



KYABRAM CATHOLIC PARISH

St Augustine's - Kyabram ~ St Patrick's - Tongala

St Augustine's - Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620

Tel: (03) 5852 1026 Email: kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Website: www.catholicparish.app/kyabram

Parish Priest - Fr Uday Marneni ALCP/OSS

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Ascension of the Lord ~ Year A

Sunday 17 May 2026



Readings for
this week:

Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20



Readings for
next Sunday:

Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23



Liturgy Jottings

Liturgy and Politics I

This seems an intriguing and awkward combination. Yet at the most general level, it concerns the relationship between the public worship of a faith community and the organisation and regulation of life in a society. Because both are essentially public activities, liturgy and politics can influence the practice of the other in many ways.

The polity of a faith community will be reflected in its worship. The attitudes and values, norms and structures, goals and concerns of the wider community can also affect public worship, especially the way of greetings and hospitality, prayers, preaching, and modes of participation in it. Public worship and political life may be in collaboration or opposition to each other at various times. In either case political realities can be significant for liturgical life.

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Looking at the Readings

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.

The message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus 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. © Greg Sunter

Quotes on the Ascension

Ascensions into heaven are like falling leaves sad and happy all at the same time. Going away isn't really sad especially when your going enables a new kind of presence to be born. Ernest Hemingway

Text for Today

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. Psalm 46(47)

On the Lighter Side

Feast days often have specific foods: Turkey at Christmas, Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday, Shepherd's Pie on St Patrick's Day. What about Ascension Day? It was a widespread custom in many parts of Europe during the Middle Ages to eat fowl because Christ "flew" to Heaven. Pigeons, pheasants, partridges, graced the dinner tables.



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Joanne Cox, Pat Commons, Julie Kleinert, Shane Boyd, Kady Mitchell-Treacy, Noreen Gallardo, Olive McElroy, Philip Bowman, Millie Perry, Frances Corso.

Recently Deceased: Fiorina Abbate

Anniversaries:

(Please email or contact the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list)

ROSTERS

Saturday 23 May at 6pm

Commentator – L Ratcliffe

Lector – M Tesoro

Special Minister – L Busch

Sunday 24 May 8.30am

Commentator – J Chant

Lector – C Cabaraban

Special Minister – A Ryan

Sunday 31 May 8.30am

Commentator – C Goode

Lector – R Chapman

Special Minister – M Di Petta

PLATE AND ENVELOPE COLLECTION

Last weekend Collection: \$ 1396.60

Thank you for your generosity and support for our Parish. May God bless you, always.

PARISH DETAILS

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Uday Kumar Marneni ALCP/OSS

PARISH SECRETARY

Vicki Arnel – 0417 147 695

PARISH PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mary Zobec – 0427 190 282

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am-4pm

PRINCIPALS

St Augustine's College - Tim Campbell - Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary - Jackie Stockdale - Phone 5859 0371

MASS TIMES

KYABRAM

Week Day: Tuesday Rosary 4pm, Mass 4.15pm & Thursday 9.15am

Saturday: 2nd and 4th weekend of month: 6pm EDT (5pm EST)

Sunday: 8.30am

TONGALA: First Sunday of month 11.30am

RECONCILIATION: Second Saturday (Weekend) of month 30 mins before Mass in St Augustine's Church.

ANointing MASS: First Thursday of the month at 10am in St Augustine's Church.

CELEBRATING FR UDAY'S ORDINATION

We give thanks to God for the gift of Fr. Uday Kumar Marneni's priesthood as he celebrated 15 years of ordination on Thursday 14 May.

May the Lord bless him abundantly for his faithful service, kindness, and dedication. We pray that God will continue to guide and strengthen him each day in his priestly ministry. Please remember and keep him in your prayers.

150 YEAR CELEBRATIONS

2028 marks the 150 years of the establishment of Kyabram Catholic Parish. We are seeking expressions of interest to form a committee to plan to commemorate this milestone. Please register your name and contact details to the Parish Office by 24th May or call 03 5852 1026 or kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au. For more information speak to Mary Zobec or Annette Ryan.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

A national day of prayer will be held on Saturday 23 May at 10am – 12 noon at Edis Park. This year's theme is based on Joshua 3:5 (NIV) and is "Consecration". Register here: www.australiaprays.com.au

CCR SANDHURST RENEWAL DAY

"Pentecost be refreshed in the Holy Spirit" Saturday 23 May 2026 9:30am – 3:30pm St Brendan's, Shepparton. Catholic Charismatic Renewal Sandhurst invites you to Charismatic Mass celebrated by their Spiritual Chaplain, Fr Arun Korlakanti. Commencing 9:30 am with a Cuppa. Please bring lunch to share. An offering will be taken up. Contact: Brigita: 0412 042 196, Mary 0427 190 282, or Denise 0407 506 813

MULTICULTURAL/PENTECOST MASS

Our annual Multicultural Mass will be celebrated on **Pentecost Sunday 24 May**. Parishioners are warmly encouraged to dress in their traditional national costumes. The celebration will be followed by a shared brunch in the gathering space. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience, appreciate, and celebrate the richness of our diverse cultures, as well as to commemorate the birthday of the Church—when God the Father sent the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. **Please bring a plate to share.**

MASS TIME TABLE

Weekly Masses

Sun 17th May - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 19th May - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 21st May - 9.15am 9-12 Community Liturgy

Thu 21st May - 2.15pm Catholic Education Mass
St Patrick's Tongala

Sat 23rd May - 5pm Mass

Sun 24th May - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 26th May - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 28th May - 11.30am Carrier Commissioning
Ceremony Brigidine Centre

Sun 31st May - 8.30am Mass

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th May at 5.30pm in the Presbytery. All welcome.

SANDHURST FORMATION INSTITUTE “GROWING AS COMMUNITIES OF MISSION”

Friday 21 – Saturday 22 August 2026 at Riverlinks Eastbank, Shepparton
Building on the success of the 2025 Formation Gathering “*Building Communities of Belonging*”, Fr Brian Boyle, Diocesan Administrator, is proud to invite you to the Sandhurst Formation Institute 2026 “*Growing as Communities of Mission*”. The Institute will explore bringing a mission lens to all we do in our faith communities. With a rich program of prayer, keynotes, seminars and a dedicated youth stream, it's an opportunity not to be missed. More details soon!

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028

“We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!” — Pope John Paul I
More than a one-time event, Eucharist 28 is a national journey of renewal, beginning in our own hearts and parishes. This Easter, we saw our churches filled with new life as many were welcomed into the faith. The invitation now is to keep that flame alive: to encounter Christ in the Eucharist every week as we prepare for a global celebration of the Eucharist and a Papal Mass celebrated in Sydney by Pope Leo XIV. Find out more and register at eucharist28.org.

World Mission Rosary this May: Pause, Pray, and Connect Catholic Mission invites you to join them online for daily prayer. Sessions run Monday to Friday, 1–31 May, 2 - 3pm, offering a moment to pause and reflect on the Church's global mission to those most in need — and our own missionary journey. Join directly on Teams: <https://tinyurl.com/RosaryPrayer26>.

BISHOP RENÉ RAMIREZ RCJ INSTALATION

On 11 April Pope Leo XIV appointed Bishop René Ramirez RCJ as the ninth Bishop of Sandhurst. He will be installed at Sacred Heart Cathedral on **30 July at 11am**. Save the date. All welcome. Until that time, Fr Brian Boyle will continue to serve as Diocesan Administrator.

Special thanks to our
Advertisers for their support



Kyvalley Farms milk advertisement featuring a family drinking milk and two large milk jugs. The text reads: **Always TRUSTED**. Our Kyvalley Farms milk is 100% Australian Family Owned and Produced. For a full list of our stockists, please visit: www.kyvalleyfarmsmilk.com



KY CLEANING SERVICE advertisement featuring a list of services and a cartoon character. The text reads: **KY CLEANING SERVICE**. ★ Carpet Steam Cleaning ★ Commercial & Domestic ★ Upholstery ★ Floor Strip and Sealing ★ Tile and Grout ★ Vacate Cleans. **John & Vicky** **0408 553 972**



BUSH RANGER POWER EQUIPMENT advertisement featuring a lawnmower. The text reads: **BUSH RANGER POWER EQUIPMENT**. **GFD Outdoors and Sports** 23 McCormick Road, Kyabram (03) 5853 2205



Betta ELECTRICAL HOME LIVING advertisement featuring the company logo. The text reads: **Betta ELECTRICAL HOME LIVING**. **Ciavarellas Betta** 242 Allan Street Kyabram 03 5852 2640 ciavarellas@mv.betta.com.au



Lebanon Emergency Relief Appeal advertisement featuring a photo of Caritas Lebanon volunteers and a QR code. The text reads: **Lebanon Emergency Relief Appeal**. The situation in Lebanon remains extremely fragile – over 1.1 million people displaced nationwide. Stand with the people of Lebanon today. **DONATE NOW** caritas.org.au/lebanon

CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with one of our Parish Child safety officers Mary Zobec 0427 190 282 or Annete Ryan 0408 502 858.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we come to worship, we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with deep respect. May the Elders, past and present, be blessed and honored. May we join and build a future based on compassion, justice, faith and reconciliation.

“I will go anywhere and do anything in order to communicate the love of Jesus to those who do not know him or have forgotten him.” – St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Breaking Open the Word

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.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

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.'

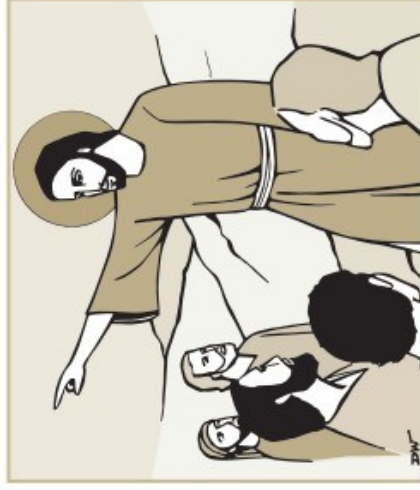
Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be 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.

THE SAVING WORD

17 MAY 2026



RESPONSORIAL 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



**CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL
SANDHURST**

'Pentecost'

Be refreshed in the Holy Spirit

Charismatic Mass celebrated by

Fr Arun Korlakanti

Spiritual Chaplain CCR Sandhurst

Saturday 23rd May 2026

9.30am cuppa, 10.00am-3.30pm

St Brendan's Knight St, Shepparton

at Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre

Lunch: Please bring a plate to share

All welcome

An offering will be taken up

Contact: Brigita Hore: 0412 042 196

Mary Zobec: 0427 190 282

Denise Ilott: 0407 506 813

Laudato Si'

In May 2015, Pope Francis released his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, to call for action to address the spiritual, social and economic crisis manifest in environmental devastation. He called us to "hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor".

"Laudato si'" are the opening words in Latin of St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Creatures "All praise be yours, my Lord through all that you have made".

On the 5th anniversary of his encyclical, May 2020, Pope Francis announced a plan for Catholics to make a commitment to implement *Laudato Si'*. Over the next couple of years, a framework was developed to support this plan. This framework has 7 goals or ways of measuring integral ecology.

In Australia

Taking their lead from Pope Francis, our Australian bishops issued their 2021/22 Social Justice Statement "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor", drawing wisdom from scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, and human knowledge, so that we might be converted to new ways of living, both personally and collectively.

The Bishops' Statement, invites all parishes to commit to the Laudato Si' goals.

Our Parish

Catholic Earthcare Australia has made it easy for us to take up the Bishops' invitation with a certified journey which we, as a parish, have begun!

The process begins with a wide-ranging self-assessment, followed by action planning for the next few years. We hope you'll join us on the journey!

Catholic Earthcare Australia was established in 2002 by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and mandated, through the activities of education, research and advocacy, to give leadership in responding to the call for ecological conversion. It is now a program of Caritas Australia, responding to the interconnectedness of the 'cry of the poor' and 'cry of the earth'.

We acknowledge our First Nations people and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. Their deep spiritual connection to Country and respect for the natural environment has ensured the preservation of our natural environment for thousands of years.



Response to
the Cry of
the Earth



Response to
the Cry of
the Poor



Ecological
Economics



Adoption of
Sustainable
Lifestyles



Ecological
Education



Ecological
Spirituality



Community
Resilience and
Empowerment

