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Sixth Sunday of Easter Sunday 10th May 2026

Thursday this week is Ascension Day, a Holy Day of Obligation

Second Special Collection next weekend for the Catholic Communications Network

Page 268	Acts of the Apostles 8: 5-8, 14-17	1 Peter 3: 15-18	Gospel John 14: 15-21
<p>The readings this weekend focuses on faith, love and the Holy Spirit and reminds us that God's love is active and present in our lives. They encourage us to trust that God is always with us in every moment of our lives especially at our most difficult and challenging times. The Holy Spirit gives us guidance, strength and courage and is always at work in the world and the Church, helping people to grow in faith and love showing us that every person has value and should be treated with respect. Signs of the Holy Spirit are bold preaching, the defeat of evil, miracles, joy and love and reveal God's presence and power</p> <p>The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles shows how the <i>Good News</i> of Jesus is spreading. Philip goes to Samaria and preaches the word of God to the people, performing many miraculous signs and healings, which results in many people believing and being baptised. Peter and John arrive in Samaria and prayed for the new believers, laying their hands on them so that they receive the Holy Spirit. This emphasises the unity of the early Church and the shared mission of the disciples and highlights how the Holy Spirit empowers the early Christian community to grow in faith and to welcome all new believers.</p> <p>The second reading from Peter's first letter instructs the early Christians to always be ready to give a defence of their faith with gentleness and respect and encourages them to stay firm in their faith during trials, difficulties and even in the face of persecution. He reminds them of the example of Christ, who suffered and died for our sins, but was raised to life by the power of God. Even when treated unfairly followers of Jesus trust in God's justice and hope in suffering comes through God's power.</p> <p>John's Gospel this weekend is the continuation of last weekend's Gospel reading when Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper. Jesus offers encouragement to his disciples who will soon see Him crucified. He reassures them that even though He will leave them, He will not abandon them. Instead he will send them the Holy Spirit so that the disciples will continue to live in union with Jesus. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father in the Holy Trinity. Jesus says that loving Him means keeping His commandments. Faith is not just words but actions that show real commitment and love and respect for all people in society especially the vulnerable.</p>			

Mass times	Feast Days
6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 9th St Pachomius the Great Pachomius was born in 292 in Thebes, present day Luxor, in Egypt into a wealthy pagan family. Aged 12 he was forced into the Roman army. Galley slave on the River Nile. Met Christians in port who gave help to the troops. Became a Christian. Seven years a hermit with Paloemom who taught him many building skills. Unlike the hermits of St Antony of Egypt, his monks lived in community in large settlements. Pachomius developed the first real monasteries with a strict <i>Rule</i> which defined monastic life. When he died in 348 aged 56 there were nine monasteries for men and two for women. His <i>Rule</i> influenced St Benedict in the West and St Basil in the East and later St Hilary of Arles in France during the 5 th century.
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 10th May Sixth Sunday of Easter Winston Eugene D'Cruze RIP
6.30 pm Mass	Monday 11th St Francis di Girolamo Born in 1642 in Italy into a large pious family. Sacristan and catechist in his parish. Educated at Jesuit College. Ordained aged 24. Taught at College in Naples. Entered the Jesuits aged 28. Wanted to be a foreign missionary against the wishes of his father. Kept in Italy to evangelise in Naples area. Eloquent preacher. Visited people in hospitals, prisons, brothels and galley slaves in the docks. Imposing figure attracted large crowds. Trained young Jesuits in his preaching style for the missions. Founded a congregation of "lay workmen" to support priests. He died in 1916 aged 74. There is a chapel dedicated to him in Naples Basilica.
10 am Mass 40th Wedding Anniversary of Nilani and Lilinton 15th Wedding Anniversary of Sheleni & Shanaka	Tuesday 12th St Pancras of Rome Born about 289 at Phrygia now in Turkey to parents of Roman citizenship. Orphaned and cared for by uncle. Moved to Rome and both converted to Christianity. Pancras became a keen and pious follower. Under persecution by Emperor Diocletian arrested. Refused to offer sacrifice to pagan gods despite offers of wealth. Beheaded as a martyr. Buried in the catacombs on Via Aurelia. Church and shrine built above. St Pancras was popular in England encouraged by two popes in 6 th and 7 th century. Mentioned by St Bede. Railway station in London was named after him in 1868 as it was located in the parish of St Pancras Church.
6.30 pm Vigil Mass for Ascension Day	Wednesday 13th St Julian of Norwich Born in Norwich in 1342 at a time of unrest in Church and State. Spirituality grew among lay people to live a Christian life outside religious orders. Became a hermit or anchorite in a cell built alongside a church. One window viewed sanctuary, another open to the public. Mystic and visionary who produced theological texts during 20 years of meditation. <i>Revelations of Divine Love</i> is the earliest surviving book in English written by a woman. A chapel and shrine stood at place where her cell existed, but was destroyed by Henry VIII.
10 am Mass for Ascension Day	Thursday 14th Ascension Day St Matthias The apostle chosen by the disciples in an election between two disciples to replace Judas Iscariot. Preached in Judaea and somewhat later in Cappadocia (now southern Turkey) near the Caspian Sea. Traditionally beheaded there as a martyr.

