

# Sunday Readings

Year B

## First Reading - 2 Kings 4:42-44

### A reading from the second book of the Kings

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

## Second Reading - Ephesians 4:1-6

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

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, through all and within all.

## Gospel - John 6:1-15

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

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

# Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday (9.30am to 2.30pm)



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

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

July 28, 2024

## *The victorious cross*

St Jerome said: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." On the back cover of my Bible, this famous line is printed beneath an image of the fourth-century hermit-saint in his study. Scriptures in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin are open on desks behind him. He seems to be taking a break from his translation project to pull the thorn out of the lion's paw.

One thing Jerome meant is that understanding the New Testament requires deep familiarity with the Old Testament, the original Scriptures. The New is *contextualized* by the Old. The Evangelists wrote in such a way as to *embed* the story of Jesus in the biblical horizon. We could therefore elaborate on Jerome's words and say: Ignorance of the Old Testament makes the New Testament opaque.

The story of Christ's feeding of the five thousand is an example of Jerome's principle. Having John 6 set beside the story of Elisha's miraculous feeding from 2 Kings 4 is useful. We can see that the gospel author emphasises parallels between Jesus and Elisha. Barley loaves are used in both miracles; incredulous disciples in both stories are commanded to feed the people; and there are plenty of leftovers in each.

The first part of Elisha's wider story chronicles seven key miracles; and John organis-

## 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. Anibal Leite Da Cunha  
**Parish Secretary:** Heidy Lu

es the first part of his story of Jesus with seven miraculous “signs.” Elisha and Jesus both cure the blind, heal lepers, and raise the dead. Both are betrayed by the love of money. Even their names are similar in Hebrew: Elisha means “God is salvation,” and Jesus means “Yahweh is salvation.”

When you see the similarities, the differences between the stories become more important: Elisha feeds one hundred with food enough for twenty; Jesus feeds five thousand with a lot less. Elisha feeds with bread; Jesus feeds with bread and fish; Elisha’s story says “there was some left over;” Jesus’ story says there were “twelve basketfuls” in excess, an incredible amount of abundance from out of such a small beginning. And the people fed by Jesus realise how much more he is than a miracle working prophet: he is “the Prophet,” they exclaim, the savior-king whom Moses told them to wait for. They even try to make him king by force.

Elisha’s prophetic role was to hold unfaithful kings of Israel accountable to God for their abject failure in administering justice and steering God’s people away from idolatry. Elisha apparently failed: the story shows Israel falling into greater and greater apostasy that culminates in national disaster. Yet the suffering of Israel becomes the seedbed of their salvation.

The gospel story intensifies the role of the miracle-working prophet, Jesus, to the point of something truly new: the prophet is himself the expected king, and yet his kingship is unexpected. John portrays Jesus’ elevation on the cross as his enthronement! An apparent failure that is actually victory. Jesus embodies the story of Israel and transforms it.

W Chris Hackett  
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**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Recently Deceased:** Please pray for Elizabeth Chong, Maria Stefanelli, Angela McLaren, Evelyn Brand, Francis Chen, Margaret Shearer and Mary Oliver who passed away recently.

**Death Anniversaries:**

Please pray for Phanxico Hoang Thanh Hai, Mary Ch’ng, Gerry Raymond Annamalay, Catherine Fernandes, Daniel Alonzo, Jane Ellen Murray, Alec McGonigle, Maxine Mary Brown, Isis White Phyllis Smith, Jakov Vidovich, David Elliott, Alex Bunyan, Luigi Giannini, Teresa Malobiczki, Adele Baldock, Douglas Robert Connoly, Kathleen Foley and PJ O'Donnell whose anniversaries occur around this time.

# R O S T E R S

## FOR 4TH AUGUST

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo  
 Flowers: Diana Puspita  
 Counters: 1. V Sutijono 2. D Kumala 3. A Vinci

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
Acolytes	D Ng	P Cox C Goh (thurifer)	M Braganza
Altar Servers	F Lie J Lie J Mar	B Karczub N Karczub	G Chua A Demberger E Gatchalian
Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	A Khoo A Loo M Magnussen L McMinn P McMinn V Ng C Nonis	J Randazzo M Saji J Sciorilli M Ch’ng M Ch’ng C Cox B D’Cruz	N Winata S Wong A Aquino P Braganza B Bucat A Crossley M Davis
Catechists			CHILDREN’S LITURGY Michelle Lowth
Readers	R D’Mello A Fernandes	M Golding P Golding	A Crossley G Das Neves
Readers Coordinator: Lilian Sequeira - 9331 5221			

**Piety Stall**                      **OPEN**                      **OPEN**                      **OPEN**

**Safeguarding Officers:**  
 1. Gerard Joseph (Gerard.safeguarding@gmail.com)  
 2. Derek Choo (Derek.Cho.safeguarding@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:**

- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – All Souls' Day
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December – Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

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

First Holy Communion: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024

Confirmation: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Reconciliation: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?**

Or do you know someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic?

If so, we would love to hear from you. The parish runs a program for people who may be interested in becoming a Catholic.

Please contact the parish office on 9310 1747 for more details.



### THANK YOU FROM CATHOLIC MISSION

Catholic Mission is delighted to advise that the total amount received from the **Bateman Parish** in response to the 2024 appeal is **\$7,579.30**. This consists of the initial amount of

\$3,059.30 processed by the Perth Office as well as subsequent donations made online through the Catholic Mission website, or sent direct to National Office in Sydney. Thank you again for your generous response. The amount raised will support our missionaries in Mongolia and around the world provide safe haven and support for vulnerable people escaping domestic violence and homelessness.

If you are interested in volunteering, or leaving a bequest for the missions, please contact Francis Leong on 6234 1760 or at [director.cm@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:director.cm@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](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

**2024 YEAR OF PRAYER:** To reinforce Pope Francis' call for prayer to be intensified in 2024 in prepare for the 2025 Jubilee year, the archdiocesan Centre for Liturgy has posted 38 catechesis on prayer by Pope Francis. Summaries of these teachings will be published weekly in the bulletin. Details of the catechesis can be found in this link: <https://liturgy.perthcatholic.org.au/year-of-prayer-2024/>

### 2024 YEAR OF PRAYER: POPE FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE

Apostolic Palace Wednesday, 27 May 2020 [Multimedia]

Catechesis on prayer – 4. **The prayer of the righteous**

God's plan for humanity is good, but we experience the presence of evil. The Book of Genesis describes the progressive expansion of sin. Adam and Eve rebel. They believe they can become like God. Their eyes are opened, they see their nakedness – their nothingness. Evil becomes increasingly disruptive with the killing of Abel by Cain. As evil spreads God allows the universal flood and the destruction of the tower of Babel.

But there is hope. Men begin to “call on the name of the Lord”. Noah, a righteous man “called on the name of the Lord”. Prayer is a bulwark; it is man's refuge before the flood wave of evil that grows in the world. We also pray to be saved from ourselves - from ambitions, and passions. When prayer is authentic, it is a gaze directed to God, that he may take care of the heart of mankind. Prayer is powerful because it attracts the power of God and the power of God always gives life: He is the God of life and he causes rebirth. The world lives and grows thanks to the power of God who is attracted with prayer. Let us continue to teach our children the sign of the cross- our first prayer.

### JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025

There will be weekly summarised statements from Pope Francis to help parishioners prepare for the experience of Jubilee. [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509\\_spes-non-confundit\\_bolla-giubileo2025.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html)

*From Pope Francis SPES NON CONFUNDIT - Signs of hope*

9. Looking to the future with hope also entails having enthusiasm for life and a readiness to share it. Sadly, in many situations this is lacking. A first effect of this is the loss of the desire to transmit life. A number of countries are experiencing an alarming decline in the birthrate as a result of today's frenetic pace, fears about the future, the lack of job security and adequate social policies, and social models whose agenda is dictated by the quest for profit rather than concern for relationships. In certain quarters, the tendency “to blame population growth, instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the [real] issues”. [5]

Openness to life and responsible parenthood is the design that the Creator has implanted in the hearts and bodies of men and women, a mission that the Lord has entrusted to spouses and to their love. It is urgent that responsible legislation on the part of states be accompanied by the firm support of communities of believers and the entire civil community in all its components. For the desire of young people to give birth to new sons and daughters as a sign of the fruitfulness of their love

## PARISH NEWS

ensures a future for every society. This is a matter of hope: it is born of hope and it generates hope.

Consequently, the Christian community should be at the forefront in pointing out the need for a social covenant to support and foster hope, one that is inclusive and not ideological, working for a future filled with the laughter of babies and children, in order to fill the empty cradles in so many parts of our world. All of us, however, need to recover the joy of living, since men and women, created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26), cannot rest content with getting along one day at a time, settling for the here and now and seeking fulfilment in material realities alone. This leads to a narrow individualism and the loss of hope; it gives rise to a sadness that lodges in the heart and brings forth fruits of discontent and intolerance.

### **FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST 2024 AT 6PM - 9PM**

Why not spend some time with the Lord in silence and give Him the opportunity to speak to you?

### **FIRST SATURDAY EVENING COFFEE - SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST 2024**

(Immediately after 6pm mass)

### **FIRST SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE - SUNDAY 4TH AUGUST 2024**

(Immediately after 10AM mass)

8am Sunday morning coffee every Sunday in the hall after 8am mass.

All are invited to share a coffee and chat together and build the bonds of friendship in our parish community.

### **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AGM - SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024**

Parish Pastoral Council AGM will be on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August following 10am mass. Light refreshments follow. The Parish Priest report and Chairman's report will be issued via flocknotes in the week prior to the AGM.

*(Hard copies will be available in the foyer for parishioners not using flocknotes).* Can any questions related to the reports please be left in the suggestion box attached to the foyer column?

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

This weekend (**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> & Sun 28<sup>th</sup> July**) is Commitment weekend for all children making the Sacrament of Confirmation. This has also been combined as a community Mass and has been organised, by the students of Corpus Christi College. Please do attend this Mass with your families and loved ones and let's continue to make our community more vibrant and strong.

Our Confirmation candidates have their photos displayed in the church. As a Parish community, let us remember to keep these candidates, their families and their teachers in your prayers as our candidates prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## PARISH NEWS

### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION SEMINAR TERM 3**

**Created in the Image of God: An Introduction to Christian Anthropology**

**ON:** Wednesdays, 14<sup>th</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**FROM:** 7:30pm – 8:30pm (4 sessions)

**WITH:** Ms Natalie Thomas

**AT:** Bateman Parish - 100 Dean Road, Bateman

**SUGGESTED DONATION:** \$20

This set of talks will offer a Catholic perspective on what it means to be human. Utilising Scripture and St Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, it will delve into what it means to be made in the image and likeness of the Holy Trinity, how this forms the basis of our identity and human dignity, and how Jesus' death on the Cross gives the highest and deepest revelation of what it means to be human. Participants will learn the meaning of being redeemed and healed in Christ, the importance of being made male and female, the vocation of every human person, and will be challenged to apply such principles as being "in the world, not of the world".

### **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2024 - 2025**

Boxes of Planned Giving envelopes are now available in the Church Foyer for collection. They are in alphabetical order. Please pick them up after Mass.

Instead of using envelopes many parishioners now enjoy direct bank transfers or credit card transfers to make their monthly contributions. If you prefer to use one of these methods of payment, please take a form available in the church foyer or contact the parish office who will arrange a bank authority form for you to complete. We would like to thank you for your generous support to the Parish Planned Giving. Thank you, Fr. Phong

### **DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE? HOW PRAYERS HAVE HELPED YOU.**

Your story may give hope, inspire, and encourage those who need prayers. When you share, your name can remain confidential. For enquiries call Jeremiah 0422 237 268 or email [jckloo18@gmail.com](mailto:jckloo18@gmail.com).

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### **BOOK SALE - SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> & SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024**

The Pater Noster Catholic Church is having a Book Sale on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August from 9.00am to 4.00pm and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

**SAVE GOD'S FARM.** There is a spiritual haven in the South West called God's Farm. It is a centre for retreats, prayer rest and rejuvenation of the spirit. God's farm is under threat of being sold and a campaign has been launched to save it. If you wish to participate in this cause and help save God's Farm please use the link below to get more information and to make a financial pledge. <https://roadtothetriumph.com/save-gods-farm-pledge-appeal/>