

Sunday Readings

Year C

First Reading - 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

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

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel - Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

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

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

February 23, 2025

No such thing as too much love

In the Book of Samuel, we find two mortal enemies, David and Saul, in conflict. Saul is the anointed King of Judah and David has been anointed to succeed him. What happens next is an all too familiar human story. David is jealous of Saul's power; Saul is suspicious of David's motives.

How often family feuds and human relations take on these negative forces of jealousy and suspicion, resulting in the breakdown of relationships. We also see this operating at the international level between ethnic groups and nations, resulting in open conflict and even warfare.

To return to the story of King Saul and the yet-to-be appointed King David, there is a glimmer of light. Previously, in a rage, Saul had attempted to kill David by throwing a javelin at him! In this week's story, David has the opportunity to kill Saul, but relents. Choosing not to kill your enemy is a good first step! Even here we note David's motives are not entirely pure. He acts partly out of guilt, fearing divine anger if he was to kill one of God's anointed.

However, fear of God has its role as a pathway to a more authentic and loving life. Let us now compare this approach to the words of Jesus in the gospel: "Love your

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

Rosary: 30 minutes before mass

Tuesday - Friday; 5pm Saturday

Scripture Rosary: Tuesday 8.45am

Rosary and Chaplets (shrine):

Every Wednesday 2.30pm

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Phong Nguyen
Priest in Residence: Rev. Fr. Anibal Leite Da Cunha
Parish Secretary: Heidy Lu

enemies; do good to those who hate you". At a logical level, Jesus' reasoning is difficult to dispute: "If you only love those who love you, what thanks can you expect?" No, says Jesus, you must overcome all those narrow views of love and forgiveness: "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate". Moreover, "don't judge others, don't condemn, always forgive".

We may complain that Jesus is asking too much of us! Surely all this love and forgiveness will be seen as pure weakness, leading us to being eaten up, spewed out and trodden underfoot by our enemies! Yet, something within us knows we must break the cycle of violence and vengeance if we are to achieve peace, harmony and goodwill among people and nations. This is the way of the gospel as lived and proclaimed by Jesus.

This is also the centre-point of Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (2020), where Francis uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to insist that love must go beyond tribe, family and nation to include stranger, migrant and refugee. We also note Francis' joint statement with Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayeb in Abu Dhabi (2019) which acknowledged that "God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters".

In today's world, 'loving your enemy' is best expressed in terms of commitment to dialogue and mutual respect among peoples of diverse religions and cultures. This enables us to open our hearts to become people of love, service and compassion. This way, we allow God's love to enter our lives and world, mindful of Jesus' words: "The amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back!"

Gerard Hall SM
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Baptisms: We welcome Ella Rose Alvino, Madeleine Austin, Willow Montesana, Ava Eames and Alexa Choon into our Parish Community.

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 Murray Gillett, Francesca Portelli, Jessie Alexander, Lora Paul Raj, Richard Oon Chuan Hoe, Joseph Doss, Maria Stella Sansone, Ronald Blakely Brown, Ernest Alagaratnam, John Allen, Thomas Phillips, Francis Wilson Reilly, Hector McAnuff, Kathleen Beagley, Monica Parr and S. Eustace Williams whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 2ND MARCH

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
Flowers: Catherine Tan
Counters: 1. R Sciascia 2. D Puspita 3. T Santoso

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
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Acolytes	D Morais	P Cox	A Louie M Braganza (thurifer)
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Altar Servers	F Lie J Lie	B Karczub N Karczub I Lu	E Gatchalian A Hadiyanto
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Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	K Poole J See J Doss L Morzenti M Magnussen A Anthony P Ardianto	I Kusnadi T Santoso J Randazzo J Sciorilli C Cox R Margawani W Goh	E Tandy F May G Prasetyo J Mohan J Louie J Lim L Saverimutto M Sugijono
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Catechists	CHILDREN'S LITURGY Michelle Lowth		
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Readers	L Rego L Rego	A Martin B Martin	K Lingoh M Fely
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Readers Coordinator: Michele Doray - 9310 4051

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Safeguarding Officers:

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

LENTEN SEASON

As the Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, we are called by the Church to pray, fast, and do works of mercy. **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** are days of **fast** and **abstinence**. Lent is a penitential season of **prayer, self-denial and helping others**. In this way, the Church prepares for Easter and joyfully welcomes those adults who have completed the RCIA programme and consequently be baptised during the Easter Saturday Vigil Mass.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES – 5TH MARCH 2025

We begin our season of Lent with Ash Wednesday, which will be celebrated on the **5th March 2025**. Masses will be held at **9.00am** (with attendance of Junior Classes from Corpus Christi College), **4.00pm** (RE Program Mass) and **7.00pm**. Parishioners are welcome to attend any one of these Masses, including the RE Program Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Fridays during Lent after the 5.30pm Mass.

- Friday 7th March 2025 – Led by Vincent de Paul Group
- Friday 14th March 2025 – Led by Scriptural Rosary Group
- Friday 21st March 2025 – Led by Men Alive Group
- Friday 28th March 2025 – Led by Readers Group
- Friday 4th April 2025 – Led by Year 5 Corpus Christi College
- Friday 11th April 2025 – Led by 6PM Music Ministry

FRIDAY ADORATION DURING LENTEN SEASON

- Friday Adoration during Lenten Season will be held from Friday 7th March until Friday 11th April 2025 at 6.30pm - 9pm (Straight after Stations of the Cross).
- 24 hours Adoration for the Lord will be hold on Friday 28th March 6.30pm - Saturday 29th March 6pm.

BATEMAN PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL 2025 AT 7.00PM

Our Lenten Reconciliation Service for the Parish will be held on **Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 7.00pm**. There will be many priests to assist, so please come along and prepare well for Easter.

The following parishes advised their Lenten Reconciliation services:

Willetton Parish – Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 7.00pm

Canning Vale Parish – Tuesday ??? 2025 at 7.00pm

We have a wonderful opportunity to gather spiritually as a community for this significant event during Lent.

There are many reasons for attending this Second Rite of Reconciliation Service:

- We give powerful witness to each other of the need for forgiveness and commitment to repentance. Together we pray for God's mercy. We support and help each other through community prayers at this rite.
- It is a humbling experience to give public witness to being a sinner needing forgiveness and seeking God's mercy. Humility is good for the soul.
- We help to alleviate the burden for our priests at this busy time of year by participating in community reconciliation.

PARISH NEWS

DRIED PALMS FROM LAST YEAR

The Parish is looking for Dried Palms to make into Ashes for Ash Wednesday (5th March 2025). Please bring your old palms and leave them in the collection box at the church foyer by **Sunday 2nd March 2025**. Thank you!

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

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

BOOK BARROW: 1st Sunday of the month at both Sunday masses

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 25th February 2025** 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. (*Suggested Donation: \$20*)

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

STUDY OF VATICAN II DOCUMENT SACROSANCTUM CONCILIIUM (*Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy*) - THURSDAYS 6TH, 13TH, 20TH & 27TH MARCH AT 1PM - 3PM 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.

THE JUBILEE YEAR BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE!

The Archdiocese of Perth has prepared a beautiful booklet explaining various details about the Jubilee Year, the churches of pilgrimage, the Indulgences that can be gained and simple actions that can bring hope to the world. These are available at the back of the church for a gold coin donation.

QUOTE - HOPE: For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. Jn 10:7.9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as “our hope” (1Tim 1:1). (Pope Francis SPES NON CONFUNDIT 1).

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, 26 May 2021 Catechesis on prayer: **35. The certainty of being heard**

We now consider those times when our prayers appear to go unanswered. We think, for example, of the heartfelt prayers we offer for our sick children, or for our friends who experience great pain. In our disappointment, we may feel that God is deaf to our pleas; we may even be tempted to stop praying. Jesus, our great teacher of prayer, taught us in the Our Father to ask for many things, but above all that God's will be done. A mature faith trusts in the Lord's providence, his greater plan for our lives and our world, yet we naturally feel deep disappointment when our petitions seem to go unheard. Jesus shows us by his own example that God understands our sufferings, yet does not always immediately grant our wishes. In Gethsemane, Jesus offered a prayer that seemed to go unanswered; yet his complete trust in the Father's will led to our salvation and the glory of the resurrection. Evil never has the last word. If there are times when we walk in the dark, guided only by the light of faith, may we never abandon our trust in the Father's will to make all things work together for our ultimate good.

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)

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.