

# Sunday Readings

Year C

## First Reading - Jeremiah 33:14-16

### A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: ‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’

## Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

### A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

## Gospel - Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

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

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

# 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*

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C

December 1, 2024

## *The coming of the kingdom*

At the year's end, God comes – Christ is coming – as a baby at Christmas, coming into the dailiness of our lives, and at the end of time. It may seem odd at the beginning of Advent to hear Jesus speak of the second coming, but when Jesus says we're to watch and stay awake, he doesn't say it to play on our fears. Instead, he calls us to be alert to the signs of God's presence in our lives, encouraging us to have faith in God who is present in the person with whom we are talking, and in the smallest act, though we may only come to understand this sometime later.

As we grow in our faith, his coming 'with power and glory' will seem less a fearful prospect than the moment of our liberation.

One way we can prepare for it, says Jesus, is not to let the cares of life overwhelm us. But what might we say to the woman with a life-threatening illness who said recently: 'My mental health is an ongoing battle because I live in the unknown. I'm scared every time I get sick. I live in fear.'

Her words speak to us whenever we find ourselves adrift in the unknown, where nothing makes sense anymore and everything we've done to secure our future is

## 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

called into question. Often our fears are disabling, and we wonder where we might find help to face them. This is what Jesus is offering us in the gospel, the gift of himself; and receiving it, in turn we're asked to give it away. It's what the vivid, apocalyptic language of the gospel seeks to do: to help us be more aware of God's presence in our lives.

As we gradually grow into this awareness through prayer and our being with one another, when God's kingdom is revealed in its glory at the end of time, we will find ourselves able to stand with confidence before the Son of Man and we will be with God forever. This is the liberation of which Jesus speaks.

In the first reading, while the false prophets speak only of doom and gloom in the face of exile and what seems like impending disaster, Jeremiah re-assures the people that God will remain true to his promises and send them a ruler of honesty and integrity. Enabled to face what is happening, alert to God's presence, the prophet discovers there, not simply an end, but a new beginning.

In the second reading, Paul describes the life we're called to live in preparation for Christ's coming again. Whatever our differences, loving one another in a community of hope reveals the life of Christ to us and to 'the whole human race.'

Whenever this happens, God's kingdom is made real on earth, as in heaven. It's the coming of the kingdom both now and in the future: it's the promise of Advent.

Damian Coleridge  
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**Baptisms:** We welcome Sophia Bernadette Chua into our Parish Community.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Recently Deceased:**

Please pray for Emmy Mulyati who passed away recently.

**Death Anniversaries:**

Please pray for Arrigo Rottigni, Zorka & Ante Blaskovich, Fredrick Ronald Clements, Lourdes Wellington, Marjorie Richardson, Elizabeth Van Dijk, Alan William Sullivan, Chuan Fook Yuen, John Patrick Willis, Guido Mancini, Joseph Pittorino and Brenda Ring whose anniversaries occur around this time.

# R O S T E R S

## FOR 8TH DECEMBER

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo  
 Flowers: Elda Ruoss  
 Counters: 1. P Golding      2. T Huxtable      3. L Thornett

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
Acolytes	S Dass	C Goh	A Louie
Altar Servers	F Lie J Lie	B Karczub N Karczub I Lu	A Demberger E Gatchalian A Hadiyanto
Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	A Ruban J See L Sequeira M Sequeira S Teo A Anthony O D'Mello	I Kusnadi T Santoso C Price P Price J Randazzo J Sciorilli C Cox	M Davis J Mohan G Prasetyo E Ross T Rudianto L Saverimutto M Sugijono V Sutijono
Catechists			CHILDREN'S LITURGY Michelle Lowth
Readers	V Ng G Munro	C Morzenti E Orr	K Lingoh M Fely
Readers Coordinator: Michele Doray - 9310 4051			

**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 & 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:** 5<sup>th</sup> December 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.

### SUPPORT PERUVIAN WOMEN

On the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December, the Sisters of Joseph of the Sacred Heart (Mary MacKillop) will be selling Peruvian items to support poor women in Peru. The items are from a fair-trade company, and both card and cash payments are accepted. Thank you for your support!

### THE ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR LIFELINK

Please collect the Archbishop's Appeal Letter and one of the special giving envelopes available in the Church Foyer.

We urge you to give generously to help the work of our Archdiocesan agencies which reach out to care for our brothers and sisters struggling in the community.

Please mail your gift in the reply-paid envelope provided or return your envelope and donation to the parish at any time over the coming weeks.

## YOUTH DIOCESAN NEWS

### ADVENT RETREAT - WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024



Join Scottish priest Fr Stuart Chalmers for a half-day Advent retreat as we prepare for Christmas. The theme will be 'Leading to the Light', drawing on the writings of St John of the Cross, who thought deeply about how to deal with difficulties in the spiritual life.

This retreat is open to all young people aged 18+ and is hosted by the Chaplaincy Team at The University of Notre Dame Australia.

Date: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December Time: 9am - 2pm

Location: Meet at the Holy Spirit Chapel, 38 Mouat Street, Fremantle WA 6160

FREE admission for Notre Dame students and \$10 for general admission.

Please RSVP by 2 December 2024: <https://events.nd.edu.au/leading-to-the-light>

## PARISH NEWS

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY - 24<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2024

The Christmas Committee have commenced organising the Children's Christmas Eve Outdoor Mass. So, we are now encouraging all primary aged children, who would like to participate in the Nativity to please register. We are looking for 3 majestic kings and lots of angels and shepherds. We request that the children be available for rehearsal to be included in the Mass.

***The Children's Christmas Eve Outdoor Mass will be held on Tuesday, 24th December at 6:30pm.***

The Nativity rehearsal will be held on: **Monday, 23 December at 9:00am at the St. Thomas More Catholic Church Hall.** Please use the following QR code to register your interest or contact Brenella on 0418 877 791 with your child's name and current year level.

Specific help in the following areas is also required –

1. We will require a couple of older primary/ younger secondary aged students to assist as readers.
2. Any parent wishing to assist with the play will also be welcomed.

Thank you.



### WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE OUTDOOR MASS

Dear Parishioners, Christmas is a time for giving, and again this year we need the gift of your time. To assist our Parish Community celebrates Christmas in a special way, we are seeking your kind assistance.

We need the following helpers to prepare for our Christmas Outdoor Mass:

**To help set up at 8.00am on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

20 Helpers to put the chairs out

**To help out before Mass:**

10 Greeters

**To help out during Mass:**

20 Collectors

22 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

**To help out after Mass:**

10 people to assist with the basket gifts

10 people to assist with directing people in the College Auditorium where to put the chairs

To register your assistance, please use the following QR code to register or put your name down on the list at the back of the church or email Heidi, our Parish Secretary at: [bateman@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:bateman@perthcatholic.org.au)



### 2024 CHRISTMAS FLYERS FOR DISTRIBUTION THIS WEEKEND

2024 Christmas flyers is ready for distribution this weekend. They are packed in bundles of 50. Are your walking shoes ready? Please take some and mark on the map the areas you are covering. Please also invite your neighbours and friends to our Christmas celebrations. This is a wonderful opportunity to evangelise in the community.

## 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)

**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, 3 February 2021 Catechesis on prayer -

#### 23. Praying in the liturgy

We now turn to the sacred liturgy, the Church's public prayer. The Second Vatican Council stressed the importance of the liturgy, together with personal prayer, for the spiritual life of Christians. Indeed, all Christian spirituality is grounded in the celebration of the sacred mysteries, in which Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, becomes present in the midst of his people through the mediation of the sacramental signs of bread and wine, water and oil. Just as, in the Incarnation, the Son of God took flesh and dwelt among us, so too he now becomes present in all his saving power, through the liturgical celebration of word and sacrament. Our personal prayer is meant to interiorize and draw enrichment from the spiritual treasures of the Church's liturgical prayer. Because the liturgy is the source and summit of our Christian prayer, all of us are called to take an active part in this great act of worship, by offering our own lives in union with Christ as a holy and pleasing sacrifice to the Father.

### PREPARING FOR JUBILEE

- The parish is offering opportunities to prepare for the Jubilee of Hope: **Overnight Adoration** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. (*Details in the Bulletin - next page*)
- **Building community: Tea and coffee will be available after 10am mass every Sunday in Advent.** (Tea and Coffee is available after 8am mass every Sunday throughout the year in the hall)

Sharing a cup of tea together encourages community building by sharing time and friendship together – a great way to prepare for the Jubilee year of hope.

## PARISH NEWS

### RCIA CATECHUMEN BLESSING - SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DEC 2024 10AM MASS

Please pray for our catechumens.

### ADVENT SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION SERVICE – WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.00PM

Our Parish Advent 2nd Rite of Reconciliation Service will be held on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.00pm**. There will be many priests from the neighbouring parishes to assist us in this service, so please invite your family and friends to come along to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas.

*The following parishes have advised their Advent Reconciliation Services: Willetton Parish: 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024 at 7.00pm.*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation gives us an opportunity to come together as community and support each other spiritually. The rite includes an examination of conscience to help prepare well for the sacrament. Families are encouraged to bring their children.

### OVERNIGHT ADORATION - FIRST FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 6PM – 6AM

This Spiritual exercise of Strength and endurance helps prepare the parish for the Jubilee year. If you experience wakefulness or can't get to sleep, please take advantage of the quiet and stillness of late evening and early morning to spend time with the Lord exposed in the monstrance. You may decide to wake up intentionally for early morning prayer! Resources will be on the back table. Tea and Coffee will be available in the meeting room kitchen.

### CHAPLETS OF THE DIVINE MERCY - WED 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

A beautiful, prayerful, sung devotion held in our church on the second Wednesday of each month. The last devotion for the year will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 commencing at 7.30 pm. As it is the last devotion for the year, it will be followed by refreshments, so please bring along a plate of finger foods to share.

Enquiries to George Lopez on 0419 910 039.

### SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH - THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 11AM

St Thomas More parish will be holding a Christmas lunch for seniors on 26<sup>th</sup> December, Thursday 11 am- 2.30 pm.

You will be entertained by our very own parish Ukelele Group with Christmas carols & favourite songs. There will be games & prizes too! Please bring a \$15 gift to exchange. Food is provided but you are welcome to bring a dish. Kindly indicate your dish to avoid duplications. Please register at the foyer to join us for the fun, food & singing before 22<sup>nd</sup> December!

### ALL SOULS DAY - THANK YOU

Thank you all for your kind support for the grieving families, the volunteers for assisting in the event & especially the parish Floral Arrangement team for their lovely weekly flower arrangements.

As we come to the end of November, the photos may be collected from this weekend onwards, either from the display table or the All Souls Day box in the foyer.

A special thank you to Angela Watts for organising the photo display and the refreshments for the bereaved families.

If you need further support, please do not hesitate to contact the parish or the Bereavement Support Group. God bless you & your family.