

Sunday Readings

Year C

First Reading - Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name,

one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.

You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God;

no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

Gospel - John 2:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

January 19, 2025

A new wine for our age

Of all Jesus' miracles, we might think his turning water into wine is the least significant. However, for John, this miracle at the wedding feast of Cana takes pride of place as the first of the 'signs' given by Jesus.

Other 'signs' in John's gospel include healing miracles, feeding the 5,000, Jesus walking on water and raising Lazarus from the dead. While John acknowledges there were "many other signs," he chooses these seven 'signs' so "you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (Jn. 20:30).

Each of these miracle-signs is a foretaste of the single, great miracle of Jesus' resurrection. So, what lessons can we draw from the wedding feast of Cana? First, this is the only recorded miracle that Jesus performed for friends and family. Elsewhere, he seems to dismiss any special significance for family: "Whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Mtt. 12:50). On another occasion, when returning to Nazareth, we are told Jesus was so "amazed by their lack of faith ... he could work no miracles there" (Mk 6:5f.).

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

Second, there is the extraordinary interchange between Jesus and his mother, Mary. It is Mary who confronts her son with the problem: "They have no wine!" We need to note, at this point, Jesus had not given any indication of special powers. Next, we cannot help but notice Jesus' annoyance in stating his time had not yet come. But Mary, unperturbed, tells the waiter: "Do whatever he tells you." We know the rest of the story: Jesus not only turns water into wine, but it is the best possible wine.

The human dimension of this story is compelling. Jesus and his disciples know how to celebrate life. No doubt they told yarns, sang songs and danced well into the night. But the time would come when they would face a crisis and be asked to lay down their lives. Interestingly, the next time we hear of Mary in John's gospel is at Jesus' crucifixion. Just as Mary is present to witness the beginning of Jesus' public life at Cana, she is also there to witness what is, for John, the birth of the Church at Calvary.

We are similarly living in a time of transition – what Pope Francis calls a "change of era" – when the old wine is running out. Like Mary, we are asked to place our vulnerable trust in Jesus who, with the gift of the Spirit, is the new wine for our age.

Like the first disciples and early Christians, we know we live in a time of human and political crisis that also embroils society and church. We can only but trust in God who alone is able to turn the water of our fears into the new wine of God's creative presence and enduring love.

Gerard Hall SM
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PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased:

Please pray for Patrick Charles Pickersgill and Eileen Ranger who passed away recently.

Death Anniversaries:

Please pray for Joseph Fletcher, Julie Walton, Joseph Swift, Swee Lin (Agnes) Chia, Cecil Anton Saverimutto, Mark S Pereira and Tony Bonavita whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 26TH JANUARY

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
 Flowers: Justina Yeap
 Counters: 1. B D'Sa 2. D Kumala 3. M Woolford

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
Acolytes	P Doss	M Humble	P Doray
Altar Servers	M Poole A D'Monte R Roki	J Cherian A Evans S Evans	A Kan G Winaulin 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.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)

SPREADING THE ROSARY DEVOTION: A big thank you to the Ave Maria Rosary Group who recently sent 310 rosaries to Father Nelson in Malawi. Father Nelson was very grateful for support from our parish rosary group and their help to spread this Marian devotion. The rosaries were distributed to the children on the feast of the Epiphany.

QUOTE: "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit." — **Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1817**

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, 21 April 2021 Catechesis on prayer - **30. The vocal prayer**

We now consider the importance of vocal prayer. In our dialogue with God, he first spoke to us through his own Word made flesh. He invites us in turn to speak to him in words that embody our deepest thoughts, emotions and experiences. Words do not only express our ideas, they also shape us and often reveal us to ourselves. In the inspired words of the Book of Psalms, we find a model of vocal prayer. The Psalmist gives us the words to bring our joys, fears, hopes and needs to God and to share with him every aspect of our lives. The prayer of the heart and the prayer of our lips can never be separated. As the Catechism tells us, "vocal prayer is an essential element of the Christian life" (No. 2701). Through our spoken or chanted prayer, alone or in common, we find the words that enable us to grow daily in our relationship with God. Prayer thus quietly becomes an essential part of our lives, like the air we breathe. When the disciples asked Jesus to show them how to pray, he responded by teaching them, and us, the words of the Our Father.

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.