



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH, CRANEBROOK, NSW

The Net

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

22nd and 23rd of February 2025

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

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

'To go beyond instinct, to go beyond hatred,' Pope Francis suggests, is fundamental. However bad it gets, Jesus calls on us to see those who wrong us as God sees them: as creatures loved into existence, still capable of good.

Understandably, we find this challenging. But, as the Pope points out, Jesus faced such situations himself and shows us what turning the cheek really means.



By not trading strike for strike, Jesus avoids becoming like those who struck him in the first place. Jesus does not give in to injustice. Rather, he reveals it.

During his Passion, as the Pope explains, Jesus 'asks for an account of the wrong done to him.' He calls it out, gently but firmly. 'With his question,' the Pope affirms, 'Jesus denounces what is unjust. But he does so without anger, without violence, indeed *with kindness*.'

In any conflict, whether personal or international, we are therefore called to unmask the absurdity of hatred by being the 'one who has a greater inner strength,' to use our voice rather than fists, or gestures rather than words. Ultimately, as the Pope declares: 'Turning the other cheek does not have to mean suffering in silence, giving in to injustice.' It means transforming the moment to bring light to the darkness.

© Nick Brodie

Nick Brodie is an Australian historian and writer who is currently Dean of Academic Studies of Jane Franklin Hall in Hobart. A graduate of the Australian National University, Flinders University, and the University of Tasmania, he is the author of several books on Australian history and numerous essays on historical, political, and religious topics. In 2017 he was awarded the Bruce Mansfield Prize for the best article in the Journal of Religious History. He is currently studying Theology.



Registration for the sacrament of Penance will take place this coming



Wednesday 26th of February at 7pm

for children in year 4 or above who have not yet received the sacrament.

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, we encourage you to fill out a New Parishioner Card, which is available in the foyer.

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

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)

Visit our website: www.corpuschristi.org.au

Parish News

SACRAMENTS IN 2025

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 26TH FEBRUARY, 2025
AT 7.00PM IN THE CHURCH.**

Dates to note in your diary...

The Sacraments of Penance will take place on

Thursday 27th of March at 7pm

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



Please note that the registration date for first Eucharist is

Wednesday 20th August, 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

Please note that the registration date for Confirmation is

Wednesday 7th of May, 2025 at 6.30pm



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.

CATECHIST COMMISSIONING



This Sunday, February 23rd at our 9.30am Mass our Corpus Christi Special Religious Education team will be commissioned into the 2025 school year as we formally acknowledge them and their acceptance to the call to serve as Catechists.

On behalf of our parish community we thank our Catechists for saying yes to God's call of being sharers of the faith. Thank you for all the time, effort, and sacrifice you place in teaching our children about the faith which you yourselves love.

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:

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

Anniversaries:

Maria Cipriano, Arnold Toirkens

For those who are sick:

Ruta Pelenatino, Lorrene Gorman, Eleanor Albertyn, Rose Zahra, George Keane

Parish News

What's on at Corpus Christi...



Sunday
9th
March

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
16th
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.

Friday
28th
February

'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

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A
LITURGICAL MINISTER AT CORPUS
CHRISTI.

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE

TRY IT!!!!!! NOWWW!!!



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

LIFTED LAUNCH: 27 FEBRUARY

Join us for LIFTED Launch on Thursday, February 27th, from 6:45 PM to 9:30 PM at West HQ, Rooty Hill! Get a sneak peek at exciting events we have planned for young Catholics, including the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage and Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Enjoy a night of prayer, formation, and fun with fellow young Catholics. Register now: parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/

MET NATURAL FERTILITY INSTRUCTION SESSIONS:

MET Natural Fertility are organising a series of instruction sessions on the Natural Family Planning methods offered by the Diocese of Parramatta via Zoom. Learn how to chart your cycle, space out pregnancies and identify the best time to reach your family goals.

- Sympto-Thermal Method: 25 February at 7:15pm
- Billings Ovulation Method®: 18 March at 7:30pm

To book your place or for further information or instruction, please contact Catherine on catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or call 0400 427 605.

SAFEGUARDING FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: 3 MAY

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory 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

THE FAITH FEED

WHAT DOES LIFE & FAITH LOOK LIKE IN YOUR 20S, 30S AND 40S?

Discover what it can look like at The FaithFeed, hosted by the community at Baulkham Hills Catholic Parish!

RSVP TODAY:

SATURDAY 29 MARCH | 6:30 - 8:00 PM
1 CHAPEL LANE, BAULKHAM HILLS - ST MICHAEL'S PARISH

The Living Word

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C 22nd and 23rd of February 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 12:6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading

1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems

your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)

4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

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

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even

sinner love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

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REFLECTION FOR YOUNG

PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

What would you do if someone in need asked you for your coat? Would you give this person the shirt off your back as well? Why or why not? Why do you think Jesus asks you to make this sacrifice?

What else do you think Jesus is asking you to give?

What is the hardest thing for you to give to another person?

When was the last time you spoke negatively of another person?

When was the last time someone spoke negatively to you or about you?

How would life be different if there was no judging or condemning of others – if everyone was forgiven and treated well? Why doesn't that happen?

© St Mary's Press

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

The radical teaching that was begun in last week's gospel as the beatitudes and woes is continued in this week's challenge to be forgiving, compassionate and generous in the same way that God expresses abundant love. As with the blessings and curses of the Beatitudes passage, this teaching continues the challenge to act against cultural and social expectations. Who would be surprised if you were to express hatred for an enemy or for someone who hates you or treats you badly? But Jesus tells his disciples to love their enemies and to do good to those who hate them. His instruction is contrary to the 'normal' way of doing things – and that's exactly the message Jesus wanted to convey! Rather than a spiteful, vengeful God who keeps score and punishes wrongdoing, Jesus presents a compelling image of a God of unbounded compassion and abundant generosity.

In this passage we find one version of the Golden Rule that appears repeatedly throughout the gospels (as well as most other religious traditions): 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' It is followed up with a comment that it takes no effort to treat well people whom you like – anybody can do that. The challenge is to treat people you don't like as you would like to be treated yourself. In a society that had very strict rules about the way to treat different people and clearly established boundaries between different groups, this was a tough ask by Jesus. Bear in mind also that there was an occupying army in the country and Jesus was encouraging the people to treat even their enemies, the Romans, with love, compassion and forgiveness. This was a radical and challenging teaching!

Historical Context – In the midst of oppression

What a powerful message Jesus delivered to people who were subjugated and oppressed by an invading army. It would have been easy, and somehow 'natural', for the people of Palestine to hate the Roman occupiers and to seek revenge upon them. How confronting then for Jesus to say, 'love your enemies'! He tells the people that the way to live God's way in this situation was to be compassionate towards the oppressors; that when they rob you of your cloak to present them with your shirt as well. To do otherwise is to become like the oppressors themselves. Meeting hatred with hatred never ended hatred.

Scriptural context – Compassion

The compassion of God is a very strong theme that runs through the Gospel of Luke. Throughout the gospel, the compassion and mercy of God is emphasised and a defining feature of the gospel is the number of healings and parables that relate to people who were regarded as the outcasts of society. In this gospel, Jesus is the embodiment of God's compassion. Jesus wants all people to experience first hand the abundant love God holds for them. Today's gospel passage is a reminder that when we experience God's compassion we are also called to show it to others.

Different View – Turn the other cheek

Presenting your other cheek when someone has already struck you is usually seen as a pacifist action. However, a completely different interpretation can be made. If a man were to strike an inferior, it would be as a backhand strike – only equals fought with fists or open hands. Having been struck on one cheek with a backhand, offering the other cheek makes it impossible to again be struck with a backhand. The only option for the striker would be with an open hand – as equals fight. So, turning the

other cheek can be interpreted as claiming your status as an equal.

Questions for Adolescents

- Q. Which line of today's gospel do you find most challenging for your own life?
- Q. When have you ever tried to treat someone positively when they were treating you badly?
- Q. What consequences can flow from treating others as you would like to be treated?
- Q. When have you experienced genuine compassion from another person?
- Q. What does it mean to you to know that God is willing to forgive anything and not judge you?

Questions for Adults

- Q. Do you think it is genuinely possible to live as Jesus calls us to in this gospel passage?
- Q. In your life, what would it mean to lend (or give) 'without any hope of return'?
- Q. What does it mean to truly be compassionate?
- Q. Who are your 'enemies' and what would it take to demonstrate love for them?
- Q. Do you know of people who have very little and yet are incredibly generous? What motivates them?

Learning moments

Take some time to quietly re-read the text of today's gospel and then spend some time in reflection on how you might be able to put its message into practice. Identify the people in your life who irritate you or even treat you badly. How can you put into practice the call to 'love your enemies' and 'do good to those who hate you'? Identify practical strategies you can employ in the next week or so and make a commitment to try at least one practical strategy to turn a situation around.

© 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 February

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Children's Worksheet



Jesus taught us to forgive others. He even asked God to forgive those who crucified and taunted him. Write down three other occasions when Jesus showed love for those who were against him.

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