Parish of Saint Joseph, Subiaco **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** **26 April 2026**

Let us remember in our prayers …

Recently deceased: Esther Corcoran, Lionel Roberts, Paul Kelly, Sr Maureen Mohan RSM

Anniversaries: Rita Fransz, Richard Win Pe, Jose-Marid Hindley Mwipatayi, Brian Prior, Dorothy Evans

Sick: Beula Reddy, Ken Metcalf, Joan Travers, Tom Brennan, Yvette Henderson, Peter McEvoy, Anunciata Alteri, Sr Deidre Brown IBVM, Celine Williams, Julia Audino, Alberto Audino, Liam Brady, Lachie Glasfurd, John Audino, Peter Foss, Pat Docherty, Abigail Fells, Kaye, Anne Hutchins, Felice Jennings and baby Marcel, Anne Jennings, Sr Assumption SJG, James Wambow

BELGIUM'S BEGUINAGES: TRANQUIL OASES IN A WORLD OF NOISE AND DISTRACTION **By Virginia Mayo, Associated Press**

The clatter of suitcases rolling over cobblestones, motorboats chugging along a canal and visitors chattering in a handful of languages provide a soundtrack to Bruges that makes it clear you are in one of Belgium's most touristic cities. And yet, about two dozen women residents and visitors have found a hidden sanctuary from its bustle in a spot over a small bridge and under an ornate arch with an engraved Latin phrase 'sauvegarde,' or 'safe place' in English. Nestled in a sea of yellow daffodils lies an oasis of calm and tranquility founded in 1245: the Princely Beguinage Ten Wijngaerde of Bruges. For 22 years, Trees Dewever has called this beguinage her home. "It provides an overwhelming feeling of calm I think we need in this world." Her neighbour, 23-year beguinage resident Jo Verplaetsen, said the spirit of the medieval shelter is today soothing and social."Each day you are thankful to be here," she said.

However serene now, the beguinages emerged after the 12th century as an antidote to devastation. Conflicts in the Middle Ages ravaged the male population, creating a glut of widows and single women who needed some kind of stability. They often chose the looser rules of the beguinages instead of stricter convents, said Michel Vanholder, a volunteer at the Mechelen Grand Beguinage Church. "They didn't want to become nuns but nevertheless they wanted to live together without men because there were not enough men to marry," he said. Women who joined were called beguines, and while forbidden to marry while residing in the beguinages, they were allowed free egress, could own their own property and did not take religious vows of celibacy and poverty like nuns in adjacent convents. "Women who didn't want to become real nuns or religious could have an in-between form, becoming a beguine," said Brigitte Beernaert, who moved into the Bruges beguinage more than 20 years ago.Women in the beguinage often worked caring for the sick and poor, but also earned money with needlework and weaving lace. Some invested profits back into the community.

But the beguinages were at different times embraced and persecuted by the Vatican. One prominent beguine, the French Christian mystic Marguerite Porete, was condemned as a heretic and burned at the stake in 1310. Novelists Ken Follett, Charlotte Brönte and Umberto Eco have written about the Beguines and their male counterparts the Beghards.

Architecturally, the beguinages were designed for like-minded women to live in comfort, quiet and safety, with small gardens tucked into either easily accessible alleys or around a main square with houses facing a common courtyard. The heart of the community was almost always a chapel or church. Today, UNESCO recognises as world heritage sites 13 beguinages in Flanders, the Dutch-speaking northern half of Belgium. German tourist Biata Weissbaeker who was visiting Bruges with her husband Achim said that such spaces were and remain crucial. "Women need a place like this: a safe place that gives them the possibility to go inside themselves."

While the last beguine in Belgium, Marcella Pattijn, died in 2013 at the age of 92, the central tenet of the beguinage community has persevered over the past 800 years.

"Once you are in here, you are safe — that was of course literal in the Middle Ages, once you lived here, the law couldn't take you away," she said. "Today it's more like a safe place for women alone."

The beguinage of Bruges to this day still allows only women, although the grounds are now owned and maintained by the city itself, with residents renting from the city. The beguinages of Belgium organise public activities hoping to foster community within through gardening, and outside through open houses.

A few of the Bruges residents recently planted raspberry bushes against the wall near the canal and they keep bee hives for honey.

"The world is terrible for the moment, and this gives us the impression it's still safe here," said Beernaert. "This gives Bruges already a little bit of a small paradise, if you want. And living inside that paradise feels unbelievable."

Associated Press writer Sam McNeil in Brussels contributed to this report.

Published in Crux Now on 19 April. Source: Associated Press *Read more at cruxnow.com*

2026 NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE **May 2026**

The 2026 National Count will be taking place in all parishes and other Mass centres throughout Australia over four weekends in May. As the count is intended to be as comprehensive as possible and include people of all ages (including babies) the count will be undertaken as you arrive at Mass on each of those weekends.

On arrival, every person will be asked to collect a token and to then place it in the appropriate marked collection box located in the Church foyer. Parish Office staff and volunteers will be available to assist. Thank you for your cooperation in this national initiative.

Parish Priest	Monsignor Kevin Long PhD kevin.long@perthcatholic.org.au
Pastoral Associate	Sr Marie Fitzgerald RSM marie.fitzgerald@mercy.org.au
Sacristan, Funeral and Liturgy Coordinator	Claudia O'Malley 0408 186 790 enquiries@stjosephssubiaco.org.au
Director of Music	Catherine Haydon catherine@catherinehaydon.com
Youth Ambassador	Tina Perez youth@stjosephssubiaco.org.au
St Vincent de Paul Society Subiaco Conference	Belinda Becker Subiaco.President@svdpwa.org.au
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Parish Pastoral Council Chair	Anne Birt enquiries@stjosephssubiaco.org.au
Uthana Mission	Rod Pereira ask@uthanamission.org.au
Safeguarding Officers	Fiona Chong 0416 271 714 Amanda Bozikovic 0429 580 576 safeguarding@stjosephssubiaco.org.au

WEEKLY HYMNS **5pm Saturday 25 April & 9am, 5pm Sunday 26 April**

Lyrics are available on the Parish website by using the QR code (right), or by visiting **stjosephssubiaco.org.au/lyrics**. Hymn books are also available at Church entrances. Please return them at the conclusion of Mass.

Mass	*Entrance*	*Offertory*	*Communion*	*Recessional*
Sat 5pm	Jesus Christ is Ris'n Today	Deus, Deus Meus	Ego Sum Pastor Bonus Chant Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (21)	At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (30)
Sun 9am & Sun 5pm	Bring All You Dear Bought Nations (52)	The Lord is My Shepherd (328)	Come Back To Me (Hosea) (167) Majesty (226)	Now Thank We All Our God (243)

ST JOSEPH'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Young Family Group **6 June**	**Faith Formation for Little Tots** **26 April**	**Youth Group** **22 May**
Men's Group (20-45) **30 April**	**Men's Gathering (40+)** **1 May**	**Seniors Morning Tea** **7 May**

SVDP SUBIACO SAUSAGE SIZZLE **Saturday 2 May, Bunnings Home Base, Subiaco**

St Vincent de Paul Subiaco will be hosting a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Subiaco from 8am on Saturday 2 May 2026 and would appreciate your support. Please come along and enjoy a sausage, or simply stop by to say hello.

MEN'S GROUP (20-45): CONNECT, SUPPORT AND GROW TOGETHER **5.30pm, Thursday 30 April, Parish Upper Room**

You are invited to join this newly established **Men's Group** for those aged **20-45 years**. Whether you're looking to meet new people, have a good chat, or simply be part of a supportive group, you're warmly invited to come along to connect, build friendships and support each other. For more information contact Elaine Eng: **elaine.eng@stjosephssubiaco.org.au**.

MEN'S GATHERING (40+) **5.15pm, Friday 1 May, Parish Upper Room**

Come along and enjoy this very low key **Over 40s Men's Gathering** where we will watch the Bulldogs vs Dockers game. This is an opportunity to develop connections and deepen existing relationships. Participants are asked to bring a drink or two of their preference with nibbles provided. Depending on interest some halftime take away food may also be ordered. Whether you pop in for a quick chat or stay to watch the game all males over 40 are most welcome. Looking forward to seeing you on 1 May.

SENIORS' MORNING TEA **9.30am, Thursday 7 May, Parish Upper Room**

Following the 9am Anointing Mass on 7 May a **Seniors' Morning Tea** will be held in the Upper Room. Please feel free to bring a friend or two. This will be a great opportunity to catch up with friends and other parishioners. Look forward to seeing many of you there.

MASS TIMES (*Subject to change - refer to Parish Diary for latest information*)	
Tuesday	5.30pm
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	9am
Saturday Reconciliation	4.30pm
Saturday Vigil	5pm
Sunday	9am & 5pm

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS	
Office	Tuesday - Friday: 9.30am to 4.30pm
Phone	9381 0400
Postal	PO Box 568, Wembley 6913
Email	enquiries@stjosephssubiaco.org.au
Website	www.stjosephssubiaco.org.au

PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

First Collection EFT Details
Account Name: St Joseph's Presbytery Subiaco
BSB: 086 006
Account #: 887 970 525
Reference: Name

Second Collection EFT Details
Account Name: St Joseph's Church Subiaco
BSB: 086 006
Account #: 564 990 302
Reference: Name

PARISH DIARY

			MONSIGNOR KEVIN
Sunday 26 April		**Fourth Sunday of Easter**	
	9.45am	Baptism: *Rafael Ezra Neale*	*Monsignor Kevin*
	10.30am	Baptism: *Mila Florence Grynberg*	*Monsignor Kevin*
	1.30pm	Wedding Service: *Larissa Hardjani & Andrian Sutanto*	*Fr Dat Vuong*
	3.15pm	Upper Room: *rClyp (Rite of Christian Initation for Young People)*	
	4.20pm	Baptism: *Francesca Rees*	*Monsignor Kevin*
Monday 27 April		**Monday, Week 4 of Easter** ***Optional: St Louis Grignion de Montfort,*** *Priest*	
Tuesday 28 April	6pm	**St Peter Chanel,** *Priest, Martyr,* ***Memorial*** Upper Room: *St Vincent de Paul Meeting*	
Wednesday 29 April		**St Catherine of Siena,** *Virgin, Doctor, Memorial*	
	9.30am	Upper Room: *Ladies' Prayer Group*	
	5.30pm	Upper Room: *Centering Prayer*	*Mass with Christian Brothers*
Thursday 30 April		**Thursday, Week 4 of Easter** ***Optional: St Pius V,*** *Pope*	
	3pm	Upper Room: *Camino Salvado Meeting*	
	5.30pm	Upper Room: *Men's Group (20-45 years) Social Gathering*	
Friday 1 May		**Friday, Week 4 of Easter** ***Optional: St Joseph the Worker***	
	4pm	Wedding Rehearsal: *William Paparo & Rachel Armstrong*	
	5.15pm	Upper Room*: Over 40s Men's Group Gathering*	
Saturday 2 May		**St Athanasius,** *Bishop, Doctor, Memorial*	
	12.30pm	Baptism: *Sofia Eva Mallis*	*Fr Oscar Aguilera*
	2pm	Wedding Service: *William Paparo & Rachel Armstrong*	*Monsignor Kevin*