

Sunday Readings

Year B

First Reading - Job 7:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the book of Job

Job began to speak: Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23

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

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel - Mark 1:29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

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

5th Sunday, Year B

February 4, 2024

How to stop the suffering

The story of Job was a huge challenge to the accepted moral outlook of the Old Testament people: namely, that suffering was God's way of punishing the sinner. Yet, Job was convinced of his innocence and was not afraid to bemoan his lot, complaining to God, despite his friends' admonitions that he must be guilty.

I doubt whether, at times, there is anyone who is unable to identify with Job's sentiments. For example, the times when we have cried out, at least internally: *Is not ... life on earth nothing more than pressed service, ... time no better than lived drudgery?... Like the slave, sighing for the shade... months of delusion I have assigned to me... nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, "When will it be day?" Risen I think, "How slowly evening comes!"*

Job, possibly more than anyone else in the Scriptures, is the one who cries out on behalf of all those who want an explanation for the suffering of the innocent.

In every generation people yearn to be released from their pain and suffering, yearn for a messianic figure to transform their lives. The Old Testament people were convinced that when that day came, there would be an end to the suffering, which was

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**

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.

LENTEN SEASON

As the Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, we are called by the Church to pray, fast, and do works of mercy. **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** are days of **fast** and **abstinence**. Lent is a penitential season of **prayer, self-denial and helping others**. In this way, the Church prepares for Easter and joyfully welcomes those adults who have completed the RCIA programme and consequently be baptised during the Easter Saturday Vigil Mass.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES – 14TH FEBRUARY 2024

We begin our season of Lent with Ash Wednesday, which will be celebrated on the **14th February 2024**. Masses will be held at **9.00am** (with attendance of Junior Classes from Corpus Christi College), **4.00pm** (R.E. Program Mass) and **7.00pm**. Parishioners are welcome to attend any one of these Masses, including the R.E Program Mass.

DRIED PALMS FROM LAST YEAR

The Parish is looking for Dried Palms to make into Ashes for Ash Wednesday (14th February 2024). Please bring your old palms and leave them in the collection box at the church foyer. Thank you!

NO CHAPLETS OF THE DIVINE MERCY ON WED 14TH FEBRUARY 2024

Due to Ash Wednesday Mass at 7pm on 14th February 2024, there will be no Chaplets of Divine Mercy for February. We appreciate your understanding and encourage your participation in the Ash Wednesday Mass for a meaningful start to the Lenten season.

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. The celebrations will begin immediately after 10 am mass with some Chinese Cultural dancing presented by Cindy Lim Dancing followed by the Ukelele group presenting a medley of Asian and a few English songs. This is a wonderful occasion to share the cultural heritage of the Chinese community and some parish fellowship.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - 17TH/18TH FEBRUARY 2024

We invite you to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on 17th/18th February (Indonesian Language) - Live-out (you go home Saturday night, come back Sunday morning) at Corpus Christi College, Bateman. 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: WAbookings@wwme.org.au or visit www.wwme.org.au.

PARISH NEWS

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.

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>

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2024: ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH, BATEMAN

Reconciliation: Saturday 26th October 2024 at 10.00am

First Eucharist: Saturday 22nd June 2024 at 3.00pm

Confirmation: Sat 7th Sept 2024 at 3.00pm and Sun 8th Sept 2024 at 11.30am

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH GATHERING FOR YOUNG CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES

Parents and Grandparents are invited to attend with their children aged 0-5yo for an informal play time in the parish hall. We will meet weekly on Thursday mornings after the 9am Mass, at 9:30am - 11am during school term time (8th Feb - 28th March 2024). Caregivers must stay with the children. Bring along some toys, snacks and anything else the child needs. Some faith based music and activities may also accompany the sessions. We are excited to meet some new families and build community with our young children.

For more information contact the Parish office: 9310 1747 or contact Anita Parker through the Parish Flocknote group:

<https://stthomasmorecatholic.flocknote.com/BatemanParishPla>

DIOCESAN NEWS

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP – Which is part of the World Community of Christian Meditation – meets each Monday night in the Church at 8.00 pm (Note we do not gather if it is a public holiday).

We have recommenced after our Christmas break and would warmly welcome new people, if you are interested. Please come along or phone Leonie Gillett on 0417 937 261 for more information. Our group has been meeting in the Church for 30 years.

“The mission of the WCCM is to communicate and nurture meditation as passed on through the teachings of John Main, in the Christian Tradition, in the spirit of serving the unity of All.”

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.

HEALING MASS IN HONOUR OF ST PEREGRINE - THU 15TH FEB 2024 AT 7PM

Patron Saint of cancer sufferers and helper of all in need will be celebrated on Thursday 15th February 2024 at 7pm in Sts John & Paul Catholic Church Willetton. There will be blessing with the Relic of St Peregrine and Anointing of the Sick.

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