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

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**9TH & 10TH DECEMBER,  
2023**

## REFLECTION *by* Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

*For persons with disabilities*



We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation."

#### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**SATURDAY VIGIL 6PM**

**SUNDAY 7.30AM & 9.30AM**

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Tuesday & Wednesday at 6pm**

**Thursday & Friday at 9.10am**

#### RECONCILIATION

Please speak to Fr Shinto on  
Saturday evening before Mass.

**Website:**

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

**Facebook:**

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

#### **CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH**

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Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

**Postal:** PO Box 21  
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**Phone:** 4730 1249

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

**Presbytery:** 4730 6258

**Office Hours:** 9am - 3.30pm  
(Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

#### PARISH TEAM:

**Administrator - Fr Shinto Francis**  
- [sf@corpuschristi.org.au](mailto:sf@corpuschristi.org.au)

**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

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Mass Times for regular weekend Masses on 23rd & 24th December will take place as usual:

**SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER AT 6PM.**

**SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER AT 7.30AM & 9.30AM.**

**Communal Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
(Second Rite with visiting priests)  
**THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER AT 7PM**



## Christmas Mass Times

**Christmas Eve (24th December)**  
**6pm, 8.30pm & Midnight**

**Christmas Day (25th December)**  
**7.30am & 9.30am**

*(Please note that Christmas Day Mass at 6pm that was advertised last week will not take place and 7.30am has been added)*

Christmas Mass & Reconciliation times across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains can be found by visiting: [www.parracatholic.org](http://www.parracatholic.org)

## Ministry Roster for Christmas

Please place your name on the sheet in the foyer if you are able to help with the following ministries for the Christmas Masses. Thank you!

**We still need volunteers for the following:**

**\*\*6.00pm Mass:** Acolyte  
Eucharistic Minister

**\*\*8.30pm Mass:** Data Operator  
Eucharistic Minister

**\*\*Midnight Mass:** Acolyte  
Reader  
Commentator  
Eucharistic Minister

**\*\*7.30am Mass:** Acolyte  
Reader  
Commentator  
Eucharistic Ministers  
Data Operator

**\*\*9.30am Mass:** Acolyte  
Eucharistic Minister  
Data Operator

## Ministry Roster for January

The voluntary roster commences on **Saturday 30th December and Sunday 31st December**. If you are able to assist with the Ministry Roster from that date until the end of January, please place your name on the roster sheet in the foyer.

## Children's Nativity Play...

All children are invited to participate in the Nativity Play at the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

Rehearsals will take place in the Church on  
Friday 22nd December from 9.30am – 11.30am  
and Sunday 24th December at 4.30pm.

If you would like your child to take part, please write your details on the sheet in the foyer.

## Christmas Eve Children's Choir

All school aged children are invited to join the Children's Choir, which will be singing at the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

Rehearsal for this choir will take place on  
Saturday 23rd December from 9.30am – 11.30am.

If your child is interested in joining the choir, please write your details on the sheet in foyer.



**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL CLOSE ON  
FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER  
AND WILL RE-OPEN  
ON TUESDAY 23RD JANUARY, 2024**

## New Ministry Roster

A huge thank you to all who have supported our parish during 2023 by way of the various Liturgical Ministries.

**We are about to get our information together to prepare a new Roster to cover the period 3rd/4th February to 27th/28th April 2024.**

Would all those who are involved in rostered Ministries please check your diaries and contact the Parish Office by either phone or email **prior to Tuesday 12th December** of any non-availability during that period.

## Donations for Vinnies Christmas Hampers

Any members of the parish who would like to assist the conference by making donations of the following items would be appreciated:

*tinned hams, Christmas puddings, custard, soft drinks, biscuits and mince pies, chips and other snack items, tinned fruit and other tinned items.*

**Baskets will be placed in the main foyer and near the other entry on 9th & 10th December.**

If parishioners wish to make a gold coin donation to help with the purchase of some food items, buckets will also be in the foyer area and near the other entry door.

**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.*

# Parish News

## A Message of Thanks...

*Thank you to all the wonderful Catechists & helpers  
for your time and dedication to the  
Catechist ministry this year.*

*May you all have a well earned break.*

If anyone is interested in joining our team of Catechists please call the parish office to find out more.

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

*The Catechist Team is currently looking for volunteers to  
teach in government schools in 2024.*

If you can spare about an hour each week during school terms and would like to find out more about becoming a teacher or a helper, you can call the parish office or our Catechist Co Ordinator, Lorrene Gorman on 0414 471 329. Training is provided.

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR CHILDREN - 2024

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 28TH FEBRUARY, 2024  
AT 7.00PM IN THE CHURCH.**

## Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

### Recently Deceased:

Geraldine Carvalho, Monsignor Bill Mullins (*Alison McDonald's dear Uncle*)



### Anniversary:

Rosie Cavallo, Maureen Fisher (*David Fisher's mum*)

### For those who are sick:

Carmencita Sampaga, June Sultana, Rose Zahra, Max Ducasse, Eleanor Albertyn, Rosa Pronesti

## Second Sunday of Advent



*The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace and is also purple.*

*Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," this candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus.*

*It also builds on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, recalling that after the division, destruction and dispersion of*

*the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on earth.*



## Diocesan Recognition of Dedication

Hundreds of selfless volunteers have been commended for their service and dedication to teaching the faith to students in public schools.

Congratulations to our parishioners, Victoria Vella and Charles Bonanno who were recently recognised with a Papal Blessing for 30 years of service at the Annual CCD Mass and Awards Ceremony at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.



Parish staff across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have been formally acknowledged by the Diocese of Parramatta for their dedicated and passionate ministry as the 'frontline workers' of the Church.

The highlight of the day was the Recognition Ceremony which awarded staff from 5 to 32 years of faithful service to their parishes. Marie Cottee was recognised for 28 years of service to the Diocese of Parramatta (Corpus Christi Parish, Cranebrook for 24 years) and Sue Weekes was recognised for 22 years of service to the Diocese of Parramatta (Corpus Christi Parish, Cranebrook for 19 years).



## Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2024

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024.

This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as **Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar.**

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

## Bishop's Christmas Appeal

*Thank you for giving comfort, faith, and hope to distraught people this Christmas*

Fr Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support for people in hospital and prison who might otherwise feel abandoned.

Because of your compassion, Corpus Christi Parish raised \$1433.70, which will provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to people in times of darkness.



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

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



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