

Diocese of Broken Bay Under the Pastoral Care of the Discalced Carmelites since 2008

12 February 2023, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Mass Times:
Monday to Friday: 9am
Saturday: 9am, 6pm (vigil)
Sunday: 8am, 10am, 6pm
Public Holidays: 9am
Rock Mass: Once a term

Baptism: Third Sunday of each month by appointment
Wedding: Contact Parish Office at least 6 months prior notice
Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday: 8:30am
Anointing of Sick: 2nd Thursday of the month at 9am or by request
Eucharistic Adoration: Saturday 9:30 – 10am concluding with Benediction
Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30am
Rosary: Immediately after weekday Mass and Saturday (8:35am)



Every Friday
(during term time)
Lectio Divina

Second Thursday
of Every Month
Anointing of the Sick —9am

First Friday of Every Month
- 3 March
Exposition/Adoration at 7pm
followed by Mass at 7:30pm

Thursday 16th February
Social Craft Group
Hall—10:30am

Corpus Christi School Opening
Mass—11:30am

Ash Wednesday
22nd February 2023
Mass at 9am and 7:30pm

Friday 3 March
World Day of Prayer hosted by
Corpus Christi—11am



Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.
(Gospel)

Dear Parishioners

This is a very challenging Gospel reading. Jesus upholds the law, but in every case he asks us to go one step further than the letter of the law: we are to fulfill even its spirit. His examples—killing, name calling, adultery, divorce, swearing—are all just illustrations of the difference between the virtues of ‘the scribes and Pharisees’ and the virtues that he preaches. Jesus’ attitude is what we might call a holistic approach to life. His ‘virtue ethics’ means that specific choices of actions come from a wider perspective of the heart. It is like seeing through God-tinted glasses. So in our ethical decision-making today, we can be guided by this same attitude. What does ‘do not kill’ mean in the face of harmful emissions and extinctions of species? What does ‘not committing adultery’ mean in the face of widespread pornography and human trafficking? What does ‘not breaking your oath’ mean in the face of fake news and decisions made by artificial intelligence? In all of these, our relationship with God will guide us forward. And, at mass today, our sign of peace demonstrates how reconciliation with each other enables us to approach the divine.

May God bless you, Fr Greg Chee, OCD

CONTACT DETAILS
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Phone: 9144 6998
Email: office@corpuschristi.com.au
In an emergency call 9144 6998
Web: www.bbcatholic.org.au/stives
Facebook: Corpus Christi Catholic Church

PARISH OFFICE TEAM
Fr Greg Chee, OCD, Parish Priest
Ed Wales, Parish Finance
Michelle Miles, Office Manager
Jennifer Perrott, Faith Facilitator
Gerri Hadwen, Sacramental Co-Ordinator

HALL BOOKINGS
Michelle Miles
9144 6998

Corpus Christi Parish School
Phone: 9988 3135, 9988 3136

17 Link Road, St Ives NSW 2075
Web: www.ccsi@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Jayne Wheen
Email: ccsi@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Catechist Sunday

Catechist Sunday commissioning for catechists will be celebrated at Corpus Christi Parish on **Sunday, 26 February 2023 at the 10am Mass**. If you are a catechist, part of the RCIA team, a teacher, Sacramental Coordinator/Leader, please join us as we commission all those who bring the Good News to our young people. **Could all catechists please attend the 10am Mass on Sunday 26 February.**

New Catechists and Helpers Needed

We would also like to encourage you to prayerfully consider and discern being part of our Catechist Ministry. In doing so you are taking a step in the direction of being a disciple of Jesus which has its reward for our own soul. We go into the state schools on a Tuesday and Wednesday each week and classes are 30 mins in duration. If you are interested in being involved in sharing your faith in a team environment, we would love to welcome you. We go into St Ives High once a term and teach as a team. It's really a lot of fun and very rewarding.



Both the Primary and Secondary teams are reasonably depleted and a number of classes are now unattended. We **URGENTLY** need a number of new people to join us. The Diocese also has prepared PowerPoint presentations so that **anyone** can go in to teach the lesson. It's done for you! These presentations have been very well received by our team. Please speak to Jen for more information (details above).

What Next?

If you would like more information or to become a catechist or helper, please complete the form in the foyer of the church or contact Jen Perrott directly on 0415 242 898; office (02) 9144 6998. Alternatively, you can contact Jen at catechists@corpuschristi.com.au For all other faith teachers who would like to join us on the day, please also contact Jen. We would love welcome all those who are an important part of sharing our faith with our young people.

CATECHIST INSPIRATION - BY EVELINE ISSA

Around this time last year, after attending mass and learning about the genuine need for catechists to spread the word to school students, I considered actually becoming a catechist and helping out. I have to say part of me was secretly hoping that I will be told there were too many volunteers and that I didn't need to join anymore. I mean, I am a pharmacist by profession, not a teacher. We studied science not religion. However, as a pharmacist, I see first hand the importance of preventative treatment.

For example, if one gets diagnosed with high blood pressure, the first step is to lower the salt and try exercise and relaxation techniques before starting out any medications. Same for cholesterol, a change in the diet is usually tried before medication. We now know the importance of starting habits early, for example brushing teeth, applying sunscreen, limiting blue light emissions etc, all steps taught at school to prevent health problems later.

Well, what about our kids' "soul's health"? Their drive and reason to live?

Already every day more adults and children are being diagnosed with depression and anxiety. This number has been steadily increasing. While there are numerous underlying causes for this, prayer and a strong faith have been shown to greatly help improve mental health. Thus, if we miss teaching our kids early about God, love, faith and hope, how do we know that they will actually one day decide to investigate and join a faith? What if by the time they are 18 they have already decided not to believe because no one had actually spoken to them about religion?

As a mum myself, I know I want my children to know there is light at the end of the tunnel, that we are but travelers here and that in itself makes us stronger because with God by our side who should we fear?

Our faith teaches us to be resilient, hopeful, loving, kind and forgiving (all easier said than done); it encourages us to persevere, to give, to be better people- all attributes that lead to better health and personal satisfaction. By introducing our students to our faith we are giving them the choice to believe and to lead more fulfilling lives. As the saying goes, one hand doesn't clap by itself. We need to all join together and help our kids to get acquainted with our faith.

The diocese provides guidance every step of the way, the classes are organised, the students are keen to listen, I would encourage any parishioner with flexible working hours to consider becoming a catechist. It could just be the preventative "Hope" medicine our kids need!

~Eveline Issa

If you would like more information on becoming a catechist, please contact Jen Perrott at catechists@corpuschristi.com.au or call the Parish Office during office hours at 9144 6998.



"I am a catechist."



Social Justice Corner

Brother Peter Bray, FSC, EdD.

The Justice and Peace Office has shared an invitation to hear an address by the eminent Brother Peter Bray, FSC (Vice Chancellor, Bethlehem University, Palestine) on **Thursday 16 February, 7:00pm – 8:00pm** at the Ron Dyer Centre, 42 Ridge St, North Sydney. Brother Peter Bray, FSC, EdD is a De La Salle brother and the 8th Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University - the first registered university, and only Catholic one, established in Palestine, providing higher education to the Palestinian people (both Christians and Muslims) in the West Bank. After almost fifteen years of living and working within the walls around Bethlehem, Br Bray is well aware of the curfews, travel restrictions, military checkpoints and the negative impact of the Israeli military occupation throughout the West Bank.

You are invited to hear first-hand of the reality of occupation for students, staff, faculty members and the Brothers themselves. To book, please email adrianwatson@delasalle.org.au as soon as possible.



Please bring in your blessed palms from last year so they can be burnt for Ash Wednesday. Baskets will be placed at the entrances of the church so you can leave your palms.

Lent



Lenten Prayer Group

Please register your interest and preferred times for our Lenten Prayer group which will be held either on a Tuesday or Wednesday at 10am after mass or at 2pm in the afternoon before school pick up. The sign up sheet is in the



PARISH SOCIAL CRAFT GROUP:

A happy group for a relaxing morning every fortnight - bring your own craft or handiwork if you wish. Next get together **Thursday 16 February 2023 @ 10.30am** in the Parish Hall. Enq.: Angela 0405 507 982

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and show our respect to the Elders past and present .

We also wish to pay our respects to all Aboriginal people.

Prayer Zone



Anniversary: Andy McElhone

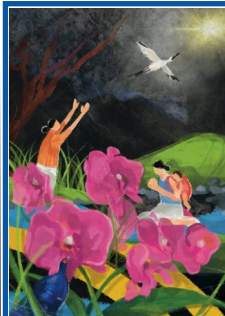
Please pray for the ill:

Noel Carmody; Sylvia Fishburn; Nicolette Harris; Marshall O'Brien; Helen McCarthy; Quentin Stewart; Rob Sanders; Anne Jardane; Naomi Upton; Vanessa Park; Rebecca Davies; Grace Cheah; Elizabeth Walsh; Rebecca Anderson; Maria Garcia; Jose Mestres; Meacheal; Estelle Sok; Thi Nguyen; Victoria; Carmel Hadley; Carmel Hurrell, Fergus O'Brien, Michelle Soumier, Gracie Spencer, Brendan Stone

If you know of anyone who can no longer attend mass due to illness; or if you have noticed one of our parishioners is no longer attending mass, could you please let the office know.

FEAST DAYS— FEBRUARY 2023

Tuesday 14th, Sts Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop
Wednesday 22nd, Ash Wednesday



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Friday 3 March 2023
Hosted by Corpus Christi
CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can come to know how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

We are looking for volunteers to help set-up for the service and to help serve morning tea afterwards. Please contact Cheryl Doyle for further information on 0400 467 901 or the Parish Office on 9144 6998.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

Parishes

We pray that Parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

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Contact: Matthew Johnson - 0418 767 150 or 9488 8200
Contact: Noelene Johnson (local parishioner)- 0410 588 833

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Monica Fletcher
0419 484 377

monicafletcher@bigpond.com



The Catenians

*Strengthening family life through
friendship and faith*

Catenians meet every month to pray
together, to enjoy each others'
company and to support their
Clergy and Parishes.

For further information phone
President - Malcolm McEwen 0409 329 707
Secretary - David Conoulty 0412 267 538

The Word

Sunday 12 February 2023, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Collect

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

From the book of Ecclesiasticus Sir 15:15-20

He never commanded anyone to be godless.
If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.
The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R.
v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. *(R.)*
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. *(R.)*
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. *(R.)*
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. *(R.)*

Second Reading

From the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1
Cor 2:6-10

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.
We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.
The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia

Gospel

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 5:17-37

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.