

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

5TH AND 6TH OF APRIL 2025

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**SATURDAY VIGIL 6pm** 

SUNDAY 7.30AM & 9.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday & Wednesday at 6pm

Thursday & Friday at 9.10am

**CONFESSION** 

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** 

Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

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Administrator - Fr Jessie Balorio

- Presbytery: 4729 1675

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PARISH TEAM:

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.

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

Pope Francis has spoken a great deal about our need for more women to occupy positions of leadership, both in the Church and in the world at large.

In his wonderful letter about the way we belong to each other, Fratelli Tutti, he says 'the organization of societies worldwide is still far from reflecting clearly that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men. We say one thing with words, but our decisions and reality tell another story.' He is concerned about 'those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence'.

Pope Francis very much reflects the attitude of Jesus whose closeness to women distinguished him as a leader and teacher in his time. You might think of significant encounters in the New Testament: the woman at the well, Martha and Mary, the widow of Nain. You might also think of the woman we met in today's Gospel, described by the scribes and Pharisees as 'caught in the very act of committing adultery.' Listen to the sneer in those words.

> These men, who are supposed to be educated and respected, have been peeping through the window. Their behavior is salacious, domineering and demeaning. In their self-righteousness, they

threaten violence. There is no sign of the woman's partner who is surely just as much part of the story. Jesus neatly turns the tables.

He starts by sitting on the ground, occupying a position lower than that of the woman. He is the only one not taking an eyeful of her. Caritas Australia, whom we support through Project Compassion, has long acted in constructive ways to uphold the dignity of women and honor their strength, resilience and leadership. We have seen this during Lent, particularly in the stories of Irene from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Toefuata'iga from a school in Samoa. Please look at Caritas Australia's resources online; you will find many such stories. In so much of the world, development is led by women.

This Lent, we have also been mindful of the Year of Jubilee, a significant call to Unite Against Poverty as pilgrims of hope. Today's second reading reminds us that none of us is perfect. But like St Paul, we are still running, still trying to achieve 'the perfection that comes through faith in Christ.' This does not mean judging others as the scribes and Pharisees did. It means

challenging ourselves to bring the world closer together as Jesus prayed 'may they all be one.' Credit: Caritas Australia



First Reading Isaiah 43:16-21	Because of Christ I look upon everything else as use- less in order to gain him.	- sw@corpuschristi.org.au Mrs Vanessa Sultana – Office Support
l am doing a new thing and l will give drink to my people.	Gospel Acclamation Joel 2:12-13	<ul> <li>- cranebrook@parracatholic.org</li> <li>SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:</li> </ul>
Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3 (R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. Second Reading Philippians 3:8-14	<ul> <li>Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!</li> <li>With all your heart turn to me,</li> <li>for I am tender and compassionate.</li> <li>Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!</li> <li>Gospel</li> <li>Luke 15:1-3. 11-32</li> <li>Your brother here was dead and has come to life.</li> </ul>	Corpus Christi Primary – ph 4726 2200 (Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

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

## Liturgical News

## LENT 2025

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

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.



## **BISHOP VINCENT**

This weekend Bishop Vincent will be joining us at the parish and celebrating our 9.30am Mass. We warmly welcome everyone to join us for this Mass. We will also be hosting a morning tea with Bishop Vincent afterwards. Everyone is most welcome to join.



## 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.

## **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.

There are still many spaces available for Eucharistic ministers. If you are one, please consider volunteering for our Easter Masses.

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





## <u>First Eucharist</u>

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.

## **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

## LET US OFFER GIFTS OF PRAYER

Recently Deceased: Eleanor Albertyn, George Keane. Anniversaries: Charlie Vella, Piotr Zawadzki, John Zawadzki, Stefania Zawadzki For those who are sick: Ruta Pelenatino, Rose Zahra, Marlene Rodger, Fr Jerome

## **Parish News**

## **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**

As a reminder, Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday, April 6th, at 3:00 AM. Please remember to set your clocks back one hour.



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 27<sup>th</sup> April

Friday

2<sup>nd</sup> May

Sunday

13th

April

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;
- $\diamond~$  would like to join the Planned Giving Program.

## **BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL**

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's chaplaincy services. This Lent, 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 to the Bishop's Good Samaritan

Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you to those who already donated last weekend. Envelopes will be available again this weekend.

#### DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal BE A PILGRIM OF HOPE FOR PEOPLE SUFFERING IN OUR PRISONS AND HOSPITALS



Q parracatholic.org/appeal

## **PROJECT COMPASSION**

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



Caritas | PROJECT



You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above. **Or online at**: <u>caritas.org.au/project-compassion</u> **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

## 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

Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year C

5th and 6th of April 2025

## **Entrance Antiphon**

Cf Psalm 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God,

and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.

From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,

for you, O God, are my strength.

## **First Reading**

Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

#### I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past,

no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed,

even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild)

to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

## Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1.When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

## Second Reading

## Philippians 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

rything else as useless in order to aain him.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

## Joel 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me,

for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## Gospel

## John 8:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

## Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and

Because of Christ I look upon eve- Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

## **Communion Antiphon** John 8:10-11

#### Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.

Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

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

Have you ever been caught doing something you knew was wrong? What happened?

Have you ever done something with a friend of yours, and your friend got away with it, but you didn't? How did you feel? Did you want your friend to get into trouble as well? Or were you thankful that at least both of you didn't get caught?

What sins, mistakes, or faults from the past would you like to forget? What stops you from letting go of them and moving on? What new ways or new habits would you like to be yours from now on?

Jesus stopped a mob of men from stoning a woman to death. They could easily have turned on him, but they did not. Why do mobs want to commit acts of violence? Why do you think violence has become such a major part of the entertainment business, such as movies, video games, and so forth? What is fun about violence?

## **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

#### **Gospel Reflection**

This entire scene is a conspiratorial 'set-up' to trap Jesus. Jewish law dictated that adultery was to be punished by death for both parties. However, the Roman occupation had forbidden the Jewish authorities to carry out the death penalty. By bringing the woman to Jesus they sought to place him in a no-win situation. If he upheld the Jewish law and ordered the death penalty, then he was flaunting Roman law. If he did not uphold the law then he could be branded as a false teacher. They thought it was a perfect trap!

But where is the man with whom the woman was committing adultery? When he is not also brought forward for judgment as any legitimate accusation would demand, Jesus senses the trap being set for him. He realises that those accusing the woman must have somehow been involved in setting her up so that she could be 'caught committing adultery'. In Jewish law, accessories to a crime were equally guilty and subject to the same penalty. When Jesus says to the gathering, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned ...,' he's letting them know that he's aware of their part in this crime and what judgment is due them also! If they persist with their accusation, they'll also be tried as accessories! So they quietly walk away.

Jesus' words to the woman sum up his message throughout the gospel: 'Neither do I condemn you, go away, and don't sin any more.' As with others in the gospels, Jesus recognises that the woman has indeed sinned, but he does not condemn her for it. By telling her not to sin any more he is calling her to conversion. He is saying, yes, you've made mistakes, but you can do better and I'm challenging you to try.

#### **Gospel Focus – Restoring honour**

When the accused woman is brought before Jesus for judgment he neither looks at the woman nor at the accusers. He bends down and writes in the dirt. When the accusers melt away, Jesus (still kneeling on the ground) looks up at the woman to speak to her. She has probably never been treated with this level of respect in all her life. With this action, as much as anything else, Jesus restores dignity and honour to the woman. No longer looked down upon, she can begin a new life.

#### Living the Gospel – Forgiven, not forgotten

The words Jesus speaks to the accused woman could as easily be addressed to each of us. We all feel at times that we've done the wrong thing – something we don't deserve to be forgiven for. However, Jesus says to us, I know you've done the wrong thing, and you are already forgiven, but you need to make a commitment to change and not repeat the error. It is Jesus' promise not to give up on us – not to forget about us – that we can draw strength from as we try to respond to his challenge to change.

#### Scriptural context – Jerusalem

This gospel passage begins with Jesus going to the Mount of Olives. We know the Mount of Olives best from the passion narratives in the synoptic gospels. But today's passage is not part of the last week of Jesus' life. The three synoptic gospels generally portray the ministry of Jesus as something of a journey towards Jerusalem and have him arriving just in time for the Passover and his arrest. However, the gospel of John places most of Jesus' ministry in and around Jerusalem to better focus the tension between the teachings of Jesus and the Jewish hierarchy.

#### **Questions for Adolescents**

Q. Why did the Pharisees see this incident as a test for Jesus?

Q. What is achieved by Jesus bending down and focusing his attention on the ground?

Q. What happened to the mob mentality when Jesus challenged them?

Q. Have you ever been in a situation where group behaviour overtook individual thought and action?

Q. When Jesus says, 'Go, and don't sin any more,' how can that be applied to your life?

## **Questions for Adults**

Q. Why do you think this passage is selected for use during Lent?

Q. What one word would you use to describe what this passage is about?

Q. What's the effect of Jesus challenging the woman's actions rather than condemning them?

Q. How is it possible to go against the tide and challenge group behaviour or group thinking?

Q. Why was it the eldest in the crowd who walked away first?

#### Learning moments

Brainstorm a list of instances from your local community in which individual responsibility has been ignored and swallowed up by the actions of a group.

Identify strategies that could be used to maintain independence and responsibility when a group that you are part of is heading in a direction with which you feel uncomfortable.

Jesus restored dignity and honour to the woman who was the focus of the group. Identify simple ways in which it is possible for you to give back honour and dignity to a person who has fallen out of favour with a group.

© 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 by Nick Brodie**

The story told in today's Gospel, Pope Francis says, shows us 'two contrasting attitudes'. One seeks condemnation, the other salvation.

Surrounding this distasteful episode is an unhealthy inclination to condemn. Yes, the accusers obviously want to punish the woman. But besides judging this woman, her accusers are also using her. Their real target is Jesus. He is the one they are testing.

As the Pope says, these accusatory people are 'confined to narrow legalism and want to oblige the Son of God to conform to their perspective of judgment and condemnation.'

But Jesus saves the woman. As the Pope puts it, Jesus 'redeems by forgiving and renews by reconciling.' With silence and a pointed question, he turns the event upside down! This was surely not what the Scribes and Pharisees anticipated.

Moreover, as the Pope points out, Jesus shows us something very important. 'Jesus is the only one without fault, the only one who could throw a stone at her, but he does not do so.'



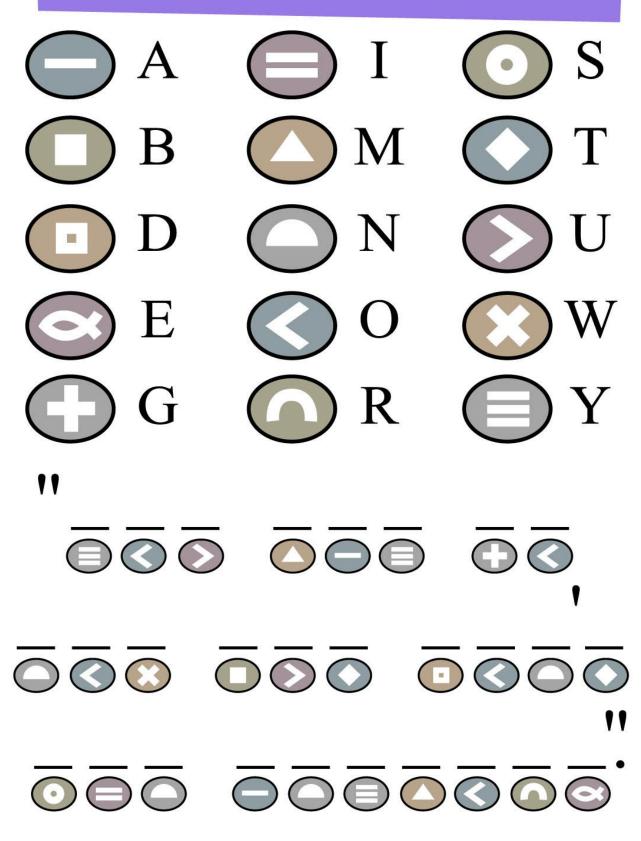
## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April

### *For the use of the new technologies*

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

# Children's Worksheet

Use the code below to work out what Jesus said to the accused woman



# 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)

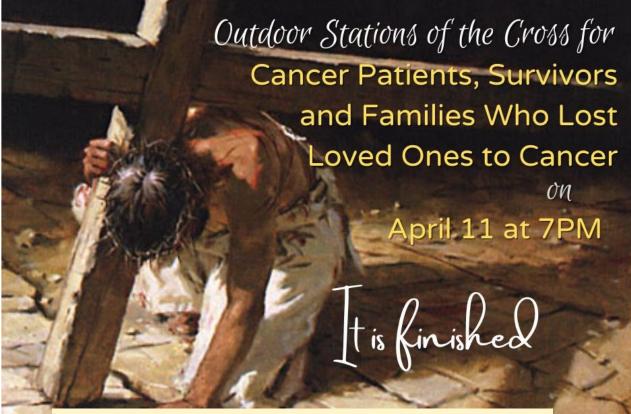
## **ESSENTIALS:**

- 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





St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish, 326 High St Penrith NSW 2750

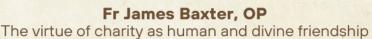
Join us as we carry the BIG wooden cross. Bring a small cross/candle along with the names of loved ones lost due to cancer to be prayed for.

## An evening of prayer, formation, and fellowship

Grace & Trit

## St Mary's Cathedral, 5-9PM WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL 2025

Sr Elena Marie, OP Virtue, vocation and self-gift as keys to human flourishing: Insights from theology, philosophy, and psychology





The virtue of charity as human and divine friendship



Register now: https://www.trybooking.com/CZZFZ

