



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



PARISH BULLETIN ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR A, 17 MAY 2026



PARISH VISION STATEMENT 2004



“Created by God, Loved by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit ... We come together inspired by our patrons, St Mary the Virgin and St Joseph, her husband, to worship, study and serve.”

St Mary's Bombala
St Joseph's Delegate
St Peter's Corrowong

PARISH CONTACTS

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Father Daniel Ukpong

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School Principal
Mrs Susan Tighe

PARISH COUNCIL
-

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Please assist the team by having items in by Wednesday pm.



PRAYER INTENTIONS

POPES INTENTION MAY That everyone might have food



Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

We pray for missionaries and their communities in lands where Christians are an unwelcomed minority, that they will stay strong in the Spirit of the Risen One.

We pray for Christian churches in all their diversity, that they will join together in prayer this week and testify to their common faith in the glorious mystery of Christ.

We pray for rural dioceses and parishes struggling with limited resources, that they will find creative ways to build community and continue proclaiming the Gospel.



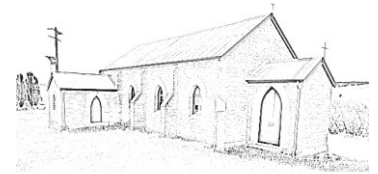
We pray for those who are sick in our family and community, may they be able to see Christ's presence in their most difficult moments:

Aiden Camm, Adam Crotty, John Elliott
Christine Cowell, Lorna Thornton
Clive Cottrell, Joyce Crotty, John Liston
Roma Brownlie, Jenny Chaplin
Peter & Joyce Reed, Glad Hurley
Jim Parkes, Marilyn Holdsworth
Jen Farrell, Patricia Guthrie
Mary Anne Dillon
Terry Perkins, Kath Farrell, Val Perkins
Kim Peisley, Heather Whitby
Peter Hopkins



PARISH CALENDAR

MON *Saint John*
WED **Mass Bombala 9.30am**
Mass Delegate MPS 11am
Saint Bernadine of Siena
THU *Saint Christopher Magallanes & companions*
FRI *Saint Rita of Cascia*
SAT **LW&HC Delegate 5pm**
SUN **LW&HC Bombala 9am**



REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

Recently Deceased Pat Walker May Anniversaries

Sr Dominica Bampton
Kay Bedingfield, Kitch Cottrell
Ena Crawford, Ted Crawford
Mae Elliott, Harold Farrell
Sr Aloysius Ferricks
Sr Bede Hintz, Winnie Ingram
Betty Lomas, Sr Irene McCormack
Peter Perkins, Kathleen Reed
Mary Smith, Oscar Thompson
Melrose Thornton, Daryl White



“We have loved them in Life:
Let us not forget them in death.”



The Ascension is not about Jesus leaving us, but about trusting us to continue His work on earth. May we have the courage to lift our eyes in faith and follow the path He has shown us.

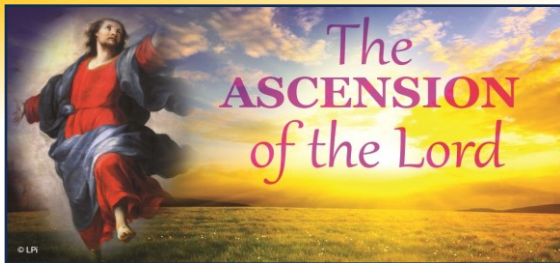


A journey with
SAINT MARY
of the Cross
MACKILLOP

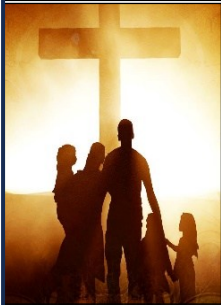


Trust in God. 3.5.1874

The cross appears lighter when carried with Jesus. 3.5.1874
Bear in mind that you have only to answer for your own faults. 21.5.1874
Try at least to excuse what you cannot understand. 21.5.1877
God is merciful because He knows how weary we are. 21.5.1877
God understands us better than we understand ourselves or each other.
21.5.1877



The Feast of the Ascension, traditionally known as “Ascension Thursday”, used to be celebrated 40 days after Easter, always on a Thursday. It commemorates Jesus ascending into Heaven. In countries like Australia, the Catholic bishops transferred the celebration from Thursday to the following Sunday back in 1992, mainly so more people could participate at Mass. The Ascension is now celebrated on the 7th Sunday of Easter. It is no longer generally observed on Thursday as a Holy Day of Obligation.



FINDING GOD IN OUR WORLD

Lift your hearts heavenward

On the Feast of the Ascension, we are reminded that Christ has not abandoned us, but calls us to continue His mission with faith, hope, and love. In our acts of kindness, compassion, and service to others, we become His presence in the world today.

Daily Prayer Intention - We pray who wield influence in the field of social communication, that on this World Communications Day they will heed Pope Leo's call to 'preserve human voices and faces'.

Weekly Prayer Intention - We pray for the Jewish community in Australia, that the observance of Shavuot this week will give them fresh heart as the Royal Commission into antisemitism conducts its hearings.



Prayer of the Faithful

Response: (R)
Lord, hear our prayer



CELEBRANT/LEADER: Dear friends, charged by Jesus to make disciples of all nations, let us pray for the whole world to hear the good news.

READER: For the people of God, that all the baptised will relish their dignity and be inspired with invincible hope. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For the Church, that communities of faith around the world will be instruments of peace and beacons of hope. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For the Sisters of St Joseph, past and present, inspired by the example of Saint Mary MacKillop, that God may bless those continuing their mission and grant eternal peace to those who have gone before us. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For Australia's indigenous peoples, especially those in remote and regional communities, that leaders old and new will strengthen pride in their heritage and confidence in their future. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For one another. May each of us constantly plant seeds of hope and nurture them with patience. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For the sick among our parish community and for all who have sought our prayers, may they find strength comfort, and healing. For those who have recently passed from this life and those whose anniversaries we commemorate at this time. May they be lifted to the glory of the Risen Lord and rest in eternal peace. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For Our Lady's intercession for all our needs and especially for the people in war torn places. We pray **Hail Mary...**

CELEBRANT/LEADER: God of wisdom and Father of glory, you made your Son universal ruler and head of the church. Send us out to proclaim his name. We ask this through Christ our risen Lord. **AMEN**

1. Christ Be Our Light *Bernadette Farrell*

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see. **R**

**Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church
gathered today.**

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. **R**

4. How Great Thou Art *Carl Gustav Boberg*

1. Oh Lord, my God. When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed. **R**

**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

2. When thru the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. **R**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

**We, the Parish of Bombala-Delegate,
acknowledge with deep respect that we stand upon
the traditional lands of
the Bidwell, Ngarigo and Yuin peoples.
We recognise the enduring legacy of their culture,
which continues to enrich
the life and spirit of Australia.**

2. The Fullness of God *Fr Frank Andersen MSC*

1. Deep in Christ I pray you know the power He can give.
 May your hidden self grow strong and may you live,
 Strong in faith and built on love, until you know –
 How high and long, how wide and deep, the fullness of God

2. May the God of Jesus Christ, the Father we serve
 Fill your minds that you may see, deep in your heart
 What hope his call now holds for you,
 His promise true, to fill your hearts with power to live,
 the fullness of God.

3. Open My Eyes, Lord *Jesse Manisuban*

1. Open my eyes, Lord, Help me to see Your face
 Open my eyes, Lord, Help me to see

2. Open my ears, Lord, Help me to hear Your voice
 Open my ears, Lord, Help me to hear

3. Open my heart, Lord, Help me to love like You
 Open my heart, Lord, Help me to love

4. I live within you, Deep in your heart, oh, love
 I live within you, Rest now in me

LOOKING BACK 100 YEARS

Death of a Pioneer Nun - Sister Mary Aloysius Ferricks

Sister Mary Aloysius Ferricks holds a unique place in the history of Delegate, as the only Sister of the Convent to pass away in the town she so faithfully served. On Monday evening, May 17, 1926, Sister Mary Aloysius Ferricks, Superior of St Joseph's Convent, Delegate for the previous four years, passed to her eternal reward at the age of 73, having given 50 years of her life to the Order of St Joseph. Her life was marked by a quiet, steady generosity, always ready to help and always thinking first of others. Those who knew her often spoke of her as one of life's "evergreens", a person whose warmth and friendship never faded, no matter the season. *In good times or in hardship, she remained steadfast, caring, and deeply devoted.*

Even beyond the Catholic community, her influence was deeply felt. On the day before her passing, Rev Mr Morgan, speaking in the Anglican Church in Delegate, paid a glowing tribute to Sister Aloysius and asked his congregation to pray for her as she lay seriously ill. That same evening, Rev Mr Bradley, in the Presbyterian Church at Bombala, described her as the most perfect type of woman he had ever met, and likewise asked for prayers on her behalf. It was a rare and powerful sign of the respect she had earned across all denominations.

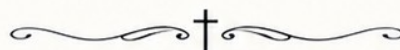
Father John A Roche, speaking at her funeral, reflected on the depth of her vocation. At just 16 years of age, she had given her life to God, entering the Australian Order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Over the next 50 years, she devoted herself with untiring zeal and energy to the education of young Australian children and to the care and uplift of those in need. For many years, Sister Aloysius quietly endured a painful and persistent cough, yet she was never heard to complain. Her concern was always for others. In her final illness, she was attended with great care and devotion, receiving the last Sacraments with deep faith and peace. Her passing was deeply felt throughout Delegate. The schoolchildren she had taught, the families she had supported, and the wider community all mourned her loss. She was not just a teacher or a Sister, but a constant and comforting presence in the life of the town.

On Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, St Joseph's Church in Delegate was unable to accommodate the large crowd that gathered for her Requiem Mass, celebrated by Father Roche. People of all denominations came together to pay their respects, a testament to the life she had lived and the hearts she had touched.

Her funeral reflected the deep respect in which she was held. Schoolchildren and former pupils, wearing black sashes, joined nearly 200 townspeople in following the hearse for two miles out of Delegate towards Bombala. It was a quiet and powerful tribute from a community she had served so faithfully. Later, a Requiem Mass was celebrated in North Sydney before she was laid to rest at Gore Hill Cemetery. Her brother, the Hon Myles Ferricks, travelled from Brisbane to be present at her final farewell.



In the words spoken at her funeral, Sister Aloysius was remembered as a most perfect type of loved and esteemed by all. Her life remains an example of quiet faith, kindness and service, woven into the story of Delegate.



*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.
 May she rest in peace. Amen.*



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



The Ascension of the Lord, Year A

17 May 2026

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

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 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.'

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**

(R.) Alleluia.

- 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.)
- 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.)

- 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

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.

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

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 commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ could have continued to appear to groups of followers, century after century – until now!

But, he didn't, because the disciples had to be weaned of his Risen-mode of appearance among them lest they think that the victory over Death is meant for human beings alone.

But, as St Paul says, the Risen Lord is the One who 'fills all creation' with His power radiating out from his Risen Humanity.

However, dis-appearance is not the same as absence. We believe that Our Risen Lord is present in many modes, including as St Paul says '... the Church which is His Body'.

That is why the figures in white rebuke the disciples: 'Why do you stand looking into Heaven?'

The Disciples had, rather, to ready themselves to be the Spirit-filled body of Jesus Christ in their own time and place. As we do.

We might pause for a moment to stop staring into Heaven, to ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost in order to be 'The Church which is His Body.'

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