



## Stairway to Heaven

MIGUEL DULICK

**E**ven by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

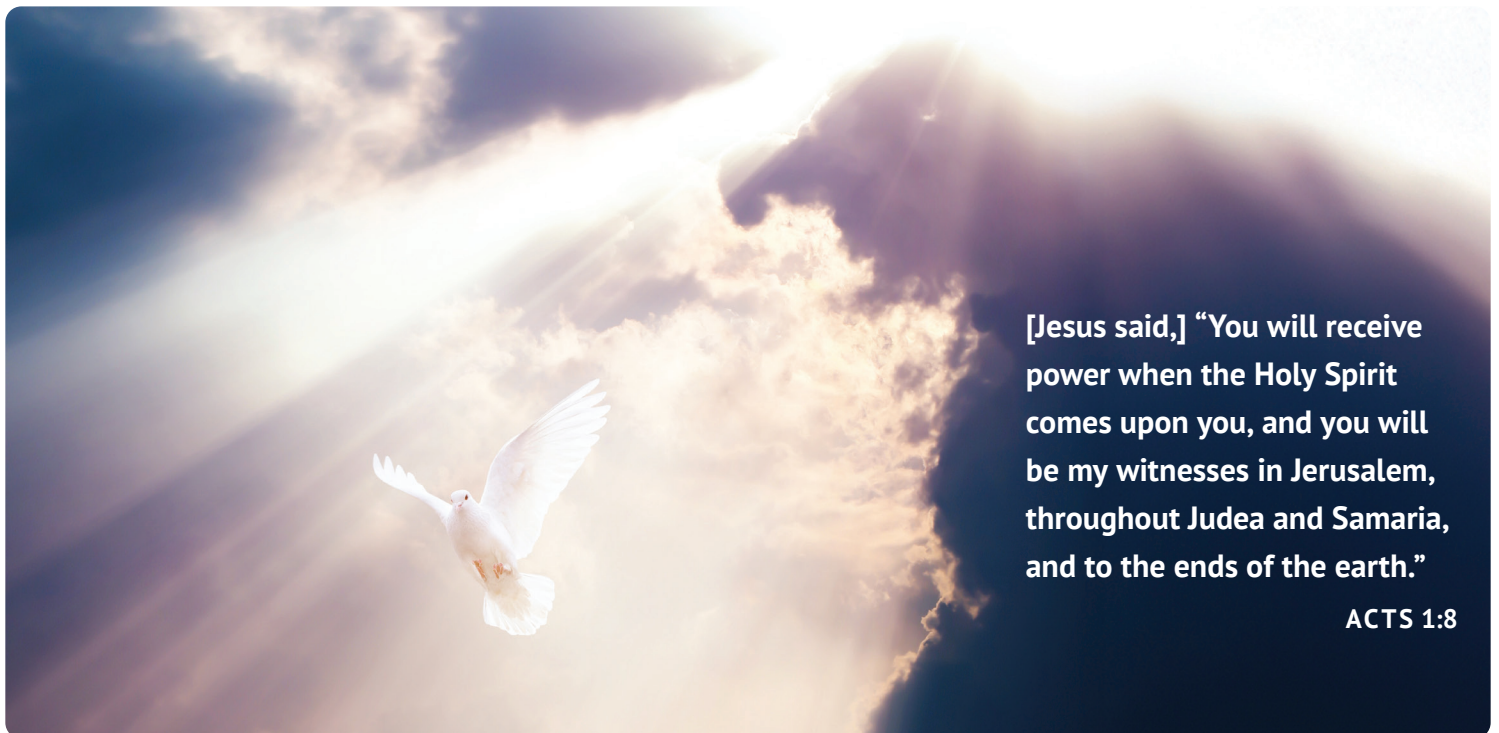
So the next nine days are crucial. The apostles and other disciples, 120 persons in all, prepare for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual retreat, the original "novena." Only then can the apostle go and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus, who brought heaven down to earth in the Incarnation, now ascends, taking earth up to heaven, with his resurrection. Saint Paul gives us a hint of how special this interchange is when he wishes for the Ephesians to receive from Jesus "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17).

Our own obtuseness can block the Holy Spirit when we think we have all the answers. When I first preached in Honduras, in the village where I live, I was so prepared. I said everything I could think of, all that I had learned in my courses for a masters degree in divinity. But then, when I heard the prayers and insights of poor and simple folks, supported by a rich, personal knowledge of the Lord himself, I cut my sermons in half and let the "saints," as St. Paul liked to call the people, finish the job. Thank you, Holy Spirit! ●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY



[Jesus said,] "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8

### Reflect

*How can I better cooperate with the Holy Spirit?*



## St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 1928.  
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda  
P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MABX, Bermuda.  
Telephone: (441) 234-2321

Email: [stjosephbermuda@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephbermuda@gmail.com)

**PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES**  
(441) 292-0607 Ext. 5 or (441) 704-1874 (cell)



### Mass Schedule

Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By date: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Sunday morning: 8:30 a.m.
Filipino Mass – Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2026: 11:00 a.m.
Kids & Youth Ministry	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Youth/Family Mass	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2026
Pastoral & Finance Council	25 <sup>th</sup> May – 6:30 p.m.
Coffee Social	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2026
Second Collection	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2026

### DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak  
[www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm)

#### Parish Team Leaders

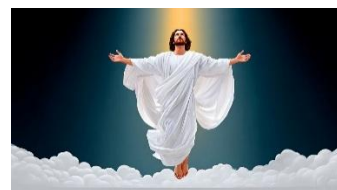
Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson	Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
Walette Cross Stewardship Representative	Natalia Walker & Justin Tavares Religious Education - Kids & Youth Ministry
Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	Mrs. Jane Farge - Music Ministry



#### Today's Hymns

**Entrance:** Crown Him with Many Crowns #461  
**Offertory:** Holy God We Praise They name #566  
**Communion:** One Bread, One Body #793  
**Recessional:** Now Thank We All Our God #603

**Leader of Song: Justin Tavares**



*We, The St. Joseph's Parish family, take this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May our loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.*



Sunday –24<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Proclaimer of God's Word**  
**Sacristan**  
**Eucharistic Minister**  
**Collection Counters**  
**Altar Server**  
**Music**

**Marisa Stones**  
**Stephen Card**  
**Joanne Smith**  
**Annette Barclay**  
**Liam/Seamus Stones**  
**Jane Farge**

**Prayers:** Please keep our sick and shut-ins in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Andrew Card, Eleanor Correia and Mary Maybury.

### ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 (Regular)	58	516.00
(Maintenance)		291.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>\$807.00</b>

*Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information:  
St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 –*

### MASS INTENTION:

†Lucy & John Moffat

### BIRTHDAYS

Rhea Ingraham

18<sup>th</sup> May

May God, our loving heavenly Father, grant you many more special days.

**The 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass will resume next Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May and end on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026. However, there will be no Mass on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, the Feast of St. Anthony.**

### 2026 Confirmed Events - St. Josephs

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> June Fun Afternoon of Music 2:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June Classical Music Concert 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June Classical Music Concert 5:00 p.m.**

#### Featuring:

**Steve Crawford** (Guitar)  
**Jane Farge** (Classical Contralto Opera Singer)  
**Johanna Pino Gonzales** (Viola & Violin)  
**Andrea Hodson Patton** (Piano)

**Tickets:** Adults \$30 – Seniors/Students/Children (5-18) \$15  
Available from today. Contact: Liz Card at 234-0872/WhatsApp 335-2077, or Jane Farge at 747-4060

**Kid's & Youth Ministry – After Mass, this morning.** There will be no class next Sunday, due to the holiday weekend.

**Our next Pastoral & Finance Council meeting** will be held in the Parish Centre, on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – 6:30 p.m.



**May is a Marian month**, therefore, in honour of our Blessed Mother, let us try to pray the rosary every day, or, at least, just one decade.

**DISCOVER OR REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM (DORC)** is open for anyone - converts, reverts, life-long Catholics, the curious, those interested in the faith, those questioning the faith - and is based upon 88 common questions with many answers by using the Sacred Scriptures (SS) and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). We will meet on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30 pm starting on May 27 at St. Michael's Church (South Shore) in the Pastor's Office. This is based upon the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in a casual group discussion setting, **Contact Fr. Joe at 705-0236 for further details.**

**Bishop Wes and Fr. Dandy are planning to have a "Summer Lunch & Movie Thursdays" in St. Theresa's Hall.** The event will take place on Thursdays in July and August, starting with the 2nd of July and ending on the 27th of August. This event will include lunch (soup + sandwiches/bread + ice-cream + coffee/tea) at 12:00 p.m., with the movie starting at 12:30 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to assist with organisation of the lunch. If you want to commit for the entire program time, or just for a part of it, please send an email to [sttheresas@northrock.bm](mailto:sttheresas@northrock.bm) or [orcc.bermuda@gmail.com](mailto:orcc.bermuda@gmail.com)

### BISHOP'S CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

I found this article in the 28 of April 2026 edition of *The Spectator*. It is rather philosophical, but I believe it to be important to have a philosophy for the way of living one's life.

In recent years it's become a hackneyed truism that Nordic nations have found the key to happiness. The Danes, who often take first place in global rankings for mental wellbeing, pride themselves on *hygge*, that feeling of coziness evoked by wrapping oneself in blankets and being surrounded by candles. The Swedes promote *lagom*, the concept of the optimal medium, while the Finns appear to be satisfied with their lot in life. Finland came first in this year's World Happiness Report for the ninth time in a row, as they have no well-known term that encapsulates their attitude to life.

In the spirit of Nordic one-upmanship, that could be about to change. Two Finnish film producers have announced they will open a "Finnish Happiness Experience Museum" in Helsinki next year, to explore how they are happier than their Scandinavian neighbours and why. The reason it transpires is because the Finns simply accept that life is tough.

There is a curious paradox: The Finns are content because they know that existence is an ordeal and manifests itself in the behaviour of the Finnish people. If one imagines Finland as an idyllic country and then goes there and stands in the central square in November, one will be struck that nobody is smiling. This outward appearance does not betray deep-

rooted misery, but merely a laconic, introverted and at times painfully shy temperament. "The Finns are not afraid of the Russians," says of the museum's curators, "but they are afraid of having to accidentally spend time in the lift with their neighbours."

It seems that the Finns did not invent anything new. This approach to life had been already known to the ancient stoicism and other philosophers along history. Is this the key to happiness? I believe that Jesus is the key. But everyone is free to make their own choice...

Boa Festa do Senhor Santo Cristo!  
Have a restful weekend and a blessed week!

Bishop Wes

### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

#### Risen Lord and Ruling King

The Ascension of the Lord Year A celebrates the moment when Jesus returned to the Father. It is a joyful reminder that his mission on earth was complete, but his care for us continues. The disciples saw him lifted up into heaven, yet his promise to be with them always gave them courage.

This feast reminds us that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God. He reigns as King over all the earth. His authority is above every power and ruler. Even though we cannot see him, he is still guiding his Church and giving us strength through the Holy Spirit.

The Ascension also calls us to action. Jesus gave his followers a mission to go into the whole world. We are sent to share his message, to baptize, and to teach others to follow him. His words are for us today just as they were for the first disciples.

#### Reflection

- How does the Ascension of the Lord challenge you to live your faith more fully?
- What does it mean to be a disciple maker in your daily life?
- How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's guidance in difficult moments?
- Why is it important to trust in God's power rather than rely only on yourself?
- How can you help others grow in faith through your words and actions?
- What does Jesus' promise to be with us always mean to you?
- How do you prepare your heart for His return?
- What are some ways you can step out of your comfort zone to share the Gospel?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to leave His mission in the hands of His followers?
- How can you strengthen your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

Source: *Young Catholics 2026*

# Dear Padre,

*I am scared of the end times and predictions of these dates. I feel saved, but I don't truly know if I would be accepted into heaven. What are the Catholic teachings on the end times/rapture?*

No one but our heavenly Father knows the precise time of our Lord's return. (See Mark 13:32-37.) If this uncertainty about when Jesus will return evokes more apprehension than anticipation, it doesn't help that prophets of doom make predictions based on a distorted understanding of apocalyptic literature in the Bible. An example of this literary form includes the Book of Revelation. It contains elements of a final judgment and cosmic struggle between good and evil written in highly symbolic and imaginative language; however, it wasn't intended to provide a literal description or timeline of how the world ends. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, St. Paul also uses apocalyptic imagery to say that all the faithful will be "caught up" ("rapt up") to meet the Lord at his Coming. Some use this single text to vividly imagine true believers being "raptured" from the earth and escaping the destruction of humankind at the end times, but it's a misinterpretation. For Catholics, these apocalyptic passages offer hope and guidance: despite the powerful forces of evil, Christ will overcome. His death and resurrection already ushered in the last age. We don't know how long this age will last before the final consummation, hence the need to be watchful and prepared. ●



BILLION PHOTOS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

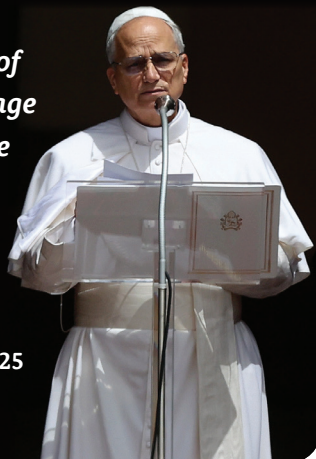
Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Where are you...when the poor are blamed for their poverty, forgotten and discarded, in a world that values profit more than people? [W]here are you in a hyper-connected life where loneliness corrodes social bonds and makes us strangers even to ourselves?...*

*Fraternity...means rediscovering the face of the other...the very image of God in the face of the poor, the refugee, and even the adversary.*

ADDRESS TO MEETING  
ON FRATERNITY, ROME,  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025



MARCO IACOBELLI EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK

### Monday

May 18  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 19:1-8  
Jn 16:29-33

### Tuesday

May 19  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 20:17-27  
Jn 17:1-11a

### Wednesday

May 20  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 20:28-38  
Jn 17:11b-19

### Thursday

May 21  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11  
Jn 17:20-26

### Friday

May 22  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 25:13b-21  
Jn 21:15-19

### Saturday

May 23  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
Jn 21:20-25

### Sunday

May 24  
Pentecost Sunday  
Acts 2:1-11  
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13  
Jn 20:19-23