

Sunday Readings

Year B

First Reading - Isaiah 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Say to all faint hearts,

‘Courage! Do not be afraid. ‘Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Second Reading - James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, ‘Come this way to the best seats’; then you tell the poor man, ‘Stand over there’ or ‘You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.’ Can’t you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel - Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man’s ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, ‘Ephphatha,’ that is, ‘Be opened.’ And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. ‘He has done all things well,’ they said ‘he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.’

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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

September 8, 2024

Don't ignore the 'unworthy'

It’s difficult not to make distinctions. Invariably, we favour some people over others. For example: we choose our friends, we choose a person to be our husband or wife, we choose ‘sides’ in disputes, we choose to avoid some people, and we choose to forgive some people and condemn others.

In the second reading, St James calls on believers never to make distinctions or show favour on the basis of social class, wealth, position, status or power. Everyone is to be treated equally regardless of their social background, and when it comes to worship, there are to be no seats of honour set aside for VIPs! Everyone ought to feel equally welcome and valued.

St Paul has a similar vision. In his letter to the Galatians (3:28) he declares that in virtue of baptism, “there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

Jesus doesn’t make distinctions based on social class. In fact, the gospels portray him as having particular concern for the poor, the outcast, the voiceless, the afflicted, the vulnerable and the weak. Today’s gospel is a classic example. A deaf man with a

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

speech impediment is brought to Jesus by his friends.

In such an oral and aural culture where people were generally illiterate, not to be able to speak or hear properly was a significant disadvantage. Such people were virtually invisible. They couldn't communicate, and they couldn't be communicated with, in any meaningful way. Thankfully, the man in the story is blessed to have caring friends who bring him to Jesus who has a reputation for giving new life.

Jesus gives very personal attention to the man. He takes him away from the crowd, so that they can be alone. Although the man can't hear or speak, he *can* experience the sense of touch, and so Jesus touches his ears, puts his fingers into them, and touches the man's tongue with his own spittle. Jesus also looks up to heaven, in prayer, for it was Jesus' relationship with God that will bring new life to the man.

It's important to remember that the man was not a Jew. The Decapolis ("ten cities") was predominantly Gentile territory. But, there's no distinction here. Jesus is the Messiah for all nations. He saw a brother in need, and in solidarity, lovingly reached out to him.

St James challenges us to 'look around' our faith community. Do we see any unhealthy favouritism? Are there people being forgotten, ignored or made to feel unwelcome? Are there voices not being heard? Are there people being discouraged from sharing their gifts and talents, or from becoming involved? Are people's contributions being devalued? Hopefully, such things are not happening; however, it's important for us all to 'keep our eyes and ears open'.

David J Hore CSsR
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PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Please pray for Fr Augustine Thomas Pandara-Parambil, Rusman Effendi, Louise Chee, Tan Kia Hong, Michele O'Brien, Terry McCabe, Peter Van Dijk, Liesa Tjan Erlies Nio and Mary Yap Siew Chang who passed away recently.

Death Anniversaries:

Please pray for Stephen Yeap Kok Loy, Tomislav Nikolic, Anthony Lee, Anna Lim, Mireille Parker, Agnes Pang, Rudy Tedjayadi, Louis Fialho, Lawrence Townsend, Kathleel (Connie) Doig, Violet Shreeve, Matthew and Michael Davis whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 15TH SEPTEMBER

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
 Flowers: Justina Voon
 Counters: 1. P Golding 2. S Lau 3. P Murray

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
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Acolytes	V Tan	R Norris	M Braganza
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Altar Servers	J Poole M Poole A D'Monte	B Karczub N Karczub	G Chua A Demberger E Gatchalian
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Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	E Fernandez A Loo M Magnussen L McMinn P McMinn V Ng C Nonis	I Kusnadi T Santoso R Margawani C Price P Price M Saji J Sciorilli	P Fraser J Lim A Lu F May J Mohan S Cataldo-Nikolic C Poore
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Catechists	CHILDREN'S LITURGY Michelle Lowth		
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Readers	L Sequeira M Sequeira	D Dennis G Dunsford	K Wasley B Bucat
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Readers Coordinator: Lilian Sequeira - 9331 5221

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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.

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.

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).
- Vivian Chua. A warm welcome to Vivian – new member of the Parish pastoral Council and mother of 5 young children.

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

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 Paul VI Audience Hall Wednesday, 14 October 2020 Catechesis: **10. The prayer of the Psalms. 1**

The Book of Psalms, which can be considered a great treasury of prayers. The Psalms teach us to pray to God in words that he himself has given us. In them, we encounter the entire gamut of human emotions, from praise, petition and joyful thanksgiving to anguished supplication for deliverance from life's bitter disappointments and sorrows. The Psalms teach us that God is not deaf to our prayers, especially those that arise from a broken heart and a troubled spirit. The Psalmist's repeated cry, "How long, Lord?", is itself an acknowledgment that, amid our every trial and tribulation, God hears our voice and never abandons us. As a loving Father, he weeps for our sufferings in this world, yet 3 in his wisdom he has a saving plan for each of us. The Psalms are thus a guide to growth in the practice of prayer. They open our hearts to ever deeper hope in God's providential care; they confirm our trust in his promises, and they inspire us to persevere on our life-long journey of faith in his word.

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*

15. I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the *poor*, who often lack the essentials of life. Before the constant tide of new forms of impoverishment, we can easily grow inured and resigned. Yet we must not close our eyes to the dramatic situations that we now encounter all around us, not only in certain parts of the world. Each day we meet people who are poor or impoverished; they may even be our next-door neighbours. Often they are homeless or lack sufficient food for the day. They suffer from exclusion and indifference on the part of many. It is scandalous that in a world possessed of immense resources, destined largely to producing weapons, the poor continue to be "the majority of the planet's population, billions of people. These days they are mentioned in international political and economic discussions, but one often has the impression that their problems are brought up as an afterthought, a question which gets added almost out of duty or in a tangential way, if not treated merely as collateral damage. Indeed, when all is said and done, they frequently remain at the bottom of the pile". [7] Let us not forget: the poor are almost always the victims, not the ones to blame.

COFFEE GET-TOGETHER – SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Coffee get-together is after **6.00PM Mass** in the courtyard this coming **Saturday 7th September** (First Saturday of the month). 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.

PARISH NEWS

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: 7TH SEPTEMBER 2024

This Saturday 7th September, 66 Parish children will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with our Parish Priest, Fr Phong Nguyen as celebrant. Confirmation Mass is at 3pm on Saturday.

Please remember to support our children being received into the church this weekend with your prayers.

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.

CHAPLETS OF THE DIVINE MERCY - WEDNESDAY 11TH SEP AT 7.30PM

A beautiful, prayerful, sung devotion held in our church on the second Wednesday of each month. The next devotion will be held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 commencing at 7.30 pm. Enquiries to George Lopez on 0419 910 039.

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.

MORECARE RECOMMITMENT WEEKEND

For those who missed the opportunity to complete the commitment sheets last weekend, the sheets are still available in the foyer under Morecare. Please fill in and drop them in the collection box in the foyer. Morecare volunteers who would like to continue serving those in need in our community, please fill in the recommitment sheet and drop them in the collection box. Thank for your continual support to assist Morecare by signing up as volunteers.

An orientation evening for Morecare volunteers is on Thursday 12th September at 7.30pm in the parish hall.

SVDP FOOD SALE - SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2024

Our food sale will be on Sunday 22nd September 2024. Please come & support us. Any donations of food/enquiries, please contact Winnie 0421 601 095.

PARISH NEWS

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

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.

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS - SAT 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 bateman@perthcatholic.org.au by **Tuesday 8th October 2024.**

For enquiries, please contact **Michele Doray on 0416 291 429.**