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

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YR B**

**15TH & 16TH MAY, 2021**

### COVID-19 UPDATE

NSW Health has extended the COVID-19 guidelines for indoor venues (including places of worship), that came into effect 6th May 2021. These new guidelines are effective until 12am Monday 17th May 2021.

The following rule changes apply for venues across Greater Sydney & Blue Mountains.

#### Face Masks

Face masks will continue to be mandatory for all places of worship.

#### Singing

Up to five singers/performers will be permitted to sing indoors at places of worship. Singers will be required to remain 1.5 metres apart from each other and at least three metres away from the congregation when singing.

Congregational singing is not permitted at this time.

The maximum number of people allowed at places of worship and during religious services will continue to only be limited by the 2 square metre rule.

### UPDATES TO WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**WEEKEND MASSES HAVE NOW REVERTED BACK TO PRE COVID-19 TIMES:**

**SATURDAY VIGIL 6PM**

**& SUNDAY 7.30AM & 9.30AM**

ALL RELIGIOUS SERVICES HELD AT PLACES OF WORSHIP ADHERE TO THE 2 SQUARE METRE RULE AND AS SUCH WE HAVE A LIMIT OF 150 PEOPLE.

Online Masses are still available so if you are feeling unwell you are advised not to attend Mass.

### WEEKDAY MASSES

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS AT 6PM (NO ADORATION)

THURSDAY AT 9.10AM

FRIDAY COMMUNION SERVICE AT 9.10AM

*You are welcome to attend any of these Masses without a phone call or email invitation.*

**\*\*\*PLEASE USE THE QR CODE TO SIGN IN**

### RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT

Please contact Fr Chris on his mobile 0415 505 594 to make an appointment.

**DUE TO COVID-19, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS PER MASS IN OUR PARISH CHURCH IS**

**150**

**PLEASE PRACTISE SOCIAL DISTANCING BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS.**

*Please note that hand sanitiser is available at the Church entrances*



### CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Address: 86-92 Andromeda Drive  
Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

Postal: PO Box 21  
Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

Phone: 4730 1249

Fax: 4729 2989

Email: [parishteam@corpuschristi.org.au](mailto:parishteam@corpuschristi.org.au)

Presbytery: 4730 6258

Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm  
(Tuesday–Friday)

#### PARISH TEAM:

Fr Christopher Antwi-Boasiako -  
Parish Priest

[Christopher.Antwi-Boasiako@parracatholic.org](mailto:Christopher.Antwi-Boasiako@parracatholic.org)  
Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers  
- [owen.rogers7@bigpond.com](mailto:owen.rogers7@bigpond.com)

Mrs Marie Cottey - Parish Secretary  
- [mc@corpuschristi.org.au](mailto:mc@corpuschristi.org.au)

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support  
- [sw@corpuschristi.org.au](mailto:sw@corpuschristi.org.au)

Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament  
Support

#### SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

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

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

# Parish News

## Sacrament of First Communion 2021

We have received a number of enquiries from parishioners regarding First Communion dates for this year.

The First Communion Program for all children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in March this year will commence soon in our parish.

All parents wanting their child to participate in the First Communion program are required to

**pick up your child's enrolment pack on  
Wednesday 21st July between 6.30pm – 7.30pm  
from the church.**

Please note that all the information needed will be included in the pack.

*Dates for the Sacrament are 14th/15th August & 21st/22nd August.*

**If you receive an email from Fr Chris please check the email address as there have been some instances of spam emails with his name attached. If you have any queries please contact Fr Chris on 0415 505 594.**

## Corpus Christi Website & Facebook

Please visit our website or Facebook page for up to date Parish and diocesan news.

**Website:**

[www.corpuschristi.org.au](http://www.corpuschristi.org.au)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiParishCranebrook](https://www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiParishCranebrook)

## Parish Ministries...

If at any time a member of the parish is seeking some involvement in parish ministries, you are warmly encouraged to contact the Parish Office.

## First Communion and Confirmation Photos

There are still First Communion and Confirmation photos from last year (2020) that have not been collected. If your child received either of these sacraments last year and you haven't yet done so, please pick up the photos from the Parish Office during office hours.

## Advertising in The Net...

Are you interested in advertising your business in The Net??? Or know anyone who might be??? Ads run for 12 months or there is the opportunity to run an ad on a monthly or three monthly basis. For more details, contact Marie at the Parish Office during office hours.

## 'Young in Spirit' Seniors Group...

Our seniors group meets on the last Friday morning of each month after Communion Service.

Come along, share some stories and enjoy the company. Please bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea. New members are welcome!!! If you would like some more information, please contact the Parish Office.

## New Ministry Roster...

A huge thank you to all who support our Parish of Corpus Christi by way of the various Liturgical Ministries. Your care and commitment to our parish community is truly appreciated.

✂ **We are about to start preparing the Roster to cover the period 12th/13th June to 28th/29th August.** Would all those in rostered Ministries please advise Marie or Sue at the office by phone or email **before Tuesday 25th May** of any planned absences or non-availability during that period.

✂ If anyone who is not on the roster would like to be involved in the parish ministries, you are warmly encouraged to contact the parish office. Thank you.

## The Parish Pastoral Council invites parishioners to submit suggestions in any of the following ways:

- Person to person with a Parish Pastoral Council Member
- Email to [corpuschristippc@gmail.com](mailto:corpuschristippc@gmail.com), a direct email address to the Secretary of the Parish Pastoral Council
- Letter mailed or hand delivered addressed to:  
The Secretary, Parish Pastoral Council  
Corpus Christi Parish  
PO Box 21, Cranebrook NSW 2749

Suggestion Box, located in the foyer of the Church.

*Please remember to include your name and contact number in case we need to contact you for any clarification or update.*

## Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal 2021

*Supporting the Seminarians and the Holy Spirit Seminary*

**PRE-APPEAL WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY 22ND AND SUNDAY 23RD MAY**

**APPEAL WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY 29TH AND SUNDAY 30TH MAY**

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## The Corpus Christi Youth Band is rostered on for the 4th Saturday of each month at the 6pm Mass.

If you can sing or play an instrument and you are between 13-23 we would love for you to join the band.

Please contact Rebecca Hocking on 0457 060 331 or Denise Caffrey on 0409 558 553 to find out more.

## Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

### Recently Deceased:

John Lowery, Joseph O'Neill (brother of Brian O'Neill), Sam Vassallo

### Anniversaries:

Maryann Azzopardi (08/05/16), Margaret Sullivan (11/05/20), Sr Merylin Browne (12/05/2019)

### Mass Intentions:

Maria Aquilina, Josephine Portelli, Margaret & James Vella

### And for those who are sick:

Kevin & Mary O'Connor, Pauline Rugg



# Diocesan News

## Bishop Vincent's Pastoral Letter on the Proposed Parental Rights Bill

Bishop Vincent has released a pastoral letter to the pastors, parents and the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on the proposed Parental Rights Bill.

The letter can be read here: <https://parracatholic.org/pastoral-letter-to-the-people-of-parramatta-on-the-parental-rights-bill/>

## 'The Well' offers new refreshment in 2021

'The Well' is back in 2021. The team are hoping to drip-feed new and relatable content every 72 hours that supports your ministry with family, friends, students, colleagues and strangers.

Check it out on [www.thewell.org.au](http://www.thewell.org.au)

## Heart of Creation Reflection Day

Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia are hosting a day retreat on the Ignatian understanding of Creation on

**Sunday 23rd May from 9am to 3pm at the Winbourne Function and Retreat Centre, Mulgoa.**

The retreat will use imagery, story and creative ways to explore our experience of the gift of creation. Registration is \$90, with morning tea provided and BYO lunch.

To book, visit <https://jisa.org.au/retreat/2957/> and for more information, contact [info@jisa.org.au](mailto:info@jisa.org.au)

## Life, Marriage and Family Office Marriage Preparation Courses

Dates for the Diocesan Life, Marriage and Family Office's in-person marriage preparation weekend courses in 2021 are now available, with the SmartLoving Engaged Online course another option to prepare for your marriage. For more information, or to book your course, visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) or call (02) 8838 3460.

## Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre is taking bookings for 2021

As a COVID-safe registered business, the Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, Mulgoa, is once again available for personal or small group bookings to discern and plan for what the future might look like. They have also begun taking bookings for 2021, with numbers set to increase as restrictions return to normal.

For more information, please call (02) 4773 8338, email [info@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:info@schoenstatt.org.au) or visit [www.schoenstatt.org.au](http://www.schoenstatt.org.au)

## Covid-19 Vaccination

Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>

## National Catholic Men's Gathering

The National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2021 will be launched online on Saturday 31st July. Join a diocesan group with your Bishop, or with your Men's Ministry/Parish group or individually. Three sessions will be provided online, along with reflection questions for group discussion or individual reflection. The gathering aims to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world. Register for free at [www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au)

## Glenbrook Parish Women's Retreat: 12 June

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a women's retreat filled with peace, prayerfulness, adoration, Mass, Reconciliation, guest speakers and praise and worship.

It will be held at the parish on **12th June from 8.30am to 8.30pm**. Registration is \$60, and with places limited, register now at <https://forms.gle/KkBaTAvm1qkYYCzm8>. For enquiries, email [beloved2021info@gmail.com](mailto:beloved2021info@gmail.com)

## Madonna Magazine -

*a gift of spiritual sustenance that lasts a whole year*  
*Madonna* magazine, published by Jesuit Communications, is an ideal spiritual companion - containing daily prayers, deep reflections and faith-focused articles. We invite you to subscribe or consider taking out a gift subscription for a loved one for only \$53 a year. You can find out more about *Madonna*, how to subscribe, purchase a gift subscription or donate a subscription on the website: [www.madonnamagazine.com.au/article/subscriptions](http://www.madonnamagazine.com.au/article/subscriptions)

## Catholic Theological College Engaging Your Faith Series

The Catholic Theological College is hosting a series of online lectures via Zoom on Engaging Your Faith from 11th to 31st May.

The Engaging Your Faith offers short sessions on a variety of topics including: Spirituality, Women in the Early Church and The Eucharist. Sessions are \$20 each. Registration is essential via <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=747351&>.

For further information, contact Rose Sultana, Academic Records Office on (03) 9412 3307 or [rose.sultana@ctc.edu.au](mailto:rose.sultana@ctc.edu.au)

## Community Visitors Scheme Volunteers Needed

The Community Visitors Scheme, a program with CatholicCare, is looking for volunteers to provide a friendly visit to residents in local Aged Care Facilities who are lonely or isolated from their family and friends. If you feel you could spare one hour a week or a fortnight to help a person feel more valued and respected, please contact the Manager, Deb Woolacott on 0418 114 055 or email [deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au](mailto:deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au).



# The Living Word

The Ascension of the Lord

16th May 2021



## First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?*

*Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

*(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must  
fear, great king over all the earth. *(R.)*

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. *(R.)*

God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. *(R.)*

## Second Reading

Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.



## Gospel Acclamation

Mt 28:19. 20

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel

Mk 16:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.*

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.



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## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### Resurrection for the whole cosmos

Our Risen Lord could have appeared to groups of followers generation after generation until now. But he withdrew his visible bodily presence from us. Why? I think because he needed to wean human beings from our tendency to be self-centred. The Resurrection starts the transformation of the *whole* of creation, not just us.

Ordinary human beings are the heart and mind and voice of non-angelic creation. We love and understand and speak on its behalf. The transforming effect of Our Lord's glorified humanity is much more profound. Every molecule, every quantum of energy, the past, present and future are all in the process of being changed towards 'the fullness of him who fills the whole creation'.

At every Mass, this divine resurrection power is at work. Elements of the universe, wheat-bread, grapes-wine, become the Real Presence of Our Lord's glorified body.

The privilege of a ministerial priest is to be the ritual servant of this divine transformation. Invoking the Holy Spirit and reciting the words of the Last Supper is the priest's role in Our Lord's creative real anticipation of the end of time.

We could take a moment to pray for the grace to let go of our self-centredness, to stop staring into the empty sky as though lamenting Our Lord's absence, and to savour the privilege of receiving his Real Presence in the transformed elements of creation as we and they share in that Holy Communion which is the destiny of the whole cosmos.

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## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times; a moment when we have left one place in our journey, but have not yet arrived at a second. While the narratives that describe the Ascension fit well into the unfolding story of redemption, the feast itself celebrates one aspect of the resurrection itself, namely, the exaltation of Jesus. The readings help us through this paradox. They allow us to focus on this theological point while we commemorate a turning point in the life of the church. We do this by considering both the enthronement of Christ in the heavens and the new body of Christ on earth.

Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at God's right hand. Today we are overwhelmed by the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Amidst shouts of joy and exaltation, Christ is enthroned in heaven in both his divinity and his glorified humanity. Now he is present with us in a new way, in a new body, in the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists; he ministers through its prophets and pastors. Through us he continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have each other; together we make up the new body of Christ.

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May

### Universal intention - The world of finance



Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.



## REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

### Questions for Adolescents

- \* Why do you think the gospel writer described the miraculous 'signs that will be associated with believers'?
- \* What is the significance of Jesus commissioning the disciples immediately before his ascension?
- \* How is it possible to be a proclaimer of the Good News today?
- \* How can our actions towards others proclaim our beliefs?
- \* Who do you know who really lives their beliefs and in that way proclaims the Good News?

### Questions for Adults

- \* How can a literal interpretation of this week's gospel 'get in the way' of understanding the message?
- \* Is the image of the believer as described by Jesus still portrayed today in popular media/culture?
- \* What do the actions of your community say about its beliefs?
- \* How can you / your group better respond to the call to 'proclaim the Good News'?

***This is an opportunity for parents to discuss today's Gospel with your children. The following questions and worksheet are a beginning point to assist with the discussion.***

- \* Who do you know who has gone away and you don't see very often?
- \* How do you keep in touch?
- \* Jesus went back to his Father but he is still with us.
- \* How do we keep in touch with Jesus?
- \* We show Jesus is with us by the way we live.
- \* How will you show others that Jesus is with you this week?

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# Jesus was taken into heaven

The Ascension of the Lord, Year B

Draw Jesus saying goodbye to his friends and promising to be with them always.



What are some special things we can do for others because of our belief in Jesus?



## ASCENSION

How many words can you make from the letters in the word ASCENSION?




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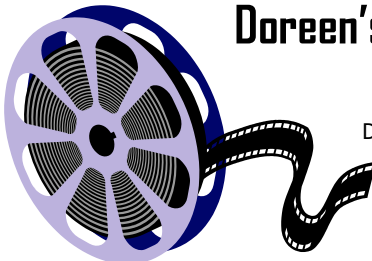
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