



# The Swag

Quarterly Magazine of the  
National Council of Priests of Australia

With the suspension of Sunday Masses around the country, we will not be receiving our usual print bulk order of the Winter edition of The Swag.

**We will however be offering free online access to a Page Turner and a PDF of the Winter 2020 edition.**

Go to <http://www.the-swag.org.au> (highlight the text to the left, then right click with your mouse and select "open hyperlink.")

### Prayer for a Pandemic By Cameron Bellm

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go.

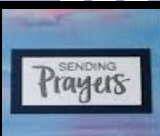
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.  
Amen.

From *A Consoling Embrace*, Twenty Third Publications [e-book](#)  
For more prayers go to Cameron Bellm's [blog](#)



### IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for, Leo O'Brien, Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Kevin Murphy, Kevin Featherstone, Bridget Walsh, Cathryn Walsh.

### RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES



We pray for Sebastian Gashi, Rosalia Bendistinto, Franca Cuomo, Ivanka Ostrugnaj, Ronald Gilmartin, Jacky Butler, Fr. Paddy Fitzpatrick, Brian O'Brien, Mark Thorn, Michael Hynes, Tom Johnson, Rowland Hassall, Ellen Williamson, Rodney Lloyd, Onorina Pomazan, Gladys Starr, Ken Elder, Lucia Gelcrisio, Stefania Jaslan, Eileen Haywood, Mary Lewer, Charlie Axelson, Dorrie O'Neill, Len Bevis, Shane Ryland, George Lewis, Michael Evans, Andrew Carrick, Tony Nuzzo, June Ellis, Frank Templeton, Rose De Battista, Eddy Berry, John Foord, Rodolfo Ruggieri, Charles Broadfoot, Alberto, Celestina, Ersilia, Giuseppe, Benedetto, Natalino, Margherita, Carmelo,

George and Emmanuele Mangion, Maria Meloni, Agostino, Margherita, Pasquale, Rita, Pietro, Francesca, Benedetto and Ignazio Saragozza, whose anniversaries are at this time.

# St Mary's Parish

*A community where we bring together our gifts and talents*



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016  
Telephone: 9397 6066

Email: [williamstown@cam.org.au](mailto:williamstown@cam.org.au)  
Web: [www.stmaryswilliamstown.org.au/](http://www.stmaryswilliamstown.org.au/)

24th May, 2020

### Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall  
PH: 9397 6066  
MO: 0400 524 363  
Email:  
[greg.trythall@cam.org.au](mailto:greg.trythall@cam.org.au)

### Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian  
0450 789 951  
Monday, Tuesday  
9am - 3.30pm

### Parish Office Manager-Secretary

Heidi Zahra  
Tuesday 8:30am - 4pm  
Thursday 8:30am - 4pm  
Friday 8:30am - 4pm

### Wednesday Secretary

Kylie Skinner  
8.30am-3.30pm

### St. Mary's School

Principal  
Anthony Hockey

### Normal Mass Times

Consult bulletin inside for any changes.  
Saturday at 5:30pm  
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am  
Tuesday to Thursday 9:15am

### Reconciliation

Saturday 10:00am

### Silent Adoration in Church

2:30pm - 3:30pm  
Wednesday

### Baptism Preparation Night

Third Thursday monthly  
7.00pm at Parish Centre.  
Baptism must be booked prior to attending

## ASCENSION OF THE LORD—YEAR A

### FIRST READING:

Acts 1.1-11

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

God mounts the throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

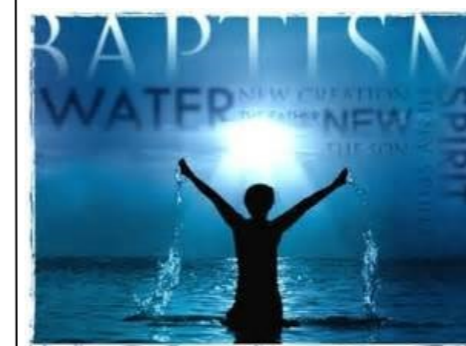
### SECOND READING:

Letter of Paul to the Ephesians 1.17-23

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

### GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28:16-20



The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him they worshipped but doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to

them. 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold that I am with you always; until the very end of the age.'



Tuesday 26th May	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church.
Wednesday 27th May	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church.
Thursday 28th May	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners,

Only 10 people will be allowed at this stage at any Mass in the parish. Apparently the next stage will allow 20 people to come to Mass! I can't get around to everyone, but if you wish to be part of the next phase of about 20 people could you please be in touch via my mobile, through phone calling or texting 0400 524 363. Please also inform me of the Mass of your preference, whether Saturday 5:30pm or Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am or 4:30pm. I will then back to you as soon as I have an appropriate space at your required time. After each Mass, in accordance with Government regulations, I require a written record of all attendees and also disinfect the Church immediately afterwards. Adoration will be back Wednesday afternoons at 2:30pm – 3:30pm. I am still operating the u tube site: [fathergreg.online](http://fathergreg.online) for opportunity for Masses online, and also one sermon there along with another sermon below to provide assistance with your spiritual life. Of course, this means we are keeping in touch somehow, even though it may not be too up close and personal. However, all is not lost - as the famous Vera Lynn used to sing - "We'll meet again!"

Yours 'in Christ'

Fr. Greg 22/5/2020

### *FEAST OF ASCENSION SERMON:*

In the first reading given for this Feast of the Ascension, Luke informs us of an eyewitness account of the Ascension of Jesus back to Heaven. The following illustration of the life of Lech Walesa may go some way in helping us appreciate the meaning of this particular Feast of the Ascension on the Church's calendar.



Lech Walesa worked for years as an electrician in the Gdansk shipyards in Poland. During those years he and his fellow workers founded the movement which became known as 'Solidarity'. Walesa became its leader. This brought them into conflict with the rulers of that former Communist country. Eventually the workers won out. The communist regime collapsed and democracy returned to Poland. Then, on December 9, 1990 something happened which a few years



prior to this would have been unthinkable. Walesa, the shipyard worker, was elected the first President of a free and democratic Poland! It was a great honour for Walesa. His fellow workers were delighted. They too felt honoured because of their association with him. However, there was sadness too! They knew that it would change forever the way they related to him. They knew that they were losing him. Nevertheless, they were hoping that he would not forget them and that he would help them from his new and more influential position.

*Continued.....*

In a similar scenario, during the years of his public life, Jesus ate and drank in the company of those he most mixed with during his daily life. In many ways he was just like one of them. Did the Ascension mean that he had left them and ended all his intimacy and familiarity with them? Yes, and No. Jesus would no longer be physically present to his disciple friends but he hadn't left them entirely. He had simply taken on a new role, assuming a new position!



After many years of humble labour and dangerous struggle, Walesa achieved the great honour of being elected president of his country. After his years of struggle on earth,



Jesus was crowned with glory by his heavenly Father, and became Lord of all creation. For those who have faith, Jesus is closer to them than ever, and now even in a better position to help them.

The Gospel ends with Jesus' promise to remain with his disciples always, right to the end of time.

The Ascension of Jesus is his liberation from all restrictions of time and space. It does not represent his removal from the earth, but his constant presence everywhere on earth. During his earthly ministry he could only be in one place at a time. If he was in Jerusalem, he could not on Lake Galilee, if he was on Lake Galilee, he could not be in Jerusalem. The early Christians under the influence of the Holy Spirit understood that Jesus was still very much present with them and in them, even if not in the same way as before. They believed he still shared their lives, and that death would mean being united with him 'in glory' for ever and ever. In the meantime, he was relying on them (and now for us) to make sure that the Gospel would be preached and lived. This may take some courage on our part to be a witness to him and proudly inform others when questioned or queried: "Yes I am a Catholic Christian and proud to be one." Our courage and faith is helped by Him stating at the time and in the Gospel today: "I am with you always, until the very end of time."

