

# Sunday Readings

Year C

## First Reading - Micah 5:1-4

### A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

## Second Reading - Hebrews 10:5-10

### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

## Gospel - Luke 1:39-45

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

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

# Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

100 Dean Rd Bateman WA 6150  
Phone (08) 93101747

Website: [bateman.perthcatholic.org.au](http://bateman.perthcatholic.org.au)  
E-Mail: [bateman@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto: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*

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C

December 22, 2024

## *The vital role of women*

Fresh from her encounter with the angel Gabriel, "Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country" to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant in her old age. This meeting of two Spirit-filled pregnant women, seeking to understand what God is doing in their lives, is remarkable in the way it captures their very human interaction and their prophetic voices.

In Scriptural terms, all this occurs with the highly unusual absence of male voices in the conversation. Although the meeting occurs in Zechariah's house, he had been struck dumb. Joseph is presumably back in Nazareth. For the most part, we can only imagine the conversations between Elizabeth and Mary as they share their joy and confusion in the unforeseen events.

Elizabeth no doubt had long resigned herself to being childless, but now has to deal with her unexpected blessing. Mary has to come to terms with a blessing that seems to cause more problems than it solves. How will she explain her pregnancy to Joseph?

In Luke's account, the encounter between Elizabeth and Mary is presented in the

## 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

form of two scriptural hymns or songs of blessing. Today we hear the first of these, which is Elizabeth’s song prophetically proclaiming Mary to be the “mother of my Lord”. Even though filled with joy in her own blessing of pregnancy, Elizabeth exudes humility, compassion and living faith by focussing on the blessing that Mary’s presence is for her – and that Mary’s child will be for the world.

Mary’s response to Elizabeth is the second song – the ‘Magnificat’ – which proclaims God’s redeeming love for the oppressed and downtrodden people of our world. Together then, Elizabeth and Mary are presented to us as two Spirit-filled, peasant women prophets supporting each other in adversity by singing of God’s justice and mercy.

In doing so, they stand in the long Jewish tradition of female voices – Miriam with her tambourine, Deborah, Hannah and Judith – who likewise sing provocative songs of God’s coming salvation for the poor and oppressed.

Although the Visitation has been used to depict such lofty themes as the Church’s march throughout history crossing mountains to proclaim Christ to the world (St Ambrose 4th century), we also do well to recognise how the story highlights the role of women throughout Luke’s Gospel. They are not only major figures associated with Jesus’ birth, but they are clearly friends and disciples of Jesus during his ministry, are present at the crucifixion, and are the first to encounter the risen Lord.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us ask for the gift of being open to the surprise of grace in our own lives in the ways of Mary and Elizabeth. May we, like them, sing of God’s transforming power coming to life in the birth of the Messiah. Perhaps too we are invited to highlight the importance of women’s ministry in ‘giving birth’ to a less clerical church!

Gerard Hall SM  
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**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Recently Deceased:**

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

**Death Anniversaries:**

Please pray for Gladys Hutchins, Marguerita Quinn, Ursula Keating, Brian Foster, Cayden Ilich, Maria Tatulli, Peter Wing Hong Lau, Hazel Franks, Aldino Leong Da Silva, Antonio Marcelino and Janina Wladyka whose anniversaries occur around this time.

# R O S T E R S

## FOR 29TH DECEMBER

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo  
 Flowers: Justina Yeap  
 Counters: 1. B D'Sa                      2. D Puspita                      3. G Weldt

	<b>Saturday 6.00pm</b>	<b>Sunday 8.00am</b>	<b>Sunday 10.00am</b>
Acolytes	S Cowman	M Humble	M Braganza
Altar Servers	C Vahala K Lee J Lee	J Cherian A Evans S Evans	A Demberger E Gatchalian A Hadiyanto
Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	L Rego A Ruban J See L Sequeira M Sequeira A Anthony O D'Mello	J Randazzo M Saji M Ch'ng M Ch'ng M de Rozario C Cox B D'Cruz	A Lu L Saverimutto E Ross E Tandy N Mourad J Stephen J Mohan C Poore
Catechists			CHILDREN'S LITURGY Michelle Lowth
Readers	R D'Mello A Fernandes	D Dennis G Dunsford	K Wasley B Bucat
Readers Coordinator: Vivian Ng - 0403 161 838			
<b>Piety Stall</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>

**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 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

### 2025 SACRAMENTAL DATES

First Holy Communion: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025

Confirmation: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025

First Reconciliation: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 - 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024 TILL 21<sup>ST</sup> 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 **20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025**. Normal office hours will resume on **22<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 - 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 (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](mailto: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](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, 17 March 2021 Catechesis on prayer - **26. Prayer and the Trinity. 2**

We have seen that through prayer we share in the life of the blessed Trinity, thanks to Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit in fact teaches us to pray, making Christ present and active in our lives and in our world. In the Spirit we are enabled to call God our Father, to live our vocation to holiness, and to carry out our baptismal mission as witnesses of Christ's redemptive and merciful love. Through prayer and works of charity we open our lives to the Spirit's gifts, following in the footsteps of countless saints who have gone before us. The Catechism tells us that there are as many paths of prayer as there are persons who pray, but it is the same Spirit acting in all and with all. In the communion of the Holy Spirit Christian prayer is prayer in the Church (cf. No. 2672). In our prayer, let us ask the Spirit to guide us in our daily lives, to draw us ever more fully into the life of the Blessed Trinity, and bestow upon the Church the richness of his gifts for the growth of our human family in unity and peace.

## 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 26<sup>TH</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

*We wish all our parishioners a very Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year 2025!!!*

## ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH



## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS TIMES 2024/2025

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Christmas Eve

6:30pm Outdoor Children's Mass

9:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Christmas Day

8:00am Christmas Mass

10:00am Christmas Mass

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Boxing Day

9:00am Feast of St. Stephen Mass

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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

### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2024

9:00am Feast of The Holy Innocents Mass

6:00pm The Holy Family Vigil Mass

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – The Holy Family

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9:00am Mass

### Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 – Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

5:30pm Mass

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.