



The Net

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

1ST AND 2ND OF MARCH 2025

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.

Ash Wednesday Reflection (March 5th 2025)

Joel 2:12-18 | Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.3 | 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 | Matthew 6:1-6. 16-18

There is a great story about G K Chesterton, the famous writer who died in 1936. Among many things, he was the creator of Fr Brown, the detective who uses powers of empathy to understand people better than the police. He was once asked to contribute an essay to a collection on the theme of 'What is Wrong with the World?' His response to the question required only two words. 'I am,' he wrote.

Ash Wednesday, which celebrates the start of Lent, calls us to a more courageous engagement with reality. That is why, when we receive ashes, we often hear the words 'remember you are dust and to dust you will return.' That is our truth. It is easy to look at the state of the world and descend into blame and indignation.

Sure, there are many things that are desperately troubling. Wars, poverty and environmental degradation are part of a long list. But who among us has the courage to own up and respond to the question, 'what's wrong with the world,' by answering 'I am.' Don't misunderstand. We are mostly good people, doing our best to love and serve each other. But we would sell ourselves short if we left the future of Earth to others who we thought were more to blame. Ash Wednesday asks us to look at the world and our part in it. Every year, we begin our journey to

Easter with Jesus's advice to go into our private room, wherever that may be, and encounter the Lord one on one. Christianity, unlike so much else in the world, has little time for self-marketing.

Ash Wednesday is Day One of our Lenten journey. God's invitation to 'come back to me with all your heart' is also an invitation to leave our private room and step into a world in urgent need of our love and honesty. This year, Project Compassion is calling us to *Unite Against Poverty*. St Paul says, 'now is the favourable time.' We can make the most difference when we are most truly ourselves. Credit: Caritas Australia.

First Reading

Sirach 27:4-7

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:39-45

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY VIGIL 6pm

SUNDAY 7.30AM & 9.30pm

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

(Anointing Mass)

Third Friday of each month

(Healing Mass)

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

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

Postal: PO Box 21
Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

Phone: 4730 1249

Email: parishteam@corpuschristi.org.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiParishCranebrook

CorpusChristiParishCranebrook

Office Hours: 9:00 am - 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 Sue Weekes — Secretarial Support

- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Vanessa Sultana — Office Support

- cranebrook@parracatholic.org

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary — ph 4726 2200

(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College — ph 4777 0900

(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

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

Visit our website: www.corpuschristi.org.au

Parish News

PENANCE 2025

Thank you to everyone who registered their child for the sacrament of **Penance** last Wednesday. If you missed the registration day, please visit the parish office during the week ahead to collect your registration forms.

The Sacraments of Penance will take place on
Thursday 27th of March at 5pm and 7pm

PARISH WORKING BEE & BBQ

The parish will be having a working bee on

Saturday 22nd of March from 9am—12pm

to prepare the grounds for Easter.

BBQ will be provided after the working bee in appreciation of your support.

Please bring your gardening tools and any other equipment.



OLD PALM LEAVES

We encourage everyone to return any palm leaves that you may have at home from a past Palm Sunday. Because they are blessed, these palms are never to be thrown away. The blessed palms can be given back to the church to be burned for Ash Wednesday, or they can be returned to nature by burying or burning them with the ashes spread outside.

Please place your palm leaves in the basket that is available in the foyer

Sacraments 2025

First Eucharist

The registration date for First Eucharist is

Wednesday 20th August, 2025 at 6.30pm

The sacrament of First Eucharist will take place on the following dates:

Saturday 6th September at 11am

Saturday 6th September at 6pm

Saturday 13th September at 11am

Sunday 14th September at 9.30am

Confirmation

The registration date for Confirmation is

Wednesday 7th of May, 2025 at 6.30pm

The sacrament of Confirmation (for children who received Penance and First Eucharist last year) will take place on the following date:

Saturday 14th June, 2025 at 9:30 am & 11:30 am

Baptisms and Weddings

Baptisms take place in our parish on the first and third Sundays of each month at 11am. 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.

Wedding bookings are taken by request. Please contact the parish office to discuss available dates and to make a booking.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENROLMENTS FOR 2026



Corpus Christi Primary

2026 Kindergarten enrolments will officially open at the school open night on

Wednesday the 5th of March

Everyone is welcome anytime between 5pm and 6.30pm
You can stay as little or as long as you like.



XAVIER COLLEGE
Llandilo

Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Prospective 2026 students and their families are warmly invited to attend. Tours and application forms will be available on the night.

LENT 2025

Ash Wednesday for 2025 is on 5th of March

Masses will be held at the parish at 9.30am and 6pm

Throughout Lent the parish is hoping to host a Lenten reflection each Friday evening at 6.30pm in the church. This will be followed by **Stations of the Cross** which will be celebrated at 7pm

To run our Lenten reflection here at the parish we need volunteers. We warmly invite everyone in the parish to consider volunteering to lead a session. Support and guidance will be given. For more information or to volunteer, please contact the parish office.

We are also looking for families who would like to lead us in Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings during Lent. To volunteer for this, please place your name on the sign on sheet that is in the sacristy.

If you are interested in a Lenten program to do at home, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney offers a free downloadable program called, "Let your will be done, not mine".

To download please visit

https://gomakedisciples.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/A4-Square-Lenten-Resource-2025_Online.pdf



LET US OFFER GIFTS OF PRAYER

Recently Deceased:

Francis Said, Kuriakose (Father of Anu), Carmencita Sampaga, France Zamudio

Anniversaries:

Maria Cipriano, Arnold Toirkens, Xavier Vella and for the repose of the souls of Vella and Portelli families and for the souls in purgatory.

For those who are sick:

Ruta Pelenatino, Lorrene Gorman, Eleanor Albertyn, Rose Zahra, George Keane, Marlene Rodger, Fr Jerome Antogop

Parish News



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Project Compassion Sunday 1st and 2nd of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**

this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

Please note there has been an unexpected delay in the arrival of our project compassion boxes.

We hope to have them by next weekend.

What's on at Corpus Christi...



Parish Morning Tea

Our parish hosts a morning tea after our 9.30am Mass on the second Sunday of every month. Everyone is welcome. We warmly encourage you to invite your friends and family to join us both for Mass and morning tea

To support our parish with catering, you are most welcome to bring a plate to share or an optional gold coin donation can be made. We kindly ask that a list of ingredients is provided for any home prepared food to support anyone with food allergies

Sunday
9th
March

Corpus Christi Youth Mass

Our youth Masses take place on the 3rd Sunday of Each Month at 5pm
Mass followed by refreshments.

Please note that parents are welcome to attend the Mass and registration is not necessary. For more information about our parish Youth Masses please contact the parish office or Kieran Faccin.

Sunday
16th
March

'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. Please complete our new members form in the foyer if you'd like to join

Friday
28th
March

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 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.

Diocesan Notices

SAFEGUARDING FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Cycle 2 face-to-face safeguarding training with Maria Kervin has been booked in for 2 evening sessions on Monday 17th and 24th of March 6.30 – 8pm at Mary Immaculate Parish Quakers Hill. If you would like to attend, book in through Maria Kervin at maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

The next session of face-to-face Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on Saturday 3 May at Holy Family Emerton for Cycle 2 (Module 4-5). More training opportunities will be available soon. 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

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)

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

Hope does not disappoint

Romans 5:5

Reflection Day for
Women

Saturday 8 March

9.30am - 2.30pm

Sr Mary Louise Walsh
Mt Schoenstatt
230 Fairlight Rd Mulgoa

RSVP by 4 March
4773 8338
bookings@schoenstatt.org.au

Cost \$30
BYO lunch
refreshments provided

The Living Word

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

1st and 2nd of March 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 17:19-20

The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom;
he saved me because he delighted in me.

First Reading

Sirach 27:4-7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at

the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. 'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

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REFLECTION FOR YOUNG

PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie

Calderone-Stewart



The fruit reflects the tree, just as parents are often reflected in their sons and daughters. If someone said you were like your parents, would you see that as a compliment or an insult? Why?

What do you do that makes your parents proud?

What do you do that sometimes upsets or embarrasses your parents?

What do your parents do that you are proud of?

What do your parents do that you are uncomfortable with?

Do you like being seen as a reflection of your parents, or would you prefer to be seen as an independent person, free from their influence?

Legally, if you are a minor, your parents are responsible for what you do, even if they are not at fault for your actions.

How does that affect your decisions on how to act?

How does that affect your parents' decisions regarding family rules?

Do you think you are a trustworthy person?

Do your parents trust you? Why or why not?

Do your friends trust you? Why or why not?

Do you trust all your friends or just some of them? Why?

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Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart (1958-2011) gained her doctorate in education from Cardinal Stritch University and was associate director of early adolescent ministry in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Previously she served for six years as the director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska. She also established "Tomorrow's Present", a youth leadership ministry. She was a highly regarded speaker and wrote many books on spirituality and youth ministry.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

In our post-modern world, the lesson of the hypocrite seeking to remove the speck from their neighbour's eye before removing the log from their own has at times been taken too far and too literally. We are often confronted with a minimalist notion that nobody can be corrected or criticised because one person's opinion is just as good as the next person's. In this view, there is no room for universal truths; no room for authority; no room for an overarching view of the world or a meta-narrative – an underlying 'big picture' story for life.

On the surface, the idea that one person's opinion is as valid as any other's seems very democratic and sociable. However, it is fundamentally not true. Someone who has spent a lifetime studying and practising in a particular field of endeavour cannot be lightly dismissed as 'that's just your opinion'. Yet, all too often, such learned knowledge and experience is given the same weight as ill-informed and sometimes mischievous opinion – frequently in the name of 'balanced' discussion.

For some people immersed in the post-modern culture this wash of opinion dressed up as fact is not only confusing but sometimes dangerous. Social norms and even laws can be seen as just another opinion that differs from my own. The opinions of friends and complete strangers on the internet or social networks are held with the same level of legitimacy as established sources of social, moral, legal and religious authority. Whilst it is proper to question established authority and require accountability and justification, the absence of universal truths and meta-narratives lead us back to the proverb that begins today's gospel: the blind leading the blind.

Gospel Focus – Good from Good

'The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good.' What makes a person good? Is it that they have had good things happen in their life? There are plenty of people who have had good things in their life but they remain cynical and spiteful people. Similarly there are plenty who have had the hardest of circumstances yet goodness constantly flows from them. It's not the external influences but what we do with them that determines whether we are nurturing 'good treasure' or harbouring 'evil treasure'. This is not just sugary sweetness but a deliberate decision to be a person of hope.

Scriptural Context – Three texts; one lesson

Today's gospel is made up of three separate teachings of Jesus that have been put together by the gospel writer to convey a particular message. When taken together, the three teachings all shed light on the way believers influence one another in community. It is a call to witness to one another through actions as well as words. Before we seek to teach another we must ensure we have adequately learned the lesson ourselves. We must be self-appraising before we critique another. Finally, our actions towards one another are a reflection of our intentions; good actions come from goodness of the heart.

Living the Gospel – You hypocrite

It is often argued that it is hypocrisy to attend Mass on Sundays and be 'holy' in that circumstance but to then be less than perfect during the rest of the week. This is often rolled out as a convenient excuse for not attending Mass at all: everyone who goes to Mass is a hypocrite. Of course, attending Mass does not imply perfection. It is in fact a recognition of imperfection and the need to come together as a community and to seek God's help to have another go at trying to get it a bit more right in the coming week.

Questions for Adolescents

Which phrase or concept from today's gospel catches your attention?

What lesson/s do you take from this passage?

What is the danger of treating all opinions as equal?

In what way is treating all opinions as equal different from showing respect for a person's opinion?

Questions for Adults

What does it mean to 'take the log out of your own eye'?

What strategies do you use to 'filter' or evaluate critical comments before you make them?

How do you recognise a person who produces good 'out of the good treasure of the heart'?

How do you seek to nurture the good treasure of your heart?

Learning moments

Use the *Ignatian Examen*, or another reflective practice, to reflect on the last few days and the various interactions you have had with other people. Where were others Jesus for you? Where were you Jesus for others?

Compile a list of people you know whose opinion you value and trust. Identify specific examples of times that their advice has been helpful to you. Over the coming week, create the opportunity to tell these people that you value and trust their advice.

© Greg Sunter

Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Children's Worksheet

Each tree is known by its own fruit

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C



Jesus told his disciples that each tree is known by the fruit it bears. Fill the fruit with examples of some good things we can do that show to others that we are good people.



Fill in the missing words from the list below to see what Jesus said about judging other people.

___ do you see the
___ in your
___ ' eye,
but do not _____ the
___ in your own ___?

**FRIEND'S SPECK LOG
EYE NOTICE WHY**



HYPOCRITE

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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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who support our parish throughout the year.*

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