

Sunday Readings

Year C

First Reading - Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

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

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,' would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything? Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

← GOSPEL READING ON THE OTHER PAGE

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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

January 26, 2025

It is all about today

Returning home after more than eleven years 'on mission' overseas has been a challenging and confronting experience. So much has changed. I've changed. Society has changed. The Church has changed. So much is unfamiliar to me and I'm 'unknown'. I feel like a foreigner in the country I call home.

Luke portrays something similar in the gospel. After being away, Jesus has returned home for a visit. Some people will remember him growing up in Nazareth. Others will know his parents. Others may have benefitted from his carpentry skills. Others may be curious or uncertain about why he's returned. Others may treat him with suspicion if he's unknown to them.

He's not some 'local lad' who's come home after travelling or working away. He has a reputation and it's gone ahead of him. He's somewhat of a 'celebrity'. Will he live up to his reputation? Will he be as wise as they've heard? Will he say or do something special in his home town? Will he challenge them to live differently and change their way of life?

As expected, Jesus goes to the synagogue on the Sabbath, where he would have spent time as a boy and young man. He's handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and

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

he reads: *"The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour."*

Jesus then says something that disturbs and challenges those who are gathered: *"This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen."* Surely he's not suggesting that *he* is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy? The people were expecting the Messiah sometime in the future. They can't believe that the time is now. The Messiah is there in their midst! Naturally, they can't comprehend what's just unfolded in their presence. In time, they will want him to prove his prophetic words through special deeds and miraculous signs.

"Today" has really disturbed them. Jesus says nothing about the future. Rather, he claims that he has the power to transform the present. Good times are not some future dream. They are here now, and the Kingdom of God is among them. Today is what counts. Today grace abounds. Today the kingdom is realised. Today God is revealed.

"Today" is the very reason that this gospel challenged the people of Jesus' home town, and it challenges us to be open to the life of Christ here and now, and to live our lives to the full. The fulfilment of God's promise *today* is important for us to understand and embrace, so that we'll not miss the grace of God's saving action in the simple, ordinary and everyday experiences and encounters of our lives.

David J Hore CSsR
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Baptisms: We welcome Evelyn Maree Collyer-Petale, Fraser William Collyer-Petale and Archibald Peter Mitchell into our Parish Community.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased:

Please pray for Francis Xavier Huong Nguyen (Father of Fr Francis Nguyen, the Rector of St Charles Seminary), Patrick Charles Pickersgill and Eileen Ranger who passed away recently.

Death Anniversaries:

Please pray for Cecil Anton Saverimutto, Mark S Pereira, Tony Bonavita, Elizabeth Nicholson, Joanna Ng Fung King, Kathleen Agnes Hand, James Alfred Spencer, John Matthew Foley, John McDonnell, Peter Keenan, Brian Taylor, Kevin John Leonardo, Maverick Lim and Theresa Lau whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 2ND FEBRUARY

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
 Flowers: Shan Fialho
 Counters: 1. K John 2. R Sciascia 3. A Vinci

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
Acolytes	S Dass	P Cox C Goh (thurifer)	T Roper
Altar Servers	S Buntoro T Jomy J Mar	B Karczub N Karczub I Lu	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:

1. Gerard Joseph (Gerard.safeguarding@gmail.com)
2. Derek Choo (Derek.Choosafeguarding@gmail.com)
3. Marguerite Parker (margparkersgo@gmail.com)
4. Mary Anthony (lima.eleeza@gmail.com)
5. 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

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.

GOSPEL READING

Gospel - Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

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, 28 April 2021 Catechesis on prayer: **31. The meditation**

We now consider the importance of meditative prayer. Everyone needs moments of recollection amid the busyness of our daily lives. For Christians, meditation is not simply a matter of introspection but a method of prayer, a means of encountering Christ, above all in the mysteries of his earthly life. While there are many methods of meditation in the Church's rich spiritual tradition, all have a single aim: to enable us to grow in our relationship with Jesus our Saviour. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, our union with Christ in faith is nurtured through the use of our intellect, imagination, emotions and 3 desires. The Catechism teaches that meditation on the mysteries of Christ deepens our faith, prompts the conversion of our hearts, and strengthens our will to follow in his footsteps (cf. No. 2708). Our Lord's every word and action can thus touch us and become a part of our own lives. On every page of the Gospel we are invited to encounter Christ and to discover in him the source of our salvation and our true happiness.

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

QUOTE - HOPE:

The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope. Certainly, Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But to reach him we also need lights close by people who shine with his light and so guide us along our way.

Pope Benedict Spe Salvi (Saved in Hope) 49.

PARISH NEWS

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE CHURCHES AND SHRINES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PERTH AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

- St Mary's Cathedral, Perth
- The Basilica of St Patrick, Fremantle
- St John Paul II Parish, Banksia Grove
- Schoenstatt Shrine, Mount Richon
- Carmelite Monastery, Nedlands
- Sacred Heart Parish, Highgate

BUNBURY DIOCESE:

- Saint Patrick's Cathedral Bunbury
- Saint Damien's Church Dawesville
- Our Lady of Immigrants Church Harvey
- Saint Joseph's Church Busselton
- Saint Mathew's Church Narrogin
- Saint Joseph's Church Albany
- Our lady, Star of the Sea Church Esperance

Perth Cathedral has provided information on the gaining of Jubilee indulgence for pilgrimage to Saint Mary's. This is available in the church foyer. For all the information on plenary indulgence please refer to the following link:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/05/13/240513f.html>

BLESSING OF CANDLES - SAT 1ST & SUN 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

It is church tradition to bless candles on the Feast of the Presentation.

Please bring your candles for a blessing on **Saturday 1st February (6pm Mass)** and **Sunday 2nd February 2025 (8am & 10am Mass)**.

COFFEE GET-TOGETHER - FIRST SAT 1ST & SUN 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

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

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6 - 9PM.

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

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

REDISCOVERING THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND THE EUCHARIST - TUES 11TH FEB - 4TH MAR 2025

On: Tuesdays 11th February - 4th March 2025

From: 7:30pm – 8:30pm (4 sessions)

With: Sr M Luka Juenemann ISSM

At: Bateman Parish - Corner of Dean & Marsengo Roads

Suggested Donation: \$20

The building blocks of a Christian life within the Catholic Church are built upon a personal and communal relationship with God through the person of Jesus Christ. This relationship is expressed sacramentally and ritually within the Initiation Sacraments. The sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist call Christians to discipleship of Christ and to be visible signs of God's presence in the world. What does our personal and communal relationship with God mean for our lives? How is our church leadership or ministry seen as flowing from the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist?

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).



DIOCESAN NEWS

EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE - SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2025

Eucharistic walk St Brigid's Church Northbridge to Saint Mary's Cathedral: Come Follow Me.

A Eucharistic walk to the Cathedral will take place beginning with Mass at **Saint Brigid's Church, Northbridge at 2.30pm on Saturday 1 February 2025**.

The procession will be led by a priest, with Our Lord in the Monstrance and will conclude with Benediction at the Cathedral at 4.15pm.

This is an opportunity to give public witness to our Catholic faith during the Jubilee Year of Hope.

All are invited to participate. The distance is 2.2km.