

# Sunday Readings

Year B

## First Reading - Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18

### A reading from the book of Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

## Second Reading - Ephesians 5:21-32

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

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

## Gospel - John 6:60-69

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

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

# 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*

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

August 25, 2024

## Staying in the game with God

It must have been tough being a disciple of Jesus, an eloquent public speaker, who could sway large crowds with his rhetoric. He healed the sick, cast out demons, stilled a storm at sea, walked on water and raised the dead. Jesus appeared to bear all the hallmarks of the expected Messiah.

And yet, there were times when Jesus said and did things that made him look like he was demented or demon-possessed.

At one point in Mark's gospel, as we heard back on the Tenth Sunday of the Year, Jesus' family sought to "restrain him" because people were saying "He has gone out of his mind" (Mk 3:21).

The gospel presents us with another of these episodes where Jesus' claims proved a threat to the cohesion of his team of disciples. Last week, we heard how Jesus said he was "the bread of eternal life" whose "flesh is real food and [whose] blood is real drink" (Jn 6:55), and "anyone who eats [his] flesh and drink [his] blood has eternal life" (Jn 6:54).

This week, we learn that numerous members of Jesus' team found this teaching "intolerable" (Jn 6:60). But, instead of offering an explanation, Jesus chose to *up the*

## 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

*ante* by making an even more outrageous claim about his pre-existence as a being come down from heaven.

The reaction of his teammates was perfectly understandable. Such claims were “intolerable” on purely rationalistic grounds. Jesus refused to compromise, saying, in effect, “take it or leave it”. John tells us that “many” decided to “leave it”. They turned aside from their commitment to Jesus; or, as we would say, “they took their ball and went home” (Jn 6:66).

By contrast, when challenged, the Twelve through their spokesperson, Peter, admitted that despite their confusion they were prepared to stick with Jesus, because Jesus alone “had the words of eternal life” (Jn 6:68).

In Peter and the Twelve, we find our models of discipleship – women and men who, despite doubts and dark moments of uncertainty, choose to stay in the game. Faith is not built entirely on reason – although it is far from completely irrational. It is built on a relationship with a personal God whom we have experienced as one who stays in the game with us. And so, like Peter we stay and say back to God, “To whom [else] can we go?” (Jn 6:68)

Every time I read this gospel story, I am reminded of these words from the prayer of Thomas Merton:

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end...*

*But I know you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.*

Ian J Elmer

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**Baptisms:** We welcome Alexander James Adeney, Zoe Rose Haines, Samson Trieu Ho and Skye Laura Mellor into our Parish Community.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Recently Deceased:** Please pray for Michele O’Brien, Terry McCabe, Peter Van Dijk, Liesa Tjan Erlies Nio, Mary Yap Siew Chang, Maria Stefanelli, Angela McLaren and Evelyn Brand who passed away recently.

**Death Anniversaries:** Please pray for Teresa Nonis, Francesco & Carmela Galati, Phanxico Hoang Thanh Hai, Giuse Hoang Van Hien, Lionel Saverimutto, Domenico Giallorenzo, Julie Montague, Victor A. Pottier, Laura Speldewinde, Rita Awang Lee, Mary Pearly Celestine, Albert Tirtadinata, Elio Pietroboni, Derrick Stephen Long, David Fong, Margaret Bong, Bernard Farrell, Charlotte & Alex Dillion and Wally Vincenti whose anniversaries occur around this time.

# R O S T E R S

## FOR 1ST SEPTEMBER

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo  
 Flowers: Catherine Tan  
 Counters: 1. C Correia      2. T Huxtable      3. D Kumala

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
Acolytes	V Roque	P Cox	P Doray M Braganza (thurifer)
Altar Servers	K Lee J Lee E Antony	B Karczub N Karczub	A Evans S Evans A Hadiyanto
Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	C Nonis A Anthony K Poole L Rego J See L Sequeira M Sequeira	I Kusnadi R Margawani C Price P Price J Randazzo M Saji J Sciorilli	V Tan R Triuntari N Winata S Wong A Aquino P Braganza B Bucat
Catechists			CHILDREN'S LITURGY Michelle Lowth
Readers	L Rego L Rego	C Price P Price	R Sciascia L Papineau
Readers Coordinator: Lilian Sequeira - 9331 5221			

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

### Safeguarding Officers:

- Gerard Joseph (Gerard.safeguarding@gmail.com)
- Derek Choo (Derek.Cchoo.safeguarding@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 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.

### **SAFEGUARDING NOTICES**

A reminder that all **parish workers and volunteers** are required to do the **Safe-guarding Induction Training**.

The online Induction Training takes only 45 minutes to watch and complete.

Alternatively, you can attend the Induction Training at **Palmyra Parish on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 10am.**

Your compliance is necessary and will be greatly appreciated.

### **DISABLED PARKING BAYS.**

Please remember that the disabled parking bays are reserved for those with a valid permit. Kindly avoid parking in these spaces unless you have the appropriate permit. Let's ensure these spots are available for those who genuinely need them. Thank you for your understanding and respect.



### **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 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**

POPE FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE Library of the Apostolic Palace Wednesday, 17 June 2020 [Multimedia] Catechesis on prayer –

#### **8. The prayer of David**

As a shepherd boy, David cared for, fed and protected his sheep. In the solitude, he played his harp and sang to God. As King David, when Nathan pointed to his serious sin, David saw his failure as a shepherd. He had used his power, and took what was not his. The thread running through all of David's life was prayer. David observed that life is a mystery inspiring poetry, music, gratitude, praise and even lament. David is the great artist behind the psalms. He dreamt of being a good shepherd but had both weakness and strength; he is both holy and sinful; persecuted and persecutor; victim and manslayer. He let everything enter dialogue with God. Prayer gives us nobility and is capable of securing our relationship with God. David teaches us to bring everything to God. Prayer is the companion on the journey with every man and woman; amid life's adversities, the good and bad, joy and guilt, love and suffering, friendship and sickness but always prayer: "Thankyou Lord; "I am afraid Lord"; "Help me Lord" and "Forgive me Lord". person unceasingly raises up for humanity, in every place and time in history.

### **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*

13. Signs of hope should also be present for migrants who leave their homelands behind in search of a better life for themselves and for their families. Their expectations must not be frustrated by prejudice and rejection. A spirit of welcome, which embraces everyone with respect for his or her dignity, should be accompanied by a sense of responsibility, lest anyone be denied the right to a dignified existence. Exiles, displaced persons and refugees, whom international tensions force to emigrate in order to avoid war, violence and discrimination, ought to be guaranteed security and access to employment and education, the means they need to find their place in a new social context.

May the Christian community always be prepared to defend the rights of those who are most vulnerable, opening wide its doors to welcome them, lest anyone ever be robbed of the hope of a better future. May the Lord's words in the great parable of the Last Judgement always find an echo in our hearts: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" for "just as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me" (Mt 25:35.40).

## PARISH NEWS

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

Parish Pastoral Council AGM is this Sunday 25th August following 10am mass. Light refreshments follow. If you want to know more about the finances of your planned giving contributions – come along to the AGM. All families and their children are encouraged to attend.

Please check your Flocknote for the 2023/2024 Parish Pastoral Council (Chairman's) Report. Some hard copies are available in the foyer.

### COFFEE GET-TOGETHER – SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024

Coffee get-together is after 10am Mass in the courtyard this coming **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September** (First Sunday of the month). Please note First Saturday evening coffee will be on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September** after 6pm Mass.

Coffee and tea will be in the hall every Sunday morning after 8am Mass.

Please join us, share friendship, and get to know other parishioners. It's a great way to feel welcomed in the parish.

### MORECARE RECOMMITMENT WEEKEND - 31<sup>ST</sup> AUG & 1<sup>ST</sup> SEP 2024

The parish Morecare program offers short-term emergency assistance to people in need in our parish area through the generosity of our parish volunteers. We are indeed grateful for those who volunteered their time and resources to assist those in need over the past 2 years. We're now seeking volunteers to commit or recommit to continue supporting this care program. Information on the program will be provided on the weekend of 31<sup>st</sup> August/1<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024

This weekend (**Sat 24<sup>th</sup> August & Sun 25<sup>th</sup> August**) is **Commitment weekend** for all children making the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The candidates now 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 Reconciliation.

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: 7<sup>TH</sup> 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.

### ALTAR SERVER TRAINING - SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 2PM

The Saint Thomas More Parish is inviting young members of the parish community to become altar servers. This is a wonderful way for children to participate fully in Sunday Mass. We would like to extend this invitation specifically to children from the parish who have recently celebrated their First Holy Communion. The Altar Serving Training Session this year will be held at **2pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024**.

Please take a letter that can be found in the foyer at the back of the church, if your child will be attending, and place the completed form in the box on the table.

## 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".

#### **SEMINAR: AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN MASCULINITY & UNDERSTANDING NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING THROUGH SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY.**

From Pope Francis *Spes Non Confundit* Signs of Hope (9) Papal Bull: Hope entails having enthusiasm for life and a readiness to share it. Openness to life and responsible parenthood is the design that the creator has implanted in the hearts of bodies of men and women.

The parish council will be conducting a **2 – part seminar on**

**Saturday 14 September 10am – 12noon:** Authentic Christian Masculinity & Understanding Natural Family Planning Through Science and Philosophy. Kenneth Phua provides a scriptural based understanding of the nature of manhood and the role of men in society. Mandie Bowen, as chair of the education committee of the Billings Ovulation Method will explain how Natural Family Planning brings harmony and certainty to the married couple. Light refreshments will follow.

#### **R U Ok Day 2024 - SATURDAY/SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup>/15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

The Parish Safeguarding Officers, the Mental Health First Aid group and the Parish Council will be celebrating R U OK Day over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> September.

In preparation we invite parishioners to practice the following three initiatives:

1. Be Grateful and content with what you have; our God loves a cheerful heart.
2. Take good care of yourself, your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
3. Reach out to someone in need, there is more joy in giving than in receiving.

At every weekend mass on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September, we will distribute Ask R U OK? Any daybookmarks and invite parishioners to write the name of another parishioner and present that bookmark to them to show them that you care.

Tea/coffee will also be served after each mass that weekend so that we can share some fellowship with our fellow parishioners.

Thank you and let's strive to make a small difference in someone else's life.

*"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing".- Mother Teresa*