

# Sunday Readings

Year B

## First Reading - Deuteronomy 6:2-6

### A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

## Second Reading - Hebrews 7:23-28

### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

## Gospel - Mark 12:28-34

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

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

# 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*

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

November 3, 2024

## *God's love is written on our hearts*

From the moment in Chapter 12 of the Book of Genesis when God promises salvation to Abraham, the story of the Old Testament people is one of them repeatedly being called to faithfulness. In the Book of Deuteronomy, we listen to Moses, who having just received the Ten Commandments, now tells the people not to regard these Commandments as a list of instructions to be obeyed, but words to be written on their hearts.

When Jesus is questioned by the scribe about which is the first of the commandments, without hesitation, Jesus sums it all up by reminding him that everything begins and ends with the love of God and our neighbour. Happily, and for once with one of the scribes, the conversation ends in agreement and Jesus is able to assure him that he is "not far from the Kingdom of God." Notably the scribe has recognised that love is more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.

I suggest that here we have a fruitful focus for our meditation. The Law of God is not there to make life difficult for us or to catch us out, but when it is written on our hearts, it enables us to live a life of love: to live life to the full. When Jesus came into

## 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

our world he presented us with a wholly new vision of God. He reveals that God is a Father who has created us for love and in sending his Son has shown us the ultimate meaning of sacrifice, for we now know that we have a God who *literally* loves us to death.

Accordingly, in the letter to the Hebrews the nature of priesthood and sacrifice is explored. Christ has made the ultimate sacrifice “once and for all.” Now it is up to us to imitate his sacrificial form of loving by recognising that love is the emptying of ourselves so that we can give ourselves completely to God and our neighbour. That is precisely why we gather each Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist: the memorial of Christ’s sacrifice and the means whereby he fulfils his promise to be with us always; the means whereby he unites us with himself and one another by feeding us with himself.

Jesus assured us the Holy Spirit would lead us to all truth: the truth about God, about ourselves and about the world around us. At each Eucharist we invoke the Holy Spirit to make Christ present so that we can indeed be transformed into his Body and be able to proclaim a message of love, hope, compassion and reconciliation to a world which so desperately needs more people to have God’s word written on their hearts.

When we are sent forth from the Eucharist this weekend, may it be with renewed confidence that God’s word is written large on our hearts.

Timothy J Buckley CSsR  
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**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Recently Deceased:**

Please pray for Carmel (Charles) Busuttill, Daisy Pereira, Maria Collica and Rosalba Capurso who passed away recently.

**Death Anniversaries:**

Please pray for Hilda Clinton, Des Humphreys, Agnes Pang, Leticia Del Castillo, Gloria Randazzo, Emily Rose Singam, Rosa Francis, Charles De Souza, Anthony Bong and Fatima Bong whose anniversaries occur around this time.

# R O S T E R S

## FOR 10TH NOVEMBER

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo  
 Flowers: Rosemary Lui Yeo  
 Counters: 1. I Basuki                      2. T Basuki                      3. T Santoso

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
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Acolytes	N Rojan J Nonis (assistant)	R Norris	P Doray
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Altar Servers	S Buntoro T Jomy J Mar	B Karczub N Karczub I Lu	R Anwar G Chua
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Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	P McMinn	I Kusnadi	G Prasetyo
	L McMinn	T Santoso	P Fraser
	V Ng	C Price	J Lim
	C Nonis	P Price	J Louie
	R Oetomo	J Randazzo	M Davis
	K Poole	J Sciorilli	F May
	G Lopez	R Margawani	J Mohan T Rudianto

Catechists	CHILDREN’S LITURGY Michelle Lowth		
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Readers	A De Sousa M Craggs	G Dunsford J Kearney	M Costello B Bucat
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Readers Coordinator: Michele Doray - 9310 4051

<b>Piety Stall</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
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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 & 2025, 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:

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 9am: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December at 9am: The Holy Innocents
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December at 9am: Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 9.00am: Solemnity of St Patrick

**PARISH MASSES:** *With attendance of students from Corpus Christi College*  
**Thursday 9am Masses:** 7<sup>th</sup> November, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 28<sup>th</sup> November and 5<sup>th</sup> December

### 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.

### MARY GOLDING'S RECOGNITION EVENING

Dear past and current RCIA Candidates, Catechists, and Sponsors,

We are delighted to invite you to a special evening in honour of **Mary Golding**, as we celebrate her remarkable **30 years of dedicated service to the RCIA program** at St. Thomas More Parish. Mary has been a guiding light for so many on their journey of faith, and this evening is an opportunity to show our appreciation for her tireless commitment and support. It would be wonderful to have as many past RCIA candidates, catechists, and sponsors as possible join us for this celebration. If you know of anyone else who might like to attend, please feel free to pass the invitation along.

Date: **Thursday, 14th November 2024** Time: **6.30pm**

Location: **St. Thomas More Parish Hall, Bateman**

RSVP by Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to [bateman@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:bateman@perthcatholic.org.au) or 9310 1747 to ensure we can prepare for this special event.



Catholic Mission & the Centre for Liturgy invites Bateman parishioners to the **2024 Advent Reflection on Modern Slavery**. Titled, 'A Season for Hope', this is a beautiful classical & sacred music event, performed by some of

Perth's premier musicians at **St Mary's Cathedral on Monday 25 November**. Gathering at 6.30pm for a **7pm start**, this concert will shine a light on the problem of modern slavery and on what we can do to eradicate its impact on the lives of vulnerable people. So please book a ticket to this inspirational musical experience by going online to <https://www.trybooking.com/CVWHK>. We look forward to seeing you there and celebrating together a start to the season of Hope that is Advent.

## PARISH NEWS

### 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 - Anchored in hope*

23. Indeed, the indulgence is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy. Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms "mercy" and "indulgence" were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God's forgiveness, which knows no bounds.

The sacrament of Penance assures us that God wipes away our sins. We experience those powerful and comforting words of the Psalm: "It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion... The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy... He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins" (Ps 103:3-4.8.10-12). The sacrament of Reconciliation is not only a magnificent spiritual gift, but also a decisive, essential and fundamental step on our journey of faith. There, we allow the Lord to erase our sins, to heal our hearts, to raise us up, to embrace us and to reveal to us his tender and compassionate countenance. There is no better way to know God than to let him reconcile us to himself (cf. 2 Cor 5:20) and savour his forgiveness. Let us not neglect Confession, but rediscover the beauty of this sacrament of healing and joy, the beauty of God's forgiveness of our sins!

Still, as we know from personal experience, every sin "leaves its mark". Sin has consequences, not only outwardly in the effects of the wrong we do, but also inwardly, inasmuch as "every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death, in the state called Purgatory". [18] In our humanity, weak and attracted by evil, certain residual effects of sin remain. These are removed by the indulgence, always by the grace of Christ, who, as Saint Paul VI wrote, "is himself our 'indulgence'". [19] The Apostolic Penitentiary will issue norms for obtaining and rendering spiritually fruitful the practice of the Jubilee indulgence.

This experience of full forgiveness cannot fail to open our hearts and minds to the need to forgive others in turn. Forgiveness does not change the past; it cannot change what happened in the past, yet it can allow us to change the future and to live different lives, free of anger, animosity and vindictiveness. Forgiveness makes possible a brighter future, which enables us to look at the past with different eyes, now more serene, albeit still bearing the trace of past tears.

For the last Extraordinary Jubilee, I commissioned Missionaries of Mercy, and these continue to carry out an important mission. During the coming Jubilee, may they exercise their ministry by reviving hope and offering forgiveness whenever a sinner comes to them with an open heart and a penitent spirit. May they remain a source of reconciliation and an encouragement to look to the future with heartfelt hope inspired by the Father's mercy. I encourage bishops to take advantage of their precious ministry, especially by sending them wherever hope is sorely tested: to prisons, hospitals, and places where people's dignity is violated, poverty abounds and social decay is prevalent. In this Jubilee Year, may no one be deprived of the opportunity to receive God's forgiveness and consolation.

# 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, 9 December 2020[Multimedia] Catechesis on prayer - **18. The prayer of petition**

The Catechism explains that in every prayer we ask for the coming of God's 3 Kingdom in our lives and in our world. Jesus taught us to pray to our heavenly Father, acknowledging our total dependence on him and trusting entirely in his providential care, even at the darkest moments in our lives. Prayer of petition arises naturally in human hearts. In the Bible we see countless prayers to God to intervene in the face of our helplessness before situations of sickness, injustice, betrayal and despair. Even the simple cry, "Lord, help me!" is itself a powerful prayer. God always hears the cry of those who call upon him. Saint Paul tells us that our prayers echo the yearning of all creation for the coming of the Kingdom (cf. Rom 8:22-24) and the fulfilment of God's saving plan. We make our prayers of petition with confidence in him who has triumphed over all evil through the cross and resurrection of his Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit, who intercedes on our behalf and quietly works to transform all things.

## NOVEMBER BOOK AND ENVELOPES

During the month of November, all Masses will be offered for the Deceased. Please write the names of the deceased that you want to pray for in the Book of "Remembrance" available in the foyer. Also, the November envelopes are available on the table in the church foyer, should you wish to offer Masses for all your loved ones who have died. These envelopes can be dropped into the collection baskets at any weekend Mass and will be placed in a box at the foot of the altar for the whole month of November.

## COFFEE GET-TOGETHER - FIRST SAT 2<sup>ND</sup> & SUN 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

1. **First Saturday Evening Coffee - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024**  
(Immediately after 6pm Mass)
2. **First Sunday Morning Coffee - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024**  
(Immediately after 10am Mass)

This Sunday, after the 10 am Mass, **the Knights of the Southern Cross** will be serving up freshly brewed coffee and snacks. We'd love for you to join us for a cuppa. It's a perfect chance to catch up with fellow parishioners and have a yarn with a Knight.

3. **Every Sunday morning after 8.00am Mass**, coffee and tea will be in the Parish Hall.

## RETREAT DAY - SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

Save the date! To help prepare for the Jubilee Year of Hope, Dr Pina Ford will be conducting a one-day retreat in our parish. More information to come.

## CHAPLETS OF THE DIVINE MERCY - WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOV 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 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 commencing at 7.30 pm. Enquiries to George Lopez on 0419 910 039.

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Catholic schools have been a part of the West Australian community for more than 150 years. Parents choose a Catholic education for their child because these schools are affordable, easy to access and provide quality education in a caring and supportive environment. Regardless of which Catholic school you choose for your child you will find a welcoming community with excellent teachers and a Christ-centred and child-focused learning environment. The schools are an important part of the life of our parish and students are support in their faith journey by the committed teachers at each school. If you are interested in enrolling at a school we have representatives here today from Corpus Christi College.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1. Congratulations to the 50 students from both Corpus Christi College and the Parish R.E. Program who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024. As Parish Priest, and on behalf of the parishioners of St Thomas More Parish, I would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of this very important celebration. Whilst so many people are involved and their efforts are so much appreciated, I would especially like to thank the children's teachers, Mrs Lis Stalley, Mr Jeremiah Jackson and Mr Josh Antulov for the children's preparation. Special thanks also to Simon Overton, Katya Anderson, Carma de Groot and Danielle Damjanovic from Corpus Christi College, Parish Religious Education Coordinator, Clara Law, Fr Anibal Leite Da Cunha and Fr John Martis who assisted in the celebration. May God continue to bless the students who made their first reconciliation and their parents.
2. Congratulations to all our wonderful couples who celebrated their **significant wedding anniversaries** last weekend. Your commitment to your spouse is a great witness to the Sacrament of Marriage. Collectively we celebrated over 800 years of marriage.

We would like to thank the following individuals, parish committee and group of people who have assisted in this special celebration:

- Fr. Anibal Da Leite Cunha
  - Members of the Parish Office Staff – Heidy Lu, Ratinda Oetomo, and Clara Law.
  - Members of the Parish Liturgy Committee led by Michele Doray
  - Members of the Marriage Encounter – Richard and Carol Ann Norris, Max and Annie Mayes, Peter and Clare Cox.
3. Over 140 **volunteers** came together last Friday evening to enjoy fellowship together. Our parish could not function as efficiently as it does, without the commitment of the many volunteers who work hard and consistently to deliver services to the Saint Thomas More parish community. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all members of the Parish Pastoral Council led by Carol Ann Norris for their enthusiasm, their time, and tremendous work in preparation for such a joyful evening.

Thank you everyone and God bless!  
Fr. Phong