



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

20/21 MAY 2023

WEEK of PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY

21-28 MAY 2023

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Fr Peter Dorfield
Executive Officer
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MASS & LITURGY TIMES

Mon – 8am Liturgy Of The Word
& Holy Communion

Tue – 8am

Wed – 8am

Thurs – 8am

Fri – 8am

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday – 6.30pm

Sundays – 8.30am

CONFESSIONS

30 minutes before Sunday Mass
or by appointment any other time.

PARISH CALENDAR

Click [HERE](#)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia 21st – 28th May

will be observed this week between Ascension and Pentecost
with the **theme "Do good; seek justice."** (Isaiah 1:17).

When we stop talking and listen, we hear that the church in Australia is built on stolen land, Indigenous land, and shares in a history of racism, massacre, abuse, stolen children, imprisonment and death in custody, and ongoing disadvantage. We hear that this legacy is really ours because we have explained, justified or remained silent in the face of this reality. When we stop talking and listen, we make space to realise anew that we have acted in ways that deny the worth of some of God's people, equally made in God's image."

(Rev. Radhika Sukumar-White's sermon from Day of Mourning service, 19th January 2020, Leichhardt Uniting Church).

White man came to this country in their ships. With their guns the black man has no answers. They were poisoned, shot, hung and put in chains as punishment.

Then along came religion, Christianity, the Bible was read at campsites by white man and later black and white.

Now we walk side by side burning bridges of the past. The chains of the past are broken free through and black and white walk on equal ground through this rugged wide land.

Their spirit finally free through Christianity.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

God of justice and truth, we seek your guidance to embody the prophet's call to do good and to seek justice.

May we grow with the courage and compassion of Christ, and walk in the way of peace and reconciliation.

May God's Spirit enliven and embolden us
to stand in solidarity with others
until all are treated with dignity and worth.

May our holy living be a foretaste of the mercy and blessing
of the reign of God. Amen.

*We welcome into God's Family through the waters of Baptism
this weekend*

*Hannah Maree Duff daughter of Matthew and Kelly
and*

Benji James Leahy son of Anthony and Kaylah.

Mass Readings

First Reading Ascension: Acts 1:1-11

Jesus told his apostles that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. They would be his witnesses unto the ends of the earth. On whom did the disciples depend for understanding what that meant for them? Did they understand right away or did it take some time? Do we depend on the same source for spiritual understanding?

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

If the *"eyes of your hearts be enlightened,"* what might they see? People suffering? The good that people are doing to relieve suffering? Would some of the goodness we see be related to *"the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way"*? What might be some *"everyday kinds of fullness"*? What kind of fullness would you like to have in your life?

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

"I am with you always, to the close of the age" (v. 20). How does Pope Francis say we realize Jesus' presence today? Are we ever alone?

COVID REMINDERS

Mask Wearing If you still wish to wear a mask in the Church please free to do so.

Hand Sanitiser is still available in the Foyer

Seat Sanitising is still continuing after weekend

Masses and Funerals – Can you HELP?

CREDIT: www.schoenstatt.org

Pope Video
[HERE](#)

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY 2023 FOR CHURCH MOVEMENTS AND GROUPS

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 22nd May – St Rita of Cascia

Wed 24th May – Our Lady, Help of Christians, Patron of Australia

Thurs 25th May – St Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor
St Gregory VII, Pope
St Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin

Fri 26th May – St Philip Neri, Priest

Sat 27th May – St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

PRAYING FOR...

RECENT: Ileana Pregnotato, Rosa Copani, Vera Newlands

TO REMEMBER: Domenica Pozzebon (1st anniv 17.05.2023) & Deceased Family Members, Michael Bathersby (1st Anniv 21.05.2023), Costantino & Sestina Lippi, Fr Francis Hall

FOR THE SICK: Clara Stefanon, Allan Taylor, Laura Sullivan, Lesley Robbins, Con Torrisi, Wayne Jackson, Carol Simpson, Rita Collins, Stuart Scott, Mary James, Rina Venier, Angela Gannon, Paul Nolan, Glen Slater, Cassie May, Sam Leonardi, Josie Torrisi, Barry Driscoll, Steven Campbell, Paul Voss, Des Fossey, Nalda Sciuto, Kate Sturgeon, Anne Black, Rita Miles, Leila Eades and all the sick and elderly of Parish and families.

NO ONE
IS BORN
A PRIEST...

Dear God,
You created me with a specific purpose for my life;
this is my vocation.

Please help me to hear, understand, and follow Your call with my whole heart, especially when it seems most difficult.

We ask that You inspire people whom You call to the priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted,

**We pray for BJ Perrett
as he continues
his journey to Priesthood.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023

**We pray for the children who begin their First Communion Preparation
this Sunday morning.**

First communion will be celebrated on Sunday 11th June at 8.30AM.

**As part of the Church
Centenary
we invite you to pray
for the members of our
community.
Please register your
family and love ones at
the foyer.
Families will be
allocated during our
daily mass.**

100
Days
Of Prayers
For Our
Community
Starting
July 2023

**CATECHISTS NEEDED FOR
STANTHORPE STATE PRIMARY
AND STATE HIGH SCHOOLS**

CAN YOU HELP?

Please contact the Parish Office.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS - WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY



Mary has always had a special place in the devotions of Australian Catholics. The dignity and strength shown by many of the early penal-settles in the face of inhuman treatment was particularly true of the Mary Irish Catholics. At their humble beginnings they turned instinctively to Mary's help, as the Church has always done. While waiting for priest and hierarchy to come, groups of lay people would gather for Readings, Hymns and Mary's rosary, and other devotions, pleading for help as the Macedonians once appealed to Paul "come over to us, and save us!"

The first provincial synod of the Church in Australia took place in September 1844. It was a relatively small affair: Archbishop Polding of Sydney and the new bishops of Adelaide and Hobart met with about half of the three-dozen pioneer priests in the country. Among their decisions, the Church in Australia was placed under the patronage of the Virgin Mary invoked by the title Help of Christians. This was confirmed by the Holy See in 1852.

The choice of Mary Help of Christians may well derive from the first Catholic chaplain in Sydney, Fr. J.J. Therry, who dedicated his church to St. Mary in November 1821. At this time the feast of Mary Help of Christians was new and generated considerable interest.

The title Help of Christians was first introduced into the Litany of Loretto by Pope Pius V after a Christian victory in the Battle of Lapanto in 1571. Early in the 19th century, Napoleon occupied Rome, Annexed the papal states and imprisoned Pope Pius VII. In thanksgiving for the pope's release and restoration in Rome on the 24th of May 1814, the feast of Mary Help of Christians was introduced to the Roman calendar.

The before mentioned Fr. Therry was ordained in Ireland a year latter in 1815. A time when the Irish Church was quickly adopting devotions to Mary Help of Christians. Our celebration of Mary of Christians as our patronal feast therefore symbolises the Roman and Irish heritage which is the foundation of the Catholic Church in Australia.

One of the most significant events in the history of devotion to Mary, Help of Christians, was the pilgrimage of the Australian Bishops to St. Mary's Cathedral during the Marian Year of 1988. The bishops assembled at St. Mary's Cathedral to repeat the first synod's trust in the Mother of God. Before a large crowd of the faithful, in the Basilica dedicated to Mary, Cardinal Clancy led the Bishops to dedicated Australia to the care and protection of Mary Help of Christians. On the occasion Cardinal Clancy would deliver a homily on Mary Help of Christians.

In 2001, at the dawning of the third Christian Millennium and the Centenary Year of the Federation, the Australian bishops assembled in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, for the Re-Dedication of Australia to our great Patroness, Mary Help of Christians. During his homily, Canberra Goulburn Archbishop Francis Carroll stated that: "As Australia cerebrates the Centenary of Federation and the new millennium begins to unfold, we are challenged to put out into the deep once again with the enthusiasm of the very first Christians. The same Holy Spirit poured out at Pentecost empowers us to start again on our mission of evangelisation. Mary is the radiant dawn and sure guide for our steps. With confident and loving hearts, let us invoke her prayer and her patronage for our Church and our Nation!"

PRAYER

Mary Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia and of the Military Ordinariate

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts
our love of Mary Help of Christians.
Through her prayers and under her protection,
may the light of Christ shine over our land.
May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.
Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.
Bless especially the men and women
of the Australian Defence Force and their families.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.
Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.

ROSTER

WEEKEND MASS	27 TH MAY 2023	28 TH MAY 2023
READERS	Liza Thompson	Megan Mahoney Johanna Campbell
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	Clelia Patti, John Patti, Joyce Pozzebon	Shirlee Russell, Patrick McCosker, Mary Zanatta
ORGANIST		Leonie Welch
ALTAR SERVERS		Erin O'Dea Liam O'Dea Maggie O'D
COUNTERS	Lance Guteridge, Nella Guteridge	

DIOCESAN NEWS

SORRY DAY WEBINAR - THURSDAY 25TH MAY - 11.00AM - Where: [Online; register here](#)

In this special event, hosted by Caritas Australia, you will hear from two survivors of Kinchela Boys Home, one of the most notorious institutions associated with the Stolen Generations. Caritas Australia's First Australians Programs team will also discuss what truth-telling and intergenerational healing means to our partners. A recording of the event will be emailed to the registrants after the life seminar session.

SORRY DAY - FRIDAY 26TH MAY - 7.30PM - Where: *Yarning Circle, Gumbi Gumbi, UniSQ Toowoomba*

All are invited to join a short commemoration and reflection for Sorry Day 2023. We will gather to remember the children taken away and Kevin Rudd's apology.

YUMIN BAH – TALK PLACE 2023 - FRIDAY/SATURDAY 26 & 27 MAY - Where: *St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba*

All are welcome to gather to listen, learn, share, connect, respect and understand more about our shared history. Join this positive gathering in a space that encourages freedom to be curious and to listen with intent to understand.

[Register for tickets to this free event.](#)

NATIONWIDE ROSARY – SATURDAY 27TH MAY – 2.30PM - *St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba*

The Feast of Australia's Patroness, Our Lady Help of Christians, is celebrated on 24th May. To honour Our Lady, you are invited to join the faithful nationwide in praying the Rosary. Contact Theresa Blatchly on 0434 528 904 for more information.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH STANTHORPE is committed to supporting the right of everybody to be and feel safe. If you believe anybody is at immediate risk of harm you should phone 000 and report the matter to police. Other concerns about the safety of children or vulnerable persons may be raised with our Parish Safeguarding Representative (Lance Guteridge – 0419 782 671) with the Diocesan Professional Standards Office 07 4638 1379 or profstads@twb.catholic.org.au, or with the Queensland Professional Standards Office 1800 337 928 or <http://psqld.catholic.net>