

Sunday Readings

Year C

First Reading - Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Second Reading - Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel - Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

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

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year C

December 15, 2024

'Joy Through Repentance'

The two themes of Sunday's readings are repentance and joy. We do not usually associate these two themes with each other, but they go hand in glove in the kingdom of God.

The prophets of the Old Testament often spoke of what it would mean for God to live with his people. As we read in today's first reading, it would mean the total flowering of love between God and humanity, the permanent establishment of justice and the overthrowing of everything that afflicts and enslaves people. In the words of the prophet Zephaniah, it will be a day for God's people to "shout for joy" and "exult with all your heart".

However, this joyful uniting of God with his people requires our cooperation. A significant theme in the Old Testament is that God will only be actively present in the midst of a just and holy community. This is because to remain close to God is to become like him and for everything else to fall away.

As a result, we have to prepare ourselves to be able to operate in God's presence. For John the Baptist in today's Gospel, the kind of spiritual labour involved in this

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

preparation begins with repentance.

Repentance for John starts with giving up those habits of ours where we get an advantage at the expense of others or where we live in a way contrary to God’s love and law. It may mean, as it did for the people in today’s Gospel, that we need to change how we use our money, our relationships with others or how we go about our jobs and careers.

However, repentance is not a process that should cause us anxiety. When we are moved to repentance, we know that we do so with God’s accompaniment and patience. As Paul says, through prayer, we can invite God into every area of our lives, even those places where we are afraid to let God have control.

When we turn towards God in repentance, we do not find condemnation or judgement but the peace and joy that come from living in lockstep with Christ. This is why the coming of Christ, celebrated at Christmas, is celebrated with such rejoicing. God has come to live among his people and, where there was separation due to sin, God can make the repentant heart both whole and holy.

And our joy is assured because, when we do turn back to God, we are responding to the great love and joy that God has called us with. Zephaniah depicts the moment of God coming to live among his people as God “dancing with shouts of joy”. As it says elsewhere in the Gospel of Luke, there is great “joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.”

Repentance, then, is nothing to fear but is instead the path to true joy. All it takes is listening to God’s daily invitation to turn back towards his way of living and start on the journey of a life lived with Christ.

Joseph Doyle
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Baptisms: We welcome Amari Alessi and Ethan Ash Valenzuela Canlas into our Parish Community.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased:

Please pray for Veronica Emslie and Jahja Kristijanto Atmodjo who passed away recently.

Death Anniversaries:

Please pray for Patrick Joseph Lee, Leanne Khaw, Thomas Rowan, Guido Mancini, Giulio Rosa, Irma Rosa, Nora Mol, Doreen Nair, Ada Van Shoor, Felix Doray and George Ronald Carter whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 22ND DECEMBER

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
 Flowers: Joan Louie
 Counters: 1. S Lau 2. P Murray 3. R Sciascia

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
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Acolytes	V Roque	P Cox	T Roper
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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	E Fernandez L McMinn P McMinn L Morzenti V Ng C Nonis K Poole	I Kusnadi T Santoso C Price P Price J Randazzo J Sciorilli R Margawani	P Braganza S Cataldo-Nikolic M Davis M Doray A Faleiro S Fialho P Fraser J Louie
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Catechists	CHILDREN'S LITURGY Michelle Lowth		
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Readers	A De Sousa M Craggs	M Reutens C Tan	C Plottke J To
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Readers Coordinator: Kirsteen Lingoh - 0422 684 340

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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:

- 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

2025 SACRAMENTAL DATES

First Holy Communion: Saturday 21st June 2025

Confirmation: Saturday 6th September 2025

First Reconciliation: Saturday 25th October 2025

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

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Our 2025 PREP classes will commence on Wednesday 5th February 2025. The online enrolment is now open via this link: <https://stthomasmorebateman.formstack.com/forms/prep2025>

The classes run from Pre-Primary to Year 6 including sacramental classes (First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation) every Wednesdays from 4-5pm during Term 1 to Term 3. Special arrangements can be made for High School children and children who attend Corpus Christi College and surrounding catholic schools who may not have celebrated their age relevant Sacrament. Please note that Confirmation is a 2-year program.

Children from within Parish boundaries who attend government schools are warmly welcomed to attend. If there is any question on the enrolment, please contact the RE Coordinator via email catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au or call 9310 1747 (available Tue/Wed).

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE? HOW PRAYERS HAVE HELPED YOU

Your story may give hope, inspire, and encourage those who need prayers. Read the story of "Jesus, our CEO." posted on the notice board and in the foyer. When you share, your name can remain confidential. For enquiries call Jeremiah 0422 237 268 or email jckloo18@gmail.com.

ALL SOULS DAY PHOTOS

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

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* (all positions filled)

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 Heidy, our Parish Secretary at: bateman@perthcatholic.org.au



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

We are seeking volunteers to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for our Christmas Masses. The sign-up sheets for the 9pm (7 EMHC), 8am (10 EMHC), and 10am (10 EMHC) Masses are available in the foyer. We kindly ask that you add your name to the list for the Mass you are able to assist. Thank you for your willingness to serve during this special time of the year!

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.

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, 3 March 2021 Catechesis on prayer - **25. Prayer and the Trinity 1**

We now consider how our prayer leads us into the life of the Holy Trinity, into the eternal mystery of God's love, which is the source and joy of the entire universe. Jesus himself revealed this path for us by taking on our flesh and revealing the Father's infinite love. By his paschal mystery, he opened for us the gates of 3 heaven and by the gift of the Holy Spirit he has given us a share in his own filial relationship to the Father. Conscious of our unworthiness of so great a gift, we, like the disciples, can cry out "Lord, teach us to pray" (Lk 11:1). Jesus teaches us not only the words to use in prayer, but shows us the boundless mercy of the Father, who embraces his prodigal children and goes freely in search of every lost sheep. May our prayer awaken in us the consciousness of our lofty vocation in Christ and draw us ever more fully into the loving communion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

ADVENT RITE OF RECONCILIATION SERVICE

The following parish have advised their Advent Reconciliation Service:

- 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.

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! If you're available and would like to share your love at Christmas by giving a helping hand or providing a dish, please contact Angela Watts at 0418 953 992. Thanks & Blessings.

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.

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.