

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Joining churches around Australia to raise awareness and funds to address the issue of domestic and family violence.

St. Paul's Church • Ipswich
3rd May, 2026

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*In place of the processional hymn, a two-minute video will be shown.
Anglican Church of Australia: Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday.
After the video, the Liturgical Assistant says*

Please stand as you are able for the silent procession.

The Invocation

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Greeting

Christ is Risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country

The Ipswich Anglican Parish Community respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners as custodians of the land and waters we share. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.

Today we join churches across the Anglican Church of Australia to raise awareness about domestic and family violence. We honour the Ten Commitments of the ACA regarding prevention and response to this matter. Violence in our communities is unacceptable, whether that violence occurs in the street, in our home, in our workplaces or in our church communities, and whether it is perpetrated by men or women. Our Christian scriptures proclaim the equality of every human being and demand that our behaviour towards others is characterised by the behaviour of God towards us – of justice, love and mercy, compassion, patience and a mission to heal the sick and mend the broken hearted.

Kids' Time With God

Sentence

Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, being dead to sin, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2.24

Prayer of Approach

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

Confession

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence is kept

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith, pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise, *Gloria in excelsis*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.****

Collect

Saving God, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be reconciled to you; through him who died for us and rose again and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 7.55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed

together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31.1-5; 31.17-18

¹ To you, Lord, have I come for shelter:

let me never be put to shame.

² **O deliver me in your righteousness:**

incline your ear to me and be swift to save me.

³ Be for me a rock of refuge, a fortress to defend me:

for you are my high rock and my stronghold.

⁴ **Lead me and guide me for your name's sake: bring me out of the net that they have secretly laid for me, for you are my strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commit my spirit:

you will redeem me, O Lord God of truth.

¹⁷ **All my days are in your hand: O deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors.**

¹⁸ Make your face to shine upon your servant:

and save me for your mercy's sake.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2.11-25

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honourable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge. For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free

people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor. Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Hear the word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *Come As You Are* [TIS 693]

The Gospel

John 14.1-14

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

'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.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to

him, '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. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us together affirm the faith of the church.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made, of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The celebrant says

Let us pray for the world, for the church, and for those whose suffering is hidden.

The intercessor continues

Loving God, creator and sustainer of all. You bring light into darkness, and darkness cannot overcome the light of your love. We ask that the light of your love will reveal that which is so often hidden. Shine on the suffering of many of your daughters who are subjected to abuse, control, or emotional and psychological injury. Heal physical and sexual violence at the hands of someone they have loved or trusted.

Come Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Pour out your love into the hearts of those who continue to suffer: remind them that you are the God who sees, and you know every detail of their experiences. Remind them that you are their strength and refuge, they are not to blame; remind them that you are their Shepherd, and you long to tenderly care for them and restore their dignity and joy.

Come Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those who have further suffered when your word has been used against them to dominate and destroy, or when those who should have offered care and hope within the church community have only added to guilt and shame, we ask that you would hold them until they can trust you again. For those who continue on their journey of recovery, remind them daily of their strength to survive. When they grow weary, be their strength and their fortress, a resting place in times of struggle.

Come Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord you are the one who works righteousness and justice for the oppressed, you stretch out your hand against our foes, with your right hand you save: we ask for deep repentance from those who have chosen abuse and violence in their relationships. We ask that we as your church would deeply repent of words and actions that have not condemned abuse, but simply turned a blind eye. We ask for a deeper understanding and willingness to challenge our beliefs and attitudes that allow abuse to flourish.

Come Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord we long for that day when there will be no more tears or crying or pain, when your glory will cover the earth, and our hope peace will be completed in you. We ask that we might live up to our call to be light in the world, standing with you for justice. We ask that our churches would be places where women and men live and serve together in true dignity, equality and respect; where each one's giftings are acknowledged and given space to flourish as your Spirit leads.

Come Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Please join me as we pray the Ipswich Anglicans Prayer together:

**God of new beginnings,
bless our Ipswich Anglican community
with a fresh vision for the future,
with generous hearts to love one another,
and with courage for the changes we now embrace.
Draw us more deeply into the mystery of Christ,
so that we draw closer to you and to each other.
Make us a blessing to the city of Ipswich
as we walk together
into the future you have prepared for us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ
His spirit is with us.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And always with you.

Offertory Hymn: *Christ's is the world* [TIS 677]

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer.
Fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, ever living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks that you raised him to life triumphant, and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, in obedience to his command,
we commemorate and celebrate his saving passion and death,
his mighty resurrection and ascension into heaven
and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father eternal, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
**so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

Invitation to the Table

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Holy things for holy people.
Broken things for broken people.

Please note that intinction (dipping the bread) is forbidden as it is a health risk; it also introduces gluten to the wine, which is a further health risk to those who have a gluten allergy. Please ask the priest if you require a gluten free wafer. If you do not wish to drink from the cup but want to acknowledge the sacramental presence, please feel free to pause briefly before the chalice and say 'Amen'.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prayer after Communion

Most glorious Lord of life, we thank you that you nourish us in these Easter mysteries. Fill us with the Spirit of love and unite us in faith, that we may witness to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world. **Amen.**

Kids' Time With God

Notices

Prayer for those Receiving the Travelling Cross

The Leader says

Gracious God, we give you thanks for members of the household of faith as they receive the travelling cross
— a sign of your presence and our shared life in Christ.

Congregation says

**May this cross remind them of your love and presence each day,
and of your strength in times of need.
Be present in their daily lives – in their joys and their challenges,
and keep them close to you.**

Leader says

As they pray beneath this cross,
may they also remember this congregation in their prayers —
that together, we may grow in faith, love, and service.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation responds

Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God,
who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ,
and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom,
give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your
eternal inheritance; and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you
and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: *Tell Out My Soul* [TIS 161]

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**Domestic Violence
has no place
in our homes, our
relationships and
in our churches.
Help us to bring
hope and shed light**



More than 1 in 3 women had
been in a violent relationship



More than 1 in 7 men had been in
a violent relationship

Report 64 & Panel 6 (2023) Women's Australian Family Violence Research Institute
Share Report: The prevalence of intimate partner violence across Australia and
activity in Australian public research. Report for the Anglican Church of Australia.
ACTS RESEARCH, 2023-24



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Anglican Church of Australia
FAMILIES & CULTURE COMMISSION



**ten
commitments**



3 MAY 2026