



3rd May 2026

5th Sunday after Easter

God's Reassurance – I am the Way

Today is Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday, when churches across Australia acknowledge the reality of domestic and family violence, we will pray for those affected and signal clearly that the church is a place of safety, where suffering can be named and people can be supported.

During Hope 25 last year, we held three seminars on DV, we have our very own Red Bench up on the corner, these are some of the initiatives that we as a church have introduced to acknowledge our support for all DV victims and survivors.

So, I would like to briefly reflect with you on our Gospel reading today, before I invite our very own expert on the topic of DV, Wendy Cramp to speak to us. I will be brief!!

Today is the fifth Sunday after Easter, day twenty five of the fifty day season of Eastertide, the time between Easter and Pentecost, in which we joyfully encounter the resurrected Jesus through the awestruck eyes of his very first disciples. What an amazing roller coaster ride.

The opening verse offers the disciples words of reassurance as they have just witnessed a traitor among their group, Jesus' death and resurrection and also Jesus now speaking of His own departure in words that are as ominous as they are obscure.

Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me."

So just as God provided Jesus with reassurance and peace, as He dealt with His betrayal, His death and resurrection, Jesus now provides this same reassurance and peace to his disciples at their difficult time. Their world has been turned upside down and Jesus encourages His disciples to have a similar trust in God in the face of the powers of darkness.

And so this message is relevant to us as well as we continue on our Christian journey with its rough and bumpy patches as well as its bright and sunny encounters. Jesus is the way to the Father.

Jesus said, "I am way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Amen.