

21st May, The Ascension of the Lord Year A

TEMORA MISSION AREA

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Ardlethan/Sacred Heart Aria Park

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St Therese Barellan

In our Prayers: Jack Wood, Alicia Bonny, Jim Bonny, Barry Carroll, Neville Calow, Kashaya Kuemmel,

For our Deceased: Garry Gillett, Joan Cox, Lloyd Trevaskis, Jan Trevaskis, Penny Vince, Ian Bonny, (*anniversaries*)

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May 27—28 Aria Park 6.00 p.m.

Mass Temora 10.00 a.m.

Liturgy Ardlethan 9.00 a.m. Barellan 10.00 a.m.

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Reflection

I am with you always. When Christ ascended into heaven he did not abandon his disciples. Matthew’s Gospel begins with the angel’s words that Jesus will be called Emmanuel, which means God-is-with-us, and it ends with Jesus’ promise: *‘Know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.’* Emmanuel is with us all the time; we are reminded also for *‘where two or three are gathered in my name, I shall be there with them.’*

Laudato Si’ Week 2023

The theme for this year’s Laudato Si week, 16-24 May, is *Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity*. The Archdiocese will launch its draft Laudato Si action plan at 11am Sunday Mass in the Cathedral on 21-May (*streamed live at and recorded at <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>*). The draft Laudato Si action plan is at <https://cgatholic.org.au/services-directory/caring-for-creation/> and aims to encourage and enable action plans by parishes, schools and other bodies. With consultation (LaudatoSiACT@gmail.com) the draft Plan will be finalised in September 2023 (*for Season of Creation*) and will be reviewed regularly.

Reconciliation Week will commence on Saturday 27 May.

Sorry Day 26 May

“Every year on 26 May, National Sorry Day remembers and acknowledges the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, which we now know as *‘The Stolen Generations’*. National Sorry Day is a day to acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generations Survivors and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation. While this date carries great significance for the Stolen Generations and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, it is also commemorated by Australians right around the country.”

Our Lady Help of Christians

This week, as we celebrate the feast of Mary Help of Christians, Patroness of our Parish and our country, let us ask Mary to intercede for all of us: *Loving God, you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary, help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

It is not insignificant that Mary, Queen of Peace, is also Mary of Nazareth and not Mary of Jerusalem, or Mary of Caesarea. The most significant woman of all time came from one of the area’s most insignificant of places. Mary made nothingness visible. It takes a lot of human growing to find value in the valueless—in small places and simple things and powerless people. But that is the basis for peace, both inside of us and in the world around us.

Sr Joan Chittister osb

National Palliative Care Week (21 – 27 May)

“National Palliative Care Week on is Australia’s largest annual awareness-raising initiative to increase understanding of the valuable contribution Palliative Care can make to the lives of people with a life-limiting illness and their families. The theme of this year’s National Palliative Care Week (NPCW); is *“Matters of Life and Death”* which acknowledges the contribution palliative care can make to a persons’ quality of life but also aims to normalise conversations about topics like death and dying. NPCW seeks to broaden the community’s perceptions, understanding and appreciation of palliative care and its role in supporting the physical, emotional, spiritual, social and cultural needs of people living with a life-limiting illness, their families and their care team.”

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/health/fwlhd/media-releases/national-palliative-care-week-21-27-may-2023-fwlhd>

Reflection

“Whether we realise it or not we are commissioned to go out to the world at the end of every liturgy, *‘Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.’* This changes our worship. We are not here just for ourselves. Mass, which comes from a word meaning *‘to be sent’*, indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world in and through us, and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish.

Finally, we continue to experience the abiding presence of Christ in our daily lives or else we wouldn’t be here. God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is not distant to our lives or impervious to our needs; we believe in a Companion-God who seeks our company as much as we need his.” **Fr Richard Leonard sj**

Drapes

Next weekend we will celebrate the feast of Pentecost. Thank you for changing the drapes to red after our Mass today.

As we prepare for the great feast of Pentecost may you experience the loving presence of Holy Spirit ever deeper in your heart.

Roster 28 May

Leader: Suzanne

Reader: Ian

Minister: Bruce