

Sunday Readings

Year C

First Reading - Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God;

for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Second Reading - Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel - Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C

December 8, 2024

Preparing a way for the Lord

One of British street artist Banksy's famous pictures is *The Flower Thrower*. In this powerful image of peaceful resistance, a figure leans backwards with his arm poised to throw an object. A similar figure in other protest posters would be poised to hurl a violent projectile. Instead, Banksy subverts a potentially violent image with his figure holding a bouquet of colourful flowers.

John the Baptist emerges from the wilderness, clothed in camel's hair, surviving on a diet of locusts and honey. His wild appearance is juxtaposed against his peaceful, steadfast call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins. He calls people to turn towards the One who is coming, the One who will be the embodiment of all that John currently preaches.

Jesus's spiritual kingship subverts and overturns all notions of a powerful earthly leader who dominates his subjects and rules with power. Indeed, the God whom John proclaims not only meets his people in love but also accompanies them all the way to the cross. Jesus embodies a love which is tender and compassionate but

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

which is also fiercely committed to accompaniment and solidarity with us, in the entirety of life's circumstances.

Philosopher Hannah Arendt explained that power is the human ability not just to act, but to act in concert (On Violence, 1969). In contrast to conventional notions of power, she held that power is the ability to communicate and cooperate, not to coerce and dominate.

In contemporary times, John's call to prepare for the Lord's coming, by making rough roads smooth so that humanity will see the salvation of the Lord can perhaps be heard in the voices calling to us from the margins: the voices of women, LBGTIQ+ sisters and brothers, ethnic minorities, victims of abuse, and those fleeing persecution among others. We are invited to welcome everyone with compassion, to collaborate and stand with them. Together, we are witnesses to a community of faith which is united by love.

Building God's kingdom is almost always an uphill struggle, yet it helps to hold fast to the vision that his kingdom is both "now and not yet" and to persist with our efforts for mercy, justice and unity.

In the first reading, the prophet Baruch uses the metaphor of beauty to encourage Jerusalem to hold fast to its vision of God: Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress; put on the beauty of the glory of God forever.

In challenging times, a helpful way to remind ourselves of the presence of God is to notice and rejoice in the beauty which surrounds us, to recognise God's presence, amidst our struggles. French philosopher Simone Weill in *Waiting for God* describes it quite profoundly: The beautiful is the experiential proof that the incarnation is possible ... "Christ is really present in the universal beauty ... the beauty of this world is Christ's tender smile coming to us."

Sophie Clements
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PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased:

Please pray for Jahja Kristijanto Atmodjo who passed away recently.

Death Anniversaries:

Please pray for Guido Mancini, Giulio Rosa, Irma Rosa, William James Mowatt, Alberto Motroni, Nora Mol, Dominico, Maria, and Matthew whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 15TH DECEMBER

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
 Flowers: Catherine Tan
 Counters: 1. J Pereira 2. A Vinci 3. M Woolford

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
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Acolytes	J Nonis	R Norris	P Doray
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Altar Servers	M Poole A D'Monte R Roki	J Cherian A Evans S Evans	A Kan G Winaulin J Winaulin
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Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	A De Souza J Doss A Khoo A Loo M Magnussen S Teo	M Saji M Ch'ng M Ch'ng B D'Cruz M de Rozario D Dennis W Goh	E Tandy R Triuntari N Winata J Stephen S Wong A Aquino V Tan F May
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Catechists	CHILDREN'S LITURGY Michelle Lowth		
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Readers	M Sequeira L Sequeira	C Price P Price	R Sciascia L Papineau
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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 & 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 9th December at 9am: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday 28th December at 9am: The Holy Innocents
- Monday 30th December at 9am: Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
- Monday 17th March 2025 at 9.00am: Solemnity of St Patrick

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.

OFFICE CLOSURE - 20TH DECEMBER 2024 TILL 21ST JANUARY 2025

Dear Parishioners,

As we journey through the holy season of Advent and prepare for the celebration of Christmas, please be informed that the parish office will be closed from **20th December 2024 to 21st January 2025**. Normal office hours will resume on **22nd January 2025**. During this time of reflection, hope, and joy, we wish you all a blessed Advent and Christmas, and a peaceful New Year. Thank you for your understanding and continued support throughout the year. May this Advent season bring you peace. With thanks and regards, Fr Phong

ALL SOULS DAY PHOTOS

Please collect all the photos from the All Souls Day box in the foyer.

SUPPORT PERUVIAN WOMEN - SAT 7TH & SUN 8TH DECEMBER 2024

On the weekend of 7th and 8th 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!

ADVENT RITE OF RECONCILIATION SERVICE

The following parishes have advised their Advent Reconciliation Services:

- Willetton Parish (Second Rite) - Wed 11th December 2024 at 7.00pm
- Attadale Parish (First Rite) - Wed 18th December 2024 at 6.00pm

SVDP FOOD DONATION AT CHRISTMAS OUTDOOR MASS

Please bring NON-PERISHABLE food at Christmas Outdoor Mass. There will be food baskets placed near the altar. Thank you for your donation.

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.

PARISH NEWS

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY - 24TH 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 24th 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***

CHAPLETS OF THE DIVINE MERCY - WED 11TH 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 11th 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.

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

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, 10 February 2021 Catechesis on prayer - **24. Prayer in daily life**

We now consider how our prayerful dialogue with God is meant to embrace the events of each day, in our homes, daily chores or work. All our thoughts and activities should be a part of our daily conversation with the Lord. The Catechism teaches that "it is in the present that we encounter God, not yesterday or tomorrow, but today" (No. 2659). There is no aspect of our everyday lives, however mundane, that cannot be offered in prayer to God and become an occasion of deeper union with him. As we come to know Christ more intimately in prayer, our hearts are expanded to embrace in love and solidarity all those around us, above all the poor, the unhappy and those in need. Blaise Pascal once observed that human beings are so frail that even a drop of water can destroy us (cf. Thoughts, No. 347). Yet in our fragility, prayer is a mark of our supreme grandeur, for prayer can work miracles in our world, transform lives and history, and serve the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace.

PREPARING FOR JUBILEE - 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.

FIRST SATURDAY EVENING COFFEE - SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2024

Saturday 7th December 2024 immediately after 6pm Mass.

SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH - THURSDAY 26TH DECEMBER AT 11AM

St Thomas More parish will be holding a Christmas lunch for seniors on:

Thursday 26 Dec 11.00 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 22nd December!

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS TIMES 2024/2025

Tuesday 24th December 2024 – Christmas Eve

6:30pm Outdoor Children's Mass

9:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Wednesday 25th December 2024 – Christmas Day

8:00am Christmas Mass

10:00am Christmas Mass

Thursday 26th December 2024 – Boxing Day

9:00am Feast of St. Stephen Mass

Friday 27th December 2024

5:30pm Feast of St John, Apostle, Evangelist Mass

Saturday 28th December 2024

9:00am Feast of The Holy Innocents Mass

6:00pm The Holy Family Vigil Mass

Sunday 29th December 2024 – The Holy Family

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

Monday 30th December 2024 – Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9:00am Mass

Tuesday 31st December 2024 – Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

5:30pm Mass

Wednesday 1st January 2025 – The Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

9:00am Mass followed by adoration

We encourage parishioners to attend the Outdoor Mass at 6:30pm on Christmas Eve. Carols start at 6pm. Please bring portable chairs and rugs.