (WWCC) Thank you to all who have provided copies of their card. If you still need to update your card or obtain one, please see Fr Ashkar and he will do what needs to be done and no cost to you. If you have a WWCC card through another organisation, you do not need to get another, just allow us to get the details for our files.

Caritas Australia Lebanon Emergency Appeal The situation in Lebanon remains extremely fragile, and civilians urgently need humanitarian support. More than 2,000 people have been killed and over 1.1 million people displaced nationwide, including more than 390,000 children. Our partners Caritas Lebanon continue to deliver emergency food, water, shelter and health support across the country, maintaining humanitarian convoys to hard-to-reach areas in southern Lebanon. Stand with the people of Lebanon today. Learn more or make a donation today at www.caritas.org.au/lebanon



Pious Goods Stall We have lots of pious goods and instruments of devotion to help you or someone you love to grow in holiness. Great opportunity to give a gift of faith and encouragement.

Pledge to Pray The Vocations Office invites you to 'pledge a prayer' for vocations at www.pledgetoprayer.com.au this is a site dedicated to encouraging prayer for vocations in Australia. Prayer cards can be found next to the Sunday bulletin stand.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, SEYMOUR

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Parish Priest: Rev Fr Eugene Ashkar

Parish Secretary: Lorraine Nagle (Thurs)

MASS TIMES		ROSTERS THIS WEEK	
TUES – SAT	9am at St Mary's	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	
SAT VIGIL	6pm at St Mary's	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SUNDAY	8:30am Tallarook 10am at St Mary's	M Winnell	T Bolton
MASS PREPARATION		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
J Bottaro	C Crowe	D Mercovich	A Allison S Anderson
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
C Mansbridge	C Spykers	SATURDAY C. Spykers W. Spykers	SUNDAY C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$642.45

RECENTLY DECEASED We pray for the repose of the souls of Erlina Canapit and of all those who have died recently.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 10/5-16/5: Cecilia Moloney, Rosario Celi, Gerard Moloney, Margretha Claassen, Annie Smart, Rosie Saggars, Mina Skidmore, Annie-Louise Voogt.

ILLNESSES: We pray for: Anne King, Margaret Jennings, Sonia Willett, Rimon & Ellen Ashkar, John McMahon, Peter Matthews, Peter Gough, Colin Cooper, Milly Brock, Jeremy Stokes, Pete Dillon, and all who are suffering from the Corona Virus and all those unwell at the present time, who receive support from our prayers.

16/17 MAY 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Sat: M Winnell	Sun: M Flynn
LECTORS	Sat: M Winnell	Sun: R Basco H Basco
MASS PREPARATION	Sat: M Winnell	Sun: M Flynn
COUNTERS: A & V Hall	M Muscovich	

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Or Alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 65)

ANTIPHON: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

RESPONSE: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

LECTOR: Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise. Say to God: "How tremendous your deeds!" **R.**

LECTOR: "Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!" Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**

LECTOR: He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. **R.**

LECTOR: Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Or

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans. I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice. Alleluia

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

NEXT WEEK (Ascension of the Lord, Year A) Acts 1:1-11; Ps 46; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

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The Spirit, an advocate for our faith



10 May 2026 6th Sunday Easter Year A

This week's readings prepare us for Ascension Sunday next week, as they instruct Christians on how to live in the world while we wait for Christ's return. Although Jesus' defeat of death has forever transformed what it means to be human, we live in this waiting period where salvation has already been won for us but is not yet fulfilled.

Jesus comforts all Christians by promising us that, although we cannot see him face to face, we will know that "I am in my Father, and you are in me and I in you." And in today's readings, we see that Jesus will fulfil this promise by sending the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Holy Spirit inaugurates a new way of living for Christians that Paul elsewhere describes as the 'new life in the Spirit'.

The first reading reveals the joy that this new way of living can bring. Reading from Acts, we see the power of the Holy Spirit setting the people of Samaria free from suffering and disease and coming to dwell with them permanently.

And as Peter tells us in the second reading, the new life in the Spirit continues even through trials when we need to persevere in our faith. When proclaiming Christ is received with rejection rather than joy, the Holy Spirit is still just as present as ever. Indeed, the Holy Spirit will help us respond to the world with "gentleness and reverence."

The coming of the Holy Spirit is Jesus' promise to all of us who have faith in him. The word that Jesus uses here for the Holy Spirit, paraclete (in Greek), means advocate, defender or consoler and is often used to describe a helper or witness in a court of law. Just as Peter tells his readers to be ready for whenever they are called to make a defence for themselves, Jesus promises a defender who will always be with them.

The Holy Spirit is an advocate and witness for our faith. The Holy Spirit also testifies to Christ's saving work in our lives, including times of doubts, trials and shortcomings. In a world that sometimes seems devoid of God's presence and action, the Holy Spirit dwells within us to help us "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts." The Holy Spirit also provides the grace to help us trust and persevere when it is difficult to keep his commandments. And, when we listen, we are reminded that our new life with God is better than anything the world can offer us.

When the world rejects Christ and his good news, we have the Holy Spirit to help us follow Christ, loving as he loved, suffering as he suffered, and living in unity with the Father as he has made possible. And when we do this, God himself, in the fully divine person of the Holy Spirit, advocates for us, defends us and comforts us.

Joseph Doyle
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