



# Weekly Bulletin

## Mary, Queen of the Family Parish

St. Michael's Church, 58 Orwell Street, Blacktown & St. Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.

*We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.*

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A )

17 MAY 2026

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Mary Queen of the Family (MQOF) parish strives to grow as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, continuing to deepen in understanding the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church and to live as a faithful and committed Catholic community, evangelising and responding to the needs of the family in the Blacktown community and beyond.

### LITURGY TIMES

#### Sunday Masses

5.30pm Sat Vigil (St Patrick's)  
7.00am Sun (St Patrick's)  
8.00am Sun (St Michael's)  
9.30am Sun (St Michael's)  
10.00am Sun (St Patrick's)  
11.00am 4th Sun - Filo Mass (St Michael's)  
2:00pm - Sudanese Mass (St Patrick's)  
1.00pm - Syro-Malabar Mass (St Michael's)  
5.30pm Sun (St Patrick's)  
6.00pm Sun (St Michael's)

#### Weekday Masses

St. Michael's:  
8am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri;  
7.30pm Wed only

St. Patrick's:  
9am Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat;  
7.30pm Fri only.

### RECONCILIATION

St. Michael's: Wed 6.30pm—7.20pm  
St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm -7:20pm &  
Sat 9:30am -10:30am

### HOLY HOUR

St. Michael's: Wed 6.30pm -7.30pm  
St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm -7:30pm (except during Lent)

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals & Anointing of the Sick by appointment.

### Ascension of the Lord

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth."*

Acts 1: 1-11

*"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them...and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*

Matthew 28: 16-20

A detailed account of the ascension of the risen Jesus to his Father is presented to us in today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. The gospel-reading from the conclusion of Matthew's Gospel is a little surprising in that it is Matthew's first and last account of the Risen Jesus' appearance to his chosen disciples. With a painful reminder that there were now only eleven of them, following the suicide of Judas, Matthew records that the disciples had journeyed to Galilee in accord with the instructions given for them by an angel to the two Marys on the morning of Jesus' resurrection: The angel said to the two women: 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples: "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him". Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy, the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples (Matthew 28: 5-8)

In the view of the writer of Matthew's Gospel, it was in Galilee that the eleven disciples first encountered the Risen Jesus. As to how long that was after the morning of Jesus' resurrection is not indicated. However, there was probably a substantial time-lapse. In the time of Jesus, the most direct route from Jerusalem to Galilee was approximately 90 miles. Moreover, the eleven were still in shock at the execution of Jesus and the circumstances that surrounded it. Besides, fear for their own safety was probably a factor in making them hesitant when travelling was to be done.

As we reflect on the fact that Matthew's Gospel makes no mention of Jesus' Ascension and that its focus is on the momentous event of Jesus giving the eleven a commission to make disciples of people of all nations, it is understandable that the Gospel writer gives more attention to what Jesus entrusted to the eleven than to his actual taking leave of them. It is vital that we all give close attention to Jesus' parting words: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." (Matthew 28: 18-20)

Particularly worthy of note is that, in the view of the writer of Matthew's Gospel, before the death and resurrection of Jesus, discipleship was restricted to twelve men (Cont'd...)

### Parish Directory

St. Michael's Church - 58 Orwell Street, South Blacktown &  
St. Patrick's Church - 51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown.

Parish Office: At St. Patrick's Church. Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm

Telephone (all hours): 02 9622 1125

Website: www.mqofblacktown.org.au Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

#### Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Fr. Wim Hoekstra

Assistant Priests: Fr Stephen Onyekwere, Fr Tom Green

Deacon: Rev. John Cinya

Finance Officer: Sarah Canete-Damole Email: accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au

Parish Secretary: Jill Franco Email: jfranco@mqofblacktown.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team

Email: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au

Catechist Coordinator: Sandra Baker

#### Parish Pastoral Council:

Chairperson: Vince Tabone; Deputy Chairperson: Daniel Mangabat; Secretary: Eva Cheetley Asst Secretary: Helena Vea Members: Don DeMello, Erica Luiz, Fran Satchell, Josh Carr, Marian Asiegbu, Savita Surendra, Trevor Brewty, Fr Wim Hoekstra, Fr Tom Green, Fr Stephen Onyekwere & Deacon John Cinya.

#### Parish Schools:

St Michael's Primary: Phone 8869 6200

St Patrick's Primary: Phone: 8869 6000

Nagle College: Phone: 8887 4500

Patrician Brothers College: Phone: 8811 0300

Ambrose Early Learning Centre (St Michael's) : Phone 0458 508 444

#### Aged Care Facilities:

Opal Nursing Home ( 37 Kildare Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148 ) P : 9852 9600

Mullauna Retirement Village (61 Bungarribee Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148)

P : 8822 2100

St Hedwig Village Blacktown (140 Reservoir Rd, Blacktown 2148)

P: 8822 9920

(Cont'd...)

selected by Jesus himself. With the resurrection behind him and on the verge of his leaving this world, Jesus made it totally clear to the eleven that he was commissioning them to invite all peoples, without exception and including us, into discipleship. Was there ever a more expansive commission entrusted to humankind?

That this meeting with the eleven is the only encounter between the risen Jesus and his disciples in Matthew's Gospel, does not negate the validity of the Risen Jesus' encounters recorded by the other evangelists. Matthew's focus on the Commissioning of the Eleven is intended to highlight the significance of the mission entrusted to the earliest Christian community as its members turned their attention to proclaiming the Good News with which Jesus had entrusted them.

In Matthew's Gospel, the final parable told by Jesus before his betrayal and arrest is the parable of the Last Judgement. In the course of telling that parable, Jesus explained to those in his audience that he would always be with them. That promise was a prelude to his words to the eleven in today's gospel-reading that he would be with them to the end of time. He might have been physically farewelling them, but he was assuring them that his Spirit would never leave them. In the parable of the Last Judgement in chapter 26 of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus explained how our final judgement would be based on how we treat the strangers, the hungry, thirsty, neglected and overlooked people we encounter, because in all of them we meet Jesus himself, if only we recognise him in them and respond by treating them with compassion, mercy and dignity. In serving people in those circumstances, we are serving Jesus himself. To the extent that we ignore and neglect them, we ignore and neglect Jesus. Jesus' promise to every one of us is that he is present to us in everyone we encounter, but especially in the destitute, the neglected, the despised and overlooked.

By design, Matthew has put two bookends to his Gospel. In his first chapter he gives the account of how an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and disclosed to him that the child Mary was carrying was the long-awaited saviour foretold by the Prophets and that the child's name was Emmanuel, "God among us". The concluding bookend is Jesus' assurance to the eleven that he will always be "God among us".

In conclusion, may I offer a comment on what appears to be a rebuke to the eleven from "two men in white" (presumably angels) who told them to stop staring into space. The commissioning of them by Jesus and his hasty departure must have left them rather stunned. So, where else might they have turned their attention? And might they not have pointed out that the Risen Jesus had organised the meeting in the first place and had now hastily disappeared? To be told to stop day-dreaming and to turn their attention to the work that was to be done surely was a little blunt and hasty. It's a wonder that the testy Peter did not make a retort. Early in his Gospel, Luke had noted Mary's question to the Angel Gabriel and the doubt Zechariah had expressed to the angel who had given him the incredible news that his elderly wife was pregnant. I suspect that a discordant objection might have been heard had a feisty disciple like Martha been there. In an earlier era, Abram's wife Sarai might have been more voluble.

Still, there are weightier matters for us to ponder in today's readings, not the least of them being our role as modern-day disciples assured of the never-ending support and guidance of God's Holy Spirit. How do we respond to an assurance such as that?

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# ST. JOSEPH'S MEN'S GROUP

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## 22/05



TIME

**7PM - 9PM**



LOCATION

**AFRICAN CENTRE,  
ST PATRICK'S CAR PARK**



TOPIC

**NOT MINE, BUT THINE?**



SPEAKER

**FR. TOM GREEN**

MEETS EVERY 2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY



COME JOIN OUR

## CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

**THURSDAY 4 JUNE | 6PM**

**6PM** MASS AT OUR LADY OF LEBANON CO-CATHEDRAL,  
HARRIS PARK

**7PM** PROCESSION TO ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL,  
PARRAMATTA

**8PM** ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
AT THE CATHEDRAL FORECOURT



## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD —YEAR A

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Acts of the Apostles 1:11  
Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

**FIRST READING:** Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11  
*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6  
**R ~ God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 1:17-23  
*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Matthew 28:19. 20  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Matthew 28:20  
Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

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## Events for your Information

**31 May—40th anniversary of the Diocese celebration**

*You are invited to celebrate the  
40th Anniversary of the Diocese  
with Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral,  
Parramatta on Sunday 31st May at 2pm*

**4 June—Corpus Christ Procession 1**

*You are invited to attend an evening  
Corpus Christ Procession on Thursday, 4th  
June, starting with Mass at 6pm at Our  
Lady of Lebanon, Harris Park and then  
walking to St Patrick's Cathedral with the  
Blessed Sacrament.*

**7 June—Corpus Christ Procession 2**

*On Sunday 7th June, our own MQOF  
Corpus Christi Procession  
will start after the 10am Mass  
at St Patrick's and process to  
St Michael's/Nagle Hall.*

**Raffle Draw**  
\$2 tickets, lots of prizes to be won!

# Pentecost SUNDAY Celebration - You're Invited!

Come and join us as we celebrate our being Church at **St. Patrick's School Grounds** following the **10:00am Mass on Sunday 24th May 2026.**

As a vibrant multicultural parish, we encourage everyone to wear their **national attire** or something **red** to mark the occasion.

Please also bring a plate of your favourite **international dish** to share.

*Let's come together in faith, culture, and community— as we always do!*

**Contacts -** If you can help or have any questions, please contact:  
HELENA 0420 507 963 | REAGAN 0433 800 103 | SARAH 0479 742 633

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Breanna De Souza, Dora Benfatto, Rosetta Maria Antonucci Soderini  
Patricia Lavin (wife of Nat Lavin—one of St Michael's builders)  
Joan Wren, Luis Antonio Bautista

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

Luz Teresa Martinez, Anton Sablic, Maurice Graham, Norma Tagaddat  
Victorio Anilola

**DECEASED**

Holy Souls in Purgatory, Stan Saldanha, Maria Aquilina  
Deceased members of the Desanti family, Carmen Camilleri  
Deceased members of Scarpin & Mikicic families  
Arthur Bourlias, Souls of Spiteri & Gafa family

**THANKSGIVING**

Mercy Sylvester (Bday), Eva & John Cheedly (wedding anniversary)  
Franco Family, Thanksgiving Blessed Virgin Mary  
Anastacia Marascean, Felicidade & Isabel Malabansan Marascean

**Mass intentions are no longer available online.  
Please use the envelopes and give to the priests.**

## EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028



In 2028, Australia will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress, an extraordinary global encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The Congress invites anyone who would like to show support by volunteering in any of these three areas: Liturgical and Pastoral, Operations and Hospitality/Engagement.  
**To register, visit: <https://eucharist28.org/volunteer> or scan the QR code.**

We will soon commence to pray the Eucharist 28 Prayer after masses on weekdays, before the St. Michael's prayer at both churches. Prayers cards are available in the foyers.

## THE SACRAMENTS / MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

### PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Our clergy and pastoral care ministers bring the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to members who are unable to participate because of illness or aging. For more information and to arrange receiving of the sacraments, please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or after office hours number 02 8705 0830.

### PARISH GROUPS

#### CHRIST'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GROUP



**Contact:** Jane Cauchi, 0433 173 177  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Fridays, 9.30am  
 Sid Moseley Centre, St. Michael's Church  
 All are welcome!



Love arts and crafts? Join us on every Tuesday, 10am-12pm in the Sid Mosely Room, St. Michael's and Fridays from 10am-12pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St. Patrick's Church. Activities include embroidery, crocheting, knitting, painting and sewing.  
**Contact** Noemi Romero on 0475 798 770.

#### JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS



**Contact:** Antoinette Mangion, 0414 735 943  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Every 3rd Monday of the month, 10:00 am at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church

#### LEGION OF MARY ST MICHAEL'S

**Contact:** Max Rosario, 0490 137 533 (for statue bookings) President: Steve Attard.  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Every Thursday, 9am-10.30am at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.

#### LEGION OF MARY ST PATRICK'S



**Contact:** Doris Zammit, 0419 274 002 (for statue bookings)  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Every Monday, 6:30pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.

#### MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS—CENACLE



**Contact:** Max Rosario, 0490 137 533  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Monday 9:30am-10:30am at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.  
 All are welcome!

#### MQOF SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP—MARY'S PANTRY

**Contact:** Frank Mangion, 0410 830 877

#### ROSARY GROUP

**Contact:** Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday after the 8am Mass, at St Michael's church.

#### CATECHIST MINISTRY

**Contact:** Sandra Baker  
 admin@mqofblacktown.org.au  
 For more information, please contact the parish office.

#### TEHILLAH COMMUNITY



**Contact:** Ash & Rozario Fernando, 0416 861 976 or 0412 195 916  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Every 2nd & 4th Saturday (during school term only), 2pm - 4pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St Patrick's Church.

#### TRUE LIFE IN GOD PRAYER GROUP



**Contact:** Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Every 2nd Saturday of the month, 3.00pm at Sid Mosley Centre St Michael's Church

#### YOUTH MINISTRY

**Contact:** Parish Office  
 admin@mqofblacktown.org.au  
 For more Information please contact our Youth Minister through the parish office.

### SACRAMENTS

## Baptism

If you wish your child to be baptised here at MQOF Parish, please contact the parish office. If this is your first child, you will need to attend a Baptism workshop. For more information, please call the Parish Office or visit our website:

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/#baptism>

### SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION

The program for reception of Holy Communion has begun. Please pray for the children who are preparing for first communion and their parents and families.

First communion Masses will be celebrated on the weekend of 6-7 and 13-14 June.

#### Sacrament of Confirmation

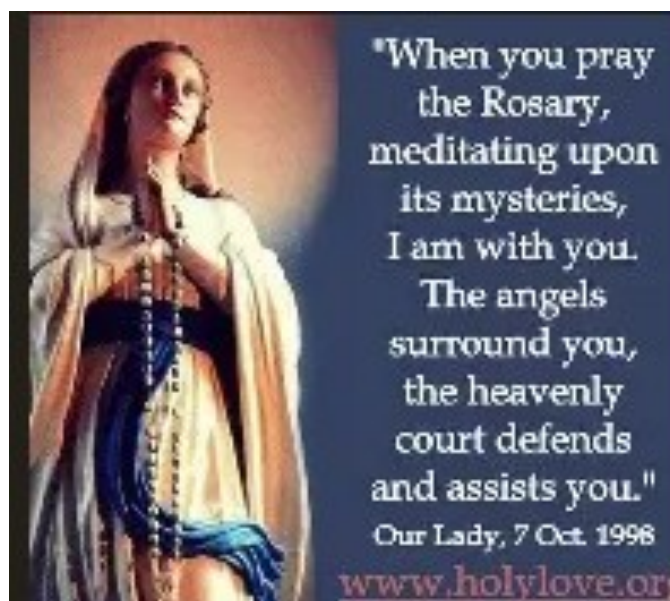
will be celebrated in September.

Registration for this sacrament will open on Friday 3 July

#### Sacrament of Penance

Will be celebrated in November

Registration for this sacrament will open Friday 25 September



### Rosary Making Workshops in May

Learn how to make rosaries to be donated to those in need. Session on 20th May. Cost: \$5 per person.



7pm-8.30pm  
 Bishop Bede Heather Centre  
 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown

To register, email: [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or call 0460 037 795

# Be The Witness

THE MUSICAL  
THAT WILL TURN YOUR LIFE AROUND



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NOW**

**10 - 13 September, 2026  
At Riverside Theatres, Parramatta**

An ancient message, a timeless calling,  
a moment not to be missed!

From 10-13 September, Parramatta Riverside Theatres will be ablaze with *Be The Witness*, the powerhouse Gospel musical, staged by Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, and [TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE](#).

*Be The Witness* is a dynamic, life-changing production that tells the story of Jesus through the eyes of St Peter, and traces the apostle's journey from failure to forgiveness; from timidity to trailblazing for The Lord.

But it's so much more than a musical. It's a movement. Just like The Twelve, you're being called. Andrew brought his brother Peter to Christ – and that was everything.



Who will you bring?  
To book your seats, use the QR code.  
Group ticket purchases incur only one booking fee, so call EVERYONE you know.  
The movement isn't new, but it *does* need you!

If you haven't yet joined us at one of our *Witness Live* events, which offer an exclusive and emotive preview of the show, make it happen. When and where?

Sponsorship and donations to support the work are welcome.

Follow us on [Facebook: Be The Witness](#) or jump on the official [Be The Witness](#) site.



### Bishop's Good Works Appeal

Across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, people turn to the Church for care, hope, guidance and belonging. Through the Bishop's Good Works Appeal, our Diocese supports vital ministries including Holy Spirit Seminary, Catholic Care, the Ephpheta Centre and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Over the coming weeks, this Appeal will support Holy Spirit Seminary at Harris Park, helping form the future priests our Diocese will need in the years ahead. Your generosity provides education, spiritual formation, pastoral training and safe accommodation for seminarians as they answer God's call.

Please give generously at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or scan the QR code. Thank you for supporting the future priests of our Church.



### Dates for your Diary

- May 23-24 Alpha Retreat
- May 24 Pentecost Sunday—  
10am Mass & Multicultural day
- May 31 2pm Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral at 2pm for Diocese's 40th Anniversary
- Jun 4 evening Corpus Christi Procession in Parramatta
- Jun 7 First Communion Masses s & Corpus Christi procession after 10am
- Jun 14 First Communion Masses
- Jul 3—19 Registrations - Confirmation program
- Aug 23 Mary Queen of the Family Fiesta
- Sep 6 Father's Day
- Sep 8 & 10 Confirmation masses (St Pat's @ 7pm)
- 7-10 September **The Witness the Musical**
- Sep 25—Oct 11 Registrations - Reconciliation program
- Oct 16 Parish Golf Day
- Nov 25 First Reconciliations in the afternoon
- Dec 12 Christmas Gala—Nagle College

## PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING TO THE PARISH

You can support the parish by:

**The Tap & Go Machine.** The machine amount is variable, please use the screen to donate the amount you wish to give. It also accepts Apple Pay, Google Pay and Pay Wave. All contributions go to the maintenance and development of the Parish as does the second collection at weekend Masses.

**Planned Giving (Direct Debit or Credit Card)** is also an option if you wish to do cashless donation to the parish, forms are available in the foyer and on our parish website or contact the parish office on 9622 1125.

**Setting up a one-time** or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Just go to: [www.mqofblacktown.org.au/donations](http://www.mqofblacktown.org.au/donations).

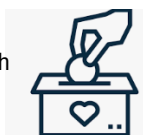
You can also send your offerings/donations thru bank transfer:

### FIRST COLLECTION: For the Diocesan Clergy

Account Name: Diocesan Clergy  
Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950  
Account Number: 0000 4265  
Reference: 6004 - Donor's Name

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Account Name: Blacktown Catholic Church  
Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950  
Account Number: 0000 0677



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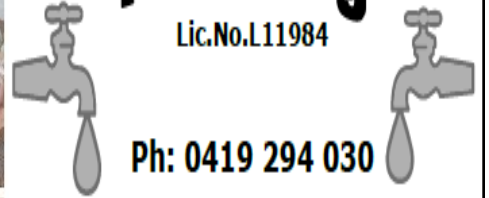
  
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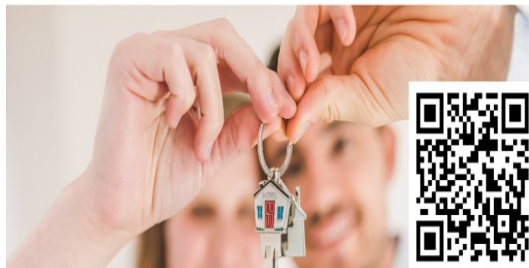


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Draw Jesus ascending into heaven.



Even though Jesus ascended into heaven he is always with us. Complete the sentences below.

Jesus is with me when....

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Jesus is with me when....

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Jesus is with me when....

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How many words can you make from the letters in the word ASCENSION?

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