

Sunday Readings

Year B

First Reading - Exodus 16:2-4. 12-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our hearts content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.'

'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your hearts content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God.'" And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

Second Reading - Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

Gospel - John 6:24-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.'

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?'

Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.'

So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered: 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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E-Mail: bateman@perthcatholic.org.au

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



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

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

August 4, 2024

Being truly thankful

Complaining about life's woes is a fairly common human experience. We find it in today's Exodus account of the Israelites wandering in the desert. Although they had been freed from slavery, they now find themselves in search of food and bitterly complaining of their situation to Moses and Aaron. Yet, we also know how the story ends: the Lord sends them heavenly bread, but only after they have been tested to learn the lesson that God does not abandon the chosen people.

"What have you that you have not received?" asks Paul in a letter to the complaining Corinthians.

We know we live in a world where so many have legitimate grounds for complaint: people without jobs, housing, education, medical necessities, drinkable water or adequate food. There are some Australians who live in urban and outback places who go without basic human needs.

Yet, most of us enjoy more than adequate 'things' to live by. Probably, though, we simply accept these 'gifts of life' without too much thought about the blessings we have received. Often it is those of us who have most who are the least aware of our need to be thankful. Everything we have, including life itself, says Paul, is a precious

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

gift of our Creator.

In today's letter to the Ephesians, Paul asks us up front: are we still corrupted by illusions? Are our lives taken up with false desires – power, success, money, prestige – to the point that we Christians live an aimless kind of existence and have learnt nothing from Christ? No, says Paul, this is not good enough. Rather, we must undergo a “spiritual revolution” and “put on the mind of Christ” to learn that God's abundant blessings are everywhere about us.

After feeding of the 5,000, Jesus leads his disciples to spiritual awakening. He tells them they need to think beyond material things and “work for food that lasts forever”. Most of the disciples remain dumbfounded and ask Jesus for (another) sign. After all, they say, did not Moses give a sign by providing “manna in the desert”?

Jesus rebukes this kind of thinking, reminding them it was not Moses but God who gives “bread from heaven”. Jesus then confronts them with his astounding claim: he is the true “bread of life”; and those who come to him will never be hungry.

As disciples, we are called to reassess our lives in light of Jesus' invitation to enter into living relationship with him. He is the “bread of life” we share in the Eucharist and other sacraments, the one we seek in prayer, the one we find in those most neglected, forgotten and in need.

If we stay centred on ourselves and our own little worlds, we will find many things that cause pain and sorrow. If we focus on the ills of the wider world, we will have even more reason for despondency, even despair. Rather, let us become spiritually alive to God's abundant generosity that is freely given. Let us become Christ for others.

Gerard Hall SM
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PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

Death Anniversaries:

Please pray for Agnes Pang, Gerald Kerrigan, Giuse Hoang Van Hien, PJ O'Donnell, Violet Victoria Auret, Olive Helena Foster, Vincent (Winston) King, Peter Hugh Websdan, Douglas Bolton, Ted Lawrence, Tom Burke, Antonio De Araujo, Robert McLeary, Jim Murdoch, Leslie and Maureen Fletcher whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 11TH AUGUST

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
 Flowers: Khuyen Hoang
 Counters: 1. S Fernandes 2. M Sequeira 3. G Weldt

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
Acolytes	D Morais	R Norris	S Kan
Altar Servers	J Poole M Poole A D'Monte	J Cherian I Lu	A Evans S Evans A Hadiyanto
Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	G Lopez R Oetomo K Poole A Roque J See S Teo P Ardianto	D Dennis G Dunsford W Goh I Kusnadi T Santoso R Margawani M Saji	P Demberger M Doray A Faleiro S Fialho P Fraser J Stephen J Lim
Catechists	CHILDREN'S LITURGY Michelle Lowth		
Readers	C Hoare D Hoare	J Kingsley M Reutens	M Doray V Hodgson
Readers Coordinator: Vivian Ng - 0403 161 838			

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

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:

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

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

First Holy Communion: 22nd June 2024

Confirmation: 7th September 2024

Reconciliation: 26th 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.

Reach out. Give life.

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

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

2024 YEAR OF PRAYER: To reinforce Pope Francis' call for prayer to be intensified in 2024 in preparation 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

The Holy See POPE FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE Library of the Apostolic Palace Wednesday, 3 June 2020[Multimedia] Catechesis on prayer -

5. The prayer of Abraham

Abraham responds to a voice that asks him to undertake a journey to a new and different future. Abraham needed to trust in the word of God with courage. Abraham was the perfect man of God capable of being submissive to Him even when God's will proved arduous and somewhat incomprehensible. Abraham's journey reflects our spiritual journey. The life of a believer begins as a calling to a place where promise is fulfilled. Abraham experienced prayer in constant faithfulness to the word of God. His faith becomes history where God becomes "my God", the God of my personal history, who guides my steps, who does not abandon me, who is a companion in my adventures – the God of providence. Abraham's prayer is expressed first by deeds. He constructs an altar to God at each stage of the journey (CCC2570). God is also a surprising God to Abraham- appearing as 3 guests and giving the promise of a child when his wife is 90 years old. Abraham becomes familiar with God. He speaks with God and argues. Let us learn from Abraham - how to pray with faith; to listen to the Lord, to walk, to dialogue, even up to arguing. Let us not be afraid to have the courage to be angry at God; but always willing to accept the Word of God and to put it into practice.

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

From Pope Francis SPES NON CONFUNDIT - Signs of hope

10. During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind. I think of prisoners who, deprived of their freedom, daily feel the harshness of detention and its restrictions, lack of affection and, in more than a few cases, lack of respect for their persons. I propose that in this Jubilee Year governments undertake initiatives aimed at restoring hope; forms of amnesty or pardon meant to help individuals regain confidence in themselves and in society; and programmes of reintegration in the community, including a concrete commitment to respect for law.

This is an ancient appeal, one drawn from the word of God, whose wisdom remains ever timely. It calls for acts of clemency and liberation that enable new beginnings: "You shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants" (Lev 25:10). This institution of the Mosaic law was later taken up by the prophet Isaiah: "The Lord has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and re-

PARISH NEWS

lease to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Is 61:1-2). Jesus made those words his own at the beginning of his ministry, presenting himself as the fulfilment of the "year of the Lord's favour" (cf. Lk 4:18-19). In every part of the world, believers, and their Pastors in particular, should be one in demanding dignified conditions for those in prison, respect for their human rights and above all the abolition of the death penalty, a provision at odds with Christian faith and one that eliminates all hope of forgiveness and rehabilitation. [6] In order to offer prisoners a concrete sign of closeness, I would myself like to open a Holy Door in a prison, as a sign inviting prisoners to look to the future with hope and a renewed sense of confidence.

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.

RCIA RITE OF ACCEPTANCE SUNDAY 11TH AUGUST AT 10AM MASS

Please pray for the Catechumens journey of faith.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – THURSDAY 15TH AUGUST 2024

This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass Times are:

09.00am – Parish Mass

11.15am – Whole School Mass – Corpus Christi College Gym

07.00pm – Parish Mass

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AGM - SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST 2024

Parish Pastoral Council AGM will be on Sunday 25th 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?

Your talents and time are a valuable asset for our parish. There will be a vacancy with one councillor retiring in August. Please consider nominating. Forms are on the table in the porch and can be left with Father Phong by **18 August 2024**.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: 7TH SEPTEMBER 2024

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, 14th August – 4th 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".

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.

WARNING OF MOBILE PHONE SCAM ALLEGEDLY FROM FR. PHONG AND FR ANIBAL

I would like to bring to your attention a current scam that is circulating within various parish communities. The scam involves a message being sent with the parish priests' name and official photos to parishioners asking them to either send money or gift cards. Please ignore scam text messages using both my name and Fr Anibal's name and identity. If you are in doubt please contact the Parish Office immediately on 9310 1747. Thank you! Fr. Phong

WARNING OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS ALLEGEDLY FROM FR. PHONG AND FR ANIBAL

Recently many parishioners have notified me and called the Bateman Parish Office that they have been receiving suspicious emails purportedly from me or Fr Anibal asking for a favour. We don't have a gmail account. Please ignore scam emails using both my name and Fr Anibal's name and identity. If you are in doubt please contact the Parish Office immediately on 93101747. Thank you! Fr. Phong

DIOCESAN NEWS

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/>