



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH, CRANEBROOK, NSW

# The Net

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR C

31ST MAY AND 1ST JUNE 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.***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*As I begin my ministry with you, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude—to God, to those who have served this parish faithfully before me, and to each of you who continue to build up the Body of Christ in this place. New beginnings are moments of grace. They remind us that while seasons change, God's faithfulness remains constant.*

*Our parish has a rich history—a tapestry woven with prayer, sacrifice, service, and the quiet witness of so many faithful souls. Their legacy is not just something we look back on with pride; it is a gift we carry forward. Just as a seed grows in the soil nourished by seasons past, so too do we grow in the richness of our community's story.*

*Nature offers a beautiful reminder of how God works through change. After winter's stillness, spring does not arrive with noise, but with quiet transformation: buds on the branch, green in the fields, new life rising from the earth. In the same way, I pray that this new chapter in our parish will be one of gentle renewal—deepening our faith, refreshing our vision, and strengthening our unity.*

*Let us walk together with open hearts, grounded in our shared faith and trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance. May we be a community that listens, welcomes, and grows—drawing strength from our roots while reaching toward what God has in store.*

*Please keep me in your prayers, as I will keep you in mine. May God bless this new beginning and the journey ahead.*

*With every blessing,*

*Fr.(Dr) Abraham Kunnatholy CMI*

Throughout the month of May, we keep in our prayers the children of our parish who are preparing to receive the sacrament of confirmation in June.

*Holy Spirit, guide these young people as they prepare for confirmation. Fill them with your gifts, that they may become fully initiated into the Church. Grant them the wisdom to make good choices, the courage to stand for their faith, and the strength to live as disciples of Christ. We ask for the grace of your Spirit to be with them as well as their parents, sponsors and our Sacramental Team who are supporting them on this journey.*



### First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky?

Jesus has been taken into heaven.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:

a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

### Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

### Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

Luke 24:46-53

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**SATURDAY VIGIL 6pm**

**SUNDAY 7.30am & 9.30am**

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Tuesday & Wednesday at 6pm**

**Thursday & Friday at 9.10am**

### RECONCILIATION

**Saturday evening from 5.00pm - 5.45pm in the Meeting Room**

### 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:

**Parish Priest-Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI**

-Abraham.Kunnatholy@parracatholic.org

- 02 4730 1249

- Presbytery: 4729 1675

(emergencies only)

**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](http://www.corpuschristi.org.au)**

# Parish News

Please join us for the Installation Mass of

**Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI**

as Parish Priest of

**CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC  
CHURCH CRANEBROOK**

**May 31st, 2025 6.00pm**

Celebrated by

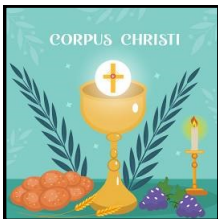
**Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv**

*A reception will follow afterwards at the  
Corpus Christi Primary School Hall*

## FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI 2025

This year the feast of Corpus Christi will be celebrated on  
**Sunday 22nd of June.**

This liturgical solemnity celebrates the real presence of  
Christ in the Eucharist.



On the day, we will be having a  
Eucharistic Procession around the  
grounds of our church after our  
9.30am Mass. This will be followed by  
a morning tea in the Corpus Christi  
Primary School Hall.

We warmly invite everyone in our community to join us  
for this joyous event.

*We invite everyone to bring along a plate of food to share  
for morning tea.*

## MINISTRY ROSTER

Thank you to all who contribute to our parish as Liturgical  
Volunteer. A new ministry roster for the month of June was  
emailed out to all our volunteers on Friday. If you're a  
volunteer and did not receive one, or were not on the roster,  
and would like to be, please contact the parish office.

## FOYER CABINETS

We no longer need the two tall timber cabinets that are  
located in the foyer of our church. We are giving them away to  
anyone free of charge. If you are interested in taking one,  
please contact the parish office.

## CARPARK SAFETY



There have been a number of cars parking in the  
school's 'kiss and drop' area when coming for Mass  
on the weekends, particularly at our 6pm Vigil.

Please note that this area is a No Parking Zone.

Parking in this area makes it very difficult to exit the carpark  
from the parking spaces near the entrance to the church, and  
can reduce visibility when parishioners are crossing the carpark.

We ask all parishioners and visitors to kindly consider the  
comfort and safety of everyone and park only in our  
designated parking spaces.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

### Parish Morning Tea



Our parish hosts a morning tea after our 9.30am Mass on the  
second Sunday of every month. Our next parish  
morning tea will take place on

**SUNDAY 8TH JUNE**

**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*



### Corpus Christi Youth Mass

Our next youth Mass will take place on

**SUNDAY 15TH OF JUNE AT 5.00PM**

**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. Our next  
senior's morning tea will take place on*

**FRIDAY 27TH JUNE**

*Please bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea.  
New members are always welcome.*

An additional weekday Mass will take place on

**Saturday 7th of June at 9.10am**

with all our parish acolytes, who will join for a meeting  
afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join in Mass

## A WORD OF THANKS FROM THE KEANE FAMILY



Mary Keane and family wish to extend a word of  
thanks to the parish community for the love and sup-  
port given to them through the many cards, gifts and  
comforting words and  
gestures that they received since the passing of dear George  
Keane. Mary and family are deeply grateful for the kind con-  
dolences and support during their difficult time

## LET US OFFER GIFTS OF PRAYER

### **Recently Deceased:**

Donna Hall, Joyce Cauchi

### **Anniversaries:**

Michael Pace

### **For those who are sick:**

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

# Parish News

## 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.



## Ministry of Care Courses: 4- 25 June

Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care. It will be held every Wednesday evening at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. Attend all 4 sessions to receive a certificate of completion or just attend the session (s) that interest you. Please visit [parracatholic.org/events/OFW](http://parracatholic.org/events/OFW) to reserve a spot. For enquiries, please contact [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0488 000 211.



## Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal

Last weekend, our Parish supported the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal. Your generosity enabled our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park to support the formation of our seminarians who are committed to meeting the spiritual and pastoral needs of our community.

Our seminarians are called to be 'pilgrims and sowers of hope,' bringing Christ's love to our communities. In these times of fragility and despair, their mission is to spread God's love to all. Your caring and generous support will provide the education and spiritual formation they need to remain dedicated to their ministry for Christ's Church. If you were unable to donate last week and would like to, the giving the giving envelopes are still available at the entrances to the church or donations can be made at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal)



# Parish Giving

## Planned Giving/Parish Donations

*Your gift to Planned Giving helps cover the running of the parish and also contributes towards outreach in our parish community and beyond.*

If you would like to contribute directly, the parish bank details are:

**BSB: 067 950**

**Acct No: 100000698**

**Acct Name: Cranebrook Parish**

**Please ensure you put your details in the reference section (ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME)**

**Please contact 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 News

## Safe Parishes Week: 2-8 June 2025

Safe Parishes Week is a time to renew our commitment to creating safe, welcoming communities for all — especially children and vulnerable adults. The Diocese supports this through training, resources, and new initiatives like online check-ins for visiting clergy. We're also developing child-friendly online tools, and other initiatives that align with our Diocesan Pastoral Plan to support safer communities. Learn more: [parracatholic.org/safeguarding](http://parracatholic.org/safeguarding)

## Safeguarding

As part of the Diocese of Parramatta's commitment to ensuring all children and adults at risk are safe, respected, protected and supported in our care, all staff and volunteers in our parishes, chaplaincies, agencies, ministries and councils are required to complete Mandatory Safeguarding.

All training is focused on protecting the most vulnerable in our communities and is constantly updated to meet the Diocese's Safeguarding Policy, the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian Child Safe Standards and The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

All staff and volunteers are required to undertake safeguarding training and must complete three mandatory modules which total six points.

**Cycle 1** (New staff/volunteers who have not completed any training within the Diocese)

Module 1: Understanding Safeguarding and the Child Safe Standards

Module 2: Legal Compliance, ROSH (Risk Of Significant Harm) and RC (Reportable Conduct)

Module 3: Working with Adults at Risk and Understanding Boundaries

**Cycle 2** (Renewal Training for staff/volunteers who completed Cycle 1 two years ago)

Module 4: Applying the Child Safe Standards to Safeguard Children & Adults at Risk

Module 5: Legal Compliance: Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) and Reportable Conduct

For online safeguarding training opportunities please visit: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>

Or for face to face training opportunities visit:

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding->



# The Living Word

*The Ascension of the Lord - Year C*

*31st May and 1st June 2025*

## Entrance Antiphon

### Acts of the Apostles 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?

This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven

will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

## First Reading

### Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

## Responsorial Psalm

### Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. (R.)

2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise  
to our king, sing praise. (R.)

3. God is king of all the earth.

Sing praise with all your skill.

God is king over the nations;

God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

## Second Reading

### Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

## Gospel Acclamation

### Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

### Luke 24:46-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as

far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

## Communion Antiphon

### Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory

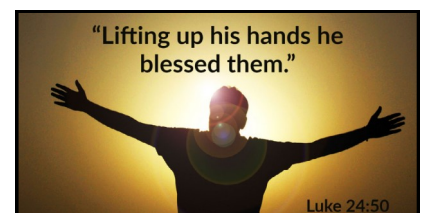
Our Risen Lord knew that we are naturally, collectively human-centric. He withdrew His risen mode of appearance (what we call 'the Ascension') to make it clear that the whole Universe, including planet Earth, is filled with the presence and power radiating out from his Risen Humanity.

As St Paul wrote in the Epistle to the Romans: 'Creation still retains the hope of being freed from its slavery to decay, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.' How is the Risen Lord beginning to fulfil this hope?

At Mass, fractions of creation – the Bread and Wine consecrated for Holy Communion – are transformed into the Real Presence of the Risen Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer III begins with: 'You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise...' How can all creation give God praise? As the ancient church used to teach: Each of you is a microcosm of the macrocosm, called to be a priest for the Cosmos. Through your enlightened mind and inflamed heart, the Cosmos knows that it exists and that it is loved by its Creator. It is beginning to share the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We could pause for a moment, stop staring into Heaven, and ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit so as to be what St Paul calls 'the Church which is His Body in whom the fullness of creation dwells'.



## REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

### Gospel Reflection

The author of the gospel of Luke is also recognised as the author of the Acts of the Apostles. The works are regarded as originally being intended as a two volume single work sometimes referred to as Luke-Acts. Their separation occurred in the development of the canon of the Bible. In today's gospel and first reading we get the very end of the first volume and the very beginning of the second volume of the Luke-Acts work – the very point of intersection between the two books. The gospel of Luke is the only one of the four canonical gospels that describes the Ascension of Jesus and, to reiterate it, the writer begins with the same event at the beginning of Acts.

If we regard the two volumes of Luke-Acts as a single work, we see the events as all part of the one story. The life and ministry of Jesus is only the first half of the story. The story continues through the Book of Acts as the disciples and believers enter into a new way of witnessing to the ministry of Jesus – attempting to take on that ministry themselves and spread the message even further than Jesus was able to do in his life. Seen in this light, the gospel account of Jesus' ministry establishes a model and a pattern for the ministry that the followers of Jesus seek to emulate in their own lives after his Ascension. The Ascension is the pivotal event between the two volumes but it was also the pivotal event in the ministry of Jesus. The Ascension, and the subsequent events of Pentecost, was essential for the shift in emphasis from the ministry being carried on by Jesus to the same ministry carried on by millions of people throughout time.

### Scriptural context – Luke-Acts

The two works of Luke and Acts, ascribed to the same writer, are both addressed to the same person, Theophilus. However, the Greek name, Theophilus, means 'Friend of God' or 'Beloved of God'. Theophilus may have been a particular person or may have been a literary device by the author – using the name to imply that the books were written to any 'Friend of God'. There is a common style employed in the writing of the two works and a common theology runs through both works and it is these commonalities that lead scholars to conclude that the two works share the same author.

### Gospel Focus – A message for all people

One of the defining features of the Gospel of Luke is the fact that the message preached and practised by Jesus made salvation available to all people. At times in the gospel some of the Jewish audience became quite angry at Jesus because he said that pagans and gentiles were also included in the salvation he promised – something they regarded as exclusive to the 'chosen' people. The two accounts of the Ascension make very clear that the message and ministry of Jesus are to be carried to all nations – even to the ends of the earth!

Living the Gospel – You will be my witnesses

Organisers of the twenty-third World Youth Day hosted by Sydney in 2008 took as its theme verse 8 of the passage from Acts 1 that is today's first reading: 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses.' The choice of this theme for a worldwide gathering of young people of faith is a significant reminder of the call of Jesus to go out to the ends of the earth and to bear witness to his message. These are the final words on earth attributed to Jesus and they echo to us through time.



## Questions for Adolescents

- Q. In what way does Jesus make sure that the disciples (and we) aren't left feeling abandoned?
- Q. Why was the Ascension a 'necessary' event?
- Q. In what ways are you able to be 'a witness' of Jesus?
- Q. Why is it really impossible to be a believer but not a witness?

## Questions for Adults

- Q. How might the disciples have reacted to the Ascension of Jesus?
- Q. Why might Luke's gospel emphasise the need to preach the good news to all the nations?
- Q. What situations in your life make it difficult to be a Christian witness?
- Q. What hope does Jesus' Ascension give all Christian people?

## Learning moments

Both accounts of the Ascension talk about receiving 'power' and 'being witnesses'. Discuss the connection between these two concepts.

Write a diary account from the perspective of one of the disciples present at the Ascension. Draw on the texts to reflect on what the disciple might have thought and felt and how the disciple may have reacted to the event.

Research why Jerusalem is a holy city for Jews, Christians and Muslims.

## REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

'Jesus is not abandoning the disciples', Pope Francis points out. 'He ascends to Heaven, but he does not leave them alone.'

Jesus' Ascension, Francis suggests, can be understood with respect to two aspects of the event. Firstly, Jesus 'announces the gift of the Spirit.' Then, secondly, Jesus 'blesses the disciples.'

In sending the Spirit, Jesus ensures that he remains present with his disciples in a new way. There is now, Francis explains, 'a presence that does not want to limit our freedom.' Jesus leaves room for us to make our own way, through time and space, accompanied by the Spirit. As Francis quips, it is the case that 'true love makes us protagonists.'

We are now 'his witnesses in the world', he reminds us. By blessing his followers, Jesus shows that he 'is the great priest of our life.' Ascending to the Father, he intercedes for us and goes 'to present our humanity to him.'

Francis therefore encourages us to reflect on how truly we embrace our call 'to be witnesses to the Gospel.' Are we 'capable of loving others, leaving them free and making room for them'? Do we intercede on their behalf 'and bless their lives'? Do we really trust that Jesus wants to work through us?



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for June

That the world might grow in compassion

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

# Children's Worksheet



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

[illegible]



CELEBRATING

thirty

YEARS OF BETHANY



PAST STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE 30TH  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF

BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

TUESDAY

29<sup>TH</sup>

JULY

10:30 AM

**WHOLE SCHOOL MASS**

**CELEBRATED BY FATHER ROBERT RIEDLING**

AT ST PADRE PIO CATHOLIC CHURCH, WILLIAM HOWELL DRIVE,  
GLENMORE PARK

**FOLLOWED BY AN**

**ASSEMBLY AT 1:00 PM**

INCLUDING A BLESSING OF THE NEWLY REFURBISHED  
CLASSROOMS AND LIBRARY

**PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY, 20TH OF JUNE 2025  
BY SCANNING THE QR CODE AND COMPLETING  
THE FORM**

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