

# Sunday Readings

Year B

## First Reading - Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

### A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

## Second Reading - Romans 8:31-34

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

## Gospel - Mark 9:2-10

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

# 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*

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lent, Year B

February 25, 2024

## Obedience brings the blessing

Abraham is a problematic figure in the biblical story. He lies to Pharaoh about his wife, hanging her out to dry to protect his own skin. He does the same thing a few chapters later to another king, Abimelech. But when push comes to shove, at the moment of the test, he ... 'passed with flying colors' as we used to say in school.

Abraham was not perfect, but he did pass where Adam and Eve failed. The Parents of humanity were called to partnership with God in accomplishing his creation plan. They were given a privileged place of rule in the world; they named the animals; they were fruitful and multiplied. But when push came to shove, at the moment of the test, they took the fruit of the tree and ate it. They failed the test. The serpent deceived them, saying, in effect, that God, in forbidding them access to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, did not have their good in mind.

They needed to take for themselves the good thing that God held back from them. They decided to determine right and wrong for themselves. Taking the fruit was 'good in their own eyes'. They rejected the only possible path by which they—we—can find the fullness for which we were made. That path is obedience to God's com-

## 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

mands. In obedience we are liberated. To ride a bicycle you must obey, so to speak, the law of gravity. You must trust that collaborating with the bicycle's pedals, seat, and handlebars, and through them, the wheels, will work.

You must submit yourself to be free. Otherwise, you are going to get hurt. The price of being God's (GOD'S!) special collaborator in his creation project is obedience. Trust. We must trust that God has our good in mind, that our Creator is supremely good, even when—most especially when—we do not see how that can be the case.

Abraham is the Old Testament exemplar of obedience. He was put to the most difficult test imaginable. He trusted God's goodness even through the command to sacrifice his 'one and only son', Isaac. He trusted what God had promised him (through his numerous descendants all nations will be blessed) and what God gifted him to initiate the fulfillment of that promise (a son).

Obedience brings the blessing. For Abraham, this meant being the father of the people Israel, through whom, finally, the Messiah would come to bless all creation, to bring, in Jesus' words, the kingdom of God.

Beyond Abraham, the Messiah, Jesus, passed the test. That test reached its make-or-break moment in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he sweated drops of blood, bringing his fully human will to complete transparency with the divine will, obedience to the point of death, death on the cross. In that obedience, Christ Jesus won the ultimate blessing for himself, for humanity, for the world. And he makes us now his collaborators in the project.

W Chris Hackett  
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**Baptisms:**

We welcome Ethan Swinny and Micah David Morzenti into our Parish Community.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Deaths:** Please pray for Patricia Owens, Andrian Tanuadji, Fr. Wayne Davis and Maverick Lim who passed away recently.

**Anniversaries:**

Please pray for Ronald Blakely Brown, Ernest Alagaratnam, John Allen, Thomas Phillips, Francis Wilson Reilly, Hector McAnuff, Kathleen Beagley, Monica Parr, S. Eustace Williams and Mary Mona King whose anniversaries occur around this time.

# R O S T E R S

## FOR 3RD MARCH

**Bulletin:** Ratinda Oetomo  
**Flowers:** Catherine Tan  
**Counters:** 1. C Correia                      2. J Pereira                      3. R Sciascia

	<b>Saturday 6.00pm</b>	<b>Sunday 8.00am</b>	<b>Sunday 10.00am</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	V Tan	C Goh	D Klass
<b>Altar Servers</b>	T Jomy J Lee K Lee	B Karczub N Karczub	G Chua A Geaney E Gatchalian
<b>Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion</b>	C Nonis V Ng A Roque J See L Sequeira M Sequeira S Teo	W Goh I Kusnadi T Santoso C Price P Price J Randazzo J Sciorilli	N Mourad C Poore G Prasetyo E Ross T Rudianto R Triuntari N Winata

**Catechists** CHILDREN'S LITURGY  
Michelle Lowth

**Readers** G Munro V Ng F Ling E Orr M Doray K Gamba

Readers Coordinator: Michele Doray - 9310 4051

**Piety Stall** OPEN OPEN OPEN

**Safeguarding Officers:**  
 1. Gerard Joseph (Gerard.safeguarding@gmail.com)  
 2. Derek Choo (Derek.Choosafeguarding@gmail.com)  
 3. Marguerite Parker (margparkersgo@gmail.com)  
 4. 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 18<sup>th</sup> March – 9.00am – St Patrick
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March – 9.00am – Monday of Holy Week
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April – 9.00am – Octave of Easter
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April – 9.00am – Octave of Easter
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April – 9.00am – The Annunciation of the Lord
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June – 9.00am – The Nativity of St John the Baptist.
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June – 9.00am – St Peter and St Paul

### HOLY WATER IS AVAILABLE AT PIETY STALL

Holy water is now available in the piety stall. Please bring your own containers. (Small bottles are available for \$2.00)

### SVDP FOOD SALE - SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

Our food sale will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 after both morning masses. Thanking you for your past support. Please continue to do so and come visit our stall. Any enquiries, please contact Winnie 0421 601 095.



After the birth of her children, 22-year-old **Ronita** was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

### Please donate to Project Compassion.

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](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

## 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](mailto:bateman@perthcatholic.org.au)
2. Bateman Planned Giving: [pgiving.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:pgiving.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au)
3. Bateman Pastoral Care: [morecare.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:morecare.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au)
4. Bateman Catechist: [catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au)
5. Bateman Safeguarding Officer: [sgo.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:sgo.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au)
6. Bateman Youth: [youth.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:youth.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au)

## PARISH NEWS

### WELCOME TO ST THOMAS MORE BATEMAN PARISH

Welcome our seminarian, Christopher De Freitas. Chris is staying with us on parish pastoral placement for a few months. Please offer your prayerful support and encouragement in his seminary formation.

### PARISH MORNING TEA - SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2024

Sunday morning coffee is every Sunday after 8am mass in the hall. Coffee is also on the first Sunday of the month (3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024) in the courtyard after 10am mass.

**Important notice!!** The Parish Pastoral Council is trialling Saturday evening coffee in the courtyard after 6pm mass for the next 3 months beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. Join us for fellowship and meet new parishioners.

### 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.

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – Led by Men Alive Group
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Led by Legion of Mary Group
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Led by Scriptural Rosary Group
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 – Led by Readers Group

### FRIDAY ADORATION DURING LENTEN SEASON

Friday Adoration during Lenten Season will be held from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 at 6.30pm - 9pm (Straight after Stations of the Cross). Resources will be left on the back table.

### BATEMAN PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

#### WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 7.00PM

Our Lenten Reconciliation Service for the Parish will be held on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm**. There will be many priests to assist, so please come along and prepare well for Easter.

The following parishes advised their Lenten Reconciliation services:

**Willetton Parish** – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm

**Canning Vale Parish** – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm

We have a wonderful opportunity to gather spiritually as a community for this significant event during lent.

There are many reasons for attending this Second Rite of Reconciliation Service:

- We give powerful witness to each other of the need for forgiveness and commitment to repentance. Together we pray for God's mercy. We support and help each other through community prayers at this rite.
- It is a humbling experience to give public witness to being a sinner needing forgiveness and seeking God's mercy. Humility is good for the soul.
- We help to alleviate the burden for our priests at this busy time of year by participating in community reconciliation.

## PARISH NEWS

### **UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT: AN ANCIENT TEXT FOR MODERN TIMES**

Day/Date: Wednesdays, 28<sup>th</sup> February – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Time: 7:30pm – 8:30pm (4 sessions) at 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.

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

Reconciliation: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 10.00am

First Eucharist: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 at 3.00pm

Confirmation: Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024 at 3.00pm and Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024 at 11.30am

### **ST THOMAS MORE PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Sacramental classes for our Parish and other surrounding schools commenced on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Classes run from 4.00pm until 5.00pm Term 1 to Term 3. 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](mailto:catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au) at other times, to enrol.

Enrolments are now open for all children wishing to make their First Holy Communion. Enrolments for First Holy Communion close on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

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>

### **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 (8<sup>th</sup> Feb - 28<sup>th</sup> 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.”

### **CFR PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENING - FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

Catholic Faith Renewal (CFR) invites you and your family to a Praise & Worship Evening at Sts John & Paul Church, Willetton, at 7.30pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2024. Features Songs of Praise, Mass and Talk by the Very Rev Fr Vincent Glynn, Episcopal Vicar for Education & Faith Formation on “Experiencing the presence of God in our lives: The Lens of Sacramentality”. Admission is free. For info, phone Charles 0413 755 799 or Ivan 0428 898 833.

### **HAWES HERITAGE TRAIL 4 DAY PILGRIMAGE - 9<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://www.monsignorhawes.com) or Phone Gerry 0417 912 997.

### **EMHC TO THE SICK - SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 9AM**

There will be an important meeting for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick and for parishioners who visit the sick on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 at the Willetton Parish starting with Mass at 9am. Please come if you feel that God is calling you to this ministry.

### **LENTEN RETREAT DAY - SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 9AM - 2.30PM**

Lenten retreat Day *Accompanied by Love* with Dr Pina Ford

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 9.00am - 2.30pm at Redemptorist Retreat House, Camelia Street North Perth. Morning tea is provided. Please bring your own lunch. Cost by donation. RSVP: [pina.ford@cewa.edu.au](mailto:pina.ford@cewa.edu.au) or 0400 037 986.

### **FAST24 SPIRITUAL RETREAT - FRI 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH - SAT 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024**

An upcoming spiritual retreat is happening on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 at the Parish of Our Lady Queen of Apostles in Riverton.

This year's Lenten theme, "Here I Am Lord," invites participants to deepen their faith and readiness to God's call with guest speaker Fr Phillip Perreau. FAST24 offers workshops, prayer, Adoration, and more for a 24-hour spiritual journey.

For details and registrations, please visit: [Catholicyouthapostolate.com/FAST24](http://Catholicyouthapostolate.com/FAST24) or contact Hudson 0466 344 269.