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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

17TH & 18TH MARCH,
2018

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

The moment of eschatological fulfilment gathers together the sense of the past ('the days when Christ was in the flesh'), the future ('the days are coming'), and the present ('the hour has come'). We live in the time when the past and the future are made present; we live in the 'already-but-not-yet' time of anticipation/fulfilment. This is a moment of great ambiguity, of fear and trepidation but of electric excitement. It is a moment of decision. We hover at the edge of dawn, weighing whether or not to step forward into the new day or to return to the darkness of night.



This 'hour' brings a new covenant, a deep interior relationship with God that is not based on law but which overflows from a commitment of the heart. It brings an abundant harvest that springs from a simple grain of wheat. It brings a promise from God's own Son that those who serve him will be honoured by God, and those who obey him will enjoy eternal life.

Although the 'hour' brings all of these blessings, it only does so with a price. The new covenant could only be written on new hearts; the abundant harvest sprang from the dying grain of wheat; eternal salvation was won at the price of Christ's blood. As challenging as the message of these readings may be, the last note is one of hope. It can overcome the demons that control us, because it is the power of the almighty God.

Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon

When the Gospel of the Man Born Blind is read:
Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

or

When another Gospel is read:
Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 6.00pm

Sunday

7.30am & 9.30am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 7.00pm

Adoration & Rosary Tuesday
at 6.30pm

Wednesday 9.10am

Thursday 9.10am

Friday 9.10am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday

5.15pm — 5.50pm
or by appointment

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Address: 86-92 Andromeda Drive

Postal: PO Box 21

Cranebrook 2749

Phone: 4730 1249

Fax: 4729 2989

Email: parissteam@corpuschristi.org.au

Presbytery: 4730 6258

Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm (Tues-Fri)

PARISH TEAM:

Fr George O'Mara - Parish Priest

- gom@corpuschristi.org.au

Mobile: 0408 700 335

Fr Christopher Antwi-Boasiako -

Administrator

- cab@corpuschristi.org.au

Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers

- owen.rogers7@bigpond.com

Mrs Marie Cottee - Parish Secretary

- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support

- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary - ph 4729 0696
(Principal - Mr Paul Devlin)

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

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, it would be great
if you would please fill out a Census Card available in the foyer.*

**ANointing of the Sick Mass will take place
on the last Friday of each month
at 9.10AM.**

**Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer;
Recently Deceased...**

Fr George O'Mara, Brendan McLellan (*brother-in-law of
Anne Marie Bosworth*), Katherine McGreevy (*sister of Brian
O'Neill who died 26/02/18 in Ireland*)

Mass Intentions:

Rocco Valore (18/03/17), Carmela Pronesti, Leonie Deane,
Mickelena Caruana

Anniversaries:



Janet Borham, Fely Sampaga, Rita Neal, Jack Cottee,
George Buttigieg, Lina Dogao, Carmel Sultana, Belinda
Menezes, Vilma Roberts, Graham Roberts, Mary
Agius, Carmel Sultana, Jacob Muscat, Sam Az-
zopardi, Elizabeth Formosa, Rita Xuereb, Angelina Said,
Marie Nolan, Lawrence Refalo, Diane Vella, Tony Caruana,
Rose Portelli, Laurenza Saliba, Carl Hawkins, Rosemary
Fehon, Beth Fehon, Joanne Sammarco, Pat Morris, Maria
Teresa Vella, Doris Grech, Trevor Almeida, Margaret Col-
lins, Carmelo Agius, Rose Said, Frances Micallef, Andrew
Jaja, Maryann Sultana, Mary Marron, Sam Vella, Roger
Borg, Betty Tabone, Carmen & Frank Pirodda.

And for those who are sick...

Salvina Vella (*Jo Debono's Mum*), Amalia Schafer (*Jo & Ray
Debono's granddaughter*), Florence Foran, Benita Azores,
Joyce O'Brien, Marlene Baldacchino, Zeny Johnson, Neil
Grant, Ross Dean, Peter Thom, Marlen Dolor, Sharon Daw-
son, Charlie Galea, Jayden Maloney, Kevin McCormack,
George Marabouti, Geraldine Carvalho, Kevin Coyle.

Project Compassion...

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Ditosa in Mozambique is cared for by her grand-
mother after her parents died of AIDS-related
illnesses. Featured in Project Compassion 2013,
aged 12, thanks to Caritas Australia's support,
Ditosa has now graduated from school with plans
for university.

*Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and empower vulner-
able young people like Janaki in Nepal to build a just future for
themselves, their families and their communities.*

A Just Future starts with your support!

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by
visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phone
1800 024 413.

Stations of the Cross...

Celebrated during Lent each
Friday at 7.00pm, in the Church.

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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Thursday 29th March - 7.30pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

A beautiful celebration of the origins of our Eucharist.

Friday 30th March - 10.00am

The Stations of the Cross

Friday 30th March - 3.00pm

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

This moving ceremony honours the
great sacrifice of Christ.

Saturday 31st March - 7.00pm

(Note not 6.00pm)

The Easter Vigil

This is the highlight of the Church year when we celebrate
the greatest hope ever given to humanity.

Sunday 1st April - 7.30am & 9.30am

Masses of Easter Morning

A continuation of the celebration of resurrection when the
new Easter light and Easter water of Baptism are used to
help give a blessing of renewal.

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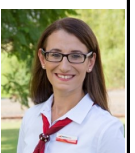
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A Fitting Farewell for Fr George...

It was with great sadness that we farewelled Fr George last Tuesday here at Corpus Christi. Although we thought the rain would keep many away, it was a great tribute to Fr George that the Church was full to overflowing, and the school hall was also required to seat many who came to pay their respects to our parish priest of the last 11 years. It is a testament to his vocation and dedication to the community of Parramatta Diocese, that 54 of his brother priests were in attendance.



Fr George planned his funeral before his passing. We would like to extend our thanks to those parishioners who were instrumental in assisting the parish team in ensuring that his wishes were fulfilled.

It was wonderful to witness the students of Corpus Christi Primary School, Xavier College, St Dominic's College and Caroline Chisholm College standing united in a guard of honour as the rain poured down, to farewell our dear parish priest.

Thank you to the musicians, acolyte, altar servers, those assisting in chair setting, setting up the hall, cleaning, gardening & everything possible to make it all come together.

Special thanks to Michael Pate, Margaret Blair, staff and the Hospitality students of Xavier College and to Paul Devlin and his staff of Corpus Christi Primary School for their outstanding job of providing refreshments to all who attended the funeral.

Bishop Vincent remembered Fr George and said his loss would be felt by his parishioners at Corpus Christi where he was parish priest before his death.



He also said "Fr George O'Mara has given his all to God and his people. We are all the richer for his presence among us."

Rest in peace dear friend...

A video of the funeral can be accessed via the following link: <https://catholicoutlook.org/requiem-mass-fr-george-omara/>

Special Prayers for Sacrament Children

Please keep in your prayers the children of our parish who are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Remember also their families and our Sacrament leaders who encourage the children on their journey.



Children's Choir for Easter Sunday

If any children would like to be part of the choir for the **9.30am Mass on Easter Sunday**, please contact Shanice Vella on 0434 147 092

Holy Thursday Set Up...

If you have an hour or two from 10.00am on Holy Thursday morning to help set up for the 7.30pm Mass, it would be greatly appreciated. For more information please phone Marie at the Parish Office. Thank you!

Catechist News... Are you able to help???

Thank you to the four ladies who have volunteered to join the Catechist Team!



Even though some of our catechists have taken on extra classes, **at least two classes don't have teachers.**

So, if you can spare about an hour (including preparation time) each week during school terms and would like to find out more about being a teacher or a helper, please contact Marie at the Parish Office.

Planned Giving Envelopes

IF YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM VIA THE ENVELOPE SYSTEM, NEW ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE FOYER.

Also, If you are:

- ◇ contributing to the Planned Giving Programme by way of credit card and your details have changed;
 - ◇ or contributing to the Planned Giving Programme via the envelope system and would like to change to credit card or direct debit;
 - ◇ or if you would like to join the Planned Giving Programme, please contact Marie at the Parish Office during office hours.
- Your gift to Planned Giving does help cover the running of your parish and also contributes towards outreach in our parish community and beyond.**



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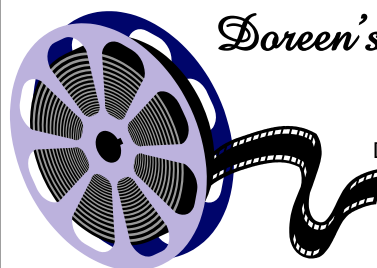
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Corpus Christi Tweenies

Are you in Year 5 or 6 at any of the schools in our Parish? Do you miss hanging out with your Church friends from Children's Liturgy? Why not come along to our CC Tweenies Group and hang out with your Church friends!

SATURDAY 24TH MARCH FROM 4PM – 5.30PM
IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM

Have mum or dad call Francis Fenech on 0413908107 by 19th March. All primary school kids who have made their Sacrament of First Communion are welcome. Afternoon tea will be provided. All supervising adults have completed the Working with Children check. RSVPs are essential to enable a suitable adult to child supervision ratio.



Corpus Christi Collective

Youth Group

Trivia Night

SATURDAY 24TH MARCH AFTER 6PM MASS.

Students in Years 7–12 are invited to attend our March gathering. Entry is \$5.00 for pizza and refreshments.

Corpus Christi Easter Egg Hunt

OUR ANNUAL CORPUS CHRISTI EASTER EGG HUNT WILL TAKE PLACE ON EASTER SUNDAY AFTER THE 9:30AM MASS AND WILL BE OPEN FOR CHILDREN AGED 2-12.

All children who take part in the hunt will receive a chocolate Easter egg so please remember to RSVP to ensure we have enough eggs for all participants.



There are 3 age groups for participation with each group having a major prize for the most "eggs" found. Kids will need to find as many 2 dimensional paper eggs as

possible.

If you would like your children or grandchildren to participate, please put their name and age on the sign up sheet in the foyer.

If you would like to donate a prize, please do so before Palm Sunday. Suggested prizes include Easter egg packs, soft toys such as Easter bunnies, Easter craft packs or Easter baskets.

If you would like to assist in the running of the Easter Egg hunt, please contact Ann on panitzs24@tpg.com.au or Denise on mcaffrey@bigpond.com.

Lenten Concert Reflection: 18th March

'Ashes to Easter' with Peter Kearney on Sunday 18th March, 3.00-4.15pm in the Chapel of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Peter Kearney is an Australian Catholic singer-songwriter and guitarist whose hymns and songs include 'Fill My House' and 'The Beatitudes'. His 'Ashes to Easter' concert weaves songs and stories and reflections on Lenten themes and looks ahead to Holy Week and Easter. To register, email concerts@peterkearneysongs.com.au specifying 'Parramatta' and number of seats needed. Suggested donation \$10 at door.

Palm Sunday Procession: 25th March

Catholic Youth Parramatta are hosting the annual Palm Sunday Procession. Starting at Parramatta Town Hall on Sunday 25th March at 5:15pm and walking to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Details at: parracatholic.org/cyp

Good Friday Night Walk: 30th March

Catholic Youth Parramatta are hosting the annual Good Friday Night Walk. Starting Friday 30th March at 10:00pm from St Patrick's Church, Blacktown and finishing at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Details at: parracatholic.org/cyp

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Lecture Series

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) has engaged Dr Laurie Woods to present on the Gospel of Mark.

Friday 23rd March and Fridays 6th & 13th April.

IFM, Marion St, Blacktown from 10am - 2pm.

All are welcome. BYO lunch. RSVPs to Maree 02 9890 4731.

First Mass at St Luke's Marsden Park

The new St Luke's Catholic Faith Community, Marsden Park invites you to join them as Bishop Vincent Long, assisted by Deacon Tony, leads their first Mass at St Luke's College, Frontier Avenue, Marsden Park on 8 April at 10am. More info at: <https://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au>

Positions Vacant

Credo Youth Group Coordinator - St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

For further information, please visit www.stpatscathedral.com.au

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