

Mary Immaculate Parish

Eagle Vale

Parish Priest: Fr Leo Mifsud OMI

Assistant: Fr. Didier Indibi OMI

Parish Secretary: Mrs Vicki M^cHale

Office: 2 Aquamarine Drive, Eagle Vale 2558

Email: eaglevale@dow.org.au

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9:30 – 3:30

Phone: (02) 4626 3055

Under the care of the Oblate of Mary Immaculate



The Ascension of the Lord

17th May 2026

The Ascension of the Lord.

Fr. Leo Mifsud OMI.

This weekend we celebrate The Ascension of Jesus. Traditionally it is celebrated 40 days after the Resurrection¹. The Scriptures record that in the Jewish tradition, numbers held symbolic meaning beyond the maths, e.g. the number '7' represents 'perfection', or 'divine completion'; 10 representing, divine order and human responsibility, etc. The number '40' appears in the Old and New Testament over 145 times (depending on the translation). The 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert; the 40 days of rain during the Great Flood; the 40 days spent by Moses on Sinai (*Exodus 34:28*); the 40 days spent scouting the Land of Canaan (*Numbers 13:25*); the 40 days of taunting by the giant Goliath, before his defeat (*1 Samuel 17:16*), etc. It often represents a period of testing or judgement after which follows a transition to a new beginning. And this is the meaning of the Ascension. The 40 days before the Ascension can therefore be seen as the concluding preparation for the 'new life' that humanity is about to experience.

A Journey Ends – A New Journey Begins

The 40 days after Easter mark the final stage and culmination of the Paschal Mystery, as Christ returns to the Father to reign in glory, transitioning from a localized physical presence to a universal spiritual presence. This transition marks a completion for Christ, but because he 'ascends' in his physical body it also signifies a new beginning for humanity as Christ exalts humanity in God and tasks the Church with continuing his mission on earth.

From the beginning, at the Epiphany the Magi recognize the presence of divinity in the child, i.e., in his flesh. And again, at the Baptism, which marks the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus' divine nature is attested to, by the Father. In the incarnation Christ doesn't only 'take on' human flesh, like a mantle, no, Christ 'becomes' fully human. As his mission is completed through his death and resurrection, Christ does not discard his humanity but glorifies it, and in so doing he glorifies all humanity.

Christ Glorifies Humanity.

When we speak about the Ascension, we are not describing what has physically taken place, i.e., a figure floating to the sky. We know that heaven is not 'up there'. Christ's ascension is describing 'what has happened to Christ'. His ascension is to be understood more in terms of 'a king ascending a throne'. Not the act of mounting the throne but rather, he inherits the glory and responsibilities that comes with being the one who occupies the throne.

His Ascension doesn't cause an absence, he doesn't 'go away' but change the way he is present—no longer limited by space or time, but present to all people through the Spirit. As St. Catherine of Siena tells us, "All the way to heaven is heaven, because Jesus said, 'I am the way'". It means that because Christ (who is Heaven) is present within the believer, the journey of life—even with its trials—is a present experience of divine union, rather than just a future destination. His ascension indicates that human nature is now brought into the heart of the Trinity.

Coming of Age.

In Acts 1:11, angels appeared during Jesus' ascension and asked, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into the sky?". The angel (messenger from God) is telling them not to dwell on the moment, or indeed on the past, but instead move forward with their mission. The message is that followers are to be active, not just waiting. And there is an immediacy about this message, i.e., do it now. The angel's message is an extension of the final words which Jesus spoke: 'John baptised with water but you, not many days from now will baptise with the Holy Spirit. It marks the "coming of age" for disciples, transferring the mission from Christ's physical ministry to the Church's work in the world.

Think about what the Ascension means for us:

- In preparing the disciples for the Ascension, Jesus promised that he is going to prepare a place for us, in the Father's house, (John 14:2-3). This pledge assures us that heaven is not just our destiny but also our home.
- The Ascension also means a human being, having conquered the forces of darkness, is physically enthroned in heaven, validating humanity's dignity and ensuring that we are represented in God's presence through the intercession of Christ in his humanity.
- In this same promise he added, "I shall return to take you with me, so that where I am you may be too". Jesus speaks of his Second Coming and a reassurance that we too will, one day, ascend to the Father.

¹ The feast was moved to the nearest Sunday in 1992, to allow Catholic to allow those who cannot attend weekdays Masses to observe this important Feast.



Laudato Si' Week (held annually in May, often 17-24 May) is a global Catholic celebration commemorating the anniversary of Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical on climate change and ecology, "On Care for Our Common Home". It focuses on prayer, reflection, and taking "one step" of action to protect creation and support the poor.

EUCCHARISTIC FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

Join the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation for Rediscover the Real Presence, a **FREE four-part Zoom series** exploring Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. Three sessions feature a FORMED.org video series, with a final deep dive into the riches of the Church's teaching on the Eucharist. Each session includes opportunities to reflect on the content and to connect with other participants. This series is a great means to assist you in your journey towards the International Eucharistic Congress 2028.

The series will run on Zoom Tuesdays, 7:00–8:15pm, from 26 May to 16 June.

Register here: tinyurl.com/RRPZoomSeries

22nd MAY MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 6.30AM – 8.00AM

Speaker: Ben Galea, Chief Operating Officer for the International Eucharistic Congress.

Topic: Historic Eucharistic Congress 2028 at Xavier Conference Centre, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong

Join other men for a morning of breakfast, prayer and inspiring input.

Be inspired and strengthened as you connect with others seeking to live as authentic disciples on mission.

Cost is just \$20. **Book here** dow.sh/MPB26 by Tuesday 19 May

13th June "Ephphatha: Be Opened!" - Calling young men 18-35 years old

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is always calling us to life, and life to the full – the challenge for us is to be open to listening for his quiet voice in our lives. Becoming more open to the voice of the Good Shepherd in the big and small decisions of life – Marriage; Priesthood; Religious life?

"Good Shepherd Sunday" is also "the World Day of Prayer for Vocations".

We take this opportunity to invite all unmarried young men aged 18-35 who are open to discerning God's call in their lives to join Bishop Brian Mascord, the priests of the Vocations Team and our Seminarians for lunch, formation, Q&A, one to one chats and Adoration. Register as soon as you can!

Where: St Therese Parish, 2 Powell Street West Wollongong

When: Saturday 13th June, 12:30pm for 1pm lunch

Cost: Free, but registration is essential – go to dow.sh/Ephphatha

14 June 2026 OneSydney | Together in Christ - A Historic Celebration as One

Sydney Opera House (Concert Hall) You are invited to be part of an ecumenical evening of prayer and unity.

Christians from all denominations will gather as one on Australia's most iconic stage — the Sydney Opera House.

The programme includes Dr Mary Healy, Matt Maher,

Fr Rob Galea, and many more. Scan the QR code for information and to register

19-21 June Marriage Enrichment Weekend



Join us and join us on at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW –

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419

nswbookings@wwme.org.au

Saturday 27th June - "Gardens" Retreat Day

"Grieve not as those who have no hope..." 1 Thess 4:13.

Spend a day reflecting on how while we experience pain, grief and loss in life, we can also discover in such moments that God is renewing us and doing "a new thing" (Rev 21:4) within us. The day will begin with mass at 9am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish, Varroville and end at 4pm. Afternoon & morning tea provided. BYO Lunch Cost: \$25

Please rsvp at <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBD> or contact us on 0402 602 520.

Introductory 40 Hour Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

Interested in growing your capacity to be fully present to others?

An Introductory 40 Hour Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course is being offered online via Zoom and would be suitable for kind and caring people wanting to learn more about providing holistic spiritual and pastoral care to patients in hospital, residents in aged care facilities, attendees at school or people in the parish.

Applications are currently being taken for this 40-hour course commencing on Thursday, 18 June 2026, comprising 6 sessions ending on 23 July 2026. Times are 9.30 am to 4 pm. Dates are June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, and 23.

For more information about this course and future courses please contact

Carmen Karauda at ckarauda@gmail.com or phone: 0419 430 676

Consider becoming Foster Carers

Could you open your heart and home to a child in need? There is an urgent!

Foster carers receive comprehensive training, regular case worker support, and a carer allowance for the child day-to-day needs.

Come talk to us; Call: 1800 967 894 **Email:** fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au

27th June Praying Icons with Julian of Norwich - (Day Retreat)

Join us for a contemplative day exploring the rich intersection of iconography and Julian of Norwich's Revelations of Divine Love.
Retreat Cost: \$60 (*Limited space available*)

Jamberoo Abbey Retreats Go to our website for more information and how to register. We would like to enable as many people to attend our retreats. If you require assistance with the registration cost, please don't hesitate to contact us at onlineretreat@jamberooabbey.org.au.



WINTER PROGRAM 7-10 JULY

A 4-day residential to experience uni-life at **Campion Collage** – sample lectures, conversations with current students, shared meals and time to connect with like-minded peers.

Learn more and register: www.campion.edu.au/events

AROUND THE PARISH

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES. - Tuesday, May 19th in the Parish Hall at 7:00pm

To parents / caregivers of the children making their First Communion in June.

Please note: the 2nd sessions for Parents will be held Tuesday, **May 19th in the Parish Hall at 7:00pm**

As this is an extremely important Sacrament, in our Catholic lives, these sessions are compulsory.

Check out the parish webpage mipeaglevale.org.

SOULFIT SISTERS — stay tuned and regulars please check what's app for upcoming events

Men's Group (FRESHMEN) TUESDAY 19th May

An invitation for all men to come, join us for a night of fellowship.

BYO, snacks and drink to share. **WHERE:** At the presbytery, on 2 Aquamarine Drive, Eagle Vale

For more information contact the parish office (46243055) or Fr Leo or Fr Didier



21 May to 8 July 2026 The Gospel of Luke:

Thursdays 6:45 pm – 9pm,

in the Parish Hall - Register after the Weekend Masses

This is not your usual "watch a video and share" setup. This is something deeper. It's not just about information, it's also about discipleship. We'll journey through the Gospel of Luke together with daily readings and personal reflection.

It's about living out the Word in real, practical ways. Ready to move beyond routine and take your faith to the next level?

23rd May Saturday After the 5:30pm Vigil

In honour of the month of May we will gather to pray the Rosary at the Statue of Our Lady after the 5:30pm Vigil Mass - Bring a Candle



6th & 7th June. The Feast of Corpus Christi The International Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

- The display will be in the Parish Hall all weekend - Audio and Visual display
- On Sunday there will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament
- Time of private Adoration and prayer. - Benediction
- Youth Mass



If you would like to volunteer to help with the day please sign the clipboard after Mass

24th July - Parish Bush Dance

CLAIM THE DATE:

Friday 24th July 7.00pm

BY POPULAR DEMAND. - CEILIDH BUSH DANCE



CAN YOU HELP?

Can you spare some time to help our team of gardeners, mow the lawns around the Church?

Please contact the Parish office 4626 3055.



Shawn Pizarro
Licenced Plumber & Gasfitter

0466 798 173

shawn@kaliburplumbing.com

ABN 84 625 361 421
Licence no. 391335C

PLEASE PRAY FOR-

THE SICK: Lourdes Collaco, Rhonda McKelvey, Irwin Emmanuel, Phillip Whitehouse, Willow Morrison, Lisa Farnhill, Adrian Banks, Christine Debski, Ana Villagonzalo, Pinky and Evelyn Arenas, Lachlan Abood, Charbel Aziz, Margaret Roberts.

THE DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Eileen Butcher** who died recently, and for **Carlo Agostina, Manuel Nascimento, Carmen Caruana, Ken Thackeray, Esperanca Duarte, Joan Cooper, Bernadette Taeloa Snr** whose anniversaries occur at this time and all Holy Souls. May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

Pope Leo's monthly intention for 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.

MASS INTENTIONS 16th – 23rd May. 2026

Sat Vigil 7:30pm	For the past, present and future members of the Legion of Mary
SUN 8.30am	For the soul of Carlo Agostina
10.00am	For the anniversary of death of Manuel Nascimento
5:30pm	For the people of the parish (Pro Populo)
Mon. 9.00am	For the soul of Carmen Caruana
Tues. 9.00am	For the soul of Eileen Butcher (recently deceased)
Wed. 7:30 PM	For the soul of Ken Thackeray (anniversary)
Thur. 9:00am	For the birthday anniversary of Esperanca Duarte deceased
Fri. 9:00am	For the anniversary of death of Joan Cooper
Sat. 9:30am	For the soul of Bernadette Taeloa Snr (anniversary)

Ministers for weekend 23rd / 24th May

Saturday 5.30pm		
Acolyte:	Robert Squires	
E. Minister:	Anne Sheldrick	
Readers:	1. Julian Rookes	2. Veronica Roson
Sunday 8.30am		
Acolyte:	Michael Arthur	
E. Minister:	Bernedette Peiris	
Readers:	1. Lynne Duffield	Kirsty Simpson 2. Tamara Neilsen
Sunday 10.00am		
Acolyte:	Lafi Tuigamala	
E. Minister:	Emili Taeloa	
Readers:	1. Youth Group	Ann Webb 2. Youth Group
Sunday 5.30pm		
Acolyte:	Thomas Philippe	
E. Minister:	Sol Taylor	
Readers:	1. Aishwarja Jacob	2. Con Vink

<p>WEEKEND MASSES Saturday Vigil 5:30pm Sunday 8:30am 10:00am 5:30pm.</p> <p>WEEKDAY MASSES Mon & Tue: 9:00am / Wednesday: 7:30 pm Thurs. & Fri 9:00am / Saturday: 9:30am FILIPINO MASS – 2nd Sunday- 4:00pm. HOLY HOUR First Saturday will NOT be held on the 4th April.</p>	<p>RECONCILIATIONS: Saturday 10:00am to 11:00am (with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)</p> <p>DEVOTIONAL TIMES ROSARY: BEFORE the weekday Masses. DIVINE MERCY Chaplet- Fridays after 9am Mass First Fridays – with Benediction Meetings - 4th Friday @ 6.30pm (in Madigan room)</p>
<p>BAPTISMS by appointment.</p>	



Habib Ataya
Houseproud Cleaning, Glen Alpine

M 0405 712 935 T 1300 880 198
E glenalpine@houseproud.com.au

ABN 28 436 847 374
www.houseproud.com.au



Marianne & Mark Nader

Phone: 02 4620 4014
Mobile: 0425 322 650

3/11 Blaxland Serviceway
Campbelltown 2560
Behind Bob Jane

ccblinds.com.au
@cobbcoblindscoblinds
Cobb & Co Blinds



Kenneally's Funerals

Gerald Kenneally J.P.
Mob: 0418 221 054

gerald@kenneallysfunerals.com.au

100% Australian Family Owned & Operated



Rosemary De Rauwe
Skin Care Clinic

Beauty Therapist & Electrologist
Reflexologist & Paramedical
Dermal Aestheician
Serving Macarthur since 1979

0475889943



L&L Lawn & Garden Services

- ✓ LAWN MOWING
- ✓ GARDEN YARD MAINTENANCE
- ✓ HEDGE TRIMMING
- ✓ GARDEN CLEAN UPS

RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND FRIENDLY LAWN & GARDEN CARE — ONE-TIME TIDY-UPS OR ONGOING SERVICE TO KEEP YOUR OUTDOORS LOOKING GREAT.

CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE

EDWIN -0435 716 156
LL.LAWNGARDENSERVICES@GMAIL.COM