



The Ascension of the Lord by Francisco Bayeu y Subías (Spanish, 1734–1795), oil on canvas, 1769, Museo del Prado, Madrid, public domain.

In this painting, Bayeu portrays the moment when the risen Christ is taken up into heaven, blessing his disciples as he is enveloped in light and cloud.

The Lord's body is lifted, yet his gaze and outstretched hands remain turned toward the small group below, gathering them into a new kind of closeness that no longer depends on sight but on faith. Around him, the apostles look upward with awe and questioning, their gestures a mingling of worship, bewilderment and dawning hope.

The painting gives visual form to today's readings, in which Jesus is "lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight," even as he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit. The apparent absence of Christ becomes, in God's plan, the beginning of a wider presence: the Lord who ascends is the same Lord who fills all things, who remains with his Church in word and sacrament, and who will come again in glory. His blessing from on high sends the disciples back into the city, no longer to cling to him as before, but to wait in prayer and to bear witness "to the ends of the earth."

For us, Bayeu's image is both reassurance and commission. We are those disciples, still learning to live between Ascension and Pentecost, between the promise given and its full unfolding. The Lord's raised hand reminds us that our true homeland is with him at the Father's right hand, while the circle of figures below calls us to persevere together in prayer, to receive the Holy Spirit's power, and to let our lives point beyond this world to the hope of the world to come. Strengthened by the Blessed Eucharist, we are sent out into our city as witnesses that Christ is not gone, but lives and reigns, drawing all things to himself.

SUNDAY 17 MAY 2026 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Monday 18 May 2026 Monday of the 7th Week of Easter, St John I, Pope, Martyr (OM)

Tuesday 19 May 2026 Tuesday of the 7th Week of Easter

Wednesday 20 May 2026 Wednesday of the 7th Week of Easter, St Bernardine of Siena, Priest (OM)

Thursday 21 May 2026 Thursday of the 7th Week of Easter, Sts Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs (OM)

Friday 22 May 2026 Friday of the 7th Week of Easter, St Rita of Cascia, Religious (OM)

Saturday 23 May 2026 Saturday of the 7th Week of Easter

SUNDAY 24 MAY 2026 PENTECOST SUNDAY

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please remember in your prayers, our deceased brethren having anniversaries this week and those for whom Mass intentions have been sought.

COLUMBARIUM MASS INTENTIONS

17 May 2019 Kevin Walsh — niche 65

20 May 2011 Kim Sharwood — niche 51

20 May 2024 Keith Philip Robinson — niche 10

22 May 2024 Thomas Gregory Parry — niche 45

23 May 2010 Ronald George White — niche 94

23 May 2017 Anne Josephine Hocking — niche 35

24 May 1956 Isabella Halliday Alison — niche 90

OTHER MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Fr Michael Stoney SJ, Bev Heazlett, Fr David Charles Taylor

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen

Sick Pamela Shaughnessy

Lord Jesus, healer of body and spirit, look with mercy on all who are sick or in pain. Give them courage in suffering and trust that you are close to them. Strengthen those who care for them and grant healing, peace and hope. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS

Holy Baptism Holy Baptism is celebrated in St Canice's Church on the third Sunday of each month after the 10.00am Mass

Holy Matrimony To arrange, kindly contact the Parish Hub

MASS INTENTIONS AND COLUMBARIUM

To request the offering of Mass for any intention, or make a Columbarium enquiry, application or inurnment appointment, please use the Parish Hub QR Code (page 2)

CURIOUS GRACE — SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

Each First Sunday of the month from 11.00am to 1.00pm, Curious Grace gathers at the front of St Canice's Church for generous hospitality, morning tea, creative activities and good conversation. **All are welcome - come as you are, stay as long as you like.**

CONTACTING THE PARISH HUB

To contact St Canice's about:

- Anointing of the sick
- Deceased anniversaries
- Mass intentions
- David's Place / Curious Grace
- St Canice's Kitchen and Op Shop
- Colombière Social Enterprises
- General Inquiries



Please scan the Parish Hub QR code

SOMETHING ITALIAN COURTYARD: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The residency of *Something Italian Courtyard* has now concluded. St Canice's Parish and Father David would like to sincerely acknowledge and thank the hundreds of parishioners and community members who supported the events, and especially Maurice Tertzi, John Lanzafame and the volunteer staff, who made this experiment in community building a success.

ST CANICE'S KITCHEN — VOLUNTEERS

Six mornings a week, Monday to Saturday from 9.30am to 12.00pm, St Canice's Kitchen serves a warm breakfast and a place of welcome to disadvantaged and lonely members of our community. Volunteers are always needed in the dining room, kitchen and Op Shop - even occasionally. Please contact the Parish Hub. **All gifts of time and skill are gratefully received.**

SIGN UP FOR THE ST CANICE'S PARISH BULLETIN

Stay connected and informed with all the latest parish news, events and Mass times by subscribing to our weekly bulletin. We encourage ALL parishioners and visitors to sign up - receive updates direct to your inbox and never miss important announcements.

Simply scan the QR code to join our mailing list.



HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE HOUSEBOUND

If you, or someone you know, is unable to attend Mass due to age, illness, or injury and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, **please contact Stephen Fulham at +61 411 626 262.**

PARISH IMMERSION VISIT TO TIMOR-LESTE — BOOKINGS OPENING SOON

This 6-day program will take useach day from Dili to our sister parish at Railaco and nearby villages, visiting NOSSEF school, the mobile medical clinic, nutrition program and important historic sites. **Departs 29 August 2026 - returns 4 September 2026. Please contact our Railaco coordinators, Barbara and Malcolm, at railaco@stcanice.org.au.**

MASSES & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Holy Mass

Sunday 8:30 am and 10:00 am

Tuesday to Friday 8:00 am (No Mass at St Canice's Church on Monday)

Monday at Lulworth House (Activity Room 2 North) 10:30 am

Saturday 9:00 am and 6:00 pm (Vigil Mass)

Penance (Reconciliation) Sunday 9:30 am

Holy Baptism Each third Sunday of the month after 10:00 am Mass

Holy Matrimony By appointment

Funerals By appointment

DEVOTIONS

Holy Rosary

After Weekday Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of the Month 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

PARISH TEAM

Clergy

Fr Dave Braithwaite SJ Parish Priest

E: pp@stcanice.org.au

Fr Dave Ryan SJ Assistant Priest

E: dave.ryan@stcanice.org.au

Parish Hub

Tuesday to Thursday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

E: contactus@stcanice.org.au

T: +61 2 9358 5229

W: www.stcanice.org.au

Street Address: 24 Roslyn Street, Elizabeth Bay NSW 2011

'EVERY STEP TOGETHER' WITH RAILACO

Railaco coordinators Barbara and Malcolm recently visited our sister parish in Timor-Leste where they saw how small steps lead to important progress. 'Every step together' will therefore become the theme for this year's Railaco/St Ignatius' Day fundraiser. Tax-deductible donations can be made through the QR code or jesuitmission.org.au/donate-railaco/.



HOLY FATHER'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK MAY 2026

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.

www.popesprayer.va

STAY CONNECTED WITH ST CANICE'S

Visit our website at www.stcanice.org.au for Mass times, sacramental information, news and the full calendar of parish events. You can also follow us on Facebook to keep in touch with the life of our community throughout the week. <https://www.facebook.com/stcanices>



UPCOMING EVENTS

16 May 2026 to 19 July 2026 Sistine Chapel

Revelations St Mary's Cathedral (see below right)

Tuesday 19 May 2026 5:00pm–6:00pm David's Place
Group Prayer St Canice's

Thursday 21 May 2026, 10:30am–1:00pm Yarn
Knitting and Crochet Group Great Hall, St Canice's

Saturday 23 May 2026 8:30am–3:00pm Women's
Discernment Day Retreat (ages 18–35) St Martha's,
Leichhardt (see below right)

Wednesday 27 May 2026 5:30pm–7:30pm May the Month
of Mary Mass St Canice's Church

Friday 5 June 2026 6:00–7:00pm Adoration of the
Blesses Sacrament St Canice's Church

Sunday 7 June 2026 11:00am–1:00pm Curious
Grace Sunday Outside St Canice's Church

Wednesday 10 June 2026 7:30pm Bangarra Dance
Theatre - "Sheltering" at Sydney Opera House - see
notice on page 1

Thursday 9 July 2026 – 24 July 2026 The Lion
Pilgrimage 2026

DIDASKŌ FAITH FORMATION – THE EUCHARIST IN SCRIPTURE MONDAY 18 MAY 2026, 7:30PM– 8:45PM (VIA ZOOM)

The Archdiocesan Parish Renewal Team is offering a three-part online course, "The Eucharist in Scripture" is presented by Dr Mario Baghos and draws on the Old Testament Passover, the Gospels, Acts and St Paul, the course explores how Christ gives us the Eucharist at the Last Supper and how the early Church understood this mystery.

Join via Zoom; <https://calendar.sydneycatholic.org>

YARN KNITTING AND CROCHET GROUP

Thursday 21 May 2026, 10:30am–1:00pm - Great
Hall, St Canice's

Join a friendly group meeting regularly to knit and crochet for people in need and to support the mission of St Canice's. The morning begins at 10.30am in the church hall with tea, conversation and plenty of laughter, followed by time to share creativity and skills. No experience is necessary. All are welcome to come along, stay for as long as you can.

THE LION PILGRIMAGE 2026 - THURSDAY 9 JULY 2026 - THURSDAY 23 JULY 2026 · ITALY

The Lion Pilgrimage invites emerging Catholic leaders to travel through Italy in faith, friendship and formation, reflecting on Christian service in public and political life. Taking its name from Pope Leo XIII, the pilgrimage includes Mesero, Turin, Florence, Siena, Assisi and Rome, with Daily Mass, priestly chaplaincy, sacred history, culture and time for prayer. **Applications may be submitted to Bishop Anthony Percy and Francine Pirola via the details listed at www.thelionpilgrimage.com**

PENTECOST SUNDAY: "RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT"

On Pentecost Sunday the Church celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, gathered in prayer with Blessed Mary in the upper room. The rushing wind and tongues of fire mark the beginning of the Church's mission, as fearful disciples are transformed into bold witnesses who proclaim Christ in every language. In every Mass, this same Holy Spirit is invoked to renew the face of the earth, to unite believers from every people and nation and to kindle in hearts the gifts of wisdom, courage and love, and to equip us forth as missionary disciples in the world.

Commemorating May the Month of Mary



**"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your
womb!" (Luke 1:42)**

On Wednesday, May 27, we will
gather in the Chapel of Our Lady
5:30 PM – Adoration

7:00 PM – Holy Mass

After mass, there will be a dinner for young adults.

ST CANICE'S RESTORATION APPEAL

St Canice's is undertaking a Restoration Appeal to preserve and enhance our beautiful church for generations to come. This project focuses on careful repair and renewal of key heritage elements, ensuring that our church remains safe, welcoming and spiritually uplifting for all who gather here. Parishioners are invited to support the appeal through one-off or regular donations according to their means. Every contribution - large or small - makes a real difference to the ongoing care of our parish church and its mission. **To learn more about the Restoration Appeal or to make a donation, please scan the QR Code.**



SISTINE CHAPEL: REVELATIONS - ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL- 16 MAY 2026 TO 19 JULY 2026

This winter, St Mary's Cathedral forecourt will host **Sistine Chapel: Revelations**, a world-first immersive exhibition created with the permission of the Vatican Museums. From 16 May to 19 July 2026, visitors will step inside a purpose-built space where Michelangelo's frescoes are recreated at full scale using ultra high-resolution imagery, 360-degree projection and rich audio commentary. **For details and bookings, visit www.sistinechapelsydney.com.au.**

WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT DAY RETREAT (AGES 18–35) SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026 8:30am–3:00pm · ST MARTHA'S, LEICHHARDT

Sydney Vocations invites young women aged 18–35 who are discerning the consecrated life to a day of prayer, conversation and encounter with Christ.

The retreat includes time in Adoration, talks from women in consecrated life, guided meditation and personal prayer.

Location: **St Martha's, 38 Renwick Street, Leichhardt.**
Cost \$30. Register at www.sydneyvocations.org.

THIS SUNDAY'S SACRED SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: Acts 1:1–11 They were watching and he was lifted up

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 46(47) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17–23 He has put all things under his feet

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 28:19, 20 Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world

Gospel: Matthew 28:16–20 All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me

The Church urges us to listen to the proclamation of the Word of God "with reverence and silence, as Christ himself speaks to his people"(GIRM 29). All are encouraged to open the eyes and ears of their hearts to the sacred readings.

SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY BE SEARCHING

Many people begin exploring the Catholic faith because a friend or family member extended a simple invitation. As we celebrate this Sixth Sunday of Easter, think of someone in your life who might be quietly searching. If you know someone who has wondered what it means to become Catholic, the Archdiocese of Sydney has released a short video walking through the process, simply and clearly, with stories from people who have made that journey. This Easter season is a beautiful time for them to explore. **Share the Archdiocese of Sydney's new RCIA video with them: www.rcia.org.au.**

A MAY PRAYER TO OUR LADY - SUB TUUM PRAESIDIUM (UNDER THY PROTECTION)

May has long been cherished by Catholics as a month specially dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In this Easter season, we turn to Our Lady Mary with renewed confidence, asking her to lead us more deeply into the joy of her risen Son. As Mother of the Church, Mary remains close to all who seek Christ. We therefore implore her intercession for our parish, our families, the sick, the lonely, and all who are in any need or danger.

**We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God.
Despise not our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.**

FURNISHING OUR PARISH HOUSE

Thanks to the enthusiasm for Fr David's residence for young men seeking to deepen their faith, the house is growing, with two rooms being added to welcome more members to the community. To furnish these rooms, we are seeking generous donations of secondhand furniture in good condition. Items needed include two single bed frames, two desks, a wardrobe, and a mini fridge with freezer.

If you have any of these items to donate, please contact Fr Dave or email contactus@stcanice.org.au.

MEDITATION FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place" (Acts 2:1).

On Pentecost Sunday, the Church kneels again in that upper room where fear has kept the disciples behind locked doors. Into this closed and anxious space, God sends not a gentle breeze but a rushing wind, not a timid spark but tongues of fire. The same Jesus who once breathed peace upon his friends now pours out the fullness of the Holy Spirit, so that his Easter victory may take flesh in a people set ablaze with love.

The First Reading shows us this transformation with startling clarity. The disciples begin the day small, hidden and unsure; by its end they stand before the nations, proclaiming "the mighty works of God" in every tongue under heaven. The Holy Spirit does not erase their diversity of language, culture or story. Rather, he makes that very diversity the place of unity, the means by which the one Gospel can be heard by every heart. Where sin had once scattered and confused, Pentecost gathers and reconciles.

St Paul reminds the Corinthians that this same Spirit is the source of every gift in the Church. There are varieties of services and forms of mission, but it is one Lord who sends, one God who inspires, one Spirit who moves through all. No charism is given for private glory; each exists "for the common good," so that the Body of Christ may be built up in love. The Holy Spirit who descended as fire now works in quieter ways: in patience, in fidelity, in the long, steady labour of ordinary Christian life.

In the Gospel, the risen Lord stands among his disciples, breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit." The gift of the Spirit is inseparable from mercy: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." The Church is born not as a triumphant institution, but as a community entrusted with reconciliation, sent into a wounded world with the authority to heal, restore and bring back those who have gone astray. To live Pentecost is to let the breath of Christ pass through our own words and actions, so that others may find the courage to begin again.

For us, Pentecost is both comfort and summons. In a city marked by many languages, cultures and histories, the Holy Spirit is already at work drawing neighbours toward one another, and drawing each of us more deeply into the heart of Christ. The gifts present in our little parish - hospitality, service to the poor, prayerful stillness, generous creativity - are not accidental. They are intended to be signs of what the Holy Spirit desires to do among us - if we let him have his way.

Come, Holy Spirit, Lord and Life-giver. Fall afresh upon us all; renew the hearts that have grown weary, kindle in us the fire of your love, and make our community a place where every gift is welcomed and placed at the service of the Gospel. Send us out into our city as joyful witnesses, speaking in words and deeds that each person can understand, so that all may know they are called, forgiven and loved. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SINGERS & MUSICIANS WANTED

Do you sing, play an instrument or simply love sacred music? St Canice's warmly invites singers and musicians of all abilities to help build up the choral and musical life of our community. No professional training is required - what matters is a generous heart and a willingness to offer your gifts for the glory of God. Whether you read music or sing by ear, you are most welcome here.

If you are interested, please contact Dominic at bulletin@stcanice.org.au.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you - or anyone you know - have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at +61 2 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese of Sydney has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.