



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH FULLY ALIVE



ENGAGED DISCIPLES



ROOTED IN TRADITION



MULTIPLYING LEADERS



EVANGELICAL HOSPITALITY

A Word from Our Pastor, Fr. Bruce-John Hamilton!



A holy discontent is the best way I can describe the feeling that emerged not too long after becoming a Pastor in 1995. All of a sudden, I had to run meetings (I had never been to one in 8 years of priesthood). I had to deal with teams (committees) but I had no experience how to form a team or keep a team together. I had never run a meeting and now – all of a sudden – I had all sorts of meetings to run. The list of these realities grew longer as I continued as a Pastor. I knew it was not the way things should be done but I did not know how to get out of this situation. It was like wading through molasses.

When I came to Corpus Christi in 2010 the same “holy discontent” was there. Things did get better when I discovered Stewardship as a model or “mechanism” that could and would make parish life better for both laity and clergy alike. However, it was still not enough – something was lacking, and I wasn’t sure what it was.

Mixed in with all of this was the need we had to build (what became) a new school, parish center and day care. This was a massive project that required an incredible amount of time and resources.

I came across a program called: Masters in Ecclesiastical Administration. As this program was 95% online I was able to take it – hoping that it would help me and the people around me – to run this big parish/school community.

As Pastor I knew that once this facility was built it would start filling with people, but it was all just something like a fog. I have said that we are incredibly blessed to have this new building complex, but it is not about the buildings per se. It is about people – you, your children, your families. Without people building mean NOTHING!

However, it is also not just about filling the building or meeting areas with people. That may look great but where is the unifying reality, the purpose ... what I would soon identify as what I had been looking for many years --- a Vision!

What really addressed this “holy discontent” was the move to get a coach and Fr Richard and I began the process of forming a Vision for Corpus Christi.

A Vision is a clear picture of a preferred future. With the foresight of the people who bought the parcel of land that is now Corpus Christi (and the 1 acre of the land that we were able to sell) and the incredible generosity of donors and benefactors we were able to build this structure for God’s honor and glory.

The children are being taught in the new school and cared for in the new day care. The parish center is filling up with everything from Alpha to after Mass socials to Youth Meetings.

It is the 10 Year Vision that will help us become a real parish family where we encounter Jesus Christ by living out our Four Core Values of Evangelical Hospitality, Engaged Disciples, Rooted in Tradition and Multiplying Leaders.

The Senior Leadership Team - that I along with Fr. Conlin lead from - is helping us to implement this Vision.

You – the generous parishioner and donor of Corpus Christi have made this possible. But it is only the beginning. There is no limit to building people. Let us kick this debt we have to the curb so we can continue to invest in the Vision, invest in people, build people here at Corpus Christi and beyond. I invite all of you to dream and if you do your dreams will fall short.

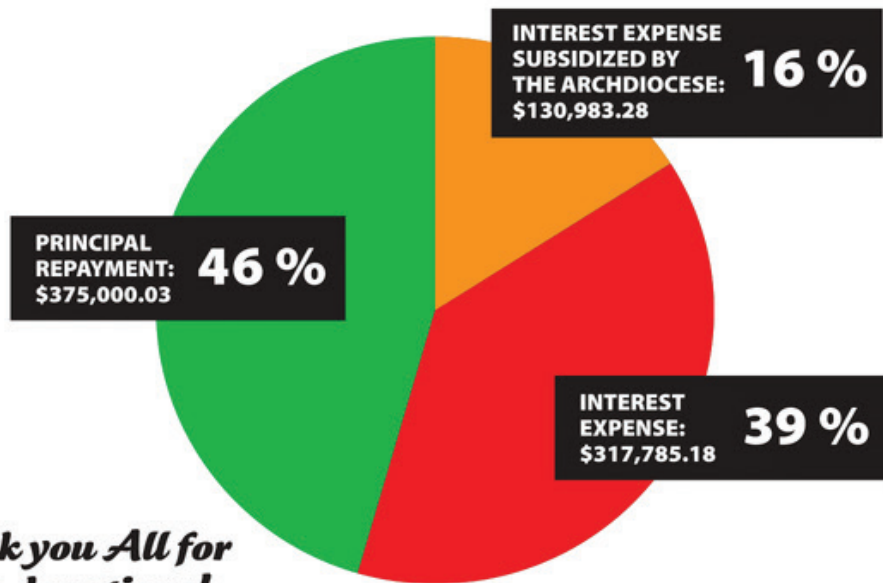
Thank you from my heart for your willingness to invest, your generosity and openness to dreaming for that picture of the future the Lord is opening up before our very eyes.

F. Hamilton

MORTGAGE STATISTICS

TOTAL MORTGAGE PAYMENT SINCE INCEPTION OF THE \$7M LOAN

■	INTEREST EXPENSE - SUBSIDIZED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE.....	\$130,983.28
■	INTEREST EXPENSE.....	\$317,785.18
■	PRINCIPAL REPAYMENT.....	\$375,000.03
		\$692,785



Thank you All for your donations!

A Farewell from Our Assistant Pastor, Fr. Richard Conlin!

“How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?” (Psalm 116:12).

My heart overflows with gratitude as I consider how good the Lord has been to me over these last three years at Corpus Christi parish.

As an expression of my gratitude, here are some of my fondest memories for how I’ve personally seen each of the 4 core values lived out at our parish:



#1: Engaged Disciples

What does it look like to “be fully committed to holiness, mission, community, and service”? How about hiking up the Grouse Grind to celebrate Mass at the top of the mountain with this group of young guys? Yes, that includes Alex Kurnicki, one of our new parishioners, in the orange hoodie haha! The journey of becoming an engaged disciple is a lot like hiking a mountain. Hard? Yes. Worth it? Oh yeah!

#2: Rooted in Tradition

When I think about what it looks like to be “firmly rooted in the living Tradition of the Church,” I think about our Advent Straw Challenge.

It was so encouraging to see hundreds of parishioners fill up that manger with straws of love for baby Jesus. What a great way to be firmly rooted in the true meaning of the Advent season – it’s all about Jesus, baby!



#3: Multiplying Leaders

When I think about what it looks like to “identify, recruit, and invest in others to become leaders, and equip them to do the same” – this is what comes to mind – The12! They give me so much hope for the future of our parish family!

#4: Evangelical Hospitality

What does it look like to “provide everyone with opportunities to belong to the parish family”? How about this picture with eight of my new spiritual children in Whistler! What a joy it was to spend three days in Whistler with two new families from our parish, the O’Briens and the Dees. This picture provides a mere glimpse of what the future of Corpus Christi looks like.



ALPHA FILM SERIES

BEGIN THE GREATEST ADVENTURE

Alpha provides a space to ask all your questions about life, faith, and meaning in a friendly environment with people who, like you, want to explore. Each Alpha session includes a short video, time to connect, and plenty of time to discuss.



Winter 2022

58

GUESTS

50 Catholics
8 Non-Catholics

Spring 2023

68

GUESTS

31 Catholics
37 Non-Catholics



Our Alpha Emcee, Michelle Wong!

Dear Friends,

Participating in Alpha has had a huge impact on me - and as a result - has impacted my life and the way I approach life -in many ways, both great and small.

I am a cradle Catholic. I went to a Catholic elementary and high school and have attended mass almost every Sunday of my life. I have always believed in God, prayed to Him, talked to Him, and turned to Him for comfort and strength. I have faith in Him and in His power. Without hesitation, I can say that I have always had a relationship with God. But it wasn't until I attended Alpha that I realized that I have never been in a relationship with Him.

I chose to be a part of Alpha for two reasons.

The first was because I heard it could help me in my faith journey. I signed up expecting Alpha to be about gathering new information in my mind and then choosing what I might want to apply in order to 'become stronger in my faith'. However, what I experienced was very different. Everything new was happening in my heart. What Alpha did for me was something next level. I can't pinpoint exactly how it happened. All I know is that I came and ate, watched videos, listened to others, shared my thoughts and made new friends. I felt my heart opening up, and it wasn't emotion that was coming out - it was emotion coming IN.

At some point along the way I realized that I had feelings both for and from God that I had never felt before. I felt Serenity and Joy. This was different from a sense of calm and a feeling of happiness. I had felt those before. But the Serenity and Joy of His presence was something completely new. Even as I have feelings for God it feels like love is pouring in. After many months I'm still trying to find the words to describe it.



What I can say is that I think I now understand why people say "Praise God". Before my Alpha experience, these words had never once come into my heart or to my lips. On the occasions I would hear people say these two words, I would think to myself: 'Oh. This person really loves God. This person is really trying to serve God and love Him by acknowledging Him aloud.' After experiencing Alpha these words now come into my heart and with increasing frequency. My analytical mind is still trying to break it down and describe exactly why that is, but the insights and emotions are kind of multilayered, cascading, and hard to tease apart. So far what I know is this: While there may be many reasons why people say "Praise God", I notice that this phrase comes to my heart and mind when I find myself in awe and wonder and at a loss for words. It's the only phrase that captures everything all at once. I continue to be amazed and humbled at each new glimpse of His love for us and at just how well He knows our hearts and what we haven't even found the words to ask for.

The second reason I said yes to Alpha is because I had given some thought to what both Father Hamilton and Father Richard had said in regard to making the 10 Year Vision our reality. The Vision for our community really resonated with me. Imagining our community unified by a love for God and each other - vibrant and active as a family of disciples - stirred something within me. I imagined a community where evangelical hospitality is a state of being rather than a task. A community within which our children can grow up bearing witness to God's love and the great things that can be accomplished when we are unified in a common goal with God's power behind us.

I said 'yes' because our pastors had pointed out that we can't effect change without doing so. The crazy thing is this: I said yes without knowing how I could make it work. Alpha sessions were scheduled to be on Wednesday nights - which happen to be my family's busiest and most logistically challenging day of the week. Even so, I chose to do something completely out of character for me: committing to something without knowing the details on how it would be executed. The only reassurance I had was the encouragement of our Priests that God just needs me to say yes and be present, and that He would take care of the rest.

I took that literal leap of faith. And amazing things happened. Solutions to our Wednesday night challenges became available to us.



Spring of 2023, we started our first Alpha hosted in Chinese!

What leaves me in wonder is that these solutions turned out to be more than that- they turned out to be gifts. For example, one of these solutions turned out to be an answer of reassurance to a separate and unrelated worry that I have been carrying in my heart for a long time.

In addition, taking part in Alpha has also allowed me to make many new friends in our Parish. I love and feel so blessed to have gotten to know so many fellow parishioners by name and that we can connect whenever we see each other. When I said yes to Father Hamilton and Father Richard, I was just thinking about how I could help make the Vision a reality. I did not expect the many different ways, both big and small, in which my life would be impacted. I am still processing and continuing to be in awe of that which by God's grace I am experiencing. Praise God.



A photo from the final day of our Alpha Spring 2023 season, hosting 68 guests! Thank you Alpha participants and volunteers. Let us continue to invite and pray for all who have yet to seek out Christ!



Discovery Coordinator, Neila Tong!



Why are we here?

In 2022, Fr. Hamilton and Fr. Richard presented the 10-Year Vision at Corpus Christi Parish. They touched on the fact that often we don't really know where we are, what our purpose is, and why we're even here (both in life and at the parish). The Vision and Core Values that our parish has undertaken strives to give us a roadmap for the reason why Corpus Christi exists and in turn, strives to bring many souls to Christ. When our lives are centered on Christ, we find purpose for our own lives also.

The first item on the list to bring our parish vision to fruition was Alpha.

Through Alpha, I saw our parish community coming together to give people the opportunity to encounter Jesus. I saw many parishioners committed to mission, community, and service – showing up week after week for 11 weeks.

Alpha is meant to provide an inviting atmosphere, to allow everyone the opportunity to belong to the parish family. Many people were generous with their time: preparing meals, setting up the room and detailed centerpieces, carrying conversations, doing the dishes, helping with takedowns, and most importantly, praying continuously for the success of Alpha and for each volunteer and participant to encounter Jesus.

God was very generous with me at Alpha. At the "Alpha Day Away", I encountered Our Lord in a very special way.

I had the opportunity to receive prayers from two people that I hadn't met before, and God used them to share words of encouragement that spoke directly to my heart.

I have an amazing four-year-old son, but my husband and I have been wanting another child for a while, but it just hasn't happened yet. I even started to question why God hasn't given us another child. Is it because I'm not worthy or that I'm simply not a great mother?

I hadn't shared my story with the lady praying for me, but she said something that impacted me personally. She said she had an image of me receiving the baby Jesus. At that moment, when I heard the word "baby", I just broke down. I don't fully know what it means to receive the baby Jesus, but at that moment, I felt a deep love from God. Whether I have more children or not, I know that God has not abandoned me. I am hopeful and I have complete trust in God's plan.

She also told me that a saint named St. Therese of the Child Jesus is praying for me. She also didn't know that I had a love for St. Therese!

As the other gentleman prayed for me, he handed me a special gift - a rosary that was made by his family. He encouraged me to pray the rosary. Little did he know that I had been thinking of starting to pray the rosary for months but hadn't. I had also been wanting a very "special" rosary. This rosary turned out to be very special indeed. Every time I look at that rosary, I am reminded that God is real, and He loves me.



As Alpha was about to wrap up, Fr. Hamilton invited me to be the RCIA & Faith Study Coordinator. I accepted, not realizing just how big of an undertaking this might be. After all, our Parish vision is to see 50 new people in RCIA every year!

RCIA will start in the fall, however, we just wrapped up our first season of Faith Study. Through this experience, I have learned to continually rely on God. To be honest, I struggled with the idea of running Faith Study. However, as soon as I realized that the purpose of the Faith Study Series aligned perfectly with our parish core value of forming engaged disciples, I was sold.

Alpha gives us the opportunity to encounter Jesus. Faith Study gives us the opportunity to embrace a personal relationship with Jesus and to embrace the call to become His disciple. I am excited to see where the Faith Study series will take us at Corpus Christi Parish over the next 10 years.



Youth Leader on The Twelve, Isabelle Liu!

I once was lost in a looming fog - the fog of 'temporary fixes' that would never equate to happiness. I once was lost in a tornado of lies - the lies of the devil telling me that I served no purpose. I once was lost, until I finally, fully believed with my whole mind, body, and soul that Jesus Christ is present in my life and is calling me by name to serve in His Kingdom on Earth.

My name is Isabelle Liu, and I am one of The Twelve on the Corpus Christi Youth Ministry Core Team. I am an alumna of Corpus Christi Elementary and will graduate from Little Flower Academy this June. I am proud to say that I am a soldier of Christ - but, here's the thing: it wasn't always like that.

I began going to youth ministry when it started five years ago at this parish, and have since helped lead Confirmation retreats and provide input to the adult leaders. But even then, I lacked an authentic relationship with God. My heart felt empty as I tried to take control of my life. It became a game of chess as I endeavored to manipulate each piece. I pursued validation from other people, from academics, and from my appearance. But I approached a checkmate when I was diagnosed with anorexia nervosa - a mental illness that encapsulated me in a raging cycle of depriving myself of nutrition and chasing after impossible perfection in 2020.

Fear, anger, and frustration welled inside me as medical offices and hospitals became my home. But one day, at a CCYM event in June 2021, I discovered that my real home is Heaven. That evening, we learnt of the healing power of Reconciliation. So, in the confessional, I unleashed the tsunami of my suffering and pain on Our Lord. By a miracle of grace, Christ touched me deeply, gave me a new heart, and transformed my life. That same evening, the youth ministry coordinator, Lois Macoy, and Father Richard invited me to go golfing, followed by sharing a meal with 11 other young adults.

As laughter filled the room, it was apparent that we were all called together for a reason - to serve others through God's love. We were informed that we were the new youth ministry leaders and were given the title of The Twelve. It was at that moment, when I found my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ on the core team, that I realized how imperative it is to have Jesus as the summit of my life. It was when I hit that turning point, where the reality of God's grace brings me to tears because I still cannot grasp what I ever did to deserve the perpetual love of Christ.

With so many outside influences that make children doubt their self-worth and question who they are, it is vital to foster a sanctuary where they feel loved and supported. That home is found within our youth ministry, where over 60 youths are brought together through the Holy Spirit to be engaged disciples. Since I became a leader, I have grown in the virtues of patience, courage, and compassion. Amongst these peers, I felt seen. I felt a sense of belonging. And I felt blessed that God has granted me this amazing gift of friendship and the opportunity to grow in my faith and be an active member of Corpus Christi.

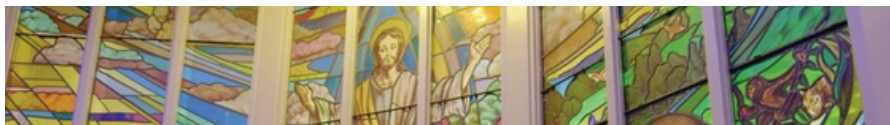
Through leadership over the past couple of years, I have learnt to trust in the Lord with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding (Proverbs 3:5). By recognizing the love and holy presence of Christ in my life while being surrounded by people who love me for who I am, my heart is now full. I aspire to uplift others within CCYM by raising future leaders and increasing involvement within the Church. I realize the healing medicine of Jesus, the impacts of believing in myself and others, and how that unlocks one to discover their talents and make the world a better place. My recovery and conversion moment inspires me daily to carry the light of Christ wherever I go and to help the youth recognize their self-identity as beloved children of God.

The path to holiness is a tedious journey. There are bound to be trials and tribulations to overcome. But the key is to have faith.

Because ***"I once was lost, but now I am found"***
(Luke 15:10).



Welcome to the family, David Hunt!



"When we know that He has spoken, then our investigation ceases, and faith and obedience begin."

Never have words so 'jumped off the page'. I was downstairs in my office, late at night, wrestling with God. Staring at a bookshelf, I felt the Holy Spirit prompt me to grab James Cardinal Gibbons' *The Faith of Our Fathers*. I cracked it open to an unfamiliar section, and these were the first words I saw.

God was speaking. It was as if my entire being was overcome with a sense of His glory. Although inaudible, the Holy Spirit gently spoke these words to my heart: "I've given you all the information you need to take a step of faith; to not take that step is disobedience."

You see, I'd "read my way" into the Living Tradition of the Church, but I had a good excuse to hesitate crossing the Tiber. (At least, I thought so!) As a lay minister planted deeply in another congregation, to become Catholic would be to abandon my community, would it not? How could that be God's will? The Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep. As a follower of Jesus, surely God was not calling me to desert those He had entrusted to my care!

But this night, Jesus was standing outside the boat of my heart, and asking: Are you willing to forsake all, and follow me? He was calling me to step out on to the water – where He is – and trust that He cares even more than I do for those left in the boat amidst the waves.

I had to step on the water.

The next morning, I sent Father Hamilton a text: in essence, "What must I do to enter the Church?"

I was starving for the Eucharist. (Yes, starving!) If that sounds hyperbolic, imagine loving and following Jesus



for over 30 years and never knowing that Holy Communion is more than a symbol.

Then, you receive the gift of faith to know that John 6 and the Last Supper are literal – and that Christ is really, very truly present in the Eucharist. With the Psalmist, my soul cried from its depths: "As the deer panteth for water, so my soul longeth after Thee, O Lord!" Nothing can compare with such a longing, such a yearning.

Yet, it came at a price. Entering the Church required laying much on the altar.

For Krista, my wife, the greatest offering was our community. We knew such depth of love, care, and relationship. If I read my way into the Catholic Church, it is equally fair to say: we were loved into our evangelical congregation. Just the thought of leaving such a thick community was hard to bear. Especially for Krista, as a mother expecting her fourth child, what could be more foolish than leaving behind our support network?

With mixed emotions but filled with faith and in obedience to Christ, we entered into full communion with the Church on the Feast of Saint Thomas Becket, December 29, 2022. To step onto the water was to take up our cross. For the joy of the Eucharist, we would endure the loss of community and many friendships.

At least, so we thought. What a joyous surprise awaited!

Immediately following the Mass, we were ushered into the Church with a feast of a reception! Genuinely, it was the most surprised Krista's been since I proposed nearly 14 years ago! Our sponsors, Seamus and Daniela O'Brien, lovingly laboured with a small army of volunteers – Jose and Gabby, Nathan and Megan, Min and Coco, Connie, Terry, Adelia, Thomas, and Winnie's sons Gabriel and Raphael (and whoever else I'm missing!). With the utmost attention to detail, they prepared such a beautiful and thoughtful luncheon at the parish centre. From the specific sandwiches and desserts to the decorations and handcrafted memento cards and centerpieces and table arrangements and balloons... we, truly, were showered in hospitality!

We felt so loved, so celebrated, so welcomed. And not only us, but also our 29 non-Catholic guests – some of whom don't yet know the Lord. What they witnessed and what we experienced was true evangelical hospitality of truly engaged disciples.

Like the Samaritan woman at the well, we have tasted of the Living Water. Moreover, we have seen the Lord's goodness through His people, His Body. We are home. And our hearts cry for countless others to find Jesus and His fullness here at Corpus Christi. That they, too, may "Come and see!"

fun facts!

Did you know that...

CORPUS CHRISTI CORE VALUES

Rooted in Tradition

Corpus Christi will be the biggest elementary school in the Archdiocese and will reach full capacity in the 2023/24 school year with **460 students**.

Evangelical Hospitality

The parish has hosted **16 after Mass socials** since January.

The Knights of Columbus have served **399 bowls of Wonton Soup** from January to March.

In the past 8 weeks, **4800 lbs. of food** were provided to the poor.

Engaged Disciples & Multiplying Leaders

Altar Server Activities:

- Summer Camp
40 servers
- Open House Pizza Party
- Laser Tag
40 servers
- Seminary Live-Ins

Youth Ministry Activities:

- Leadership Retreat
- Rescued Retreat
59 youth
- Weekly Rosary Nights
- Monthly Gatherings
47 youth

THE VISION MOVING FORWARD

World Youth Day

This summer, our parish will have over two dozen youth attend World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal! Visit our site to learn more and donate to this cause: www.ccp parish.ca/world-youth-day

More Leaders at the Parish

By September 2023, we plan to hire a new full-time ministry leader to help coordinate many of our ministries and their respective activities. We need to fundraise \$60,000 for this position.

Corpus Christi Show Podcast

In April 2023, we launched our first ever podcast episode. Check it out on iTunes or Spotify and listen in to 5 minute episodes from Fr. Hamilton on how he's seen the Vision lived out each week!



THE
**CORPUS
CHRISTI**
PODCAST



Mass Times

Holy Days of Obligation

Sunday | 9am, 11am, 3pm (ZH-YUE)

Saturday Vigil | 5pm

Daily Masses

Mon-Sat | 8am

Wednesday (School Mass) | 9am

First Friday of the Month | 7pm

Holiday | 9am

Confession Times

Mon-Fri | 7:45-7:55am

Friday | 6-6:45pm

Saturday | 8:30am, 3:45-4:45pm

AGES: Going into K (Age 4/5) to Grade 5 (Age 9/10)

WHERE: Corpus Christi Parish

When: July 10th to July 14th, 2023, 9am to noon

Cost: \$120/child early bird or \$270/family (3 or more)
Schola Au 604-614-5200

Contact: Prisca Cheung 778-994-6829

Registration form: www.ccp parish.ca

Vacation Bible School

Find Us on Social Media

corpuschristi_parity_vancouver

CCRCPV

CorpusChristiParish

Corpus Christi Parish Magazine

Miguel Lacson - Editor / Design

Lina Glass - Additional Graphics



Join the Flocknote for updates at the parish!

ccparish.ca