



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH, CRANEBROOK, NSW

The Net

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR C

11th and 12th JANUARY, 2025

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

Pope Francis opens Holy Door inaugurating 2025 Jubilee

By Deborah Castellano Lubov, 7 January 2025

Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica thereby officially inaugurating the 2025 Jubilee of Hope. He reassures during his Christmas evening Mass that the Christ Child of Bethlehem offers the world infinite hope and joy.

As Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica, the evening of 24 December 2024, he ushered in the widely-anticipated 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.

With the liturgical gesture of the Door's opening at the start of the Christmas Mass during the Night, as explained in the papal bull for the Jubilee *Spes non confundit*, the Pope inaugurated the Ordinary Jubilee, a historic event taking place every 25 years.

The Ordinary Jubilee will conclude with the closing of the same Holy Door on 6 January 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

The significance of the Holy Door

The Holy Door is deemed 'Holy' since it calls all those who enter through it to walk in holiness of life. In the footsteps of the Pope, during the singing of the Jubilee hymn, representatives of the entire People of God crossed its threshold, as a prelude to the countless pilgrims of hope from every country and language who will visit St. Peter's Basilica and celebrate the mysteries of salvation during the Holy Year.

The origin of the custom goes back to Pope Martin V who, for the Extraordinary Jubilee of 1423, opened a Holy Door to enter the Lateran Basilica. In St. Peter's, it was first used for the Jubilee of 1450.

Its location, the rear wall of the chapel dedicated by Pope John VII to the Mother of God, corresponds to a place where it is found today.

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**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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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 your 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.

Mass times at St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith are:

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

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

Friday 6:45am & 12:10pm

Mass times at St Joseph's Kingswood are:

Monday - Friday 8am

YOU'RE INVITED!

Sunday 12th of January, 2025

We warmly invite everyone in our community to Mass and morning tea at Corpus Christi Cranebrook. Everyone is welcome. Mass starts at 9.30am and morning tea is to follow

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.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY ROSTER

Thank you to all our liturgical ministry volunteers. The roster which covers the period from 1st/2nd of February until 26th/27th of April was emailed out to all volunteers last Thursday. If you are a volunteer and did not receive it, please contact the parish office.



PARISH PIETY SHOP

We are hoping to introduce a Corpus Christi Piety shop in 2025. The main aim of the shop is to provide accessible Catholic gifts and resources to our parish community as well as support the parish financially. The shop will be a valuable addition to the parish and a great benefit to parishioners.

To successfully run a piety store we are in need of volunteers. Our piety store will run after our weekend Masses. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more, please contact the parish office.



LET US OFFER GIFTS OF PRAYER

Recently Deceased:

Joe Sant (3/1/2025)

Anniversaries:

Tone Magri, Julio Duarte Rodrigues, Maria Odellia Rodrigues, Cecilia Getubig, Romon Romano and all the souls in purgatory.

For those who are sick:

Ruta Pelenatino, Lorrene Gorman, Ana Damas, Eleanor Albertyn, Rose Zahra



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 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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A
LITURGICAL MINISTER AT CORPUS CHRISTI.
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE



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 Baptism of the Lord - Year C

11th and 12th January, 2025

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit that he
may bring true justice to the nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the
Lord, have called you to serve the cause of
right; I have taken you by the hand and
formed you; I have appointed you as cove-
nant of the people and light of the na-
tions, to open the eyes of the blind, to
free captives from prison, and those who
live in darkness from the dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with
peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the wa-
ters, the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.
(R.)
3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood:
the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

Second Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his house-
hold: 'The truth I have now come to real-
ise' he said 'is that God does not have
favourites, but that anybody of any na-
tionality who fears God and does what is
right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people
of Israel, and it was to them that the good
news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ
– but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You
must have heard about the recent hap-
penings in Judaea; about Jesus of Naza-
reth and how he began in Galilee, after
John had been preaching baptism. God

had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and
with power, and because God was with
him, Jesus went about doing good and
curing all who had fallen into the power of
the devil.'

Gospel

Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

When Jesus had been baptised and had
been praying, the heavens were opened
and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among
the people, who were beginning to think
that John might be the Christ, so John
declared before them all, 'I baptise you
with water, but someone is coming, some-
one who is more powerful than I am, and I
am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit
and fire.'

Now when all the people had been bap-
tised and while Jesus after his own bap-
tism was at prayer, heaven opened and
the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily
shape, like a dove. And a voice came from
heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my
favour rests on you.'

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

Questions for Adolescents

Q. How might John's followers have re-
acted to news of someone much more
powerful than John?

Q. Why might the expectations about
the Messiah have grown as time went
by?

Q. What might it mean for God to say of
Jesus, 'my favour rests on you'?

Q. What are the implications of God
saying to you, 'you are my beloved, my
favour rests on you'?

Questions for Adults

Q. Why might people have begun to
think that John might be the Christ; the
Messiah?

Q. What reasons can you suggest for
why people had difficulty believing Jesus
was the Messiah?

Q. What phrase or image from today's
gospel captures your attention? Why?

Q. For whom do you need to give reas-
surance that your 'favour' rests on
them?

Learning moments

Compare the description of the baptism
of Jesus in the three synoptic gospels
(Mk 1:9-11; Mt 3:13-17; Lk 3:21-22).
What do these short passages reveal
about the nature of each of the gospels
that is to follow?

Research the tradition of the Jewish
Messianic expectation.

Why is the Baptism of the Lord celebrat-
ed as part of the Christmas season?



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The English translation of the Psalm
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REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE –

by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

Try to imagine what it would be like on a hot, dry day to go to the river and be baptised by John the Baptist. Try to imagine being drenched with water as you make a new commitment to life without sin. Then imagine seeing Jesus, the one John has been preaching about. He gets baptised himself, and the skies open up and a dove alights on him, and you hear the voice of God announce pleasure with what Jesus has done.

What would you do next? How is your life different when you take that experience seriously? How is your life different now because of your baptism?

Being drenched with water would be most appealing when we are hot, dry or dirty. Recall a particular time that you looked forward to the cooling, cleansing experience of being drenched with water.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus' Baptism is Ours

What did it mean for Jesus to come up out of the waters of the Jordan to experience the special presence of the Holy Spirit as though it were a dove, gently hovering over him? As a Jew, he would have been reminded both of the Divine Wind hovering over the void-become-creation, and of the dove bearing an olive twig as God restored humanity's life on earth after the Flood. The Holy Spirit was empowering Him for a re-creative role on behalf of humanity.

His second experience was to sense God's delight and joy sounding, reverberating through every fibre of his body, every reach of his soul: 'You are my beloved Son, my favour rests on you.'

Any baby, any adolescent, any adult who is baptised shares in these wonderful experiences. The dynamic power of the Holy Spirit hovers over the person as a gentle presence, preparing the one baptised for a mission on behalf of humanity. And every baptised person senses, below the range of hearing, the echo of the same marvellous words: "You are my beloved son or daughter, my favour rests on you."

Is it any wonder that Our Lord adopted this water rite to incorporate his followers into such wonderful experiences as a power-full impetus to fulfil their mission to cooperate in God's saving plan for humanity?

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for the parent/s or other person/s who brought us into this tradition stretching over almost two millennia. May they be filled with all that flows from their being beloved sons and daughters of God.

REFLECTIONS by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

Gospel Reflection

Today's gospel begins with a level of expectancy among the people that John the Baptist may be the Christ; the Messiah. This seemingly throw away introductory comment confirms the fact that the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was particularly heightened at the time of John and Jesus. At the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the Romans had been the occupying force in Judaea for about 80 or 90 years. Throughout most of their lives the infamous Galilee area had been relatively peaceful

and free of revolutionary activity but that changed from about 26 CE. With the anti-Roman sentiment on the rise, the ancient yearning for a Messiah resurfaced.

This Messianic expectation stretched back hundreds of years and was richly associated with the sovereign line of King David. The Davidic line ruled for more than 400 years until it was ended in the early 6th Century BCE by the Jewish people being exiled in Babylon for about 50 years.

The term, Messiah, literally means anointed one. In ancient Israel, the king was designated by being anointed with oil on his head. Following the exile in Babylon, the people longed for another great king, in the style and from the line of David. Over time, this expectation grew into an ideal that one day a perfect king would rise up again and be the anointed one; the Messiah. As the years grew into decades and centuries, this expectation took on more and more significance. When the Messiah came, the whole world would be put to right; a period of justice and peace would prevail; the oppressed would be liberated.

Whilst the people longed for the Messiah to appear, the gospels reveal that they had difficulty believing Jesus was the one for whom they hoped.

Historical context – Baptism

John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

Gospel focus – My Son, the Beloved

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' This declaration by the voice from Heaven – the voice of God – is an amalgamation of two earlier pieces of scripture: 'You are my son; today I have begotten you' (Ps 2:7) and 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights' (Is 42:1). The fact that it is uttered before Jesus has begun his ministry is a sign to all of us that God delights in us for who we are, not for what we have achieved in our lives.

Have you thought? Trinity

The baptism event in the gospels is a moment of revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove whilst the voice of God is heard to declare of Jesus, 'You are my Son.' It is a unique moment in the scriptures where the three persons of God are individually and collectively revealed. Although the scriptures do not explicitly name God as Trinity, by the time of Paul's early writings, blessings in the name of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are frequent. Despite this, Trinity continues to be a difficult concept for many Christians.

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Lk 3:35-16, 21-22

My name is

You are my own dear Son

Draw Jesus being baptized in the river by John the Baptist



Symbols used in the Sacrament of Baptism

Candle



Symbolizes the emergence from darkness into the light.

Water



Symbolizes life, cleansing and growth.

White Gown



Symbolizes purity and freedom from sin.

Continued from front page...

Pope Alexander VI, in 1500, endowed this symbol of the opening of the Jubilee with a ritual that remained virtually unchanged over the centuries, until the turn of the millennium, when in the year 2000, the removal of the former brick wall was replaced by the ceremonial opening of the bronze Door already in 1983.

The last opening of the Holy Door for an Ordinary Jubilee was when Pope St. John Paul II had done so in the Year 2000. Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in 2015 for his 2016 Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

Jubilee to strengthen faith and recognize Christ in our midst

"During the Holy Year," the Pope has prayed, "may the light of Christian hope illumine every man and woman, as a message of God's love addressed to all! And may the Church bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world!"

he Holy Father invited us to pray, to prepare ourselves throughout this year, so that this Jubilee may "strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope."

Restoring us to Our Father's embrace

The Pope picked up the Jubilee theme of hope in his homily. He began recalling the Gospel passage according to St. Luke which recounts when the angel of the Lord, bathed in light, illumines the night and brings glad tidings to the shepherds: 'I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord' (Lk 2:10-11).

At that moment, the Holy Father reflected on how Heaven breaks forth upon earth amid the wonder of the poor and the singing of angels. "God," he highlighted, "has become one of us to make us like Himself; He has come down to us to lift us up and restore us to the embrace of the Father."

Published in the Catholic Outlook with thanks to Vatican News and Deborah Castellano Lubov, where this article originally appeared.

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