

Sunday Readings

Year C

First Reading - Jeremiah 17:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord.

He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

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

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Gospel - Luke 6:17, 20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. 'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

February 16, 2025

To be evergreen with God

The banksia, unlike many other Australian native plant species, is not destroyed by bushfires. In fact, the fire's extreme heat and smoke helps it regenerate. The heat, as well as the chemicals from the smoke and ash, trigger the opening of the banksia's woody seed cases which releases the seeds within. These seeds are dispersed and subsequently germinate in rich soil.

It is also significant to note that, in addition to its fire-resistant properties, the banksia trees are an important life-nourishing habitat for threatened species, such as black cockatoos, chuditch and western ringtail possums. The banksia's surprising impetus for growth and regeneration offer valuable insights for our own journeys through life.

A common thread running through this week's readings is God's invitation to us to grow into the fullness of life. In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah describes those who trust in the Lord as being: "like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream ... its leaves stay green." The psalm describes the one whose delight is in the law as being like: "a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season."

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

The second reading speaks of Jesus' resurrection and the promise of ours. Our gospel reading reminds us that we shall be filled, nourished, satisfied, and brimming with joy, whatever adversities we might face.

While it may be easy to respond positively to continual growth when life is going well, it is often difficult to remain hopeful when we encounter life's crushing experiences. How do we continue to tap into God, the source of our lives, when hope seems lost or destroyed in life's bushfires?

Benedictine mystic Hildegard of Bingen used the term "viriditas," meaning God's greening power, to describe the divine life force. She explained that, deep within nature, there is the innate potential to grow towards the fullness of life, as well as a capacity for healing and wholeness. God invites us to open ourselves to this divine capacity each day. To be closed to growth is to be closed to God, the source of our life.

Jesus reminds us that "the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21). Our capacity to heal, recover and grow, lies deep within each of us, although sometimes hidden from our eyes. Those who have experienced a major illness or other devastating experiences will appreciate this.

Iconographer Robert Lenz OFM explained that, when we try continually to keep moving towards God, even if we should fall, we fall *towards* God or even *into* God. Indeed, we are not defined by our failures and setbacks, but by our capacity for growth and greening, even when we fail.

In ordinary time, the liturgical colour, green, symbolises growth and hope. It reminds us of God's greening power. Amidst the ordinariness, the setbacks and the struggles of our daily lives, let us look towards God and to each other to remind us to continually be open to God. Within him, we are always evergreen.

Sophie Clements
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PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased:

Please pray for Melissa Higgins, Lindinha Leite Da Cunha, Douglas McKirdy, David Booth, Cameron Andrew Bedford and Francis Xavier Huong Nguyen (Father of Fr Francis Nguyen, the Rector of St Charles Seminary) who passed away recently.

Death Anniversaries:

Please pray for Patricia Owens, Irene Edith (Nyna) Kyle, Hazel Daphne Batchelor, Robert (Bob) Zappara, Murray Gillett, Francesca Portelli, Jessie Alexander, Lora Paul Raj, Richard Oon Chuan Hoe, Dorris Torres, Ronald Chapman and Basil Lee whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 23RD FEBRUARY

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
 Flowers: Rosemary Lui Yeo
 Counters: 1. I Basuki 2. T Basuki 3. I Sutijono

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
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Acolytes	S Cowman	R Norris	S Muthucumaru
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Altar Servers	G Dass J Noel	J Cherian A Evans S Evans	R Anwar G Chua A Demberger
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Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	O D'Mello A Ruban C Hoare C Nonis C Choo D Gareffa G Garreffa	M de Rozario R Margawani W Goh B D'Cruz M Stephen C Price P Price	V Sutijono V Chua A Ring M Davis A Lu A Aquino A Crossley E Ross
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Catechists	CHILDREN'S LITURGY Michelle Lowth		
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Readers	A Loo G Munro	F Ling C Morzenti	S John K Gamba
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Readers Coordinator: Vivian Ng - 0403 161 838

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Safeguarding Officers:

- Gerard Joseph (Gerard.safeguarding@gmail.com)
- Derek Choo (Derek.Cchoo.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 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

PARISH MASSES: With attendance of students from Corpus Christi College
Thursday 9am Masses: 27th February; 5th, 13th, 27th March and 3rd April.

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.

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Our 2025 PREP classes have now commenced. Our classes run from Pre-Primary to Year 6 including sacramental classes (First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation) every Wednesday from 4-5pm during Term 1 to Term 3, excluding school holidays. Special arrangements can be made for high school students who may not have celebrated their age relevant Sacrament. Please use the following link:

<https://stthomasmorebateman.formstack.com/forms/prep2025> or the QR code for enrolment. For more information, please contact the RE Coordinator via email catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au or call 9310 1747 (available Tue/Wed)



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

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, 19 May 2021 Catechesis on prayer:

34. Distractions, time of barrenness, sloth

We now consider some common difficulties we encounter in our practice of prayer. The first is distraction. Prayer, like study and work, demands concentration and mental discipline. This calls for our cultivation of the virtue of vigilance, by which we focus our lives on doing the Lord's will daily in expectation of his return. A second difficulty is the experience of spiritual aridity, moments of dryness when our 3 hearts – as the Catechism teaches – have “no taste for thoughts, memories, and feelings, even spiritual ones” (No. 2731). The spiritual masters acknowledge that the life of faith involves times of consolation but also of desolation, when we share in the Lord's sufferings. A third difficulty is acedia or sloth, a form of spiritual fatigue that leads to the deadly temptation to abandon prayer altogether. The saints faced these same difficulties in their prayer and they teach us that true progress in the spiritual life comes about through daily perseverance, like that of Job who remained constant even amid his many afflictions. As we strive to grow in our own life of prayer let us ask for the grace of perseverance, confident that our loving Father will grant us, through the Son and in the Spirit, all that we need to draw us ever closer to him.

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: Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

PARISH NEWS

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

Archdiocese of Perth

- 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>

JUBILEE:

A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage, sacramental repentance and spiritual renewal, held every 25 years or other years as called for by the Pope. (Legion of Mary newsletter January 2025)

Save the dates:

- Tuesday 18th & 25th Feb, 4th Mar at 7.30 pm - Faith Formation; 3 sessions remaining
- Thursday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March at 1pm on – Study of Vatican document - Sacrosanctum Concilium. See the Bulletin for details.
- Saturday 22nd March – Rosary walk to Wireless Hill
- Friday 28th March 6.30pm - Saturday 29th March 6pm 30pm – 24 hours Adoration for the Lord.

USEFUL LINKS ON JUBILEE:

- <https://liturgy.perthcatholic.org.au/jubilee-year-2025/>
- https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/tribunals/apost_penit/documents/rc_penitenzieria-ap_20240513_norme-indulgenza-giubileo2025_en.html
(Vatican link on gaining plenary indulgence in Jubilee Year of Hope)

THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made our Lunar New Year celebration a success! Special thanks to the Parish Pastoral Council, Ukulele Group, choir, and all the volunteers who worked behind the scenes.

It was a joy to celebrate together, sharing culture, fellowship, and faith. We're especially grateful to those who prepared the red packets with scripture quotes for families to inspire us throughout the year. Thank you to all parishioners and visitors who joined us to share this annual celebration - there was a great spirit of joy and friendship in the community! May God bless you all abundantly! Fr Phong

ST THOMAS MORE BATEMAN LADIES CRAFT GROUP 2025

Interested ladies are invited to join our Parish Ladies craft and fellowship group every Tuesday afternoon 12:15pm - 2:15pm . Enquiries to Jenny: 0438 967 483

PARISH NEWS

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

PLEASE JOIN THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL at their formation on Tuesday 18th February with Sr M Luka Juenemann ISSM sharing her knowledge on the topic: REDISCOVERING THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND THE EUCHARIST. Faith Formation is an important commitment for The Parish Pastoral Council. Sharing and learning together is uplifting and together we help build Community.

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL BATEMAN - SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2025

On behalf of SVDP Bateman Conference, I would like to thank our Bateman parishioners, Corpus Christi College and Bateman Primary School for their generous donations & support of non perishable food during the Christmas season and throughout the year 2024. Our clients have expressed their gratitude for your generosity and spirit of charity.

We will be having our first **Vinnie's coffee & cakes sales** for this year on **Sunday 16th Feb 2025**. We look forward to your continued generous support for the coffee and cake morning. Those who are looking at supporting our Vinnie's coffee & cakes sales by donating their food can contact Winnie Goh on mobile #: +61 421 601 095, Vincent Tan President SVDP Bateman Conference.

STUDY OF VATICAN II DOCUMENT SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM (Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy)

1-3pm each Thursday of March in the parish meeting room. Pope Francis encourages the study of documents of the Second Vatican Council during the Jubilee Year.

(Pope Francis Decree on Granting of Indulgence 111 <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/05/13/240513f.html>)

The sacred liturgy is central to our participation in the worship of God who desires that His children receive and respond to the abundant graces flowing from the source and summit of life, the Holy Mass. A deeper understanding of sacred liturgy will help draw you into the heart of every mass when God is glorified and you are sanctified.

This study groups is being facilitated by Kenneth Phua.

There is a sign-up sheet in the church foyer. Some pre-reading is required.

DIOCESAN NEWS

PERMANENT PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Parish Secretary - Manning Catholic Parish

The Catholic Parish of Manning has a vacancy for a permanent part time Parish Secretary, 12 hours per week (days negotiable).

Applicants must have proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook, the ability to upload Parish Website content, strong organisational and time management skills, attention to detail, accuracy in data entry, and excellent verbal and written skills. Familiarity with MYOB accounting software would be highly advantageous.

An understanding of parish life and support of the ethos and values of the Catholic Church is expected. Applications close 5th March 2025.

A job description is available on request. Please submit your application via email to Fr. Anthony Vu at – tung.vu@perthcatholic.org.au