

# Parish Press

Sunday May 3rd, 2026

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

## Sentence

*'I am the way, and the truth, and the life,' says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me.'* John 14.6

## Prayer of the Day

Ever living God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
give us grace to love one another,  
to follow in the way of his commandments,  
and to share his risen life;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## Readings

Acts 7.55-60	Page 96
Psalms 31.1-5, 17-18	Page (OT) 393
1 Peter 2.11-25	Page 183
Luke 14.1-14	Page 59

## Today's services are

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Communion Service followed by morning tea

5pm Choral Evensong followed by wine and cheese

This week, we pray for those who live on the Maroondah Hwy  
(Whitehorse Rd)

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is  
admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such  
things. (Philippians 4.8)

## **Mark's Reflection**

### **The Stoning of Stephen (Acts 6–7)**

Stephen stands as the first Christian martyr, a man “full of grace and power,” whose life and death echo the very pattern of Christ. Accused falsely, dragged before the authorities, and condemned by an angry crowd, he does not respond with fear or hatred—but with truth, courage, and astonishing grace.

As stones are raised against him, Stephen lifts his eyes to heaven and sees the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. Even in the face of death, his vision is not of violence, but of victory—Christ reigning, Christ welcoming, Christ present.

Most striking of all are Stephen's final words. Like Jesus on the cross, he prays for his persecutors: “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” In that moment, hatred is met not with retaliation, but with forgiveness. The cycle of violence is broken by love.

Stephen's witness challenges us deeply. How do we respond when we are misunderstood, opposed, or hurt? Do we cling to resentment, or do we dare to forgive? Do we see only the struggle before us, or do we lift our eyes to the greater reality of God's presence and promise?

This story is not only about death, but about faithful living. Stephen reminds us that following Christ may be costly—but it is never without hope. Even in suffering, God is at work. Indeed, from this moment of tragedy, the Church begins to spread, and the gospel reaches new lands.

As we reflect on Stephen's courage, may we be given grace to stand firm in faith, to speak truth with love, and to trust that nothing—not even death—can separate us from the glory of God revealed in Christ Jesus.

God bless

Mark

### **Holy Trinity is currently looking for a cleaner**

Weekly responsibilities include the cleaning of all halls, foyer, bathrooms and church. Approximately 3 hours per week, paid at the appropriate award as arranged by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

For more details. Please contact the vicar vicar@holytrinity.sh 9890 2165

### **Youth Group BYO MUMS**

Our next Youth Group, 10th of May, falls on Mother's Day. So we will be hosting a BYO Mum's Youth Group where the Mum's join in on the fun!

### **Parish Lunch**

Our Parish lunch is coming up on the 31st of May. To RSVP please put your name on the sign up sheet in the narthex.

### **Food for Asylum Seekers**

A huge thank you for the fantastic response to our request for donations. In conjunction with the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre, your offering has been amazing! Carloads of food have gone to the Migrant Resource Centre, and much has been used for the weekly Food Pantry every Thursday. We would like to suggest a "one-item" continual donation every week. It will make a tremendous difference.

### **Parish Prayer List**

Helen Burston, Stephen Binns, Thelma Fiddymont, Bruce Knox, Helen Morris, John and Sally James, Edith Jenkins, Ann Constable, Gwen Jackson, Verna Hubert, Mark, Leslie Gibbons.

### **We remember**

We give you thanks for your servants in every age. Grant that we, with all your saints, may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of your kingdom. Beverley Munro, Henry Saba, Clarence Gauder, Isabel Grummet, Alwyn Charlesworth, Charles Thick, Kenneth Hasler, Edwin Liversidge.

## This Week at Holy Trinity

### **Wednesday**

10am Service of  
Thanksgiving and Healing  
followed by morning tea

### **Thursday**

**Grab something for our  
community pantry from the  
shops.**

10am Parish Prayer Service  
7-10pm Choir Practice

### **Sunday**

**8am Holy Communion**

**9.30am Sung Holy  
Communion service  
followed by morning tea**

## Readings this week

Monday John 14.21-26

Tuesday John 14.27-31

Wednesday John 15.1-8

Thursday John 15.8-11

Friday John 15.12-17

Saturday John 15.18-21

### **Sunday**

**Acts 17.22-31**

**Psalm 66.7-19**

**1 Peter 3.8-22**

**John 14.15-21**

## Direct Giving to Holy Trinity

To give directly to the Parish, via  
the Anglican Development Fund,

**BSB: 703-122.**

**Acct No: 0500 4680.**

Holy Trinity Surrey Hills.

Scan to access our website

[holytrinity.sh](http://holytrinity.sh)



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