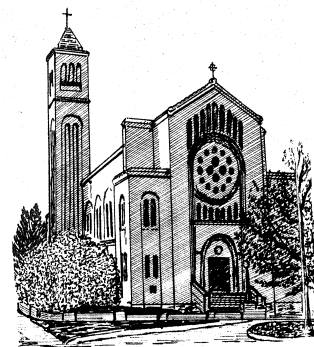


# St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)

The Ascension of the  
Lord, Year B  
12 May 2024

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn  
Archbishop: Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD STD  
Administrator: Fr Trenton van Reesch  
Assistant Priest: Fr Alexander Osborne



YEAR OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT  
August 2023– 2024

## PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 (02) 6239 9846 (ph)  
cathedral@cg.org.au www.cg.org.au/cathedral  
Online Payments Link: www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp  
**Parish Secretary:** Anita Piper — 8:30am-4:30pm Monday to Thursday. Office Closed Friday-Sunday  
**Accounts Officer:** Karina Widjaja—8am-4pm Friday

## Sunday Mass

### St Christopher's

Cnr Canberra Ave & Furneaux  
Street, Forrest (Manuka) ACT

**Sat. Vigil:** 5.00pm

**Sunday:** 8.00am,  
11.00am (livestreamed),  
5.00pm

### St Peter Chanel's

Cnr Weston & Loch Streets,  
Yarralumla ACT

**Sunday:** 9.30am

## Weekday Mass

### St Christopher's

**Monday to Friday:** 7.30am &  
12.15pm

**Saturday & Public Holidays:**  
9.00am & 12.15pm

### St Peter Chanel's

**Tuesday:** 5.30pm

## Reconciliation

### St Christopher's

**Wednesday:** 11.30am-12.00noon

**Thursday:** 6.00 - 6.30pm

**Saturday:** 11.00am - 12noon

### St Peter Chanel's

**Tuesday:** 6.00 - 6.30pm

## Adoration

### St Christopher's

**Tuesday to Friday:** 5.00-6.00pm

## Rosary at the Cathedral

Mon-Fri 8am, Sat 11:40am, Sun  
4:45pm

## Baptisms

### St Christopher's:

2nd & 4th Sundays: 12.30pm

### St Peter Chanel's:

3rd Sunday: 10:30am

## Weddings

**St Christopher's:** Saturday

1.30pm & 3.00pm

**St Peter Chanel's:** By arrangement

## A Blessed Mother's Day, a blessed reminder...

Who did the Risen Jesus *first* appear to? Peter, in whom he'd invested so much, forgave so readily and build his Church upon? No. Jesus recognised and appeared *first* to Mary Magdalene, who, no stranger to pain, understood how far true love could go.

Mary, the first to apprehend the Risen Jesus, with Jesus' own mother, would become a model of baptismal discipleship. To this natural receptivity, the *Apostle to the Apostles*, Jesus first chose to appear.

I marvel at a humility and witness – *distinctly* feminine – not just in biological mothers but women. Not unsurprisingly – this distinct humility is rarely recognised by those who possesses it. Perhaps that's what makes it so genuine and alluring.

In a mother, in femininity, there is a natural grace, resonance and reassurance. A perseverance in the midst of chaos, which in turn allows others to persevere. There is a 'glue' that holds everything together, family, faith, and the seemingly impossible.

The first call of any vocation is an experience of the Love of God. Mothers exude that eternal Love in an *incomparable* way. From that touch, to that voice; the cooing of a new mother feeding her baby; the ferocity of a mother defending her child. Little is more Godlike or revealing of the Father's Love. Like heat from the sun, a mother's love becomes God's revelation.

And the perseverance of a mother through struggle, brokenness and wounds, make their presence and vocation all the more alluring. In mothers and women of faith, there is a hope and joy, a determined love made visible. There is a courage that arrives from the empty tomb, to announce to disbelieving disciples, *persevere, do not give up, yes tomb is empty, but He is Risen, as He promised!* (Matt 28:1-10).

This distinctly feminine way of loving and living, is needed now more than ever. Around the world however, in a plethora of ways, we have witnessed this truth attacked.

On March 8, *International Women's Day*, Ireland resoundingly rejected a proposal to redefine the family and eliminate references to the contribution of mothers from their Constitution. Surprisingly it was the young who came out in droves to reject this attack on women and the family.

In the United States, the Department of Education has eviscerated women's equality on college campuses by altering the definition of sex-based discrimination to include gender "identity". And now? Men who "identify" as women can take academic scholarships and admission slots from women. Biological men can use women's bathrooms and change rooms, as well as house in dorms with young women. And if a woman raises concerns or disapproval, she can expect to be accused of discrimination or harassment.

In recent weeks we've seen heightened attention drawn to the real and hideous scourge of violence against women. Yet, society conveniently ignores this 'unseen' violence, which is callously and blatantly undermining the *safety*, dignity and rights of women.

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Today we give thanks for the sacrifice, love, presence, and witness we have known from mothers and women in our lives. Those with us, those who have died, and mothers-to-be.

We celebrate especially those with lives marred by suffering, disappointment, and violence. May they be relieved of these burdens, know their dignity and the closeness of God, while we do all in our power at national, state and local levels to ensure a change. For we must never forget what is at stake when we weaken protections, dignity and defence of women in our culture and families. Motherhood is the keystone of humanity, even God Himself recognised this.

Friends, the jewel in the crown of Mother's Day, is her greatest boast. Saint John Paul II echoes: "At this moment when the human race is undergoing so deep a transformation, women imbued with a spirit of the Gospel can do so much to aid humanity in not falling." (*Mulieris Dignitatem*, 1).

Mothers, women, be faithful, be fearless. You embody the greatest call a human being can have. Ignore the attack of a society which rejects your worth and instead promotes a culture of death and dysfunction. You are the mode of revelation God is using, to restore joy to human hearts.

To mothers struggling. Thank you! You have no idea of your impact beyond the lives of your precious children. You are the foundation of everything held dear, and a witness to something beyond. You proclaim the *hope* that the empty Easter tomb promises.

Too often, society can silence men who dare to speak about the dignity and identity of women and motherhood. And yet in the last few months, a call has been for men to step up and lead the way to assist in change for the respect and protection of women. Healing our society requires men to be men, and to speak in recognition and defence of women and mothers. I will always, as a man, and a priest, recognise and do just that. Don't get me wrong... the risen Jesus, *a man*, was the first to recognise and do the same...

Happy Mother's Day!

Fr Trenton

# NOTICES

## PARISH MINISTRIES

### Director of Music

Ms Jaki Kane

### RCIA

Miss Becky Langworthy  
Contact Office

### School of Religion

Miss Chiara Catanzariti

### Youth Coordinator

Miss Anita Donaldson  
youth.cathedral@cg.org.au

### Safeguarding Officer

Ms Siobhan Reeves  
cathedral.safeguarding@cg.org.au

### Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon May 13 Mon of the 7th week of Easter

Tues May 14 Tues St Matthias, Apostle

Wed May 15 Wed of the 7th week Easter

Thu. May 16 Thu of the 7th week of Easter

Fri. May 17 Fri of the 7th week of Easter

Sat. May 18 Sat of the 7th week of Easter

Sun May 19 PENTECOST SUNDAY, YR B

## PARISH GROUPS

### St Vincent de Paul

#### Good Shepherd Prayer Group

Wednesday at 7pm SPC  
Parish Room (Feb-Dec)

#### Christian Meditation

Saturday at 4:30pm SPC

## Other Communities

#### Spanish Community

First Sunday of the month at  
11.30am SPC

#### African Community

Second Sunday of the month at  
11.45am SPC begins Feb.

#### Filipino Community

First Sunday bi-monthly at  
5.00pm SPC

For details of any of the  
above, contact the Parish  
Office.

**PARISH MORNING TEA**— First Sunday of the month in the Haydon Hall after the 8am Mass. Everyone is welcome! Next date: **Sunday 2nd June**.

**Clergy Assembly 2024 – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May**. Please note there will be **NO MASS** held at St Peter Chanel's Tuesday evening 14<sup>th</sup> and no Adoration at the Cathedral. Cathedral Mass schedule will remain as normal. As well as no Catechesis available this Monday. Catechesis will return on the 20th May Thank you for your understanding.

**School of Religion Confirmation Mass** will be held at the Saturday 5pm Vigil on the **18<sup>th</sup> May**. We pray for the students who are preparing to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION**— First Reconciliation classes start **Tues 4 June, 6pm-7:30pm** in St Peter Chanel's Parish Room, Yarralumla. 1st Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday **3 July 2024**. Please contact the office to enroll or for more information.

### A Prayer for Mothers

*Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you give life and care to us, your Church. Bless all women, as we celebrate this day, the gift of motherhood, a gift from you. Through them, you reveal how close you are to us. May they be strengthened as your daughters, and know how they are loved. May Mary, the Mother of Jesus, inspire them to live their vocation as Christian mothers of faith and hope. Guide and protect them in challenging times and help them to continue to trust in you all the days of their life.*



**Sheila van Gent** – with heavy hearts we announce the passing of long time St Peter Chanel's parishioner Sheila van Gent. To Pieter her loving husband and family, we assure our prayers and support. Sheila's funeral will take place at Saint Peter's on **Wednesday 15 May at 11:30am**. *Eternal Rest Grant to her O Loving Lord*.

**READ AND FEED: CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY BOOK CLUB**— Focusing on cultivating a deeper spiritual life. Starting with *Spiritual Warfare and the Discernment of Spirits* by Dan Burke – an excellent introduction to the spirituality of St Ignatius of Loyola. Available to purchase from the Catholic Bookstore, Amazon, Dymocks, Parousia Media online store and/or Veritatis Publishing. Don't worry if you can't purchase the book as we'll be reading sections out loud on the night. Held every **Friday 7pm-8:30pm** in the **Haydon Hall**. Food and drinks provided.

**Grill'd & God Returns!** If you or someone you know is in high school from years 8 to 12, join us on the 21st of May for a night of live music, food and great conversations! Kick starting a youth 'Theology of the Body series', our first session is on 'Rizz & God' – all about finding authentic love amidst a culture of red flags. Join us on **Tuesday the 21st of May, from 5pm to 7pm** at Grill'd in Manuka! For further enquiries, and to RSVP, email Anita Donaldson at [youth.cathedral@cg.org.au](mailto:youth.cathedral@cg.org.au).

**Tim Fischer Oration on Ethics in Public and Political Life 2024 - 7 August 6pm** We are at the crossroads in Australia in particular, and in the Western World in general. Fundamental human values are under great strain, and so an overarching societal narrative is becoming opaque. The Tim Fischer Oration aims to enlighten and encourage us to seek out and promote a free and fair society. Do join us in our noble endeavour. **Speaker:** Professor Helen Alvare, Levy Endowed Chair in Law and Liberty at Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University **Q&A:** Chris Uhlmann, Political Journalist and TV Presenter **For more information & tickets visit** [www.tfo.org.au](http://www.tfo.org.au)



# NOTICES

**Giving and Receiving— Direct debit and QKR options are available, as well as TapnGo machines Thank you sincerely for your generosity.** If you are able, perhaps consider donating to 1st and 2nd collection via direct debit .  
**The First collection: contributes to clergy of the Archdiocese.** If you make an offering through direct debit, please include that you are a parishioner of the Cathedral Parish.

BSB: 062-786 Account Name: CATHEDRAL  
Bank Account: 000029248 Reference: FORREST & SURNAME

**The Second collection: contributes to parish mission and maintenance.** If you would like to give and are not currently registered for Planned Giving, please deposit into the following bank account:

BSB: 062786 Account Name: St Christopher's Cathedral  
Bank Account: 000015080 Reference: Planned Giving # and Surname (only current Planned Givers);  
or Donation (parishioners not registered Planned Givers).

For more information or to set up monthly payments via direct debit, please contact the Parish Office. For step by step Qkr! instructions, visit [cgcatholic.org.au/2016/10/something-beautiful-god/](https://cgcatholic.org.au/2016/10/something-beautiful-god/)

**Thank you for your generosity**

**OPEN LETTER TO ACT MLAs against upcoming VAD BILL—** show your support in opposing the Voluntary Assist Dying Bill 2023 by signing the petition <https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/actcampaign> The aim is to reach 10,000 signatures. To find out more <https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/about>

**National Day of Prayer – 18 May 2024.** St John's Anglican Church hall in Reid. Join us to pray for a National Awakening that will bring Revival and Transformation to Australia. Thank you for your support for prayer for our nation! [australiaprays.com.au/](http://australiaprays.com.au/)

**CARETAXI: SAFE CHURCH TRANSPORT—** Mass, Medical/GP appointments, shopping trips, recreational trips, and more; qualified and caring drivers. Visit [caretaxi.com.au](http://caretaxi.com.au), or 0451 734 334.

**Oceania Evangelisation Program - Pentecost Sunday 19 May 11.30am – 7.30pm—**In this Year of the Holy Spirit in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, I invite you to gather with me for this key event to experience the grace and power of Pentecost and to be renewed by currents of grace flowing throughout Oceania. My invitation is extended to parishes, members of Movements and staff and leaders in Catholic schools. Please join us to renew the life and mission of the Church across Oceania." Archbishop Christopher Prowse. Venue: St Benedict's Narrabundah. \$35 per head, including lunch and dinner. Register <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1136531> Inquiries: [carmelhenry2@gmail.com](mailto:carmelhenry2@gmail.com) 0409777743

**menALIVE –** A weekend for Men featuring talks, personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion, & space to reflect. Since menALIVE commenced in 2003, thousands of Catholic men have been encouraged & inspired at weekends across Aust. Now, MHOc Parish menALIVE weekend is being organised in Pearce, conducted by experienced leaders from the menALive Team. Register with QR Code or <https://canberracatholic.men>. See flyer in church. Enq, ph/text Mat Wolnicki 0438 446 489, Fr Emil 0414 523 036, or Adam Wojtonis 0422 212 881.



## Year of the Holy Spirit

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE

O God, who by the light  
Of the Holy Spirit,  
Did instruct the hearts  
Of the faithful,  
Grant that by the same  
Holy Spirit we may be  
truly wise and ever rejoice in His  
consolations.  
Through the same  
Christ our Lord

Amen.

AUGUST 2023— AUGUST 2024

#### We pray for...

**Those to be baptised:** Reese Flynn, Rowen Coultas

**Those who are ill:** Cyrus & Maximus Mee, Maria Louisa, Rose Hook, Nicoletta Ricciuti, Sonja Vocisano, Archie Ferris, Tony Dickins, Marilena Damiano, Fr Greg Beath, Sophy Jacob, Alla Skorokhodova, Tony Kelly, Susie Menadue, Geraldene Ford, Maja Marija Olip, McKenzie Killian, Fr Bill, Leung Man Kon, Beryl Johnson, Florencio Fariña, Alejandra Martinez, Colliss Parrett, Arianna Vignale, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Paul Mychailuk, Kalum, Nicholas Dyne.

**Anniversaries of death:** Alyssa Henley, Judy Cummins, Frank Brennan, Monica Cooper, Carla Pastrello, Peg O'Hehir, Jane Jennings, Stanley & Mollie Jones, Fr Viv Morrison, Alma Sainsbury, Jack Delaney, Kathleen Bennett, Frances Riordan, Allan Read, Max Bradley, Jean Sunner, Mary O'Brien, Mary Hehir, Jennifer Gowing, David Crossin, Sr Leonie Crotty, Peter Xavier, Michael Rheinberger, Marcus Mumford, Anthony Sullivan, Margaret Gillespie, Sandra Altrin, Robert Porra, Carmel Pickard, Thomas Clowry, Denis Hogan, Joyce Cook, Katarina Kish, Rita O'Connor, Stephen Brooks, Iluminada del La Rosa

**Recently Deceased:** Sheila van Gent, Kevin Conlan, Emilia Belmonte, Domenico Barbatano, Sam Catanzariti, Maria Gallo, Victims of the Bondi Junction attack, Ian "Bob" McPherson, Tom Greally, Keith Drury, Ger-Jan Bruins OSA, John Morrison, Maria Gelones, Theresia Beli Naijes (mother of Fr Joseph Neonbasu), Archbishop Francis Carroll,



# Ascension of the Lord—Year B — 11/12 May



Cathedral QR code

**Entrance Antiphon:** 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

**Responsorial:** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia

## First Reading

**Acts 1:1-11**

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 to 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.'

## Second Reading

**Eph 1:17-23**

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.

## Gospel

**Mark 16:15-20**

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.' And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

### READERS ROSTER MAY

		Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers	
		11/12 May	18/19 May	11/12 May	18/19 May
Mass					
5.00pm (SCC)	Dorilyn Desuyo Crystal Lavien	<b>SOR Confirmation Children</b>			
8.00am (SCC)	Joe Zavone Louise Zavone	Marcus Smith Zvon Seselja			
9.30am (SPC)	Raphael Molu Fiona Wheeler	Kristina Faigl Marcelle Disanayake			
11.00am (SCC)	Les Buszynski Bianca Goh	Samantha Hazlett Cecilia Flores	Bronwen Grey Mark Hyman	Edwina Hyman Bianca Goh	
5.00pm (SCC)	Anthony Brierley Liz Porra	Lynette Yap Francilia Gomes			

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**St Christopher's Cathedral Parish encompasses the areas of Barton, Causeway, Deakin, Forrest, Fyshwick,  
Griffith, Kingston, Manuka, Parkes, Red Hill, Yarralumla**