



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH, CRANEBROOK, NSW

The Net

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR C

4th and 5th JANUARY, 2025

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

What is a Jubilee?



Held every 25 years, a Jubilee Year is a sacred time of prayer, pilgrimage, and conversion. It is a call to experience God's mercy through sacramental repentance and spiritual renewal.

The Jubilee of 2025 commenced on 24 December 2024 with the Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica and runs to 6 January 2026, the Feast of the Epiphany, with the closing of the Door.

A Jubilee Indulgence is granted to those who make a Jubilee pilgrimage during the year. Those who cannot make a jubilee pilgrimage due to illness or other circumstances are invited to take part in the spiritual movement that accompanies the Jubilee year, offering up the sufferings of their daily lives, and participating in reconciliation, prayer, and the Eucharistic celebration.

Throughout 2025, Parramatta Diocese will host many events for the many 'jubilees' during the year. For example, on Sunday 2 February 2025, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, there will be a Procession and Solemn High Mass for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life in St Patrick's Cathedral. To keep up to date with all that is happening throughout the year at <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/>

The Jubilee Year 2025 is a time to embrace hope, deepen our faith, and draw closer to God. Whether through local pilgrimage, community events, or spiritual acts at home, all are invited to be part of this remarkable journey of renewal and trust in the Gospel of Christ.

We, the people of Corpus Christi,
seek to grow in living
a Christ-centred mission,
sharing our gifts to foster welcome,
justice and community in today's world.

A very warm welcome to anyone who is new to the parish.

So that we can get to know who you are, we encourage you to fill out a New Parishioner Card, which is available in the foyer.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY VIGIL 6PM

SUNDAY 7.30AM & 9.30AM

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday & Wednesday at 6pm

Thursday & Friday at 9.10am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday evening from 5.15pm -
5.45pm in the Meeting Room

ADORATION AND DEVOTION

First Friday of each month – Anointing
Mass

Third Friday of each month - Healing
Mass

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Address: 86-92 Andromeda Drive
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parishteam@corpuschristi.org.au

Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
CorpusChristiParishCranebrook](http://www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiParishCranebrook)

Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm
(Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri)

PARISH TEAM:

Administrator - Fr Jessie Balorio
- jessie.balorio@parracatholic.org
- 0451 851 610 (*emergencies only*)
- Presbytery: 4729 1675

Mrs Sue Weekes — Secretarial Support
- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Vanessa Sultana – Office Support
- cranebrook@parracatholic.org

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary – ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College – ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

Visit our website: www.corpuschristi.org.au

Parish News

SACRAMENTS IN 2025

Children in Year 4 and above at school are invited to participate in the Parish Sacramental Program, commencing with the Sacrament of **Penance**. Parents wanting their child to participate in the program are required to attend a Penance Information Meeting and register their child on

**WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY, 2025
AT 7.00PM IN THE CHURCH.**

Dates to note in you diary...

The Sacraments of Penance will take place on

Thursday 27th of March at 7pm

for our state school children and during school hours for our Corpus Christi Students

The sacrament of First Eucharist will take place on the following dates:

Saturday 6TH September at 11am

Saturday 6TH September at 6pm

Saturday 13TH September at 11am

Sunday 14TH September at 9.30am



Please note that the registration date for first Eucharist is

Wednesday 20th August, 2025 at 6.30pm

The sacrament of Confirmation (for children who received Penance and First Eucharist last year) will take place on the following date:

Saturday 14th June, 2025 at 9:30 am & 11:30 am

Please note that the registration date for Confirmation is

Wednesday 7th of May, 2025 at 6.30pm



BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS

Baptisms take place in our parish on the first and third Sundays of each month at 11am. Parents wishing to have their children Baptised are asked to contact the parish office to book the date of Baptism and to register for the Rite of Welcome and Information Meeting.

Wedding bookings are taken by request. Please contact the parish office to discuss available dates and to make a booking.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will be closed from Tuesday 14th until Friday 24th of January 2025. There will be no weekday Masses or Communion services during this time. Weekend Masses will take place as normal.

Weekday Mass times at neighbouring parishes include:

St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith:

Monday 9:30am, Tuesday 6:45am & 9:30am

Wednesday 9:30am & 7pm Thursday 9:30am

Friday 6:45am & 12:10pm

St Joseph's Kingswood:

Monday - Friday 8am

NEW MINISTRY ROSTER FOR 2025

Thank you to all who have supported our parish during 2024 by way of the various Liturgical Ministries.

We are about to get our information together to prepare a new roster to cover the period 1st/2nd February to 26th/27th April 2025.

To ensure our liturgical roster will best suit the needs of our volunteers, the parish office will be updating all our volunteers information. We kindly ask all who volunteer as acolytes, readers and commentators, data operators, Eucharistic ministers, children's liturgy facilitators or musicians to email the parish office at **cranebrook@parracatholic.org** and let us know what ministries you'd like to be a part of and your preferred Mass.

Thank you for your ongoing support



POPE FRANCIS'S JUBILEE PRAYER

*Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ,
our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of
a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of
Hope, a yearning for the treasures
of heaven.*

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen



LET US OFFER GIFTS OF PRAYER

Recently Deceased:

Priscilla Mphanza,

Anniversaries:

Tone Magri, Frank Micallef

For those who are sick:

Ruta Pelenatino, Lorrene Gorman, Ana Damas.



Parish News

WHAT'S ON AT CORPUS CHRISTI...

Parish Morning Tea



Our parish hosts a morning tea after our 9.30am Mass on the second Sunday of every month. Our next parish morning tea will take place on

SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY, 2025

Everyone is welcome. We warmly encourage you to invite your friends and family to join us both for Mass and morning tea

To support our parish with catering, you are most welcome to bring a plate to share or an optional gold coin donation can be made. *We kindly ask that a list of ingredients is provided for any home prepared food to support anyone with food allergies*

Corpus Christi Youth Mass

Our next youth Mass will take place on

SUNDAY 16TH OF FEBRUARY AT 5.00PM

Mass followed by refreshments.

Please note that parents are welcome to attend the Mass and registration is not necessary.

For more information about our parish Youth Masses please contact the parish office or Kieran Faccin.



'Young in Spirit' Seniors Group

Our seniors group meets on the last Friday morning of each month after 9.10am Mass in the Parish Office. Our next senior's morning tea will take place on

FRIDAY 31ST OF JANUARY, 2025

Please bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea. New members are always welcome.

PARISH GIVING

Planned Giving/Parish Donations

Your gift to Planned Giving helps cover the running of the parish and also contributes towards outreach in our parish community and beyond.

If you would like to contribute directly, the parish bank details are:

BSB: 067 950

Acct No: 100000698

Acct Name: Cranebrook Parish

Please ensure you put your details in the reference section (ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME)

Please contact the Parish Office if you

- ◇ are contributing to the Planned Giving Program via the envelope system and would like to change to credit card or direct debit;
- ◇ would like to join the Planned Giving Program.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers to Join the Parish Sacrament Team

We are in need of new members on the parish sacramental team and are asking anyone who is interested to contact Fr Jessie at the Parish Office. The main role is to assist in preparing children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Term 1), First Eucharist (Term 2) and Confirmation (Term 3). Preparation for Reconciliation and First Eucharist is two sessions each and three sessions for Confirmation.

Liturgical Ministers

Our parish warmly invites and encourages parishioners to take on liturgical ministries. We have availabilities in the following ministries:

Acolytes

Ministers of the word

senior, junior or aspiring Altar servers

If you are interested, please contact the parish office.

Children's Liturgy Volunteers Needed

Children's Liturgy is on during the school terms at 6pm and 9.30am Masses. We try to keep your rostered times to a maximum of 3 each term. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.



Diocesan News

SAFEGUARDING

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The modules are available to complete online at <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/training/>

Cycle 1 (New staff/volunteers who have not completed any training within the Diocese)

Cycle 2 (Renewal Training for staff/volunteers who completed Cycle 1 two years ago)

For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2025

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in 2025 in Blacktown and Penrith. This free formation is open to anyone in the diocese interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dy To enrol and for more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or

lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org . Registrations close 28th January, 2025.



The Living Word

The Epiphany of the Lord - Year C

4th and 5th January, 2025

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.

(R.)

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coast shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the king. After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king

had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

Q. Why does Herod appear to take a great interest in the birth of Jesus?

Q. What might Mary and Joseph have thought to see the wise men bringing gifts to their baby?

Q. In what way was the journey of the wise men a journey of faith?

Q. What is the significance of the wise men presenting earthly 'treasures' to the Christ child?

Questions for Adults

Q. Why did the wise men approach Herod to ask about the infant king of the Jews?

Q. Why is it significant that Jesus' birth be witnessed by important men from a distant land?

Q. Whether or not the wise men are a purely literary device, what 'truth' does their story convey?

Q. In what ways do you 'bear witness' to Jesus?

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REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE –

by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

The astrologers in the Magi story went through quite a journey in search of the baby Jesus. They obviously believed in him and had faith in the star.

Have you ever ‘followed a star’? Have you ever gone after a dream or an ideal you believed in? Are you still going after it? What gives you the energy to keep going? How do you know it is worth it?

The gifts brought by the Magi have significance.

Gold is a symbol of wealth and fidelity.

Frankincense is burned to purify the atmosphere by releasing an aromatic and pleasing smell. For centuries, indigenous people in many countries have burned smoke in order to bless and purify themselves, and monks have watched incense rise to the sky as a symbol of their prayers ascending to God.

Myrrh is a kind of resin or oil used for anointing and embalming. It is a symbol of comfort and soothing (who doesn’t enjoy a rubdown?) but it is also a foreshadowing of death.

How were these gifts symbolic for Jesus?

What three gifts would be symbolic of you and your life so far? Explain the symbolism.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world. There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace. The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ’s birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.



REFLECTIONS by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus’ birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives. In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the ‘kingship’ of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king. The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

Historical Context – The Magi

In some translations, the ‘wise men’ of this passage are referred to as ‘Magi’. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference ‘We saw his star as it rose’. It is interesting that the passage describes ‘some’ wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their ‘relics’ lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

Have you thought? – Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the ‘Jewish-ness’ of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention for January

For the right to an education



Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Children's Worksheet

Wise men came from the East

The Epiphany of the Lord



Help the wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!



The wise men had to search for Jesus.
Where are some of the places we
can find Jesus in our world today?

Draw yourself offering a gift to Jesus



Children's Worksheet

Draw yourself offering a gift to Jesus



*With many thanks to all these local businesses
who support our parish throughout the year.*

Please consider supporting them when in need of these services...



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