



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

3 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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me...the one who has faith in me will do the works I do, and far greater than these. Why? Because I go to the Father..."
John 14: 1-12

Throughout the New Testament there are multiple references to Jesus' Ascension. John has the briefest of them. It is contained in Jesus' words addressed to Mary Magdalen on the morning of his resurrection: "Do not cling to me for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go and find the brothers and tell them: I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." (John 20:17) All the other references to Jesus' Ascension are closely related to his entrusting his mission to his disciples. For instance, in the very first chapter of Acts, Luke cites Jesus' instructions: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judea and Samaria and, indeed, to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1: 8)

In today's gospel-reading John has described not only Jesus urging his disciples to keep on putting their trust in him but implying but implying that he will continue to trust them because of his having placed them under his Father's care: "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. Whatever you ask for in my name I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask for anything in my name, I will do it." (John 14: 13-14)

These words of Jesus constitute the foundation of the mission and service of the Christian community throughout its 2000+ years of existence and service. Moreover, they press us modern-day disciples to ask: "Do I have anywhere near the measure of faith in Jesus as he has in me?" There are multiple examples in Acts of how members of the earliest Christian communities took Jesus at his word. We all know the story of how Peter and John, making their way to prayer in the Temple, encountered a cripple who had been set down near the Beautiful Gate (ironically called beautiful because it had been made the very opposite by the disfigured bodies of those who had been placed there to beg), and who asked them for a donation. Peter's response was: "I have neither silver nor gold, but I will give you what I have: in the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, walk!, and the man went with them into the Temple, walking and jumping and praising God." (Acts 3: 1-10)

How, then, might we appropriately apply the message inherent in today's gospel-reading, as we go about our lives in 2026? Are there ways we can find to give practical expression to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus? Is there anyone in our world suffering greater need and deprivation than our sisters and brothers in the Ukraine, Lebanon, Gaza and the Sudan? Might we not reach out to them through practical outreach via Australian Catholic Relief. (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...)

Because these people are geographically distant from us, they are often overlooked. Are they not neighbours whom Jesus called us to love as we love him? Closer to home, what practical measure might we adopt to reach out to those forced to sleep on our streets? What practical strategies might we pursue to mobilise the members of our own parishes?

To begin with, we must believe that God can work through us and the ordinary circumstances of our lives in order to bring about good that we have not yet been able to imagine. In an adaptation of the serenity prayer, we may have to learn to pray: "God, give us the courage and determination to change those things that only we can change, assisted by your grace and inspiration."

Today's gospel-reading opens with a line we cannot afford to overlook: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me." (John 14: 1) Surely that is a surprising statement from one whom John had described several times in his Gospel as "troubled". When Jesus revealed to his disciples that one of their number would betray him, he was clearly emotionally distraught: "Jesus was troubled in spirit and declared: 'I tell you most solemnly, one of you will betray me.' The disciples looked at one another, wondering what he meant." (John 13: 21-22) A little earlier, in predicting his approaching death and glorification, he disclosed his emotional upset: "Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest... Now my soul is troubled." (John 12: 23-27)

Earlier still, John had described Jesus' emotional turmoil just before he raised his friend Lazarus from the grave: "As soon as Mary saw Jesus, she threw herself at his feet, saying: 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died'. At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart: 'Where have you put him?' They said: 'Lord, come and see'. Jesus wept; and the Jews said: 'See how much he loved him!' (John 11: 32-37)

While the opening words from Jesus in today's gospel-reading: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me." might puzzle us as we recall the three previous occasions on which John described him as being "troubled" or "distressed", I suggest that here Jesus was urging his followers to hold firmly to their faith and trust in him and in God, especially when strong emotions surged through their bodies. From here through to the end of chapter 17 of John's Gospel, Jesus repeatedly assures his disciples that even though they will be threatened and pressured by forces at work in the world around them, they will always be assured his ongoing presence, by God's love and support and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, their Advocate. Lively faith and trust are confidence and assurance that God is always with us even when we are unable to imagine positive outcomes to the traumas and disasters that befall us or the challenging projects we undertake.

As Jesus moves on to announce to his disciples that "there are many rooms in my Father's house", he was not talking of a physical mansion or a block of flats. Similar to his reference to his body as a "temple" ("Destroy this temple/sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up, again" John 2: 19-22), Jesus was telling his disciples that he was the dwelling place of God and that through him God would come to dwell in them. We, too, are numbered among Jesus' disciples. John's line of theological explanation is that, through Jesus, our brother, God is also present in us. That's something which we will come to assimilate only through faith-filled reflection. Let's start out on that path!

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Congratulations to Luke Huyhn, Jeff Hood and Paul Tran who were recently ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop Vincent. Please pray for them.

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028

In 2028, Australia will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress, an extraordinary global encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Pilgrims from around the world will come together in worship, reflection, and celebration, united by a shared faith and a mission to carry Christ into the world. The Congress invites anyone who would like to show support by volunteering in any of these three areas:

- Liturgical and Pastoral
- Operations
- Hospitality and Engagement



To register your interest, visit: <https://eucharist28.org/volunteer> or scan the QR code.

We will soon commence to pray the Eucharist28 Prayer after Mass on weekdays, before the St Michael's prayer at both Churches.

Prayer cards will be available

The MQOF Flower Ministry's MOTHER'S DAY FUNDRAISER IS ON THIS WEEKEND!

&
9 & 10 May 2026

after the Vigil Mass and 10.00am Mass
at St Patrick's
and after the 8.00am and 9.30am Masses
at St Michael's.

There are plants, baked goods, sweets and gifts for sale. Raffle tickets can also be purchased for the four great prizes to be won. Your support is greatly appreciated.

FORMED

FORMED provides the very best free Catholic content to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere. Scan the QR Code to access these great resources today!



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER —YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: cf Psalm 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

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

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

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.’

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf John 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty,
alleluia.

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PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Maria Aquilina, Bernardo Rodenas, Steven Basoff, Ivy Nigli

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Stewart Allen, Nicanor Pascual, Angelica Hidalgo, Felicia Borja,
Perfecto Terminéz, John Borg, Jack McMahan

DECEASED

Maria & Joseph Bugeja, Claudio Paculanang, Frank Cefai,
Michael Cutugaz & family, Cresencia & Patrocinio San Antonio

SICK

Brianah De Souza

THANKSGIVING

Grethel & Ken, Cecillene (b'day)

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

POSITION VACANT

**Co-ordinator of Volunteers, Our Lady Queen of Peace,
Greystanes**

Initially 15 hrs/wk onsite for a suitably qualified/experienced person to focus on promoting, organising and celebrating parishioner involvement in ministry/service. The role will also oversee the safeguarding requirements for those in ministry/service and assist in practical and enriching ongoing formation. **For more information, please contact: parishoffice@olqp.org.au by 12 May 2026.**

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

Come join us on 19-21 June 2026 at the Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW.

Book online at: www.wvme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419. Alternatively, scan the QR code.



**DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA**

Safeguarding Training

For those who are thinking of volunteering in a parish ministry or wanting a refresher,

there will be a Safeguarding training session on 6th May at St. John Vianney Parish, Doonside., from 10.15am-3.15pm. This is a free event. To register, click on the link: <https://parracatholic.org/events/safeguarding-training-cycle-1-modules-1-3-6-may/#register> or call the Parish Office for more information.

Rosary Making Workshops in May

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

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



To register, email: ofw@parracatholic.org or call 0460 037 795

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.

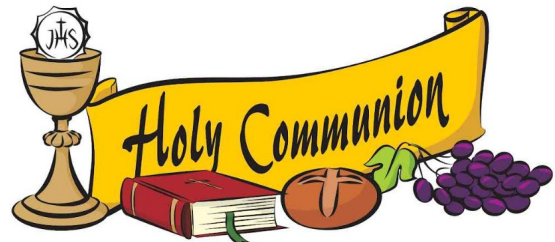
SACRAMENTS

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.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 7th May, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Cardinal Clancy Room.**

<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.

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

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.

LOOKING FOR MUSICIANS TO HELP THE CHILDRENS CHOIR

PREFERABLY A PIANIST AND A GUITARIST

Contact the Parish Office if you are interested and notify Lulu

The Witness: We Need Your Help - We Are Fundraising and we need your financial support

We now have sponsorship packages up to \$50,000 available. These will be included in the bulletin next week.

To deliver this incredible initiative with excellence and inclusivity, we need your help with **our fundraising effort**, to support: venue hire costs, licensing and production costs including -Professional Director, cast, sound, lighting and staging, costumes and creative materials, Outreach and accessibility, ensuring no one is excluded

Every contribution goes directly towards making **WITNESS LIVE and Be The Witness- The Musical** possible a reality. extending its impact across our parish and the wider Western Sydney community.

We warmly invite our parish family to support this mission in the following ways:

PAY PAL *using your credit/debit card (If not already a PayPal subscriber will need to create account)*

Use QR code or click and follow the link: [PayPal.Me](https://www.paypal.com)



BPOINT *using your credit/debit card and in the dropdown menu use Biller Code 1400167, and under purpose of payment – The Witness and if you wish, include your name*

Use QR code or click and follow the link: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/mqofblacktown/Choose>

In dropdown menu, Biller Code 1400167 - Other / Purpose of Payment – Be The Witness

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER *direct EFT payment*

BSB: 067 950

Account No: 100005763

Account Name: Blacktown Mary Queen of the Family Parish – Witness

Even though bank details are correct, the account name may be too long, and you may get an “account cannot be verified” message; this can be overwritten and you can continue to make your donation.

Let us step forward together—not just as spectators, But as disciples and truly BE THE WITNESS

St Joseph’s Men’s Group BBQ

An open invitation to all families-come along, bring a friend, and enjoy the day!!!

Saturday, 23rd May 2026
From 11:00 AM
Francis Park, Blacktown



BBQ & Refreshments



Fun & Games for the Kids



Fellowship & Brotherhood



Building Community In Christ

Come and enjoy a warm, family-friendly atmosphere with fellow parishioners. Whether you’re new or a regular, this is a perfect opportunity to connect, unwind, and grow together.

Dates for your Diary

May 10	Mother's Day
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 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)
September	The Witness the Musical (dates tbc)
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.

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

SECOND COLLECTION: For the Parish

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



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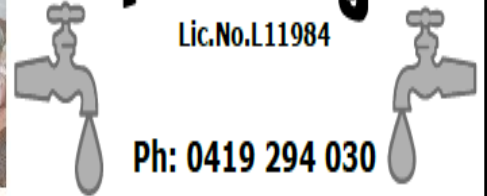

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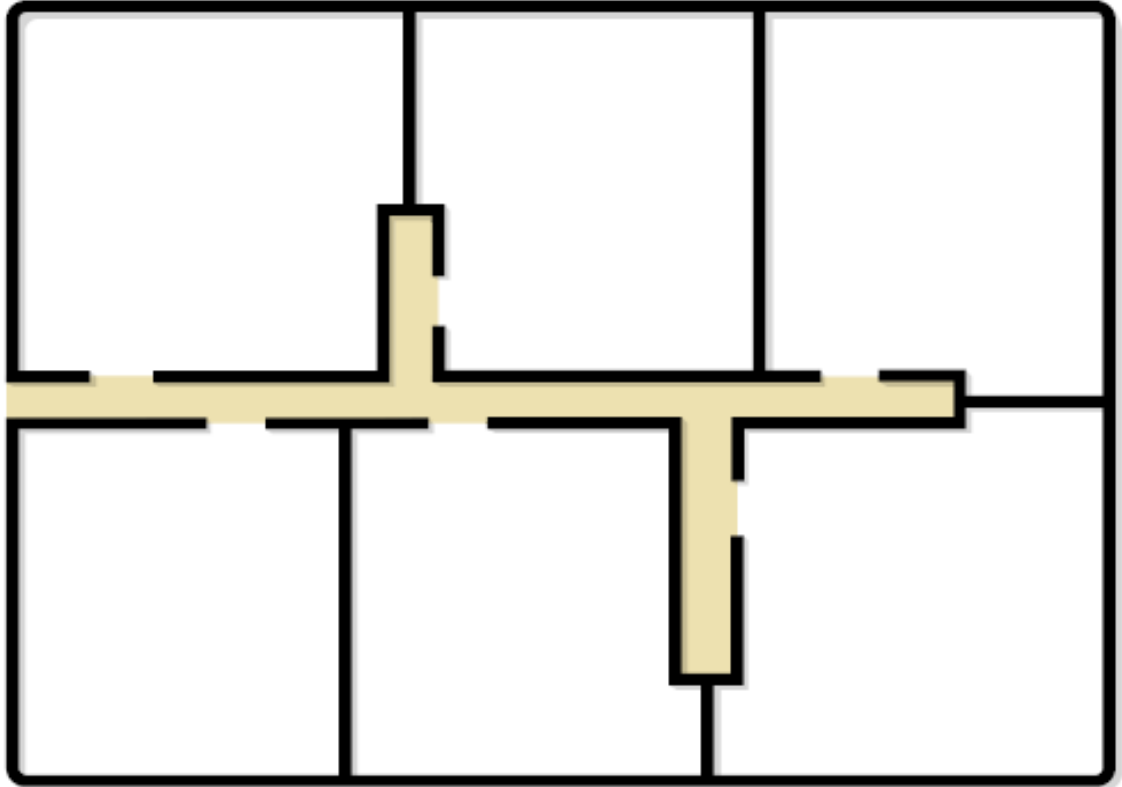
Jesus is the way to the Father



5th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Jesus tells us that there are many rooms in His Father's house and that he has prepared a place for each of us.

Fill each room with drawings of your family and friends.



Draw an arrow next to the words below which describe the Way, the Truth and the Life that Jesus wants us to follow.

- LOVE
- PEACE
- GREED
- FORGIVENESS
- CONFLICT
- JUSTICE
- SELFISHNESS
- COMPASSION
- HONESTY
- HATRED

Can you decipher what Jesus is saying?



" _____ come
the _____
except _____ ."