



St Paul's Anglican Community, Manly

17th May 2026

# St Paul's News

JESUS CHRIST | SPIRITUALITY | COMMUNION | TRADITION



## The Bridge Between Heaven and Earth

As we continue in this season of Ascension, I have been reflecting on the beautiful truth that Christ has not left us behind, but has gone before us, opening a way that leads us into the very heart of God. The Ascension is not only a moment in history; it is a reminder that heaven and earth are not as far apart as they sometimes feel.

In Scripture we see Jesus, our risen Lord, returning to the Father; not in departure, but in glory. He becomes, for us, a bridge between worlds. The One who stands with us in our humanity, and yet draws us upward into the light of God's love. His Ascension assures us that our lives, our prayers, and even our struggles are held within something far greater and more beautiful than we can see.

There is a quiet mystery in this feast, a sense that Christ invites each of us to lift our eyes, to look beyond the immediate, and to trust that God is at work in ways both seen and unseen. As we walk our own paths of faith, may we feel that gentle pull of grace leading us onward, step by step, towards hope, healing, and deeper peace.

May the risen and ascended Christ bless you this week, and may His light guide your way.

*With love and prayers,*

**Heidi**



**Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at St Peter's**

**Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at St Peter's Church,  
Wynnum, on Tuesday 26 May at 10am.**

**St Paul's Anglican Community, Manly gathers every Sunday  
at 10.00am in the Chapel, Lota House  
162 Oceana Terrace, Lota.  
We welcome you!  
Join us for a cuppa before the service!**

Parish Priest: Vacant  
People's Warden: Dr Jennifer Crisp  
Priest's Warden: Mr Rob Wilson  
Parish Mobile: 0491 062 877  
e. office@stpaulsmanly.org  
w. www.stpaulsmanly.org



### This Week's Service

Presider: Archdeacon Allan Paulsen

Date: Sunday 17 May 2026

*All are welcome at St Paul's*

"we love because God first loved us" (1 John. 4:19). We believe in the inherent goodness of all people - that the divine dwells at the heart of all living things. We believe the whole world is sacred and so we seek to celebrate God's presence among us with joy.

**St Paul's is an inclusive church, welcoming all and offering equal opportunities for those seeking an authentic spiritual community.**

**We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Quandamooka people and their elders past and present. We honour the connection the traditional custodians have with this place**

# Ailsa & Paul's Reflections



## Lessons from the Islands of Vanuatu and Fiji

Ailsa and Paul so enjoyed their recent visits to the islands of Vanuatu and Fiji. What struck them most was not simply the beauty of the landscape, but the depth of community, culture, and simplicity woven into everyday life. In many ways, it felt like stepping into a world where people still live closely connected to one another and to the land itself.

In both places, village life is lived as an extended family. Responsibilities are shared, and children are raised collectively, surrounded by aunties, uncles, grandparents, and neighbours who all play a part. Leadership is held by chiefs, whose role is not one of power, but of stewardship, wisdom, and the preservation of tradition.

Homes are built from the materials the land provides; coconut palm, timber, woven leaves; and daily life is shaped by what the earth and sea offer. Diets are simple and nourishing: taro, cassava, coconut, fresh fruit, and fish caught in the same waters their ancestors fished before them.

One of the most joyful memories was the sound of children singing. Music is not merely entertainment there; it is woven into learning, storytelling, worship, and celebration. It carries a sense of joy that seems to rise naturally from the heart of village life.

Respect and modesty are deeply held values. After swimming, Ailsa and Paul were gently asked to cover up; not out of judgment, but as a sign of honouring local custom. It was a reminder of how cultural respect creates harmony and belonging.



The craftsmanship of the islands is remarkable. The coconut tree; often called *the tree of life*; is used for almost everything:

- Leaves woven into mats, baskets, and roofing
- Fibres twisted into ropes and brushes
- Timber shaped into tools and structures
- Shells crafted into bowls and utensils
- Coconut flesh, milk, and water providing nourishment

Nothing is wasted. Everything has purpose.

What stayed with them most was the sense of slowing down, not just in pace, but in spirit. Island life seems to value:

- presence over productivity
- community over individualism
- resourcefulness over consumption
- joy found in the everyday

It is not a romanticising of hardship, but an appreciation of a culture that treasures connection, tradition, and harmony with creation. Ailsa and Paul returned with a renewed sense of gratitude, and a gentle reminder that a simple life, lived with love and respect, can be a deeply rich one.



## For your prayers

Sunday 10th May

- The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
- The Diocese of North Queensland: †Keith Joseph; Clergy and People
- The Parish of Gold Coast North: Stephan Prabu, Gary Smith, Don Campbell, Lynette Dunn, †Len Eacott, Roseanne Stower, Bill Doak, Martin Hunnybun, Medha Masoji
- Sudanese & South Sudanese Congregations in Anglican Church Southern QLD (ACSQ): Bishop Daniel Abot
- The Southport School, Southport: Headmaster – Andrew Hawkins; Chaplain – John Dougherty; Chair of School Council – Adam Twemlow; members of School Council; staff & students

### What's On



#### Every week

**Monday 10.30am** EM Tooth Prayer and Praise

**Tuesday 9.30am** Bible Reflection/discussion @ the Chapel

**Wednesday 7pm** Men's Ministry, Wynnum

**Sunday 10.00** Parish Eucharist @ Lota House Chapel  
(come @ 9:30am for a cuppa)

#### Coming up in May & June

**Thursday 21st May 10am to 12pm** Tatters and Chatters at Wynnum Library (the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month)

**Tuesday 26th May 10am** Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in aid of Cancer Council at St Peter's Church, Wynnum

**Tuesday 2nd June 12.30pm to 2pm** Loaves & Fishes Luncheon (St John's Cathedral, 373 Anne Street, Brisbane)



### Scripture Readings:

#### This Week:

**Sunday 17th May 7th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1.6-14 Ps 68.1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 5 John 17.1-11

**Sunday 24th May Day of Pentecost**

Acts 2.1-21, Ps 104.26-36, 1 Corinthians 12.1-13, John 20.19-23

**Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday: First Sunday After Pentecost** Exodus 34.1-8, Song of 3YM 29-34 (APBA p.399), 2 Corinthians 13.11-13, Matthew 28.16-20

**Sunday 7th June Second Sunday After Pentecost**

Genesis 12.1-9, Ps 33.1-12, Romans 4.13-25, Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26

## Our Prayer List

Brian S, Lisa P, Geoff, Glenda, Richard, Ann, Bruce, Judi, Shirley & Brad, Peter & Judith

To add to our prayer list, please email [prayer@stpaulsmanly.org](mailto:prayer@stpaulsmanly.org) Please let us know if urgent and when prayers are no longer required.

## Prayer of the Week

O God, the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we pray you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us,  
and exalt us to the same place where our Saviour  
Christ  
has gone before;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



## Newsletter Contributions

If you would like any notices, news, or other items added to the newsletter, please email [newsletter@stpaulsmanly.org](mailto:newsletter@stpaulsmanly.org)



## OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Church is the  
Mission of Christ – to proclaim the good  
news of the kingdom of God

## Support our Ministry

**Bank:** Anglican Financial Services

**Account:** Manly Anglican Parish

**BSB:** 704-901 **Account #:** 00000690

**Reference:** 'offering'

**Parish of Manly**

**Anglican**  
Church Southern Queensland