

Sunday Readings

Year B

First Reading - Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."' "

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Gospel - Mark 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday (9.30am to 3.00pm)



A house of welcome to all and a place of service to all

4th Sunday, Year B

January 28, 2024

A new way of teaching

In today's gospel, the Evangelist Mark, from whose gospel we will take the Gospel readings this year (Year B), tells us about the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Last week, we learnt of Jesus choosing his disciples. This week, Mark describes Jesus' first public action. In important ways, this portrayal of Jesus here at the outset of his public life encapsulates the key elements of Jesus' person and ministry that inform Mark's whole gospel.

In this brief passage we learn two vital things about Jesus: he teaches with authority and he has power over evil.

In the first few verses, Jesus goes to the synagogue in Capernaum. He is, after all, a faithful Jew. It is the sabbath. And there he begins to teach. To the utter amazement of those in the synagogue - for no one knows Jesus, has heard of him or where he's from - he teaches with extraordinary authority.

But this puzzling thing is then followed by another astonishing thing: an exorcism, when Jesus commands and rebukes an unclean spirit to come out of an afflicted man; here too he demonstrates extraordinary authority. Even a demonic spirit obeys him.

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6:00 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Tuesday: 5:30 pm

Wednesday: 9:00 am

Thursday: 9:00 am

Friday: 5:30 pm

RECONCILIATION

Friday: 4:30 pm – 5:15 pm

Saturday: 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm

DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday: 9:30am - 11:00am

First Friday : 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Divine Mercy Chaplets

Second Wednesday: 7:30pm

Novena

Saturday: 5:30 pm

YOUTH NOTICES

GARDEN OF EDEN - CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS BALL 2024 - SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2024

Join us for an evening of enchantment in the "Garden of Eden" as Catholic young adults from around Perth come together to celebrate in style. Indulge in a sumptuous three-course meal and enjoy a selection of beer, wine, and soft drinks — all included in the price. Get your friends together and dance the night away.

- ☐ Date: Saturday, February 17th, 2024
- ☐ Time: 6:30 PM to 11:30 PM
- ☐ Venue: Pagoda Resort & Spa
- ☐ Cost: \$120 per person - Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/cym-ball>



PERMANENT PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Parish RE/Sacramental Coordinator - Bateman Catholic Parish

St Thomas More Catholic Church, Bateman Parish, has a vacancy for a Religious Education/ Sacramental Coordinator. This position is 15 hours a week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays), the Coordinator of the Parish Religious Education program provides leadership to assist the parish community in building a solid foundation of faith for children and their families.

In this position, the Coordinator facilitates and manages in bringing Religious Education to children who do not attend Catholic Schools.

The Coordinator works in collaboration with the Parish Priest, Catechists, Parents, the Catholic school and the Catholic Service Team. An understanding of parish life and support of the ethos and values of the Catholic Church is expected of an applicant. Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook will be advantageous. Training will be provided for a suitable candidate. Applicants must also be willing to undergo a formation course.

Applications close **Friday 23rd February 2024**. A Job description is available on request. Please submit your application via email to Fr Phong Nguyen at phong.nguyen@perthcatholic.org.au.

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please be advised of our parish email addresses at St Thomas More Catholic Church, Bateman Parish:

1. Bateman Catholic Parish (Secretary): bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
2. Bateman Planned Giving: pgiving.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
3. Bateman Pastoral Care: morecare.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
4. Bateman Catechist: catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
5. Bateman Safeguarding Officer: sgo.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
6. Bateman Youth: youth.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au

PARISH NEWS

PLEASE NOTE: In 2024, there will be Masses for the following Solemnities, Holy Week, Octave of Easter, and Octave of Christmas that will fall either on Monday or Saturday:

- **Monday 18th March 2024 – 9.00am** – St Patrick

BLESSING OF CANDLES - FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2024 AT 5.30PM MASS

It is tradition to bless candles on the Feast of the Presentation. There will be a blessing of candles during mass on 2nd February. Please bring your candles.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2024 AT 6PM-9PM

First Friday Adoration will be held on 2nd February at 6pm - 9pm.

Resources will be left on the back table.

"Be still and know that I am God".

PARISH MORNING TEA - SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2024

Morning Tea is held every Sunday after 8am mass in the hall. All welcome.

First Sunday of the month morning tea is held after 10am mass in the quadrangle. Please join us on 4th February.

CHINESE/LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION - SUN 18TH FEB AFTER 10AM MASS

Our parish would like to honour those who are associated with the rich Chinese culture and Chinese heritage and mark the beginning of the Year of the Wood Dragon.

There will be a special Mass followed by a community lunch - please bring a plate to share. More information later.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - 17TH/18TH FEBRUARY 2024

Would you like to give yourself and your spouse quality time over a weekend that will focus on love, communication and relationship?

We invite you to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

Coming Weekends:

- 17th/18th February (Indonesian Language) - Live-out (you go home Saturday night, come back Sunday morning) at Corpus Christi College, Bateman
- 20th/21st April - Live-out at Tuart Hill
- 9th/10th November - Live-in at Currambine

A WWME Weekend may be the best gift you can give to each other.

For more information about coming Weekends contact Brendon or Valerie on 0493 534 865. Email: WAb bookings@wwme.org.au or visit www.wwme.org.au.

OLD PALMS

In preparation for 2024 Ash Wednesday (14th February 2024), parishioners can drop their old palms in a collection box at the Church Foyer.

PARISH NEWS

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Sacramental classes for our Parish and other surrounding schools commence on Wednesday the 7th February from 4.00pm until 5.00pm.

Enrolments are online for the RE programme. The link is as below. Please click the link to open up the enrolment form. Bank details are at the bottom of the form. If you are experiencing difficulties in enrolling online please send me an email and/ or come in any Wednesday during school hours to meet with me. I am also available on catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au at other times, to enrol.

All children (from pre-school age on) from within the Parish boundaries who attend Government schools are warmly welcomed to attend the Religious Education after school program. Special arrangements can be made for High School children and Catholic School children who may not have celebrated their age relevant Sacrament.

Please note that Confirmation is a 2 year program

You can access the 2024 enrolment form below:

<https://stthomasmorebateman.formstack.com/forms/enrolment2024>

UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT: AN ANCIENT TEXT FOR MODERN TIMES

Day/Date: Wednesdays, 28th Feb – 20th March 2024

Time: 7:30pm – 8:30pm (4 sessions)

Place: Bateman Parish Hall

Presenter: Mr Joe Tedesco

The Old Testament makes up a very significant part of the Bible. These books contain some of the most renowned stories of Sacred Scripture. The deeper implications and understandings of these stories are often missed. This program will unpack some Old Testament stories and reveal how they lay down the foundation for the Christian faith. Together, we will discover that they are as important today as they have ever been.

Coffee & Tea will be provided during each session. Come and help us build a vibrant and faith-filled community.

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Columbarium construction has commenced with an expected completion date in early 2024. The St Thomas More Parish (STMP) Columbarium Management Committee (CMC) is currently developing our Columbarium Policy. This policy document is expected to be completed by mid-February 2024.

Fees will be established as part of the Columbarium policy and at completion of construction. Further updates will be provided as we work to finalise our Columbarium Policy.

DIOCESAN NEWS

THE ALPHA SERIES - THURSDAY 8TH FEB 2024 AT 6.30PM - 8.30PM

Alpha - a chance to explore life's BIG questions in a fun, safe welcoming space. At Alpha we share a meal, watch a short movie and chat about our faith. We encourage open and honest conversations, about what you think, feel and believe. You can expect to laugh, share food and journey together with others.

Where: ALPHA at St Benedicts Parish Applecross - 115 Ardross Street

When: Starting Thursday 8th February 2024 at 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Register: email alphaatstbenes@gmail.com.

Need more information, contact Nicole 0429859308 or Dom 0404803408. Visit www.stbenedicts.net.au or alpha.org.au.

DARE TO DREAM BIG WITH EAMONN CONWAY - THU 15TH FEB AT 7PM

Professor (Fr.) Eamonn Conway (University of Limerick and presently lecturing at Notre Dame, Fremantle) will join us to share Pope Francis's vision for change and renewal within the Church - a Synodal Church.

The question is: Could we build a different Church, one that is more welcoming, inclusive and relevant to our daily lives and the lives of those we love and care for? Maybe if we dream Big!

Date: Thursday 15th February 2024

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Place: St Tommy More College, Crawley

Parking: Available at the rear carpark

Suggested Donation: \$10 Prior registration is necessary to help with seating and supper.

For more information and to register, email Jenny: wallergranjen51@gmail.com

TOUR GUIDE OPEN HOUSE - TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT 10.30AM

At our beautiful Cathedral, St Mary's, we have a very enthusiastic band of volunteers who conduct tours to schools, public and private organizations as well as the general public. This voluntary Ministry was founded in February 2011 and has grown over the years from two to eight tour guides; however, we are looking to increase our numbers. On Tuesday 20th February at 10.30 am we will be conducting a tour followed by a light morning tea in the Cathedral's Parish Centre. The aim of this "Open Day" is for those individuals who are perhaps retired or are available during the week and would like to find out more of what is involved, to come along to the fact-finding event. You will be able to ask questions, meet the other guides and perhaps decide to join us. Your commitment would only be determined by your availability and may be just one tour every month or so for approximately 1½ hours. Of course, all necessary training and resources are provided.

To register your attendance, or for more information, please call Carol Wright, Tour Guide Coordinator on 0419 948 411 or Email: clwwright@bigpond.net.au