

Daily Prayer

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A
The Year of Matthew
Special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis



Readings: Acts 6: 1–7; Psalm 32: 1–2, 4–5, 18–19; 1 Peter 2: 4–9; John 14: 1–12.

The Year of Matthew and Jubilee Year of Saint Francis

On January 10, 2026, Pope Leo XIV inaugurated the special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis. This special Jubilee Year commemorates the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi's death. (Refer to the [Vatican News](#) link for further details.)

You may like to share Sister Rita's, first [MacKa Moment video](#) for 2026 on The Year of Saint Francis Assisi with your teachers, leaders, students and families.

Sister Rita is a [Sister of Saint Joseph](#), who supports our schools and parishes with the [Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre](#) in East Melbourne.

Further, locally, the theme for Catholic Education Week 2026 is **Christ beside me: Walking in the footsteps of Saint Patrick**. For further details about the theme, please refer to page 2 our [Liturgical Calendar](#).

The Gospel readings for this Year A are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, and the Church is currently celebrating the Season of Easter.

Every day of the week, Daily Prayer will invite those gathered to participate in prayer rituals and respond respectfully in a prayerful context. This week is about setting up for success in a way that those gathered will become comfortable with the structure, the responses, the gestures, the prayers and the symbols. Daily Prayer will be a time when all feel welcomed and valued.

Preparations for Daily Prayer

The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities and days of special cultural significance. Feel free to adapt the prayers for special occasions or specific intentions of your own class and school.

The prayers will introduce students to traditional prayer and liturgical practices and responses, as well as a variety of Christian spiritual experiences. Take the opportunity to create a Sacred Space for prayer as you might do in creating a protected garden. This may include a prayer cloth or placemat, a bible, a candle and flowers.

Additional resources (apps, websites, music, videos) will be suggested for those wanting to enrich the prayers or to understand the readings at a deeper level.



Overview of the Week

The Gospel readings for this Year A are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, and the Church is currently celebrating the Season of Easter.

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – <i>White</i>	I am the way, the truth and the life.	Praying with the Gospel Entrance Antiphon Imaginative Prayer
Tuesday – <i>White</i>	The apostles settle a dispute that has arisen in the early community	Praying with the First Reading Prayers of Intercession Our Father
Wednesday – <i>White</i>	No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also.	Praying with the Gospel Reflection Questions
Thursday – <i>White</i>	The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.	Praying with the Second Reading
Friday – <i>White</i>	Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. .	Praying with the Gospel Responsorial Psalm Echo Prayer

Note that Scripture quotations are from the Lectionary (*Jerusalem Bible*) or the NRSV.

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

Liturgy Help: [Commentaries and Homilies & Reflections](#)

Sunday Connection: [Loyola Press](#)

The Emmaus Series: [Sunday Reflections](#)

*To access Liturgy Help, please ensure you are logged into the CEVN website <https://cevn.cecv.catholic.edu.au/>



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Readings: Acts 6: 1–7; Psalm 32: 1–2, 4–5, 18–19; 1 Peter 2: 4–9; John 14: 1–12.

Today's Daily Prayer – To know me is to know the Father.

In the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter Jesus tells his apostles that to know him is to know the Father.

Preparation: Choose someone to light the candle. For the Gospel you will need four readers. Provide copies of the Entrance Antiphon for all.

Monday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our merciful and forgiving God.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Listen

Leader: Let us begin our prayer today with the Entrance Antiphon from the Fifth Sunday of Easter.

All: O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has delivered us. Alleluia!

Background to the Sunday Gospel

The reading from John's Gospel takes place in the context of the Last Supper. Jesus has just washed his disciples' feet, has predicted his betrayal, and has given them a new commandment, telling them that it is the love they show others that will mark them as his disciples. The apostles are aware that Jesus is preparing to leave them, so they are feeling anxious and uncertain. Jesus then enters into a long discourse with them that seems to lead only to confusion and misunderstanding on their part. Phillip and Thomas both challenge Jesus and seem to be asking for some clarity and direction. Thomas says if they don't know where Jesus is going, how can they follow him? Jesus answers with one of the most memorable lines in Scripture, 'I am the way, the truth and the life'.



Leader: Let us prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture.

If possible, the Scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a Bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Narrator: Jesus said to his disciples,

Jesus: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.

Narrator: Thomas said to him,

Thomas: Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.

Narrator: Philip said to him,

Philip: Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

Pause for silence.

Narrator: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Imaginative Prayer

Leader: Imagine you are one of the apostles in that room listening to this conversation. What words or phrases of Jesus would give you hope and comfort?

(Pause for reflection).

What words or phrases of Jesus give you comfort and hope now?

(Pause for reflection).



Say those words to yourself over and over in your mind and take them with you as you go forth.
Say them often in the course of the day.

Time for silent reflection.

Go Forth

Leader: May your hand be upon us, Lord Jesus, guiding and directing us to follow your way.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.
Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

All: **Pray for us.**

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Acts 6: 1–7; Psalm 32: 1–2, 4–5, 18–19; 1 Peter 2: 4–9; John 14: 1–12.

Today's Daily Prayer – Each of us have our own part to play.

The First Reading of the Fifth Sunday of Easter is from the Book of Act's.

In this reading the apostles settle a dispute that has arisen between two groups in their community.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Tuesday

Gather

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our God.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light candle and pause.

Leader: May each of us discover our own part to play in God's kingdom.

All: **Amen.**

Listen

Background to the First Reading

This reading focuses on a dispute between the Jewish-Christians (Hebrews) and the Greek-Christians (Hellenists). Whilst they were united in their belief in Jesus and his teachings, there was a great divide between them when it came to language and culture. The Jewish-Christians were parochial and exclusive and they treated the Greek community with disdain. The Greek community, on the other hand, were very open and accommodating to the local community. In this reading the Greek-Christians were complaining because their widows were not receiving a fair share of the community's food and charity. Seven men who were wise, of good reputation, and full of God's spirit were chosen to take on the task of looking after the poor.

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

If possible, the Scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a Bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word."



What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: Let us pray for our community.

Reader: That we may be welcoming and inclusive. *(Pause)*. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we may be open and accepting of all. *(Pause)*. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we may resolve our disputes justly and fairly. *(Pause)*. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: That we may acknowledge and value the gifts of all. *(Pause)*. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

(Pause)

Leader: In faith and hope let us pray together the Our Father.

All: Our Father ...

Go Forth

Leader: May we go forth from here as Spirit-filled people ready to care for others.

All: Amen

Leader: With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.

Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: Pray for us.

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

**All: Pray for us.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Acts 6: 1–7; Psalm 32: 1–2, 4–5, 18–19; 1 Peter 2: 4–9; John 14: 1–12.

Today's Daily Prayer – The Way, the Truth and the Life.

Focuses on the Gospel of the Fifth Sunday of Easter.

In this Gospel Jesus tells his apostles that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

For the Gospel you will need four readers.

Wednesday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Leader: We pray that Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, leads us to the Father.

All: Amen.

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to life everlasting.

All: Amen.

Listen

Background to the Gospel

The reading from John's Gospel takes place in the context of the Last Supper. Jesus has just washed his disciples feet, has predicted his betrayal, and has given them a new commandment, telling them that it is by the love they show others that will mark them as his disciples. The apostles are aware that Jesus is preparing to leave them so they are feeling anxious and uncertain. Jesus then enters into a long discourse with them that seems to lead only to confusion and misunderstanding on their part.

Phillip and Thomas both challenge Jesus and seem to be asking for some clarity and direction.

Thomas says if they don't know where Jesus is going how can they follow him?

Jesus answers with one of the most memorable lines in scripture, "I am the way, the truth and the life."



If possible, the Scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a Bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Narrator: Jesus said to his disciples,

Jesus: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.

Narrator: Thomas said to him,

Thomas: Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.

Narrator: Philip said to him,

Philip: Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Reflection Questions

Leader: When we identify fully with Jesus' vision and his values, and live them out, we become persons of Truth and Life. This is following the Way of Jesus.
Jesus said, 'I am the Way.' How will you live out his Way?

Pause for reflection.

Leader: Jesus said, 'I am the Truth.' How will you live out his Truth?

Pause for reflection.

Leader: Jesus said, 'I am the Life?' How will you live out his Life?"

Pause for reflection.



Go Forth

Reader: Trusting in Jesus who shows us the way, let us go forth from here reflecting his truth and life in what we say and what we do.

All: **Amen**

Leader: With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.
Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

All: **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Acts 6: 1–7; Psalm 32: 1–2, 4–5, 18–19; 1 Peter 2: 4–9; John 14: 1–12.

Today's Daily Prayer – The Cornerstone.

In the Second Reading Jesus is described as the cornerstone, the most important stone of the building.

Preparation: 1. Each person present will need a small piece of card (about 8 x 4 cms) and a pen/pencil.
OR 2. Each person present will be given a small, smooth stone (Available in bags at discount stores).
See **Respond** section. Choose readers and a person to light the candle.

Thursday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our merciful and forgiving God.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Let not our hearts be troubled, for Jesus is the cornerstone on whom we can depend.

All: **Amen.**

Listen

Background to the Second Reading

In ancient times, many people would build their own houses, so the references that Peter makes to construction would be something people would know and understand. The cornerstone was the most important stone in the building. It was the largest, most solid and most carefully constructed stone. It set the level, the angle and the outer dimensions of the building and if it were not level, the building would lean and fall over. If the cornerstone were removed, the building could not stand. Peter describes Jesus as the cornerstone, the foundation stone, the one on whom all other things depend, the one from whom we take our measure. Jesus serves as the foundation of the Church but is also the foundation for each Christian's life.

Leader: Let us prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture.

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.



Reader: A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall'.

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Pause)

Respond

Reflection on the Firmness of God

Leader: Jesus is the cornerstone, the foundation stone, the one upon whom we can rely. Let us take some time to reflect on what that might mean for our lives.

Time for quiet reflection

Leader: 1. Remind yourself that Jesus is the foundation stone of the Christian's life by writing or drawing a message on your card, e.g. *Jesus is my rock*. OR *Jesus is the cornerstone of my life*. OR *Come to him, a living stone*. Keep this card near you and read it often.

OR

2. Choose a stone from the bag and hold it in your hands. As you feel it, let it remind you of the firmness and stability of God. Keep it in your pocket, on your desk, in your bag reminding you that Jesus is solid as rock and can always be depended on.

Time to complete activity

Go Forth

Leader: As we leave this place, let us remember that Jesus is the living stone, the foundation stone of our lives. May we go forth confident that he is always with us.

All: Amen.

Leader: With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.

Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: Pray for us.

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.



All: **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Acts 6: 1–7; Psalm 32: 1–2, 4–5, 18–19; 1 Peter 2: 4–9; John 14: 1–12.

Today's Daily Prayer – We place our trust in you.

Focuses on the Gospel of the Fifth Sunday of Easter. We respond with the Responsorial Psalm.

Preparation: Choose readers and a person to light the candle.

Friday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our merciful and forgiving God.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Leader: In this Gospel we are reminded that we do not need to worry. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. There is nothing to fear. May he free us from our fears through today's prayer.

All: Amen.

Listen

Background to the Gospel

The reading from John's Gospel takes place in the context of the Last Supper. Jesus has just washed his disciples' feet, has predicted his betrayal, and has given them a new commandment, telling them that it is the love they show others that will mark them as his disciples. The apostles are aware that Jesus is preparing to leave them, so they are feeling anxious and uncertain. Jesus then enters into a long discourse with them that seems to lead only to confusion and misunderstanding on their part. Phillip and Thomas both challenge Jesus and seem to be asking for some clarity and direction. Thomas says if they don't know where Jesus is going, how can they follow him? Jesus answers with one of the most memorable lines in Scripture, 'I am the way, the truth and the life'.

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.
And you know the way to the place where I am going.'



Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?'
Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Respond

Responsorial Psalm

Leader: Let us respond to the Gospel by praying the Responsorial Psalm.

Reader: All you that are righteous,
shout for joy for what the Lord has done;
praise him, all you that obey him.
Give thanks to the Lord with harps,
sing to him with stringed instruments.

All: **Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Reader: The words of the Lord are true,
and all his works are dependable.
The Lord loves what is righteous and just;
his constant love fills the earth.

All: **Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Leader: The Lord watches over those who obey him,
those who trust in his constant love.
He saves them from death;
he keeps them alive in times of famine.

All: **Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Go Forth

Echo Prayer

Leader: Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled.'

All: **Do not let your hearts be troubled.**

Leader: Jesus said, 'Believe in God and believe in me.'

All: **Believe in God and believe in me.**

Leader: Jesus said, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'

All: **I am the way, the truth and the life.**

Leader: With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.
Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

All: **Pray for us.**
In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.

