



The Net

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—YEAR A—2ND AND 3RD MAY 2026

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.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)

3. The Lord looks on those who hope in him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;

no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;

if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,

and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.'

'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,

so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?'

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

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From Parish Priest's Desk

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus offers us both a promise and a path: "I am the way..." He does not simply show us the way; He becomes the way. To follow Him, then, is to become like Him—open, welcoming, and life-giving for others.

Jesus also speaks of "dwelling places" in the Father's house. This image invites us to reflect on our own lives. Are we becoming a place for others? A place of welcome, understanding, forgiveness, and hope? Christian discipleship is not lived in isolation. It is lived in relationship—where our hearts become a home where others can encounter God's love.

This connects beautifully with our stewardship theme this week: "Gifts – What I Have." Each one of us has been blessed with unique gifts—time, talents, resources, compassion, faith. Often, we may feel what we have is small or insufficient. Yet, in God's plan, nothing is wasted. What matters is not how much we have, but how generously we offer it.

When we use what we have for others, we become that "dwelling place." A listening ear, a helping hand, a kind word, a shared skill—these simple offerings create space for God's presence in our community.

Even more, when we bring our gifts together as a parish, something greater happens. Individually, our contributions may seem small, but collectively they build up the Church.

They become a strong and living structure: the Church—rooted in Christ, growing in love, and reaching out in service, community becomes a place where others encounter God. This week, let us ask ourselves:

What gift has God given me?

How can I use it to become a place for others?

How can my gift contribute to the growth of our parish?

As we follow Christ, the Way, may our lives become pathways that lead others to Him, and may our community become a home where all are welcomed and loved. May personally each one of us become that way, that place what God dreams of us to become.

Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI

POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER

INTENTION FOR MAY

*That everyone might have food
Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.*

LET US OFFER GIFTS OF PRAYER

Recently Deceased:

Anthony Borg

Anniversaries:

Josephine Cauchi, John Lennon, Joseph Vella

For those who are sick:

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



Parish News

You're Invited!

SOLEMNITY OF THE
BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST
(CORPUS CHRISTI)



MASS
9.30AM



PROCESSION
FOLLOWING MASS



CELEBRATION
TO FOLLOW



SUNDAY
7TH OF JUNE

9.30AM

CORPUS CHRISTI CELEBRATION – YOU'RE INVITED!

All parishioners are warmly invited to join us for the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) on Sunday 7th June at 9:30am, with Very Rev Fr Peter Williams VG as celebrant. Following Mass, there will be a Eucharistic Procession, and then a parish celebration in the school hall.

THIS CELEBRATION WILL TAKE THE FORM OF A CULTURAL FOOD SHARING GATHERING, WHERE PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO BRING A PLATE OF FOOD THAT REFLECTS THEIR CULTURAL BACKGROUND TO SHARE WITH OTHERS. IT IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE NOT ONLY THIS BEAUTIFUL FEAST OF THE EUCHARIST, BUT ALSO THE RICHNESS OF OUR PARISH —MANY PEOPLE, ONE FAITH, UNITED IN CHRIST.

Please note that the celebration will be held in the school hall, and there are unfortunately no heating or cooling facilities available, so we ask you to plan accordingly.

A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer, and we ask all who would like to bring a plate to write down what you will bring. We look forward to celebrating this special feast together—both our unity in the Body of Christ, and the diversity of gifts within our parish.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH FUNDRAISER

As part of our upcoming Feast Day celebrations, our parish will be holding a special fundraising initiative, with a number of wonderful gifts to be received on the day.

From next weekend, donation coupons will be available for parishioners who wish to support this initiative. These can be taken for your own participation, or shared with family, friends or neighbours who may also like to contribute.

THIS WEEK, WE ARE ALSO CONTINUING TO REACH OUT TO LOCAL BUSINESSES AND PARISHIONERS WHO MAY BE WILLING TO DONATE ITEMS OR SERVICES TO BE INCLUDED AS GIFTS. IF YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE, WE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY. GIFTS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY THE PARISH BEFORE THURSDAY MAY 7TH.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our parish —we look forward to celebrating together.

Corpus Christi Sacrament Dates 2026



FIRST RECONCILIATION (PENANCE)

This sacrament has already taken place for 2026. Dates for 2027 will be published later this year.

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation preparation program has now begun in our parish, and we warmly thank, but also keep in our prayers, all the families, children, and sacramental team who are part of this journey.

Sacrament Dates:

Saturday June 27th at 10am
Sunday June 28th at 9.30am



FIRST EUCHARIST

Parent Information and Registration evening:

Wednesday August 12th at 7pm

Parent and Child Formation Sessions:

Sessions will run on Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons from August 19th until September 10th (Four sessions per child)

Sacrament Dates:

Saturday September 12th at 10am
Saturday September 12th at 6pm
Saturday September 19th at 10am
Sunday September 20th at 9.30am



BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Baptisms take place on the first and third Sunday of each month at 11am.

Parents wishing to have their child 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. (These take place on the fourth Sunday of the month prior to your child's baptism.)



Bookings for weddings and funerals are taken on request. Please contact the Parish Office.

40 YEARS OF THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

This year marks 40 years since the Diocese of Parramatta was established.

To celebrate this milestone, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, on **Sunday 31st of May at 2:00pm**, followed by afternoon tea.

Our parish is invited to send three families to represent our parish. We especially encourage families who have been part of the parish since around the time it was established to consider being among the three families representing us.

If your family would like to attend, please contact the Parish Office. We warmly invite you to express your interest.



NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE

Beginning this weekend and continuing over the next four weeks, our parish will be participating in the National Count of Attendance, as requested by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. This annual count helps the Church to better understand Mass attendance across the country and to support future pastoral planning.

During this time, you may notice a parish volunteer quietly counting attendance at Mass. This will be done as discreetly as possible and does not involve collecting any personal information. *Thank you for your understanding and support.*

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM: FAITH THROUGH SERVICE— WEEK 3

This week in Our Parish Stewardship Program, we reflect on how we are called to serve others. Service is at the heart of discipleship. As followers of Christ, we are invited to share our time and talents to build up the Body of Christ in our parish and beyond.

We have each received unique gifts from God – and every gift matters.

Whether you serve visibly in a ministry or work quietly behind the scenes, your contribution builds a stronger, more vibrant parish and faith community.

How can you use your gifts to serve others?

Are you good with people? Consider joining the hospitality ministry.

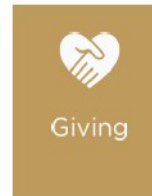
Do you enjoy working with children or young people? Perhaps our children's liturgy or youth ministry is calling you.

Do you have a gift for music, organisation, gardening or technology? There's a place for you too!

At Corpus Christi, we are blessed by the many volunteers who give of themselves so generously. We invite you to consider how you, too, can serve with joy.

"Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant." – Matthew 20:26

Your support helps our parish grow and flourish, ensuring that our faith community remains strong for years to come. Every gift is a blessing - **Thank you!**



SCAN TO JOIN



corpuschristi.org.au/stewardship

SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS – REMINDER FOR VOLUNTEERS

We thank all our parish volunteers for your generous service and commitment to our parish.

As part of our safeguarding responsibilities and upcoming audit, all volunteers would have recently received an email outlining the required documentation, including the Code of Conduct, Working With Children Check (WWCC) notification, and/or Cycle 1 Safeguarding Training, as applicable.

To assist you, a table has been set up in the church where you can complete any outstanding forms. A secure box will also be provided for you to return your completed forms.

If you volunteer in any ministry in the parish, and did not receive an email regarding safeguarding, please contact the parish office. **Thank you to all who have already completed their required documentation and training.**

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us maintain a safe and welcoming parish for all.



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

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.

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

Face-to-face Cycle One Safeguarding training will be taking place at Corpus Christi on 9th May from 9am—2pm. Please contact the parish office to register.

More training opportunities are available throughout May at different parishes. 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

Fifth Sunday of Easter—Year A—2nd and 3rd May 2026

Gospel Reflection

The gospel readings for this week and next week shift the focus away from the resurrection and begin to set us up for the departure of Jesus from the earth – the Ascension – and the sending of the Holy Spirit – the Pentecost event.

Today's gospel passage comes from the very long Last Supper discourse in the gospel of John. When Jesus speaks about 'going away' for a time it could be interpreted as the period of his death and rising that are about to occur in the chronology of the story. However, the gospel of John is written a very long time after the death of Jesus; perhaps as much as 70 years after Jesus. Given this period of time between the events and the writing, we know that the writer was also referring to this longer time of Jesus 'going away'. By the time of the writing of this gospel the early Christians were starting to come to terms with the fact that Jesus probably wasn't going to return in their lifetime. They had seen the devastating destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans in 70CE which they thought had signalled the end of all time. However, here they were, still alive and still no sign of Jesus' return.

The theme of being present and being absent is very strong in this gospel. The discussion about Jesus and the Father being one is part of this theme. Jesus is God present in the world. God has come to dwell among the people. When Jesus speaks of preparing rooms in the Father's house, it is a reference to preparing the disciples to 'live' in God; to dwell in God just as God has dwelt in the people.

Historical Context – It is for the best...

At the time of this gospel's writing, some 70 years after the events it describes, amazing things have taken place in the early Christian community. Rather than everything falling apart with the death of Jesus, the message of Jesus has spread further than he himself could ever have accomplished. It is the departure of Jesus from their midst and the sending of the Spirit that really prompts the disciples to act on what they had experienced while Jesus lived among them. The gospel writer has Jesus saying that he has to go away so that the disciples can reach their potential.

Scriptural context – The gospel of John

The gospel of John is very different from the other three 'synoptic' gospels. The other three have a very narrative style and can be seen together as different recounts of the same events. Whilst the gospel of John also has some beautifully narrated stories, it is better known as a more theologically reflective piece of writing. It assumes that the readers of this gospel are already familiar with one or more of the others, so it doesn't need to tell the story again. Rather, it presents a sweeping image of God, through Jesus, reaching out, in, through, and with love to the people.

Living the Gospel – The Way, the Truth and the Life

When Thomas asks, 'we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answers by saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' The reader of the gospel has known this truth all along from the opening line of the gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' Our aim, as Christian people, is to be one with God, not only by sharing in the resurrection but also in the way we live. Jesus makes clear that the way to be with God is by following his example.

Questions for Adolescents

Q. What is it that Jesus wants the disciples to trust in God about?

Q. What do we learn about the disciples from the questions asked by Thomas and Philip?

Q. What truth does Jesus make clear to the disciples about himself and the Father?

Q. What message can young people today take from this gospel passage?

Questions for Adults

Q. Why does this passage work as both a Last Supper speech and a pre-Ascension discourse?

Q. What does the image of the many rooms in the Father's house seek to convey?

Q. How might Jesus have felt in reaction to the disciples' questions?

Q. Why does Jesus need to return to the Father for the disciples to live out their potential?

Learning moments

'Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me."' Construct a collage of media words and images that represent things that cause our 'hearts to be troubled'. Construct a second collage of words and images that illustrate examples of people responding to the instruction, 'Trust in God still, and trust in me.'

Conduct an online image search on 'the Way, the Truth and the Life'. Identify three images that you find helpful or appealing in expressing this message and then three images that you find unhelpful or unappealing. Identify an image or metaphor that you would find helpful in capturing the message of 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life'.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Mutual Indwelling

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'

Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers.

How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.'

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can share in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.'

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion! Alleluia!



The **Living Word** For Children

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER —3RD MAY 2026

FIRST READING

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

GOSPEL READING

Jesus Is the Way to the Father

Jesus said to his disciples, "Don't be worried! Have faith in God and have faith in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. I wouldn't tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. After I have done this, I will come back and take you with me. Then we will be together. You know the way to where I am going."

Thomas said, "Lord, we don't even know where you are going! How can we know the way?"

"I am the way, the truth, and the life!" Jesus answered. "Without me, no one can go to the Father. If you had really known me, you would have known the Father. But from now on, you do know him, and you have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need."

Jesus replied:

Philip, I have been with you for a long time. Don't you know who I am? If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. How can you ask me to show you the Father? Don't you believe that I am one with the Father and that the Father is one with me? What I say isn't said on my own. The Father who lives in me does these things. Have faith in me when I say that the Father is one with me and that I am one with the Father. Or else have faith in me simply because of the things I do. I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me, you will do the same things I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father.

CHILDREN'S DISCUSSION STARTERS

What are some really precious things you have?

What makes them precious?

Jesus says that we are precious in his eyes.

How are we precious in God's sight? (God lives in us)

We can do good works because Jesus lives in us.

What good works can we do this week?



Children's Worksheet



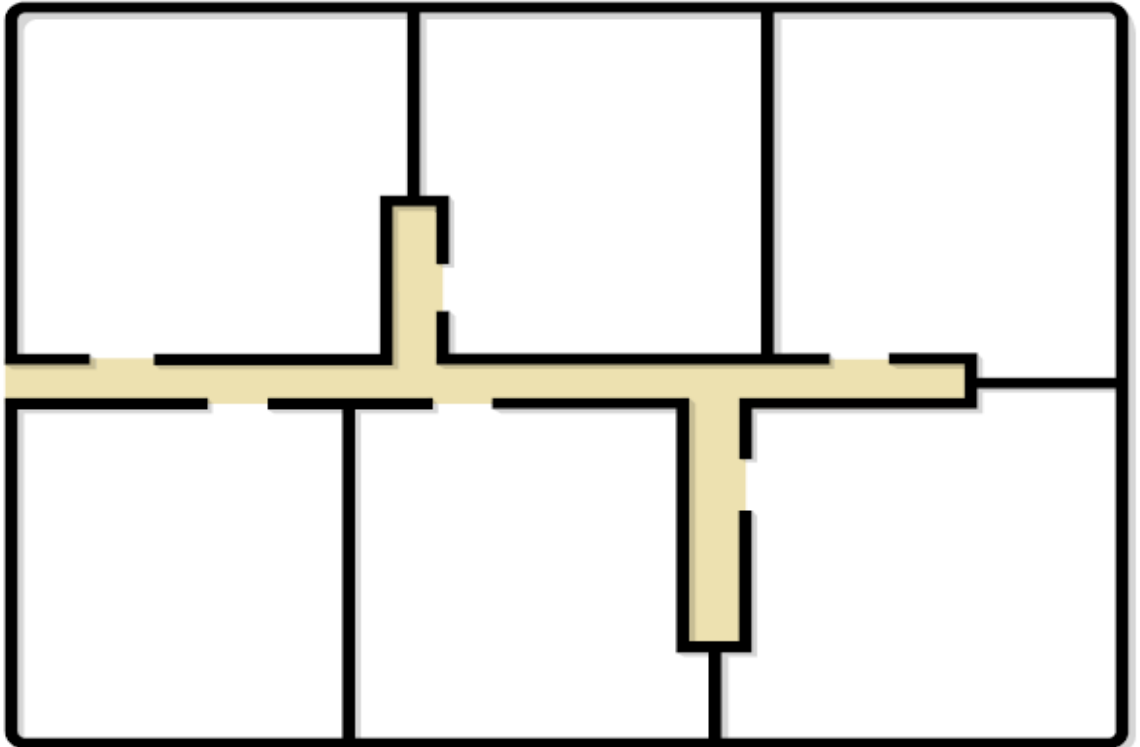
Jesus is the way to the Father



5th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Jesus tells us that there are many rooms in His Father's house and that he has prepared a place for each of us.




Fill each room with drawings of your family and friends.




Draw an arrow next to the words below which describe the Way, the Truth and the Life that Jesus wants us to follow.

- LOVE
- PEACE
- GREED
- FORGIVENESS
- CONFLICT
- JUSTICE
- SELFISHNESS
- COMPASSION
- HONESTY
- HATRED

Can you decipher what Jesus is saying?



come 2
the

except






" _____ come
 _____ the _____
 except _____ ."

Diocesan News



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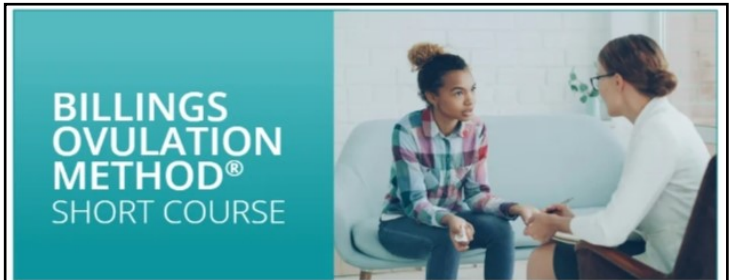
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BETTER TOGETHER AND THE BLUE MOUNTAINS



BILLINGS OVULATION METHOD® SHORT COURSE

Friday 15 May 2026
8:30am to 5:00pm AEST &
Saturday 16 May 2026
8:30am to 4:00pm AEST

St Martha's Leichhardt
38 Renwick St, Leichhardt NSW
Cost: Health Professionals \$400
Student rates apply - please contact us.
Advertised costs include: Catering & course materials.

Overview

The Short Course introduces the participants to the science underpinning the Billings Ovulation Method®. Participants will learn how a woman charts her cervical symptoms and how the couple applies the Rules. The Basic Infertile Pattern, unique to the Billings Method®, will be explained in both normal length cycles and those with delayed ovulation. The physiological causes of bleeding will also be discussed.

Benefits

Attendance at 2 days of the Billings Ovulation Method® Short Course (11 CPD hours total) will give participants sufficient knowledge to give women an overview of the Billings Ovulation Method® of natural fertility regulation.

Presenters

Senior Billings Ovulation Method® trainers will facilitate the program. These educators have extensive experience in the teaching and training of health professionals both within Australia and overseas.

These educators will bring first-hand knowledge of their vast clinical experience to the course so that the practical application of the use of the Billings Ovulation Method® will be demonstrated.



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Other: _____

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH

A CONVERSATION ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

The Bishops' 2025 Statement on homelessness raises a critical question for all of us:

How can we, as individuals and communities, strengthen our support for people who have been made homeless, and work collaboratively to bring about greater justice?

With the support of Bishop Long, join us for an hour-long conversation on zoom at 5.00pm on Thursday 23 April to raise some possible responses to the urging of the 2025 Bishops' Statement: **Signs of Hope on the Edge**.

This is a major issue for many of us who are deeply concerned with the rapidly increasing homelessness in this country, the rising cost of housing, the number of women and children living in cars, and the lack of affordable housing for younger Australians.

With the support of Bishop Long, we would like to hold a conversation to discuss these concerns. We look forward to sharing ideas on this critical issue.

If you would like to participate in this conversation, please sign up, using the QR code.

Return date for registration:
Monday 20 April



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MAY 5TH 2026

AT 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

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AT 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

\$ 5.00
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REGISTER NOW

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Parish Notices

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 10TH OF MAY

'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 29TH OF MAY

PARISH WORKING BEES – 2026

Thank you to everyone who helps care for our parish!
Upcoming dates:

- **May 30th – Preparing for Parish Feast Day**
- **September 26th – Garden refresh after winter**
- **December 12th – Preparing for Christmas**



All are welcome to join, even for a short time. Light refreshments provided.

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 (02 4730 1249) 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.

With many thanks to all these local businesses who support our parish throughout the year.

Please consider supporting them when in need of these services...

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