

Sunday, 3rd May 2026

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

## Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel readings for this week and next week shift the focus away from the resurrection and begin to set us up for the departure of Jesus from the earth – the Ascension – and the sending of the Holy Spirit – the Pentecost event.

Today's gospel passage comes from the very long Last Supper discourse in the gospel of John. When Jesus speaks about 'going away' for a time it could be interpreted as the period of his death and rising that are about to occur in the chronology of the story.

However, the gospel of John is written a very long time after the death of Jesus; perhaps as much as 70 years after Jesus. Given this period of time between the events and the writing, we know that the writer was also referring to this longer time of Jesus 'going away'. By the time of the writing of this gospel the early Christians were starting to come to terms with the fact that Jesus probably wasn't going to return in their lifetime. They had seen the devastating destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans in 70CE which they thought had signalled the end of all time. However, here they were, still alive and still no sign of Jesus' return.

The theme of being present and being absent is very strong in this gospel. The discussion about Jesus and the Father being one is part of this theme. Jesus is God present in the world. God has come to dwell among the people. When Jesus speaks of preparing rooms in the Father's house, it is a reference to preparing the disciples to 'live' in God; to dwell in God just as God has dwelt in the people.



*Our Mission:*  
*Building a Loving Christ-Centred Community*



**Parish Administrator:**

Fr Joy D'Souza OCD

**Chief Executive Officer:**

Michael Darragh

**Administration Officer:**

Jennifer Oliver

**Pastoral Associate:**

Margaret Ryan

**Church**

Corner of East Street & Fourth Avenue, Sawtell

**Parish Office - 02/6658 3544**

1/44 Boronia Street, Sawtell NSW 2452. Office Hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm.

**Regular Church Mass Times**

Tuesday 9:30am

Thursday 9:30am

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 7:30am & 9am

Reconciliation every Saturday

5:30pm, no appointment necessary

**Regular Chapel Mass Times**

Our Lady of the Way at SCC

Marian Grove, Toormina

Wednesday 9:30am

**\*Friday 10:30am\***

**see back cover**

**PARISH GIVING**

First & Second

Collection + Donations



*Women. Food. God*

**Fellowship Evening - 15th May, 2026**

6pm -9pm at The Link Lakeside - Cost: \$20 including a meal and drinks.

**Retreat Day - 8th August, 2026**

9am-4pm at the SJPC Theatre - Cost: \$40 including morning tea and lunch plus a contribution towards the presenter's costs.

BSB: 032 592 ACCOUNT: 811 224 (Label the payment WFG and include your surname).

Or - Register and pay with cash at the parish office.

Your booking will be secure once payment is received.

We want everyone to be able to join us. If the cost is a concern, please reach out to the Parish Office.

*Count Me In!*

**The 6th National Count of Attendance**

will take place this weekend and continue for the next 4 (excluding Feast Day). This year marks a significant milestone—25 years of national attendance data, beginning with the first count in 2001. The 2026 results will provide valuable insights into long-term trends, particularly in understanding the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which influenced attendance patterns in 2021.



*Position Available*

**Parish Office - Flexible Part Time Admin Officer**

This opportunity is ideal for someone seeking a welcoming, supportive workplace with the added benefit of flexible hours. As a valued member of the team, you will play an important role in supporting the administration of a vibrant Catholic community.

Responsibilities include a range of essential administrative tasks, such as: Answering phone calls and responding to emails in a timely and professional manner, Greeting visitors with warmth, courtesy, and respect. Preparing the weekly bulletin. Creating social media content and general documents. Assisting with the preparation of liturgical resources. Managing Mass rosters and maintaining and updating the parish database

Email your resume to: [recruitment@scca.net.au](mailto:recruitment@scca.net.au) with the subject line Sawtell Catholic Parish - Admin Officer.



### First Reading Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

### Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

### Gospel Acclamation John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:  
'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.  
You know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:  
'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'  
Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

## Help needed!

Please add your name  
to the list at the entrance doors to  
help on the day.



Mary Help of Christians

Feast Day

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
9am Mass at The Link

followed by BBQ,  
games and festivities.  
BYO chair or rug  
for the outside Mass  
on the lawns.

All Welcome!

### Feast Day Notes

Bring a rug or chair for the lawn, it is an outside Mass. Afterwards there is a brief presentation and ceremony. Then a free BBQ, games and a few surprises! Park at the back of The Link - off Marian Place. Usual Sunday collection will take place during the offertory. Lots of other yummy food and drink to purchase on the day.



**Sixth Sunday of Easter - 10th May 2026 (Mother's Day)**

| MASSES        | Co-Ordinator            | Welcomer                | Ex. Minister  | Sacristan     | Offertory               | Reader           | Powerpoint Op   | Senior Altar Server |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Saturday 6pm  | Jeanette Walsh          | Pat Winter              | Margaret Ryan | Les Michalik  | Ivan & Judy Wheeler     | Paula Sercombe   | Cate Clark      | Les Michalik        |
| Sunday 7:30am | <b>*NEED VOLUNTEER*</b> | <b>*NEED VOLUNTEER*</b> | Greg Felis    | John Hendriks | <b>*NEED VOLUNTEER*</b> | Gwen Nyhan       | Paul Daly       | John Hendriks       |
| Sunday 9am    | Don Kirkaldy            | Beth Schmahl            | Wal Samut     | Joe Baiada    | Gai & Bob Roff          | Les Thornborough | Brigid Flannery | Joe Baiada          |

**PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR NEXT ROSTER - JUNE, JULY & AUGUST  
CALL/EMAIL THE OFFICE OR WRITE IT ON THE MASTER ROSTER AT THE FRONT DOORS**

*Morning Tea at Sawtell Catholic Care*



*Please pray for...*

*Recently Deceased:*

*Ann Gava*

*The Sick:*

*Jake Murphy*

*Helen Dwyer*

*Yvonne Little*

*Sally Towns*

*Carolyn Mash*

*Peter Rose*

*Sue Garvey*



**Parish Connections: Tea & Togetherness**  
**Morning Tea after Mass at the Chapel.**

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for our very first monthly morning tea with Fr Joy and the Parish Office Team on Wednesday! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and share a lovely morning together.

If you missed out, we'd love to see you next time! We gather in the SCC rec room immediately following Mass on the last Wednesday of every month. Mark your calendars for our next catch-up on Wednesday, 27th May. See you there!

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
**CENACLE ROSARY**  
**3PM**  
**IN THE CHURCH**  
**ALL WELCOME**



The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office the Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office - Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email: [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)



**PLEASE NOTE!**  
**Our Lady of the Way Chapel - Mass on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May is a Funeral Mass at 10:30am. All welcome.**

**DIF** Diocesan Investment Fund  
Interest Rate—3.65% (p/r 1/4/2026)  
For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website [www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) or contact us on 1800 802 516