

Sunday Readings

Year C

First Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Second Reading - Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

100 Dean Rd Bateman WA 6150
Phone (08) 93101747

Website: bateman.perthcatholic.org.au

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

The Epiphany of the Lord, Year C

January 5, 2025

The profound significance of incense

We may not use incense in our liturgies as often as we did in the past, but there is something very precious about the reverencing with incense of the body God has given us at the end of a funeral Mass. The great feast of the Epiphany, which we are celebrating, reminds us that frankincense was among the symbolic gifts brought to the child in Bethlehem by those mysterious wise men from the east.

In his gospel, Matthew is at pains to ensure that his audience – his own Jewish community – realise that Christ had come not only to redeem them, but all peoples. This feast completes the Christmas story: it reminds us that Christ is to be made *manifest* to all the nations. The prophet, Isaiah, sets the scene: the light begins in Jerusalem, but will attract the nations, who will flock with their camels and their gifts of gold and incense. St Paul in his letter reinforces the message by assuring the Ephesians that pagans can now share the same inheritance as his people. And Matthew uses the “wise men” to reveal the mystery of Christ.

Matthew's story is rich in symbolism as he goes out of his way to ensure that we make all the necessary connections: he reminds us of the prophet Micah's reference

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

to Bethlehem as well as Isaiah’s mention of the gifts. He wants us to reflect on the fact that the Spirit of God must have prompted these men into action. to make their pilgrimage and be led to “fall on their knees” in homage to the child, whom they were able to recognise as the promised Messiah.

They clearly possessed those mighty gifts of the Holy Spirit: gifts of *wisdom, knowledge and understanding*, which enabled them to *judge* that God would give them the *courage* to undertake their undoubtedly hazardous pilgrimage and the discernment to realise that Herod was up to no good – a clear pointer to the persecutions that awaited Jesus and his followers.

Then, when they see the child, they are filled with *awe* and *reverence*, going down on their knees to pay homage. Make no mistake, their gifts are also full of meaning. The gold speaks to us of this new kingdom to be established in our hearts: a kingdom of love, hope, forgiveness and reconciliation. The myrrh speaks to us of the suffering foretold by the prophets, and the need for Christ’s body to be anointed after his death.

And finally, we come to the frankincense: this invites us to be like the wise men and recognise that Jesus is truly the Son of God. At the end of his gospel, Matthew will remind us that this act of faith was made by a foreigner, the centurion, as he stood by the cross. May we go home reminding ourselves that Jesus, in turn, told us that we are his adopted brothers and sisters, also children of his Father: hence the profound significance of the incense at a funeral Mass.

Timothy J Buckley CSsR
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PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased:

Please pray for Patrick Charles Pickersgill, Eileen Ranger, Veronica Emslie and Jahja Kristijanto Atmodjo who passed away recently.

Death Anniversaries:

Please pray for Sam Barbara, Edward Nobel Pillay, Ken Rao, Regina Patricia Limas, Michael Pennefather, Vincent Victor Russo, Josephine McCorry and Kazimierz Osko whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 12TH JANUARY

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
 Flowers: Diana Puspita
 Counters: 1. I Basuki 2. T Basuki 3. T Santos

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
Acolytes	N Rojan	C Goh	S Muthucumar
Altar Servers	G Dass J Noel	J Cherian A Evans S Evans	R Anwar G Chua

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:

- 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)
- Mary Anthony (lima.eleeza@gmail.com)
- 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:

- Bateman Catholic Parish (Secretary): bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
- Bateman Planned Giving: pgiving.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
- Bateman Pastoral Care: bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
- Bateman Catechist: catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
- Bateman Safeguarding Officer: sgo.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au
- Bateman Youth: youth.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au

PARISH NEWS

Please note: In 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 17th March 2025 at 9.00am: Solemnity of St Patrick
- Monday 14th April 2025 at 9am Monday of Holy Week
- Monday 21st April 2025 at 9am Monday within the Octave of Easter
- Saturday 26th April 2025 at 9am Saturday within the Octave of Easter
- Saturday 1st November 2025 at 9am All Saints
- Monday 8th December 2025 at 9am The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Monday 29th December 2025 at 9am Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

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

Normal office hours will resume on **Wednesday 22nd January 2025**.

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.

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 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, 7 April 2021 Catechesis on prayer -

28. Praying in communion with the Saints

We now consider the communion of saints. Whenever we pray, we find ourselves immersed in a great stream of past, present and future intercession for the needs of individuals and of the whole world, for we pray together with all the saints in the communion of the Body of Christ which is the Church. The saints – this great "cloud of witnesses" (Heb 12:1) both known and unknown – ceaselessly pray with us and for us in giving glory to God. Our veneration of the saints draws us closer to Jesus, the sole Mediator between man and God. In Christ too, we sense a mysterious solidarity with our loved ones who have died, for whom we continue to pray. We experience this prayerful solidarity also here below, as we pray for one another and for our brothers and sisters who are poor, suffering and most in need. In these challenging times, let us thank the Lord for the great gift of the saints and confidently entrust ourselves to their intercession, for the spread of the Gospel and the salvation of our human family.

COFFEE GET-TOGETHER - FIRST SAT 4TH & SUN 5TH JANUARY 2025

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

CHINESE/LUNAR NEW YEAR MASS - SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2025

Join us for a special celebration of the Chinese/Lunar New Year with a Thanksgiving Mass on **Sunday, 9th February 2025 at 10:00 AM**.

We encourage all parishioners to wear their cultural clothing as we gather in unity to give thanks for the blessings we have received. The Mass will be followed by a vibrant **Lion Dance performance**, bringing joy and excitement to our celebration.

We also invite you to contribute to our community feast by bringing a plate of shared food to enjoy with fellow parishioners after the performance.

Let us come together in faith, culture, and fellowship to mark this special occasion. We look forward to celebrating with you!