

Sunday Readings

Year B

First Reading - Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Second Reading - James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves. Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel - Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

September 1, 2024

What is in our hearts matter

Having observed that Jesus' disciples were not complying with the religious purification laws of the time which required one to wash one's hands thoroughly before eating, the Pharisees challenged Jesus once again.

Not following those laws meant that the disciples were eating with hands that were deemed to be "unclean" or "impure". The Pharisees were infuriated Jesus appeared to be unconcerned about this matter of ritual purification.

"You hypocrites," Jesus replied. "You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." The hand-washing law, he implied, is a human tradition, a man-made regulation. Jesus threw the challenge back at them: ritual purity is not a matter of cleaning one's hands, he insists, but of purity of heart! He explains: "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile."

By Jesus' time, the rabbis had identified 613 commands that were prescribed in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible), not just the 10 commandments given to Moses. It was the impossible burden of compliance with all 613 commands that prompt-

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

ed the Pharisees, on another occasion, to ask Jesus which was the greatest commandment. With simplicity and clarity, he replied: love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. It is love that is commanded of us as his followers.

Jesus' challenge to the religious leaders also applies to us and to the Church in our time. Jesus firstly challenges all of us as Church to reflect very carefully on the rules and regulations we set before people. Are they God's commandments? Or are they human constructs? Are they in fact burdens that we have imposed on people? Might some of our rules and regulations actually impede people's progress on their faith journey? The rules may be well-intentioned, but they might also be misguided, not in fact closely aligned to God's commands.

Jesus leaves us in no doubt as to what really matters: it is what is in and comes from our hearts. It is, as the Psalmist says, a matter of justice. "One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord." Here is the benchmark! It is justice.

Justice pertains to the way we live our daily lives, how we relate to others; it is right judgement, right intention and right action in all of our dealings.

What I want, says God to the prophet Hosea, is mercy. As Jesus stressed, it is a pure heart that is demanded of us; a heart that lives justly, shows mercy, responds compassionately and loves tenderly. The Letter of James echoes the same message: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only."

Anne Hunt

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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 Denis Lee, Alan Davis, Gerard Chow, Mireille Parker, Agnes Pang, Elio Pietroboni, Derrick Stephen Long, David Fong, Margaret Bong, Bernard Farrell, Nick O'Donnell, Christopher Soames, Rudy Tedjayadi, Louis Fialho, Matthew and Michael Davis whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 8TH SEPTEMBER

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
 Flowers: Rosemary Lui Yeo
 Counters: 1. Henny Setiawan 2. L Thornett 3. M Woolford

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
Acolytes	S Cowman	M Humble	T Roper
Altar Servers	F Lie J Lie J Mar	J Cherian I Lu	A Kan G Winaulin
Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	G Lopez S Teo P Ardianto J Doss D Gareffa C Hoare A Khoo	M Ch'ng M Ch'ng C Cox M de Rozario D Dennis G Dunsford W Goh	A Crossley M Davis P Demberger M Doray A Faleiro S Fialho J Stephen

Catechists CHILDREN'S LITURGY
Michelle Lowth

Readers	L Rego AJ Roque	M Reutens C Tan	C Plottke J To
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Readers Coordinator: Vivian Ng - 0403 161 838

Piety Stall OPEN OPEN OPEN

Safeguarding Officers:

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

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY - SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Safeguarding Sunday gives us the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of Safeguarding within the Church community to create a safe environment for everyone to flourish. Through the Safeguarding program initiative we work together offering support and assistance to build a Church of trust, safety, inclusion, and respect for all, especially our children and adults at risk.

Our Parish has six Safeguarding Officers who have volunteered their services to achieving this goal.

SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

A reminder that all **parish workers and volunteers** are required to do the **Safeguarding 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 19th October 2024 at 10am**. Your compliance is necessary and will be greatly appreciated.

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS - SATURDAY 26TH OCT 2024

Our Parish Annual Significant Wedding Anniversary Mass and Supper will take place on Saturday 26th October 2024 at the 6.00pm Mass followed by a celebratory supper in the parish hall. Couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries such as 1, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 etc years are invited to register their names at the parish office with Heidi on 9310 1747 or email her at bate-man@perthcatholic.org.au by 8th October 2024. For enquiries, please contact Michele Doray on 0416 291 429.



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, 7 October 2020 [Multimedia] Catechesis on prayer – **9. Elijah's prayer**

In the Gospels, Elijah appears with Moses on the Mount of the Transfiguration, bearing witness to Jesus as the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies. Elijah is venerated above all in the monastic tradition as a model of prayer and unshakeable faith amid trials. Prayer and contemplation sustained the Prophet not only in moments of great success but also in the face of adversity and persecution. Elijah teaches us that fervent prayer and union with God cannot be separated from concern for the needs of others. In prayer, he grew in discernment of the Lord's will and found the courage to denounce injustice, even at great personal cost. Elijah's experience of God in prayer culminated, as we know, when the Lord appeared to him not in wind and fire, but in a quiet whisper. May we too, like the Prophet, persevere in prayer, strive to discern God's will every day of our lives, and come to experience, even at times of uncertainty and trial, the consolation of his presence and providential care.

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*

14. The elderly, who frequently feel lonely and abandoned, also deserve signs of hope. Esteem for the treasure that they are, their life experiences, their accumulated wisdom and the contribution that they can still make, is incumbent on the Christian community and civil society, which are called to cooperate in strengthening the covenant between generations.

Here I would also mention grandparents, who represent the passing on of faith and wisdom to the younger generation. May they find support in the gratitude of their children and the love of their grandchildren, who discover in them their roots and a source of understanding and encouragement.

PARISH AGM - THANK YOU

Thank you to those of our parishioners and young families with children who attended the Parish AGM and to those who gave reports. Special thank you to :

- Carol Ann Norris for the report on the leadership and work of Parish Pastoral Council
- Nick Choo for reporting on the finance committee
- Eamon Broderick (Columbarium)
- Damian Ramos (importance of Parish – Corpus Christi College relationship).

Our parish is very blessed to be in good financial position, because of the wonderful support and generous contribution from Bateman parishioners. Your kindness and service to each other strengthens and builds community.

Thank you to our St Thomas More, Bateman Catholic Parish Community. God bless.

PARISH NEWS

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION – FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER AT 6.00PM – 9.00PM

Like Elijah who found God in a gentle breeze, you may wish to spend time with the Lord in the silence of the evening, with the gentleness of the quiet of the night.

COFFEE GET-TOGETHER – SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024

Coffee get-together is after **10.00am Mass** in the courtyard this coming **Sunday 1st September** (First Sunday of the month). Please note First Saturday evening coffee will be on **Saturday 7th September after 6.00pm Mass**.

Coffee and tea will be in the Parish Hall every Sunday morning after 8.00am 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 - 31ST AUG & 1ST 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 31st August/1st September 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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 26TH OCTOBER 2024

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.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING - SATURDAY 14TH 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 14th 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.

WORLD DAY OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS - SUN 29TH SEP AT 10AM

We will be commemorating this event at the **10.00am Mass** on **Sunday 29th September 2024** in a special way. We are encouraging parishioners to attend Mass, dressed in national costumes or national colours. If you would like to assist by reading a prayer during the Prayer of Faithful in your own language, please contact Michele Doray on 0416 291 429.

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".

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. Children are welcome.

R U Ok Day 2024 - SATURDAY/SUNDAY 14TH/15TH 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 14th/15th 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 14th and 15th 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