



## May, the Holy Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a tradition that dates back at least 700 years.

One reason given for the choice of May is the particular season in which it falls (at least in the Northern Hemisphere where the tradition began). The springtime beauty with its flowers and blossoms brings to

mind the idea of promise and hope. In his *Meditations and Devotions*, St John Henry Newman writes: ‘The first reason is because it is the time when the earth bursts forth into its fresh foliage and its green grass after the stern frost and snow of winter and the raw atmosphere and the wild wind and rain of the early spring. It is because the blossoms are upon the trees and the flowers are in the gardens. It is because the days have got long, and the sun rises early and sets late. For such gladness and joyousness of external Nature is a fit attendant on our devotion to her who is the Mystical Rose and the House of Gold.’ Further on, he admits that May is sometimes a rainy, cool month. However, it always remains a month of promise and hope, the prelude to summer, the season of light. It is in this sense that it represents Mary. She reflects the light of Christ.

Another reason given is the historical association of May with the beginning of new life and motherhood in nature. Christians therefore adopted May as the month of our Lady, the Mother of God and our heavenly Mother. She brought life into the world by giving birth to her Son, Jesus, Who brought about a new spring.

Finally, May is normally part of the Easter season. It is a fitting time to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, to recall her unique role in God’s plan of salvation and in His holy Church, to remember her intense joy over her Son’s Resurrection, the motherly comfort and guidance she gave to the Apostles, and her presence at the birth of Christ’s Church. Holy Scripture confirms that she prayed with the Apostles in the upper room as they waited for the descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14). Pope Benedict XVI stated in his Sunday address on 1 May 2006: ‘In the days that followed the Lord’s resurrection, the Apostles remained gathered together, comforted by the presence of Mary and, after the Ascension, persevered with her in prayer, awaiting Pentecost. The Virgin was for them mother and teacher, a role she continues to carry out for Christians of all times. Every year, during Eastertide, we live this experience more intensely and, perhaps, precisely for this reason, popular tradition has consecrated the month of May, which normally falls between Easter and Pentecost, to Mary.’

## A reflection by the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J Sheen

‘This is My commandment, that you should love One another, as I have loved you. This is the greatest love a man can show, that he should lay down his life for his friends.’ (John 15:13 )

Love is the normal relation of branches to one another, because all are rooted in the vine. There were to be no limits to His love. Peter once set a limit to love when he asked how many times he should forgive. Was it seven? Our Lord told him seventy times seven, which implied infinity and denied any mathematical calculation. There are to be no limits to their mutual love, for they must all ask themselves, what was the limit of His love? He had no limit, for He came to lay down His life.

Here again He spoke of the purpose of His coming, namely, Redemption. The Cross is foremost. The voluntary character of it is emphasised when He said that He laid down His life; no one takes it away. His love would be like the heat of the sun: those who were nearest to it would be warm and happy; those who were farthest away would still know its light.

Only through death for others could He show love. His death would not be like the death of one man out of love for another, or like a soldier for his country, because the man who saves others must die eventually anyway. However great the sacrifice, it would be a premature payment of a debt that had to be paid. But in the case of Our Saviour, He need not have died at all. No one could take away His life from Him. Though He called those for whom He died ‘friends,’ the friendship was all on His side and not on ours, for as sinners we were enemies. John later on expressed it well when he said that He died for us while we were yet sinners.

Sinners can show a love for one another by taking the punishment which another deserves. But Our Blessed Lord was not only taking the punishment but also taking the guilt as if it were His own. Furthermore, this death that He was about to die would be quite different from the death of martyrs for His cause, since they have the example of His death and the expectancy of the glory which He promised. But to die upon the Cross without a pitying eye, to be surrounded by a multitude who mocked Him, and to die without being obliged to die—such was the peak of love. The Apostles could not understand such depths of affection, but they would later on.

John would paraphrase what he heard that night, as he leaned against the heart of Christ: ‘God has proved His love to us by laying down His life for our sakes; We too must be ready to lay down our lives for the sake of our brethren.’ (I John 3:16)

(Life of Christ)



## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR B 5 MAY 2024



“Since God is perfect in loving man, man must be perfect in loving his neighbour.”

- St Vincent Pallotti

**Entrance Antiphon:** Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed His people, alleluia.

**First Reading** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. ‘Stand up,’ he said, ‘I am only a man after all!’

Then Peter addressed them: ‘The truth I have no come to realise,’ he said, ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to Him.’

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, ‘Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?’ He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 97:1-4

**R: The Lord has revealed to the nations His saving power.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for He has worked wonders. His right hand and His holy arm have brought salvation. **R.**
2. The Lord has made known His salvation; has shown His justice to the nations. He has remembered His truth and love for the House of Israel. **R.**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **R.**

**Second Reading** 1 John 4:7-10

**A reading from the first Letter of St John**

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God’s love for us was revealed when God sent into the world His only Son so that we could have life through Him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God’s love for us when He sent His Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** John 14:23

**Alleluia, alleluia!** All who love Me will keep My words, and My Father will love them and We will come to them. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel** John 15:9-17

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus said to His disciples: ‘As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Remain in My love. If you keep My commandments you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is My commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master’s business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from My Father. You did not choose Me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask Him in My name. What I command you is to love one another.

◆ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon:** If you love Me, keep My commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and He will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

**Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible**







# Sacred Heart Parish Church

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year B

May 5th, 2024

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Website: [www.sacredheartinverell.org.au](http://www.sacredheartinverell.org.au)  
Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell  
Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
Monday 6 May & Friday 10 May - 8am to 1pm  
Tuesday 7 April - 8am to 12pm  
**Administrator:** Fr Paul Chandler  
**PPC Chair:** Mr David McMahon  
**Holy Trinity Principal:** Mrs Jillian Rainger  
**Parish Secretary:** Peter Turner



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**We pray for:** Repose of the souls of: Angelino Migheli (anniversary); all those in Purgatory.

### the Recently Deceased:

Patrick McCormack, Richard Noonan, Betty Crawford, John McLean, Elizabeth Constable, Patricia Traves, Roma Fenwick, Fr Javier Sánchez, Brian Kneipp, June Saint, Carmel Hooper, Bill Blyth.

### the sick:

Charlie McGregor, Princess Catherine, Danielle Irwin, Sue Barwick, King Charles III, Bob McGuire, Robert Sanders, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Jeanette Keightley, Phillip Matthews, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, Paula Lennon, Danny Dickins, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, Clare Lockwood, Margaret Kahler, and all the sick members of our parish.

### PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

**1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)**

BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550

Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

**2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses**

BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

**Planned Giving Program:** If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

## MAY - THE HOLY MONTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### MONDAY 6th

Monday of the 6th week of Easter

**No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm**

### TUESDAY 7th

Tuesday of the 6th week of Easter

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm**

### WEDNESDAY 8th

Wednesday of the 6th week of Easter

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

Confirmation Information session for parents - 1.10pm & 6pm

### THURSDAY 9th

Thursday of the 6th week of Easter

**Rosary - 11.30am**

**Holy Mass - 12 Noon**

**Adoration - 12.30pm to 1.30pm**

### FRIDAY 10th

Feast Day of St John of Avila, doctor

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm**

### SATURDAY 11th

Saturday of the 6th week of Easter

**Holy Mass of Sunday - 3.00pm at Bundarra**

**Rosary - 5.00pm**

**Holy Mass of Sunday - 5.30pm**

### SUNDAY 12th

**The Ascension of the Lord**

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

**Sacrament of Confession**

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Tuesday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Friday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Saturday: 4.45pm to 5.15pm

(and at any time upon request)

**OTHER MASSES: (May to August times)**

*McLean Village* Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - *Bundarra*, St Mary of the Angels - 3.00pm

3rd Saturday - *Ashford*, St Patrick's Church - 3.00pm

4th Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.00pm

5th Saturday - *Yetman*, St Joseph the Worker - 2.30pm

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am

Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

**Please contact the priest on 67221103 for home visits to the homebound and the sick**

## PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

### A friendly reminder

Please maintain a respectful atmosphere of reverence before and after each Mass so those praying may do so without distraction. Any conversation should be conducted quietly. Also, please remember to turn off your mobile devices.

*"By devoutly assisting at Holy Mass you render the greatest homage possible to the Sacred Humanity of Our Lord."*

- St Leonard

### ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR MAY

Pat Bailey & Kay Gardner

### HOME ROSARY

*"How beautiful is the family that recites the Rosary every evening."* - Pope St John Paul II

Bernie & Colleen Graham

11 Diamond Street, Tingha

**Wednesday 8 May at 4.30pm**



### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Men's Breakfast - Sat 11 May 2024, 8.30am, Out the Back Café

Sunday Morning Tea - 12 May 2024, after Mass

Pastoral Council - Wed 15 May 2024, 5.00pm

Liturgy Committee - Sat 18 May 2024, 8.30am

Finance Committee - Wed TBA 2024, 5.00pm



### Praying the Rosary

During the month of May the Holy Rosary will be prayed before each Mass. This set of prayers, given by Our Lady to St Dominic in 1208AD, is a powerful spiritual weapon against sin and the evil spirits. It encapsulates and enshrines the saving mysteries of Christ. The praying of the Holy Rosary has led to many conversions and miracles, and Our Lady has promised her own special protection to those who pray it with devotion. There are free rosaries and pamphlets that provide a step-by-step guide on how to pray the Rosary at the paper table.

**Do you know?** The large gold ciborium that remains mostly in the tabernacle, has this inscription upon it:

*"In memory of Bartholomew J. Healy Knight of Columbus by Philip Sheridan 4th Degree Knight of Columbus Bridgewater Connecticut"*.

There is no date but the inscription indicates that it came from the USA. Does anyone in the parish know how this beautiful sacred vessel came into possession of the parish?

### Prayer in Honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Hail Mary, White Lily of the Glorious and always serene Trinity. Hail brilliant Rose of the garden of heavenly delights: O you, by whom God wanted to be born and by whose milk the King of Heaven wanted to be nourished! Nourish our souls with effusions of divine grace. Amen.

### CATHOLIC WEEKLY

Continuing on from last week, if you regularly purchase The Catholic Weekly could you please inform the parish office if you are able to take out a personal subscription. As mentioned previously, there is an extra expense being incurred due to the shipping costs for the 8 copies we order, of which not every copy is sold. As the shipping cost has not been passed onto parishioners, and the excess copies are not being sold, this means the parish is losing money.

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on Sunday, June 23rd. The Year 6 students from Holy Trinity and public schools will shortly begin their preparation programme. Candidates for Confirmation will be enrolled in the preparation programme at the Masses of May 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th. Please pray for them and their families.

### Parishioners in Aged Care/Retirement Home

Please notify the parish office if you have a Catholic family member in any of the aged care/retirement homes in Inverell, Bundarra, Tingha, or Ashford. This is to ensure that Fr Paul is aware of any and all elderly Catholics in care who may be in need of anointing. You should also inform the aged care facility to contact Fr Paul when your relative may be in danger of dying so he may administer the last rites.

### Sacristy Jumble Sale

After the Masses of the Ascension (May 11th and 12th), please take a look at the items in the meeting room that are surplus to needs from the sacristy. There will be glassware, pottery, fabrics, artificial flowers, vases...and maybe more. For a suitable donation you can be adding to your collection at home (or finding a last minute Mothers Day gift). It is up to you to decide how much the donation is, but you will be helping not only to clear some of the storage areas in the sacristies, but also helping the Parish bank balance. Donations are **cash only**; so come prepared.

**Morning Tea** will be held after the 9am Mass next Sunday. Please bring a plate of delicacies to share. All are welcome.

MASS ROSTER	4May-Sat 5.30pm	5May-Sun 9am	11May-Sat 5.30pm	12May-Sun 9am
Projector	J Kelly	R McGregor	Sr Coral	MJ Guest
Readers	C Roberts & J Monie	D McMahon & S Hollis	P Mather & N McCosker	J Thivakon & G Johnson
Commentator	P Armstrong	J Harris	M Gaukroger	J Monie
Offertory	Volunteers	Guest Family	Volunteers	M Robinson & volunteer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	R Moffitt	M Robinson	A Michael	S Hollis
Counters		G Chie & G Fleming		N Turner