

First Reading - Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1

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

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel - Mark 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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E-Mail: bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday (9.30am to 3.00pm)



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

6th Sunday, Year B

February 11, 2024

Healing the 'unclean'

The Old Testament Law existed to protect God's people from physical and moral hazards that could harm the whole community. The Law's emphasis on spiritual and bodily purity established how God's people could live together in a healthy relationship with God and each other.

And a leper was a danger to the whole community. While leprosy, more commonly known today as Hansen's disease, is still a highly contagious infection, in ancient times, it was incurable, and its diagnosis was virtually a death sentence.

The only thing a community could do to protect itself was to quarantine those infected permanently. As a result, lepers had to live outside walled cities, could no longer enter God's presence in the Temple and were forbidden to interact with the community. Even a chance encounter with a leper could make someone unclean.

To re-enter right relationship with God and the community, a leper would need to be healed and ceremonially purified. The process required a Temple priest to investigate a leper claiming to have been healed and then pronouncing them fit to re-enter contact with God and with other people. The healing of leprosy was so rare that many rabbis considered it akin to raising someone from the dead and the rare holiness of

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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Phong Nguyen
Priest in Residence: Rev. Fr. Anthony Vu
Parish Secretary: Heidy Lu

the healer.

The leper in today's gospel identifies Jesus as the one through whom the power of God is uniquely present. Instead of notifying Jesus of his condition by shouting "unclean, unclean" and avoiding contact with Jesus, as the Law demanded, the leper's plea of "If you wish, you can make me clean" shows his utter confidence in Jesus' power. And instead of avoiding the leper to preserve his cleanness, Jesus touches him. From the perspective of the leper, this may have been the first time another human being touched him in years. In this moment, Jesus restores both human and divine contact to the leper who had been cut off from both.

The response of Jesus to the leper is his response to all of us who have been devastated by the effects of sin, sickness, and death. Jesus is not disturbed, scandalised, or tainted by any human impurity. Instead, he restores in us the capacity for communion with God and others.

As St Paul reminds us in today's second reading, the true fulfilment of the Law, and the primary healing work of God, is cleanness from the disease of sin, which rots the inside of a person and prevents authentic communion. As Jesus says elsewhere in the gospels, "First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean."

Jesus' holiness goes beyond what the Temple priests could accomplish and what the Law of Moses could prescribe. Jesus can purge uncleanness from everyone who comes to him in faith since no defilement can touch him. Jesus does not just pronounce us clean, like the Temple priests could, but he makes the whole person clean, inside and out.

Joseph Doyle
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Baptisms:

We welcome Mila Shay Jupp into our Parish Community.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Deaths: Please pray for Mr Andrian Tanuadji who passed away recently.

Anniversaries:

Please pray for Janet Ng Lin Seong, Alain Geoffroy, Abe Mourad, Wilhelm Van Dijk, Kenneth John Kelly, Allen Bannister-Jones, Anna Stasia Gannon, Joane Theresa Smith, Richard Oon Chuan Hoe, Ronald Chapman and Irene Edith (Nyna) Kyle whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 18TH FEBRUARY

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
Flowers: Angel Babu
Counters: 1. I Basuki 2. T Basuki 3. T Santoso

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
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Acolytes	V Roque	M Humble	S Kan
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Altar Servers	S Buntoro B Dass C Dass	B Karczub N Karczub	A Hadiyanto A Kan A Lowth
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Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	J Doss E Fernandez D Garreffa G Garreffa M Sequeira L Sequeira C Hoare	R Margawani J Randazzo J Sciorilli M Stephen M Ch'ng M Ch'ng B D'Cruz	A Ring E Tandy P Braganza B Bucat A Crossley M Davis P Demberger
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Catechists	CHILDREN'S LITURGY Michelle Lowth		
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Readers	C Hoare D Hoare	M Golding P Golding	A Crossley G Das Neves
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Readers Coordinator: Lilian Sequeira - 9331 5221

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Safeguarding Officers:

- Gerard Joseph (Gerard.safeguarding@gmail.com)
- Derek Choo (Derek.Choosafeguarding@gmail.com)
- Marguerite Parker (margparkersgo@gmail.com)
- Monica de Rozario (monica.derozario.safeguarding@gmail.com)

MORE CARE - DO YOU NEED HELP OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

- ♦ Stephen 0408 167 400 (Coordinator) Christine 0412 887 950 (Transport)
- ♦ Monica 0419 945 005 (Meals)
- ♦ Serina 0420 991 868 (Visiting)
- ♦ Angela 0418 953 992 (Bereavement Support)
- ♦ Parish Office 9310 1747 (General Enquiries)

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 – 9.00am – St Patrick
- Monday 25th March – 9.00am – Monday of Holy Week
- Monday 1st April – 9.00am – Octave of Easter
- Saturday 6th April – 9.00am – Octave of Easter
- Monday 8th April – 9.00am – The Annunciation of the Lord
- Monday 24th June – 9.00am – The Nativity of St John the Baptist.
- Saturday 29th June – 9.00am – St Peter and St Paul

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

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.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Fridays during Lent after the 5.30pm Mass.

- Friday 16th February 2024 – Led by Vincent de Paul Group
- Friday 23rd February 2024 – Led by Marriage Encounter Group
- Friday 1st March 2024 – Led by Men Alive Group
- Friday 8th March 2024 – Led by Legion of Mary Group
- Friday 15th March 2024 – Led by Scriptural Rosary Group
- Friday 22nd March 2024 – Led by Readers Group

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: WAb bookings@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 commenced 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



Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction.

Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

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.”

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.

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

HAWES HERITAGE TRAIL 4 DAY PILGRIMAGE - 9TH - 12TH JUNE 2024 - \$400 PER PERSON

You're invited to participate in a voyage of discovery, based in Geraldton, of the iconic buildings and sites relating to the heritage of Priest/Architect John Cyril Hawes, in the Midwest of Western Australia.

Luxury Coach travel with Tour Guide and Spiritual Director is supplied daily from Geraldton, along with refreshments and lunch.

Pilgrims are responsible for arranging their own transport to and from Geraldton and accommodation in Geraldton. Anawim Journeys (0402 290 827) are offering a Pilgrimage Package which includes Travel and Accommodation. For further information and to reserve your place on the Pilgrimage, visit www.monsignorhawes.com or Phone Gerry 0417 912 997.