

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

29TH AND **30**TH OF MARCH **2025**

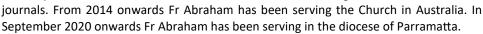
We, the people of Corpus Christi, seek to grow in living Christ-centred mission, sharing our gifts to foster welcome, justice and community in today's world. A very warm welcome to anyone who is new to the parish.

Welcome Father Abraham

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Parish Priest, Rev Abraham Kunnatholy CMI. Fr Abraham has been appointed at Corpus Christi Cranebrook for six years beginning from the 12th of May 2025.

Fr (Dr) Abraham Kunnatholy CMI was born in India. He, after his school education in his

home village, had his pre-university studies and then joined the university for graduation. After completing his graduation in English and History he joined the Carmelite (CMI) congregation in India and was ordained a priest in January 1996. After the ordination he was working in the congregation mainly in the field of formation. He worked in the field of formation in various capacities for 17 years. During this period, he completed his MA and Doctorate from an Indian university. He holds a post-graduate Diploma in psychology and formation from DVK Bangalore, India. He has published a few books and articles in reflective theological



We warmly welcome Fr Abraham to our parish community and we look forward to seeing what God will do through his presence here.

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We also extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Fr Jessie Balorio who has shown unwavering dedication to serving our community and guided us on our spiritual journey over the past 12 months. We are truly grateful for the faith, care and wisdom that Fr Jessie shared with us and the positive impact his presence has had on our parish community.

Fr Jessie will continue here at our parish until May 11th and will then be moving to his new appointment in the Upper Blue Mountains.

First Reading	Gospel Acclamation	 sw@corpuschristi.org.au
Joshua 5:9-12 The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.	Luke 15:18 Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:	Mrs Vanessa Sultana – Office Support - cranebrook@parracatholic.org
Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9 (R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 <i>God reconciled us to himself through</i> <i>Christ.</i>	Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! Gospel Luke 15:1-3. 11-32 <i>Your brother here was dead and has</i> <i>come to life.</i>	<u>SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:</u> Corpus Christi Primary – ph 4726 220 (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

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** Second Friday of each month (Healing Mass)

Fourth Friday of each month (Anointing 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

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Liturgical News

LENT 2025

Stations of the Cross will be held at our parish each Friday evening at 7pm

We are in need of volunteers to lead our Stations of the Cross for the last two weeks of Lent. We invite everyone to consider taking this on. The sign on sheet is available 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

Communal Reconciliation in preparation for Easter will take place at our parish on

Thursday 10th of April at 7pm

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2025

Thursday 17th April - 7.00pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper A beautiful celebration of the origins of our Eucharist. *Friday 18th April - 10.00am*

The Stations of the Cross

Friday 18th April - 3.00pm

Celebration of the Passion of the Lord A Mass honouring the great sacrifice of Christ.

> Saturday 19th April - 7.00pm (Note not 6.00pm)

The Easter Vigil Mass in the Holy Night This is the highlight of the Church year when we celebrate the greatest hope ever given to humanity.

Sunday 20th April - 7.30am & 9.30am

Sunday of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday)

A continuation of the celebration of resurrection when the new Easter light and Easter water of Baptism are used to help give a blessing of renewal.

ANNIVERSARY MASS FOR CHARLIE VELLA

A one year anniversary Mass for Charlie Vella will be taking place at our parish on

Sunday 6th of April at 6pm

Everyone is most welcome to attend

PARISH UPDATE

The parish will be closed the week following Easter from

Tuesday 22nd to Friday 25th of April

No Masses or Communion Services will take place during this time



S<u>acraments 2025</u>

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.

VALE GEORGE KEANE

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our dear

parishioner and friend George Keane. George passed away last Saturday evening, March 22nd. George was a devout parishioner of Corpus Christi who engaged in ministry and was a member of our Parish Pastoral Council.



George was the dearly beloved husband to Mary, father to Michael, Justin, Julie,

Geraldine and John, and grandfather to Clare, Olivia and James.

George's Funeral will take place at our parish next

Thursday 3rd of April at 10.30am

Followed by internment at

Kemps Creek Memorial Park, 230/260 Western Road Kemps Creek

We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate the life of George.

May he rest in the loving arms of our Lord

LET US OFFER GIFTS OF PRAYER

Recently Deceased: Eleanor Albertyn, George Keane. Anniversaries: Charlie Vella For those who are sick:



Ruta Pelenatino, Rose Zahra, Marlene Rodger, Fr Jerome Antogop

Parish News

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SACRAMENT CHILDREN



Sunday

13th

April

Sunday

27th April

Friday

2nd May

Last Thursday evening 77 children from our parish community received reconciliation for the first time. We extend a big congratulations to each one of them as well as their families and sacramental leaders.

May God's love and forgiveness fill their hearts and bring peace and joy, knowing that He is always with each of us.



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

s share or an optional gola coin aonation can be made. We kindly ask that a list of ingredients is provided for any home prepared food to support anyone with food allergies

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.

'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

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.

INVITATION TO VOLUNTEER FOR EASTER

To support our parish with the smooth running of our liturgical celebrations for Holy Week and Easter, we warmly invite all our Liturgical ministers to consider taking part in our Masses.

If you would like to volunteer as acolyte, reader, Eucharistic minister, Data operator or Altar Server please check the foyer for our sign on sheets.

We are also looking for volunteers to have their feet washed during our Holy Thursday Mass.



BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL

Will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously. Donation envelopes will be available in the church this weekend.



Diocesan Notices

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities:

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:<u>https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training</u>. For more information, please email: <u>safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org</u>

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 Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year C 29th and 3oth of March 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

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

1. 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.)

2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. (R.) 3. Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In

the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me

other words, God in Christ was reconciling as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."'

Communion Antiphon Luke 15: 32

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life;

he was lost and is found.

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REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

Today's gospel is perhaps the most famous of the parables that are unique to the Gospel of Luke. Sadly, what is often overlooked is the accusation aimed at Jesus that leads into the telling of this and two other shorter parables (the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin – Lk 15:4-10). The Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus of what they regard to be abhorrent behaviour in relation to the purity code that dominated 1st Century life: not only does Jesus welcome sinners, he actually shares meals with them. This would be absolutely scandalous behaviour. Who you ate with was a reflection of who you were. To eat with sinners and the unclean effectively made you a sinner and unclean.

The three parables Jesus tells in response to this accusation are all about the lost being found and great rejoicing over the finding of the lost sheep, lost coin, or lost son. The Gospel of Luke – more so than any of the others – has a very strong focus on the message of Jesus being addressed to and welcomed by the outcasts and marginalised; in other words, the 'lost' of his society. Rather than being embarrassed by the accusation that he ate with sinners, Jesus would have worn those words like a badge of honour. It was exactly what his mission and ministry was all about – being one with the poor; the outcast; the sinful; the lost. The three parables, and particularly the parable of the lost son, demonstrate the joy of a loving God when one who was lost returns. The extravagant welcome the prodigal son receives from his father is symbolic of the extravagance of God's love that will be poured out for any 'sinner' who returns to God.

Historical Context – Customs and culture

The parable of the lost son is a fascinating study of Jewish culture and purity laws. The son could not have distanced himself more from Jewish custom. Firstly, he demanded his inheritance, effectively treating his father as dead. Secondly, he travels to a pagan land and then in despair finds himself feeding pigs – animals whose meat was forbidden to Jews. He knows that his actions have alienated him from his family and culture and yet when he returns, his father gives him a fine robe and a ring to wear – signs of a father claiming a son as his own.

Have you thought? The Prodigal

Because the only context in which most people ever hear the word *prodigal* is in relation to this parable, there is a common misunderstanding of the word. Because the parable is also referred to as the parable of the lost son, many people think prodigal means lost. However, to be prodigal means to be wastefully extravagant. When the son took his father's money he adopted a prodigal lifestyle. However, the irony of the story that is often lost is that the father too was prodigal in the extravagant welcome he gave. The father's extravagance echoes God's extravagant and abundant grace and love.

From the perspective of ... The Older Brother

We might have a little sympathy for the position of the older brother who has stuck by his father and done all that was required of him. All of a sudden his wayward brother returns and his father pulls out all the stops to welcome him home. The older brother is like the Pharisees and scribes who criticised Jesus for dining with sinners. They were sticklers for the rules and had no sense of compassion if it involved moving outside the requirements of Law. Like the older brother, they could not comprehend a God who could be extravagant in expressing his love.



Questions for Adolescents

Q. Why were Jesus' actions of welcoming and dining with sinners so scandalous?

Q. In what way is the parable a response to the accusation of the Pharisees and scribes?

Q. Which aspects of the story could be regarded as 'unpredictable' or out of the ordinary expectation?

Q. How might the original audience have expected the father to react to his son's homecoming?

Q. When have you ever felt like one of the characters from this parable?

Questions for Adults

Q. In what way does the telling of the parable better answer the Pharisees than a direct confrontation?

Q. When have you been like the lost son and acted in haste only to later regret your actions?

Q. How do you respond to the older son's reaction?

Q. Have you ever had the opportunity to respond to a situation with extravagant love as the father did?

Q. What learning do you take from this week's reading and reflection?

Learning moments

This week's gospel lends itself perfectly to creative presentation. Create a dramatic presentation of the scripture (mime, liquid pictures, freeze frames, etc), an artistic depiction (cartoon, snapshot, symbol sequence, etc) or a creative response to the passage (on the spot interview, in role monologue, etc).

In three intersecting circles, identify attitudes and feelings for the father, the lost son and the older brother. What attitudes and feelings do the characters have in common?

Read the short passage from Luke 15 that has been omitted from the liturgical reading (Lk 15:4-10). What does this section with two other parables of lost and found add to the overall understanding of the whole passage?

of what is 'right' to a view that is informed by compassion? © 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.

REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

Which one are you most like, the 'good' sibling who does the right thing and sits in judgment of the 'bad' sibling? Or the 'bad' sibling who does the wrong thing and comes home to partying and presents and a jealous 'good' sibling? Why?

Have you ever been surprised by someone's willingness to forgive you? Have you ever felt the simple, patient compassion of a parent like the one in this story? What happened? What is your relationship like with that parent now?

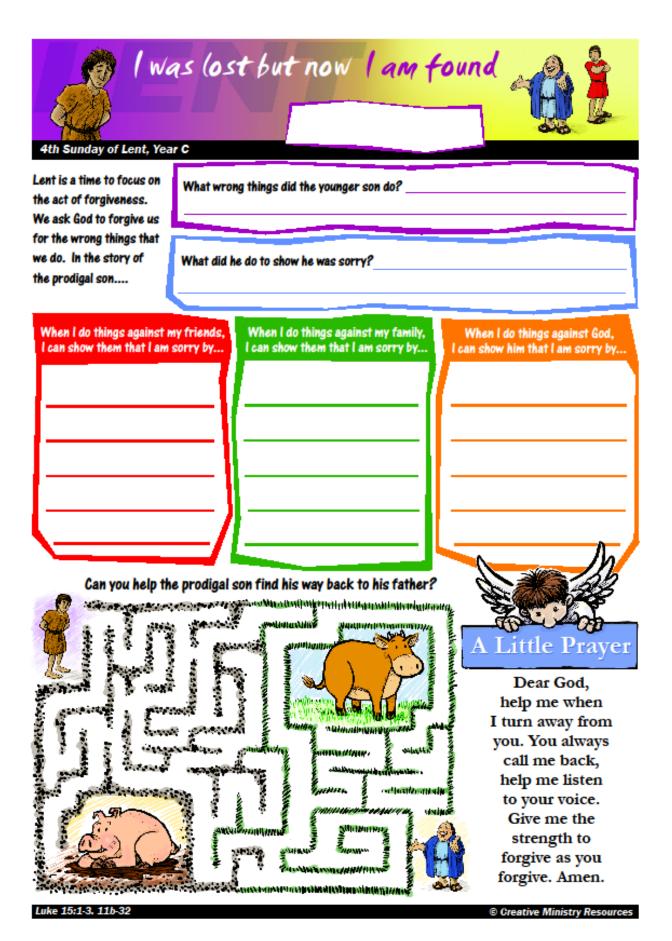


Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March

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



JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE AUSTRALIA FOODBANK

During these unprecedented times, refugees and people seeking asylum need your help more than ever.

Non-perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are desperately needed and appreciated to support the 150 families who access our Foodbank each week.

FOOD ITEMS:

- Basmati Rice (1kg & 5kg)
- Cooking Oil
- Long Life milk
- Tinned Tuna in Oil (185g & 425g)
- Canned tomatoes, 400g
- Salt
- Sugar (500g and 1kg)
- instant coffee
- Tea bags (black, 100 pck)
- Canned Coconut Milk & Condensed Milk (400ml)
- Biscuits & Muesli Bars
- Dry Chickpeas, Red & Yellow Split Lentils (1kg & 375g)

ESSENTIALS:

- Nappies (large sizes)
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Sanitary Pads & Napkins
- Razors & Shaving Foam
- Deodorant (Male & Female)
- Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Dishwashing Detergent

Woolies and Coles Gift Vouchers also enable families to choose the items they need most.

EMAIL FOODBANK@JRS.ORG.AU & SCHOOLS@JRS.ORG.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION



