CATHOLIC PARISH OF CORPUS CHRISTI, CRANEBROOK

Sunday 29th of November 2026 | First Sunday of Advent - Year B

The Net

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

Address: 86-92 Andromeda Drive
Cranebrook, NSW, 2749
Postal: PO Box 21
Cranebrook , NSW, 2749
Phone: 4730 1249
Email: cranebrook@parracatholic.org
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiParishCranebrook

Office Hours: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (Tue–Fri)
Office unattended Thurs & Fri, 9:10–9:40 am during morning Mass.

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 5.00pm - 5.45pm in the Meeting Room

Regular Events

Rosary
Fridays after morning Mass

'Young in Spirit' Seniors Group Morning tea
Last Friday of the month after morning Mass

Parish Morning Tea
Second Sunday of the Month after the 9.30am Mass

Parish Woman's Group
Exclusive group with new members always welcome. Contact the Parish Office if you wish to be a part of the group

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

We, the people of *Corpus Christi*, seek to grow in living 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.

First Reading
Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8
You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard, no eye has seen
any god but you act like this for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4
(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.
1.O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation
Psalm 84:8
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Continued on next page

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest-Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI
-Email: Abraham.Kunnatholy@ parracatholic.org
-Ph: 0492 894 167 (Emergencies only)

Vanessa Sultana – Office Support/ Safeguarding Champion
- Email: cranebrook@parracatholic.org
- Ph: 02 4730 1249

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary –
Ph 4726 2200
Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke

Xavier College –
Ph 4777 0900
Principal - Mr Michael Pate

CATHOLIC PARISH OF CORPUS CHRISTI, CRANEBROOK

Sunday 29th of November 2026 | First Sunday of Advent - Year B

Pope Leo XIV's Prayer Intention for November

For the proper use of wealth

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Feast Days this Week

November 30th: Saint Andrew, Apostle
December 3rd: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest
December 4th: Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer

For those who are sick:
Nick Scicluna, Darren Hooton, Ruta Pelenatino, Rose Zahra, Marlene Rodger, Fr. Jerome Antogop, Joseph Cauchi, Bartolo Barca.

Safeguarding Training – November

There are several face-to-face Safeguarding Training opportunities available throughout November at several parishes. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Planned Giving/Parish Donations

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

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

BSB: 067 950
Acct No: 100000698
Acct Name: Cranebrook Catholic Church

Please ensure you put your details in the reference section (ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME) Please contact the Parish Office (02 4730 1249) if you are contributing to the Planned Giving Program via the envelope system and would like to change to credit card or direct debit or would like to join the Planned Giving Program.

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37



Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

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From the Desk of Parish Priest

Advent is a season of waiting, watching and preparing. It marks the beginning of a new liturgical year and invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Saviour. But Advent is not simply about counting the days until Christmas; it is about making room for Christ in our lives. The question is not merely whether Christmas is approaching, but whether our hearts are becoming ready to welcome Jesus.

In the Gospel (Mark 13:33–37), Jesus gives us a clear instruction: **"Be watchful! Be alert!"** He reminds us that we do not know the hour when the Master will return. Therefore, Christian life must be a life of readiness, not carelessness, a life of faithfulness, not postponement. We cannot afford to say, "I will change tomorrow," "I will forgive someday," or "I will become closer to God when I have more time." The time to prepare is now!

How do we prepare? First, prepare with **hope**. Even when life is difficult, believe that God is at work and that His light is stronger than the darkness around us. Second, prepare with **love**. Reconcile with someone, forgive an old wound, visit a lonely person, and reach out to someone in need. A heart filled with resentment cannot fully welcome the Prince of Peace. Third, prepare with **peace**. Let our homes, families and communities become places where understanding replaces arguments, kindness replaces harshness, and unity overcomes division.

Advent also challenges us to examine our priorities. We may spend hours preparing our homes, shopping for gifts and organising Christmas celebrations. But how much time do we spend preparing our souls? What is the use of a beautifully decorated Christmas tree if our hearts remain empty of love? Let us make this Advent meaningful through prayer, Scripture reading, confession, acts of charity and genuine efforts at reconciliation.

Let every candle we light remind us to become a light for others. **Prepare wholeheartedly!** The Saviour whom we long for is coming. He comes everyday into our lives. Let Him find us awake, faithful and ready, with hearts glowing with hope, love and peace. May His light find a home in us!

Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI



Week One – The Candle of Hope

As we light the first candle of our Advent wreath, we are reminded of the hope we have in God's promises and the coming of our Saviour. Like the prophets who waited in hope for the Messiah, may we prepare our hearts with faith and expectation, remembering that Christ is the light who shines in our darkness.



Reflection adapted from Catholic Education, Diocese of Wollongong, 'The Season of Advent' (2025).

CATHOLIC PARISH OF CORPUS CHRISTI, CRANEBROOK

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH AND DIOCESE...

BISHOP'S GOOD WORKS APPEAL – THIS WEEKEND

Our Bishop's Christmas Appeal will be held at all Masses this weekend.

This year, the appeal supports young mothers and children escaping domestic and family violence and homelessness through Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains' *Houses to Homes* program. Your generosity helps provide safe accommodation, practical assistance and emotional support, giving vulnerable mothers and their children the opportunity to rebuild their lives in a safe and stable home.

Our parish has an annual contribution target towards the Diocesan Appeals, and we are currently well below our expected quota. We would be very grateful for your generous support of this appeal, while always being mindful that everyone should give only what they are comfortably able to.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity in helping bring hope and security to families in need this Christmas.



CHRISTMAS NOVENA – ALL WELCOME

We're excited to celebrate our third annual Christmas Novena at Corpus Christi Parish from Tuesday 15th to Wednesday 23rd December.

Join us for nine evenings of prayer and reflection as we prepare for the birth of Christ.

Mass Times:

Weekdays: 7:00pm, Saturday & Sunday: 6:00pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are calling on parishioners and families to donate food so we can provide dinner after Mass during the Novena. We are hoping to offer dinner on the final three evenings, with the possibility of extending this to more nights if enough food donations are pledged.

We are also seeking liturgical volunteers to assist throughout the Novena.

If you can contribute food or volunteer your time, please add your name to the sign-up list in the church foyer.

Thank you for helping make this a beautiful time of prayer and fellowship for our parish!

CHRISTMAS MASSES & RECONCILIATION

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we warmly invite you and your family to join us for our Christmas celebrations.

Thursday 10th of December

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION – 7:00PM

Prepare your heart for the coming of Christ through the beautiful sacrament of reconciliation. Visiting priests will be available to hear confessions and offer the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Thursday 24th of December - Christmas Eve

6:00PM – CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

A joyful family celebration of the birth of Jesus, featuring our children's choir and a special Nativity play. A beautiful opportunity for families and children to come together and welcome the Christ Child.

8:30PM – CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Gather with us as we celebrate the wonder of Christmas and the gift of God's love made visible in the birth of His Son.

MIDNIGHT – CHRISTMAS NIGHT MASS

In the stillness of the night, we rejoice in the birth of our Saviour, the Light of the World, who brings hope, peace and salvation to all.

Friday 25th of December - Christmas Day

9:10AM – CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS

Celebrate the joy of Christmas morning as we give thanks for the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel – God with us. Come and share in the hope and joy of this holy day.

All are warmly welcome to celebrate the birth of Christ with us this Christmas.

WOMEN'S GROUP CATCH UP!

Our women's group catch-up on Thursday evening was a wonderful success, with around 25 ladies joining us for a lovely evening of fellowship. We enjoyed connecting and strengthening friendships through games and activities led by members of our core group, as well as a delicious supper together.

A heartfelt thank you to Ellen and Nhems for hosting such a beautiful evening and helping bring our ladies together!

Photos from the evening can be found on our noticeboards outside the church or on our Facebook page.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY & CHRISTMAS CHOIR – CHRISTMAS EVE

Children of our parish are warmly invited to take part in our Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 6pm on Thursday 24th of December, either by bringing the Christmas story to life in our Nativity Play or by joining our children's Christmas choir.

Parents are welcome to register their children using the sign-up sheet in the church foyer.

Nativity Play: Our first rehearsal will be held on Wednesday 16th of December at 4pm, with the final rehearsal date and time to be confirmed.

Christmas Choir: Choir rehearsal will be held on Tuesday 22nd of December at 4pm.

We look forward to our children sharing their gifts and helping us celebrate the birth of Jesus in a joyful and special way!

PARISH WORKING BEE – SATURDAY 12TH OF DECEMBER

Join us on **Saturday 12th of December, from 9:00am – 12:00pm**, as we give our parish gardens a good clean-up and tidy before Christmas.

Many hands make light work, so we'd love as many volunteers as possible to come along and lend a hand!

Even if you can only spare half an hour, every little bit helps! Stay for as long as you can – whether it's a little while or the whole morning.
Refreshments will be provided.



We look forward to seeing you there!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For many years, our parish St Vincent de Paul Conference has been supporting local families and individuals doing it tough, particularly at Christmas. Once again, our team is preparing to bring some extra joy and support to those in need in our community.

Our parish schools, Xavier College and Corpus Christi Primary, are already running appeals within their school communities to collect supplies for Christmas hampers. Our parish appeal will take place on the weekend of 12th and 13th December, when parishioners are invited to donate money or gift cards to help support this wonderful initiative.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our St Vincent de Paul team is looking for extra volunteers to help with this year's Christmas hampers. With fewer members in our conference, we are particularly in need of people to help sort and pack hampers and deliver them to families in our local community. Deliveries will take place on Saturday 19th December, and every helping hand will make a difference. Whether you can assist with packing, deliveries or both, your support would be greatly appreciated.

If you are able to help, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the church foyer or contact the Parish Office. Even a little of your time would mean so much!

KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A HELPING HAND?

If you know of an individual or family who may be doing it tough and could benefit from a Christmas hamper, please contact the Parish Office so we can pass their details on to our St Vincent de Paul team.

Any donations received in excess of what is needed for our parish hampers will be passed on to Barnardos Cranebrook to support their Christmas donation drive.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us bring a little extra joy and support to those in our community who need it most this Christmas.

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CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2027

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

PENANCE

Wed 5 May, 7pm — Parent Information & Registration
Preparation sessions: Wednesday afternoons or Thursday evenings, May–June
Thu 17 June, 6.30pm — Sacrament of First Reconciliation

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Wed 8 Sept, 7pm — Parent Information & Registration
Preparation sessions: Wednesday afternoons or Thursday evenings, Sept–Oct
Thu 4 Nov, 6.30pm — Compulsory Second Rite of Reconciliation
Sat 6 Nov, 10am / Sun 7 Nov, 9.30am / Sat 13 Nov, 10am & 6pm — Sacrament of First Holy Communion

CONFIRMATION

Wed 30 June, 7pm — Parent Information & Registration
Preparation sessions: Wednesday afternoons or Thursday evenings, July–Aug
Thu 26 Aug, 6.30pm — Compulsory Second Rite of Reconciliation
Sat 28 Aug, 10.30am / Sun 29 Aug, 9.30am — Sacrament of Confirmation

- Each sacrament includes 5 preparation sessions.
- Both child and parent/guardian must attend all preparation sessions.
- Weekend Mass attendance is compulsory during the 5 weeks of preparation.
- Sessions do not run during school holidays.
- For more info, please contact the parish office.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are celebrated on the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of each month at **11.00am.**
Parents are asked to contact the Parish Office to book a date and attend the
Rite of Welcome & Information Meeting, held on the 4th Sunday of the month prior to Baptism.

WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

Bookings are arranged through the Parish Office.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Save the Dates for Our Parish

SATURDAY 28TH & SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER	**Bishop's Christmas Appeal**
THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER	**Second Rite of Reconciliation.** *7pm – As we prepare for Christmas*
SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER	**Working Bee.** 9am – 12pm – Refreshments provided *(Many hands make light work!)*
SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER	**Parish Morning Tea.** After the 9.30am Mass – All are welcome
SATURDAY 12TH & SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER	**St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal.** Donations of money or gift cards for those in need
TUESDAY 15TH DEC – WEDNESDAY 23RD DECEMBER	**Nine Day Christmas Novena.** With daily evening Masses. 7pm weekdays, 6pm weekends.
FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER	**Seniors Morning Tea.** after the 9.10am Mass

All are welcome!

With thanks to all our local businesses who support our parish...

CSI CRANEBROOK SECURITY INSTALLATIONS
Services Provided:
Installation & Service of:
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* Video Intercom
Vic Xiberras
Alarm Technician
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Masters Licence: 409 810 455
Vic Xiberras: 0418 234 293
Dianne Xiberras: 0400 774 213
info@cranebrooksecurity.com.au
www.cranebrooksecurity.com.au

Have a Chat NSW
Counselling service
Robert Azize
Counsellor
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Chatnsw.com.au
F: Haveachat NSW
Chatnsw@outlook.com

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Wills & Deceased Estates
Disputes and Litigation
Criminal Law
Employment Law

Steve Balassis
Director / Owner
SPARTAN LAUNDRY SERVICES
0409 311 339
steve@spartanlaundryservices.com.au
www.spartanlaundryservices.com.au

If you'd like to support our parish through a business advertisement in our parish bulletin, please contact the Parish Office

CATHOLIC PARISH OF CORPUS CHRISTI, CRANEBROOK

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Gospel Reflection

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that.

Have you thought? Beginning Advent

The season of Advent begins this week and continues through the four Sundays of Advent and ends at Christmas Eve. The first week of Advent focuses on the return of the Lord and the following weeks focus more specifically on the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Rather than simply commemorating an historical event, Advent is a time of preparing our hearts to 'receive' Jesus into the world each year. Advent is traditionally marked by the colour of violet – the same colour as used in Lent. In recent years, some parishes have moved to a more blue/mauve colour for Advent to try to distinguish it from the season of Lent.

Living the Gospel – Stay Awake!

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks. It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet. In the midst of this excess of Christmas consumerism, it is often difficult to draw attention to the season of Advent and the need to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. It is important to stay awake, as we are cautioned in this week's gospel. Awake to what is happening around us in the world and awake to what is happening within us.

Gospel Focus – The Doorkeeper

The image of the doorkeeper from this week's gospel is an interesting one. It is not unusual to hear references to people being 'gatekeepers' today in relation to projects or groups working together. The role of the gatekeeper, or the doorkeeper, is to maintain a watching brief – to be alert to dangers or distractions and to ensure that everyone who is important to the process is invited to participate. Today's gospel reminds us that as believers we are to be the doorkeepers, or gatekeepers, of the Kingdom, watching for dangers and welcoming in all those who wish to enter.

Questions for Adolescents

Q. In what ways does our society need a call to 'Stay awake'?
Q. How is it possible to challenge attitudes of complacency in society?
Q. How can you demonstrate that faith is an important aspect of life?
Q. How do you nurture your spirituality and faith?

Questions for Adults

Q. What does the call to 'Stay awake!' mean for your life?
Q. What appear to be the things that challenge the importance of religious belief in society today?
Q. How do you nurture your spirituality and faith?
Q. During this time of Advent, how can you encourage others to properly prepare for Christmas?

Learning moments

- Prepare an Advent wreath using four candles to mark the four Sundays of Advent. Develop a simple prayer celebration to accompany the lighting of each of the four candles.
- Create an Advent Calendar for the period up until Christmas Day with a prayer, reflection or action to respond to each day.
- Develop a mind map of ways in which it is possible to prepare for Christmas.

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is our situation. What do we do in anticipation?

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
Timely Living and the End of History

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his servants in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep-down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and faithful servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

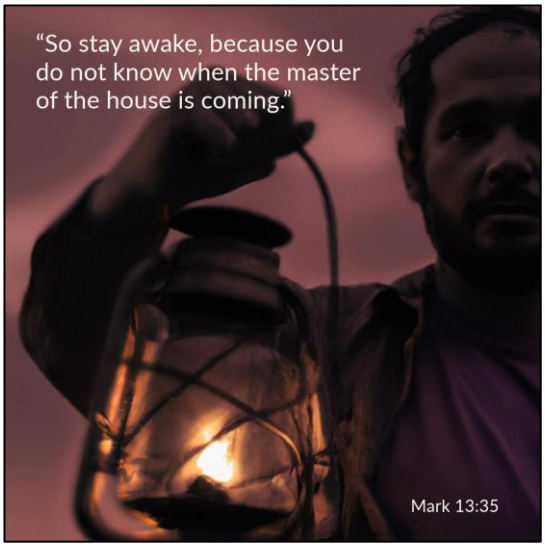
It is hard to be the clay and to let God be the potter. That's like praying, 'Whatever you ask of me, God, I'm willing to do it. I'm all yours. Point the way, and I'm walking it.'

It is easier to be the potter and want God to be the clay. That's like praying, 'God, please do this and do that; please give me this and give me that.'

When did you pray as if you were the potter? What happened? How did you feel?

Did you ever pray as if you were the clay? If so, what happened? How did you feel? If not, why not? What might happen? And how could you feel?

What is the hardest challenge God might ask you to accept? What is so hard about it?



Content and image: Liturgyhelp.com

The Living Word
For Children

First Reading:

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard, no eye has seen
any god but you act like this for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Gospel Reading:

Jesus said, "Stay awake and be alert, because you have no idea when the Son of Man will come. Think of the man who leaves his servants in charge while he travels abroad. He warns them to watch for his return, whenever that might be, so he doesn't find them sleeping when he returns unexpectedly. So to all of you I say, stay awake and keep yourselves ready!

Discussion Questions

- What are some things you look forward to?
- How do you get ready to prepare for them?
- Today we begin Advent – what are we preparing for in Advent?
- Jesus asks us to watch out and be ready as we make our preparations to celebrate Christmas.
- How can we make Advent a time of preparation this week?



Image and Content: Liturgyhelp.com

Watch out and be ready!

1st Sunday of Advent, Year B



Let's Get Ready

Complete these sentences

I get ready for church by _____

I get ready for school by _____

I get ready for bed by _____

I get ready for Christmas during Advent by _____

During Advent one way we can prepare for the arrival of Jesus is by helping others. Draw yourself helping another person.



Rearrange the following words to complete the sentence below

Jesus

prepare



season

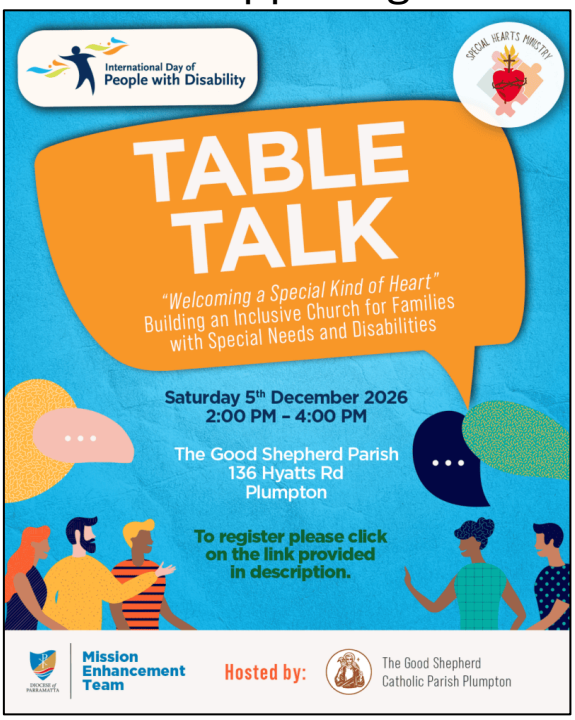


arrival

Advent

_____ is the _____ when we _____ for the _____ of _____ at _____

What's happening in the diocese and beyond...















What's happening in the diocese and beyond...

St Padre Pio's Day at Glenmore Park: Every 23rd of the Month

ST PADRE PIO'S DAY: EVERY 23RD OF THE MONTH. At St Padre Pio Parish, 34-38 William Howell Drive, Glenmore Park. Next St. Padre Pio's Day is on Monday 23 November. 11am: Adoration and Rosary, Confession and Mass in honour of St Padre Pio, followed by a Blessing with St Padre Pio's first class relic. Please let others know. All are welcome.

Red November – Aid to the Church in Need Australia and New Zealand

ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church. During this Red November, we invite you to pray, support and act in solidarity with 388+ million Christians persecuted for their faith. Around the world, churches and public buildings will light up in red as a symbol of the sacrifice and suffering of our modern-day martyrs. In Australia and New Zealand, over 20 Cathedrals will be lit in red, with some holding Masses and prayer vigils for persecuted Christians. Visit www.rednovember.org to learn more.

Holy Family, Mt Druitt Christmas Carols: 5 December

Bring your family and friends for a joyful evening of Christmas celebrations! Date: Saturday 5 December 2026. Time: 7pm–9.30pm. Location: Holy Family Primary School Grounds (254 Luxford Rd Emerton NSW 2770). Enjoy carol singing, live entertainment, raffles, a free sausage sizzle and drinks, and a special visit from Santa! Everyone is welcome at this family-friendly community event. Event page: facebook.com/share/1EfirCGPHr

A Morning to Slow Down, Reflect and Prepare Your Heart for Christmas

Soul Sorting in the Silly Season is a women's breakfast event at Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Baulkham Hills, offering space to pause and prepare your heart for Christmas through prayer, discussion and reflection. Facilitated by Sr Virginia Bourke RSJ, Sister of Saint Joseph and Sacramental theologian.

Saturday 12 December, 8:00am – 10:30am

$35. Breakfast included.

Learn more and book: https://mmsm.org.au/events/soul-sorting-in-the-silly-season/

Young Adults Advent Retreat: 5 December

Prepare for Christmas with a day of prayer, reflection and community at the Catholic Youth Parramatta Young Adults Advent Retreat. Join us for a special day featuring international guest Fr Patrick Briscoe OP, co-host of the Godsplaining podcast and speaker at Eucharist28. Fr Patrick will explore the theme: Held at St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook, with Mass at 9:15am and conclude at 2:30pm. Register here: parracatholic.org/events/cyp-advent-retreat

One-Day Worship Pilgrimage: 29 November

Praise & Worship • Preaching of the Word • Eucharistic Adoration • Holy Mass. All our welcome. No booking required. BYO lunch. Hosted by the Vincentian Fathers of DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE, 160 Hensons Road, Somersby NSW 2250.

Christmas Fete at Bodington Wentworth Falls: 4 December

Catholic Healthcare is raising funds to help our residents tick off their bucket list wishes — every contribution makes a difference! Date: 4 December 2026. Time: 4.30pm – 7pm. Location: 6 Bodington Drive (off Tableland Rd), Wentworth Falls.Enjoy local stalls, a toy raffle, refreshments, BBQ, and festive fun for all. Come celebrate community, joy, and the spirit of giving!

The Saint Behind Pope Leo XIV: St Augustine's Timeless Christmas Message for Today Webinar: 10 December

The Order of St Augustine (Province of Australasia) are hosting a free one-hour online webinar on Thursday 10 December 2026 at 8:00 PM AEDT with Professor Emeritus Joseph Kelley (Merrimack College, Massachusetts; President, Augustinian Heritage Institute). Free, registration required: https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1675

Salesian Missions

The Salesians in Ethiopia and across the Horn of Africa have made an appeal for support as they face an emerging drought. In parts of Tigray, severe drought and renewed conflict have left communities struggling to access basic necessities, while rising food costs continue to push families deeper into poverty.

The Salesians are working across the region to support vulnerable families through food and relief initiatives.