

Sunday Readings

Year C

First Reading - Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Second Reading - Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Gospel - Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

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

The Baptism of the Lord, Year C

January 12, 2025

Being zealous for good deeds

After our joyful celebration of the feast of Christmas, followed by the feasts of the Holy Family and, last week, the Epiphany, we come to the end of the Christmas season. We now enter what we call Ordinary Time and, on its first Sunday, we have the Baptism of Our Lord.

Following on from last week's Feast of the Epiphany, the gospel reading for the Baptism of Our Lord offers an even more vivid manifestation, another epiphany, revealing the identity of Jesus: "this is my beloved Son."

In our first reading, the prophet Isaiah consoles the people of Israel, then in exile in the desert, reminding them of God's promises, telling them "prepare the way of the Lord" and assuring them that "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed ... the Lord is coming with power."

The Responsorial Psalm then proclaims, "You send forth your spirit ... and you renew the face of the earth."

Today's reading from Luke's gospel shows the realisation of these promises.

In preparation for the Lord's coming, John the Baptist had been preaching repentance for sin and a baptism of repentance in the waters of the River Jordan. So power-

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

ful was his preaching that many wondered if indeed John was the Christ, the One who was to come.

But John vehemently denied it, insisting that he was not even worthy to touch Christ's sandal, and that, while he baptises with water, the coming one, "someone who is more powerful," will baptise "with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

On the brink of his public ministry, Jesus, about thirty years old, emerges from the crowd and comes to John the Baptist for baptism. John, recognising that Jesus is the One, at first resists Jesus' request, but then agrees and baptises Jesus.

An extraordinary epiphany then follows. While Jesus is at prayer after his baptism by John, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily shape, like a dove, and a voice from heaven was heard, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The dove reminds us of the story of creation when God's spirit was described as hovering over the waters like a dove and of the story of Noah and the flood when the dove proclaimed a new beginning, a new era.

The words of the Father reveal Jesus' unique relationship to the Father, a relationship of sonship: he is the Beloved Son. It is no accident that this Feast of Our Lord's Baptism opens Ordinary Time, because it reminds us of our identity as daughters and sons of God, granted through the grace of our baptism.

Through our baptism, we enter into the family and hospitality of God. Our second reading reminds us that, as members of that family, we are called to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, to give up everything that does not lead to God, and to be a people who are zealous for good deeds.

Anne Hunt

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Baptisms: We welcome Aria Skye Nguyen, Chelsea Isla Nguyen, Tristan Henley Nguyen, Theodore Hudson Nguyen and Milly Rose Mutch into our Parish Community.

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 Josephine McCorry, Kazimierz Osko, Eileen Haddleton, Shirley Mortimer, Ronnie Wong, Sandra Sghreza, Errol Bernard D'Monte, Irene Patricia Conroy, Jerson Moniz, Joseph Fletcher and Julie Walton whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 19TH JANUARY

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
 Flowers: Joan Louie
 Counters: 1. D Puspita 2. H Setiawan 3. V Sutijono

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
Acolytes	D Ng	R Norris	A Louie
Altar Servers	F Lie J Lie	B Karczub N Karczub I Lu	A Demberger E Gatchalian A Hadiyanto

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.Choosafeguarding@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)

POPE ST JOHN PAUL II - FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - ANGELUS 2004

Mary Most Holy is a teacher of contemplation beyond compare. If, humanly, she had to suffer at seeing Jesus leave Nazareth, from his manifestation she received new light and strength for her pilgrimage of faith. The Baptism of Christ is the first mystery of light for Mary and for the whole Church. May it enlighten all Christians on their way!"

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).



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!

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, 14 April 2021 Catechesis on prayer -

29. The Church, teacher of prayer

We now consider the Church herself as a great school of prayer. Our parents, who first taught us to pray, planted within us a seed that matures through our experience of the Christian life. Through the example of other men and women of faith, through our sharing in the life of our parishes and above all through the sacred liturgy, we not only develop our prayer life as individuals, but gradually come to appreciate the richness of the Church's patrimony of prayer and spirituality. Particularly at difficult moments in life, we come to realize the importance of prayer in strengthening our faith and hope. History shows the importance of communities of prayer – monasteries and religious congregations – for the spiritual renewal of the Church and of society as a whole. Prayer remains the wellspring of the Church's life and the true source of her strength in bearing witness to the risen Lord. For this reason, Jesus insists on the need of his disciples to pray tirelessly and without ceasing. To pray and to teach others to pray, then, is essential for the Church's mission of proclaiming the Gospel, 3 serving Christ in our brothers and sisters, and drawing all people into the unity of his kingdom.

JUBILEE PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

ALL SOULS DAY PHOTOS

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