

# Sunday Readings

Year C

## First Reading - 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28

### A reading from the first book of Samuel

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

## Second Reading - 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

### A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

## Gospel - Lk 2:41-52

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

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

# 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*

The Holy Family, Year C

December 29, 2024

## *Jesus and His family*

We are indebted to St Luke for giving us some insight into the life of Jesus some forty days after his birth and then at the age of twelve. On both occasions, Jesus is depicted being with his parents, Joseph and Mary, on a hundred-mile round trip from Nazareth to visit the Jerusalem temple. At best, their "caravan" would have consisted of mules and donkeys along with lots of Nazarenes travelling together to protect themselves from being robbed.

On the first occasion, Jesus as the first-born son is presented to the Lord in the temple as Mosaic custom required. On the second occasion, which we heard in today's Gospel, the parents take the twelve-year old Jesus to the temple in celebration of the feast of Passover. This is the holiest feast on the Israelite calendar commemorating Jewish freedom from slavery in Egypt and the beginning of their journey towards the Promised Land.

Luke, himself a Gentile (non-Jew), demonstrates strong links between the Holy Family, Jewish traditions and the God of Israel. However, the narrative of Jesus being lost on the homebound journey, only to be discovered "three days later" teaching in the temple, is a remarkable story! How are we to interpret this strange and somewhat

## 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

challenging turn of events?

In some ways this is the common story known to all parents as children approach adolescence and begin to express their independence. Moreover, on finding that Jesus is not among their “relatives and acquaintances” in the returning caravan, you can imagine the fear and anguish that Joseph and Mary experienced. Then on finding him, their relief and joy are evident. But, so too, is their incomprehension of Jesus’ actions evident in the encounter between Jesus and Mary.

First of all, we note it is Mary rather than Joseph who confronts Jesus asking him directly: “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been so worried looking for you.” Jesus’ response – “Why were you searching for me?” – carries a hint of annoyance that his parents understood him so poorly. So, he asks them: “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

Here, the tension between Jesus and his parents is palpable with Luke telling us directly: “They did not understand what he was saying to them.” Quite evidently we are witnessing a poignant moment in the life of the Jewish village boy, Jesus, discovering his vocation in the service of God takes priority over family ties. Nonetheless, we are told, Jesus returned to the family home in Nazareth where he grew to maturity as an obedient and faithful son.

This is the last we hear of Jesus until he begins his public ministry around the age of thirty. We may well surmise that, in the meantime, Jesus took up Joseph’s carpentry trade while he continued to develop his knowledge of the Jewish Scriptures. Yet, this temple incident reminds us that Jesus’ messiahship comes to birth in the context of family life and relationships.

Gerard Hall SM

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**Baptisms:** We welcome Caitlin Lim Bararuhanya, Tibor Almos Meszaros, Eneh Anna Meszaros, Tas Vince Meszaros, Emilia Jia Fen Ng and Jason Jonah Fernandez 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 Don Allen, Greg King, Kathleen Ganfield, Encabo Buena Ventura, Dean Antonio Pasquale, Doug Roberts, Benedict Vong and Sam Barbara whose anniversaries occur around this time.

# R O S T E R S

## FOR 5TH JANUARY

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo  
 Flowers: Justina Voon  
 Counters: 1. S Fernandes                      2. T Huxtable                      3. K John

|               | Saturday<br>6.00pm                | Sunday<br>8.00am               | Sunday<br>10.00am                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Acolytes      | D Morais<br>V Roque<br>(thurifer) | C Goh                          | S Kan                             |
| Altar Servers | J Reutens<br>E Antony<br>N Antony | B Karczub<br>N Karczub<br>I Lu | A Kan<br>G Winaulin<br>J Winaulin |

**Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) and Readers –**  
 Please come up as required – **NO ROSTERS FOR JANUARY 2025.**

**Piety Stall                                      OPEN                                      OPEN                                      OPEN**

**Safeguarding Officers:**

1. Gerard Joseph (Gerard.safeguarding@gmail.com)
2. Derek Choo (Derek.Cchoo.safeguarding@gmail.com)
3. Marguerite Parker (margparkersgo@gmail.com)
4. Monica de Rozario (monica.derozario.safeguarding@gmail.com)
5. Mary Anthony (lima.eleeza@gmail.com)
6. Michelle Lowth (michelle.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 EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Please be advised of our parish email addresses at St Thomas More Catholic Church, Bateman Parish:

1. Bateman Catholic Parish (Secretary): bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
2. Bateman Planned Giving: pgiving.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
3. Bateman Pastoral Care: bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
4. Bateman Catechist: catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
5. Bateman Safeguarding Officer: sgo.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
6. Bateman Youth: youth.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au

## 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, 24 March 2021 Catechesis on prayer -

#### 27. Praying in communion with Mary

We now consider the place of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life of prayer. All Christian prayer is modelled on Jesus' own prayer. As the incarnate Son, he not only teaches us to pray, but as the Mediator between God and man he constantly intercedes for us before the Father. Mary, as the mother of Jesus, has a special role in the life of all Christ's disciples. Mary is our mother, the Mother of the Church, entrusted to us by Christ from the cross. With a mother's love she cares for us, taking us under the protection of her mantle. In a particular way, as we pray in the Hail Mary, she intercedes for sinners and for those at the hour of death, drawing them ever closer to her Son. Just as she stood beneath the cross, united with Jesus in his abandonment and sorrow, so she is close with a mother's love to those who are lost or have no one to pray for them. Surely she has been present to so many of our brothers and sisters who at this time of pandemic have died far from the comforting presence of their loved ones. As we prepare to celebrate the Annunciation of the Lord, may we rejoice that Mary, who said "yes" to the message of the angel, is ever ready to say "yes" to us, interceding before her Son for our needs and for the salvation of the world.

### 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).

## PARISH NEWS

### FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2025 AT 6 - 9PM.

Why not spend some time with the Lord in silence and give Him the opportunity to speak to you?

### COFFEE GET-TOGETHER - FIRST SAT 4<sup>TH</sup> & SUN 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

1. **First Saturday Evening Coffee - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
(Immediately after 6pm Mass)
2. **First Sunday Morning Coffee - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
(Immediately after 10am Mass)
3. **Every Sunday morning after 8.00am Mass**, coffee and tea will be in the Parish Hall.

### 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.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### JUBILEE YEAR 2025 PLACE OF GRACE AND PILGRIMAGE - SCHOENSTATT SHRINE:

All Catholics are encouraged during the Jubilee Year 2025 to undertake a Pilgrimage. In the Archdiocese of Perth, the Schoenstatt Shrine at Mt Richon has been designated as a place of Grace and Pilgrimage. Schoenstatt means a beautiful place. The Schoenstatt shrine is nestled among an expanse of grounds and natural bushland, providing an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. The mission of the Schoenstatt Marian Movement is to bring the presence of Christ to all we meet, discovering God's love in every person, in all creation and in every event of our lives.

**To arrange a parish or individual pilgrimage during 2025 please contact Sr Lisette on 0400 234 910.**

To start the Jubilee Year why not come to our **New Year's Eve Midnight Mass** on the **31 December** at the Schoenstatt Shrine, 9 Talus Drive, Mt Richon. Adoration & Reflection will commence at **10.30pm**, followed by Holy Mass and fellowship.

### PERMANENT PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

#### PARISH SECRETARY (Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scarborough Parish)

The Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scarborough Parish has a vacancy for a part time parish secretary, 3 days per week (12 hours). Applicants must be experienced with proven administration, and accounts experience, have good communication skills and a demonstrated ability to use Microsoft Office, Excel, Publisher and Outlook as well as the ability to upload Parish Website content. An understanding of the ethos of the Catholic Church would be an advantage. To receive the Job Description and submit your application, please email [parishsupport@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:parishsupport@perthcatholic.org.au).





*Merry  
Christmas  
&  
Happy  
New Year  
2025*

**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 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 06<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 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.