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

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B 24TH & 25TH AUGUST, 2024

REFLECTION *by Dianne Bergant CSA*

The decisions called for in today's readings are life decisions. The people at the time of Joshua had to decide which god they would worship. The disciples of



Jesus had to decide if he was the one who would fulfill their messianic expectations. We have life decisions to make as well. How will we choose?

The choices we make determine the character of our union with God. God called us out of the slavery of sin and protected us throughout the journey of our lives. Jesus walked with us through the challenges of life and performed wonders for us. Why should we look elsewhere? Because we face new challenges. The new demands placed on us may be so great, or the commitment required of us may be so demanding that we feel that we can no longer walk with him. The church may be changing in ways we do not appreciate, or it may not be changing in the ways we believe it should, and so we may feel that we can walk with him no longer.

If we decide to commit ourselves, we will enter into a union with God that is deeper than anything we have previously known. However, this union will be based on faith. We may understand no more than we did in the past, things may be no more to our liking. But, 'to whom shall we go?' Jesus is God's holy one; he has the words of eternal life.

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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,
please introduce yourself to the priest or acolyte after Mass
and fill out a Census 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 after
9.10am Mass.

This is also an anointing Mass.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

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

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[www.facebook.com/
CorpusChristiParishCranebrook](http://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 Marie Cottee - Parish Secretary/
Sacrament Co-ordinator
- 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 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

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

Parish News

WEEKDAY MASSES UPDATE

COMMUNION SERVICES WILL TAKE PLACE HERE AT CORPUS CHRISTI WHILE FR JESSIE IS ON LEAVE.
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY @ 6PM
THURSDAY & FRIDAY @ 9.10AM

Should you wish to attend Mass please see the following:
Weekday Mass Times at
St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith

Monday: 9:30am
Tuesday: 6:45am & 9:30am
Wednesday: 9:30am & 7pm
Thursday: 9:30am
Friday: 6:45am & 12:10pm

Weekday Mass Times at
St Joseph's Parish Kingswood
Monday to Friday at 8.00am

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION



Sacrament of First Eucharist

A parent only meeting for the Sacrament of First Eucharist will take place this

WEDNESDAY 28TH AUGUST AT 6.30PM
IN THE CHURCH.

This meeting is only for the parents of children who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation in March 2024.

Sacrament of Baptism

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.



LET US OFFER GIFTS OF PRAYER

Recently Deceased:

Norman Hennessey (06/08/24 - Peter Sinnet's brother-in-law)

Anniversaries:

Rosemary Hall, Christ Zahra, Christine Jeffery (20/08/23), James William Sinnet (20/08/81), Anthony Azzopardi (08/08/15), Francis Muscat (27/07/23)

For those who are sick:

Max Ducasse, Barbara Kemp, Werner Rauker, Rose Zahra, Eleanor Albertyn, Rosa Pronesti



BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

Sunday 1st September

This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. Your compassionate donation cares for our clergy's health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal.

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 Marie at 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.

SAVE THE DATES

Parish Morning Tea

Morning tea will take place after 9.30am Sunday Mass on the following dates:

13th October; 10th November; 8th December

Junior Altar Serving Training

Children interested in becoming a junior altar server are invited to attend training on

Wednesdays 23rd & 30th October at 7pm in the Church.
Please note that children must have already received their First Holy Communion before becoming a junior altar server.

CORPUS CHRISTI YOUTH MASS DATES

Parish Youth Masses will take place on the following Sundays at 5.00pm:

15th September; 20th October;
17th November; 15th December



For more information about our parish Youth Masses please contact Fr Jessie 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. Please bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea. New members are always welcome.

Parish News

CORPUS CHRISTI VINNIES

The Vinnies conference would like to thank parishioners for their generous support of the winter appeal.

The support the conference received from our parishioners is greatly appreciated.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

New Ministry Roster

The new roster, which commences on weekend 4th/5th May, has been emailed to all volunteers.

If you did not receive it please contact the Parish Office.

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Office for Worship is taking enrolments for its Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses, which commence in September, for those who are interested.

There is no cost for these courses.

**Bede Heather Centre: 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown
Mondays at 7pm**

- ✳ 9th September: Compulsory Introduction Session.
- ✳ 16th & 23rd September: Ministers of the Word.
- ✳ 14th & 21st October: Ministers of Communion.
- ✳ 28th October: Communion to the Sick & Dying.*
- ✳ 4th & 11th November: Ministers at the Altar.**

* If you wish to complete Communion to the Sick & Dying, you must attend the Ministers of Communion Session first.

** If you wish to become a Minister at the Altar, you must attend all sessions.

Deadline for enrolments: 2nd September.

Please contact the Parish Office for an enrolment form.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO ADD ANYONE TO THE PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER UNTIL THE ABOVE RELEVANT COURSES AND THE REQUIRED SAFEGUARDING MODULES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Catechist News... Are you able to help?

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.

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.

Adopt a Garden

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to adopt a section of the parish gardens. If you are experiencing any problems with the work you are doing in your section, if you have any queries or would like to join this group, please contact the Parish Office, who will put you in touch with Greg Hall, the coordinator.

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)

Should you prefer to complete the modules in face-to-face meetings, the following dates are available:

Cycle 1 (Initial)

Saturday 7th September (Mods 1-3) 10am-3pm at
Toongabbie Parish

Saturday 28th September (Mods 1-3) 10am-3pm at St
Marys Parish

Cycle 2 (Renewal)

Saturday 31st August (Mods 4 & 5) 10am-1.30pm at
Seven Hills Parish

For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Diocesan News

Launch of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church

The Diocese of Parramatta is excited to announce the launch of our **Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church 2024-2028: 'Behold, I am with you'.**

This plan marks the culmination of our 16-month Synod journey, a time of listening, discernment, and envisioning the future of our Diocese. Now, we have a shared roadmap

to revitalise our local communities and guide our mission in the years ahead. To explore and download the Pastoral Plan, visit <https://parracatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Behold-I-Am-With-You-Always-Pastoral-Plan-for-a-Synodal-Church-2024-2028-WEBv.pdf>



MET Worship Children's Liturgy Workshop

Children's liturgy team members are invited to attend a workshop with an outline of the Diocesan Guidelines and a Children's Liturgy Q&A session with the Diocesan Liturgy Educator, Sr Mary-Louise Walsh.

Thursday 19th September from 7pm - 8:30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown.

To register or for more information, please email Lucy on lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or use this link: <https://parracatholic.org/events/met-childrens-liturgy-workshop-19-sept/>

The Living Word

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

25th August 2024

First Reading

Jos 24:1-2. 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. *(R.)*

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal. *(R.)*

They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. *(R.)*

Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken. *(R.)*

Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.

Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. *(R.)*

Second Reading

Eph 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel

Jn 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset

those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * How do you think Jesus felt when his audience rejected what he'd been saying?
- * What did Jesus mean when he said, 'The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life'?
- * Why do you think so many followers left Jesus after this event?
- * When have you learnt something important from an unlikely source?

Questions for Adults

- * What historical reality might be captured by the description of disciples not accepting Jesus' teaching?
- * In what ways can John, chapter 6, be seen as a defence of early Christian belief and practice?
- * Why does Jesus appear to simply accept that some people do not believe what he says?

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The Word of Eternal Life

I remember seeing a James Bond film in which the Voodoo priest could summon the Living Dead – called Zombies – people hovering between life in the grave and life above ground level, but ultimately trapped as human beings living a grave-dominated existence.

There are billions of the Living Dead around the world. People, apparently like you and me, but in fact living with the belief that the grave will mark the extinction of their life.

But *our* ears are attuned to pick up words which sound the possibility of a different destiny, a different reality. We have heard a voice which speaks the truth, a voice which speaks of a more beautiful reality. That voice says that you and I, individually, personally, are star dust with a marvellous destiny: a destiny that will see our ensouled bodies transformed, transfigured, translucent with Divine Light and energy.

The voice is that of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We hear that voice from within the Church, which has transmitted the tradition of ‘The Voice’ for twenty centuries.

Heeding that Voice, I move from the company of the Living Dead to the companionship of the Conqueror of Death. I am no longer a ‘Dead Man Walking’ but a man alive with the reality of eternal life already within me.

That is why when I hear the challenge: ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ I enter into that tradition and answer with St Peter, I answer in the company of billions of others over twenty centuries: ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’

We could pause for a moment and pray that, living in the tradition of the Church, I may hear the Word in the Gospel and take that Word within myself in Holy Communion so that I might be no longer a ‘Dead Man Walking’, but a human being alive with the reality of eternal life already within me.

© Fr Michael Tate

REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

When Joshua tells the tribes of Israelites that he and his family have chosen to serve the one true God, he is able to speak on behalf of his wife and children. In his culture children and women are property. Whatever the husband and father says, the wife and children have to agree with.

Do you disagree with any of the opinions that your parents have? Do you and your parents have the same preferences in the area of religious beliefs and practices? Or do you have different styles of faith and prayer? If there are differences, how are they dealt with at home?

Do you think that life would be simpler, better and easier if all children were required to agree with their parents and go along with whatever they say? Why or why not?

When children disagree with parents, what are some respectful and courteous ways to communicate with parents and discuss important issues? How can children and parents get along and deal with huge differences that can separate them and cause negative feelings?

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Historical Context

Christians and Jews

The first followers of Jesus and those who became followers in the years after the death of Jesus were faithful Jews. They saw the teachings of Jesus as a way of being a better Jew. They didn't think that they were beginning a new religion; just a new way of interpreting their faith. However, as the years passed and the followers of Jesus began to clarify their understandings and beliefs, it started to become obvious that their belief in Jesus as the Son of God was distancing them from their Jewish brothers and sisters. Gradually the term, Christian, came into use and their differences from Judaism became more apparent.

Gospel Focus

Peter's faith

Having laid out a fairly difficult teaching to the crowd, Jesus is faced with the fact that many of those who were following him couldn't cope with what he was saying and they walked away from him. Jesus turns on the Twelve and demands of them, ‘What about you, do you want to go away too?’ One can almost hear the frustration and weariness in his voice. Peter's response must have been a great relief to Jesus. Peter declares that Jesus has the message of eternal life and is the Holy One of God. He still hasn't quite got the full picture but it's something Jesus can continue to work with!

Living the Gospel

Message and Medium

We live in a world that is saturated by advertising and marketers trying to persuade us to think certain things, want certain things and even act in certain ways. At times the message and the medium of the message blur and it's not always clear where one stops and the other begins. For Christian people the medium – the person – IS the message (or at least should be!). We are called to live what we believe. That can be tough at times, especially in our modern world, but the challenge comes from the example Jesus gave.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for August

For political leaders

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.



Children's Worksheet

Lord, your words give everlasting life

21st Sunday In Ordinary Time, Year B



By listening to Jesus, we too can have everlasting life. What are some things Jesus is telling us? Draw the missing pictures, then circle the correct answers.



Simon Peter said that Jesus' words give eternal life. Can you think of some other things that Jesus gives us? Write or draw your answers.



Love one another

Do anything you want



Always be the winner

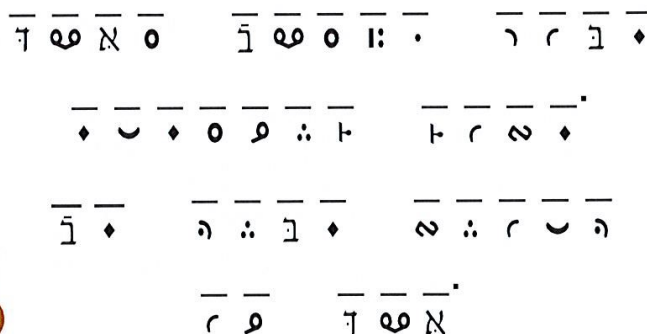
Help others



Be stronger than others

Pray to God

Jesus spoke to his disciples about the bread of life. It was hard to understand, but those who had faith continued to follow him. Crack the code to find out what Simon Peter said to Jesus.



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Solutions

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Jesus spoke to his disciples about the bread of life. It was hard to understand, but those who had faith continued to follow him. Crack the code to find out what Simon Peter said to Jesus.



YOUR WORDS GIVE
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ETERNAL LIFE
 ∩
WE HAVE FAITH
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IN YOU
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