

# Catholic Parish of the Nambucca Valley

Corpus Christi, Bowraville

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Nambucca Heads

St. Patrick's Macksville

SIXTH SUNDAY OF  
EASTER  
YEAR A  
10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026



**Administrator: Fr. Peter Rebello OCD,  
Parish Secretary, Gillian Dewar**

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## First Reading

**Acts 8:5-8,14-17**

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Psalm 65(66):1-7,16,20**

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Alleluia.

## Second Reading

**1 Peter 3:15-18**

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

## 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 14:15-21**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

## The Spirit, an advocate for our faith

This week's readings prepare us for Ascension Sunday next week, as they instruct Christians on how to live in the world while we wait for Christ's return. Although Jesus' defeat of death has forever transformed what it means to be human, we live in this waiting period where salvation has already been won for us but is not yet fulfilled. Jesus comforts all Christians by promising us that, although we cannot see him face to face, we will know that "I am in my Father, and you are in me and I in you." And in this week's readings, we see that Jesus will fulfil this promise by sending the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Holy Spirit inaugurates a new way of living for Christians that Paul elsewhere describes as the 'new life in the Spirit'. The first reading reveals the joy that this new way of living can bring. Reading from Acts, we see the power of the Holy Spirit setting the people of Samaria free from suffering and disease and coming to dwell with them permanently. And as Peter tells us in the second reading, the new life in the Spirit continues even through trials when we need to persevere in our faith.

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding office can be contacted if you have any safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact safeguarding office: Phone 0266219444 or email [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)

When proclaiming Christ is received with rejection rather than joy, the Holy Spirit is still just as present as ever. Indeed, the Holy Spirit will help us respond to the world with “gentleness and reverence.” The coming of the Holy Spirit is Jesus’ promise to all of us who have faith in him. The word that Jesus uses here for the Holy Spirit, paraclete (in Greek), means advocate, defender or consoler and is often used to describe a helper or witness in a court of law. Just as Peter tells his readers to be ready for whenever they are called to make a defence for themselves, Jesus promises a defender who will always be with them. The Holy Spirit is an advocate and witness for our faith. The Holy Spirit also testifies to Christ’s saving work in our lives, including times of doubts, trials and shortcomings. In a world that sometimes seems devoid of God’s presence and action, the Holy Spirit dwells within us to help us “sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.” The Holy Spirit also provides the grace to help us trust and persevere when it is difficult to keep his commandments. And, when we listen, we are reminded that our new life with God is better than anything the world can offer us. When the world rejects Christ and his good news, we have the Holy Spirit to help us follow Christ, loving as he loved, suffering as he suffered, and living in unity with the Father as he has made possible. And when we do this, God himself, in the fully divine person of the Holy Spirit, advocates for us, defends us and comforts us. Joseph Doyl © Majellan Media 2026

**Announcements:**

Parish Office Timings from **5<sup>th</sup> of May onwards Tuesday and Wednesday 8.30am to 4pm**. Parish Priest is available Thursday in Macksville and Friday in Nambucca Heads.

**Planned giving envelope** sheets are at the back of the Church, kindly write your name in order to receive the envelopes.

A special thanks to **May Harris, Shirley Bolton, and little girl Sarah** in Nambucca Heads and the three **C’s ladies** from Macksville for organising the Mothers’ Day raffle tickets and cuppa. God Bless you all.

**Wishing all mothers,** Grandmothers and Mother figures in our parish a very happy Mother’s Day. Your love, strength and faith are a blessing to our community. May God fill your hearts with and joy today and always.

From Tuesday till Friday, 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of May there will be no Mass during this time, as Fr Peter will be attending the clergy retreat in Lismore.

**Happy Mother’s Day**

**WE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Pauline Baiker, Fay Gough

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME**

Jan Richards, Kath Darlington, Fr. Edward Crowley, Ivan Mcleod

**WE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**

Jeanine Hoffman , Ida freeman

***\*Mass Intention envelopes are located at the back of the Church\****

<b>Tue 12th May</b>	<b>Mass at 9:30 in Macksville</b>
<b>WED 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>9:30 Mass in Bowraville</b>
<b>THU 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>9:30 mass in Macksville</b>
<b>FRI 15<sup>th</sup> MAY</b>	<b>9:00 am adoration and 9:30 mass in NH</b>
<b>SAT 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>4:30 confession 5:00 pm MASS in NH</b>
<b>SUN 17th May The Ascension of the lord</b>	<b>8am Mass in Macksville 9:30 am mass in Bowraville</b>