

# Sunday Readings

Year C

## First Reading - Sirach 27:4-7

### A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

## Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

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

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

## Gospel - Luke 6:39-45

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

# 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*

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

March 2, 2025

## *The spotlight on our own hearts*

This week's first reading offers the kind of pithy advice that would have been common in the ancient world. In this case, the author of Sirach, or Ecclesiasticus as also called, encourages the reader to test the words and actions of others. This way, we avoid looking foolish for endorsing someone with egregious character flaws.

This is good advice and, at first glance, in the gospel reading it seems that Jesus is encouraging his disciples to do the same. He even uses the same visual metaphors of examining the fruit (words and actions) to determine the true quality of a tree (the inner character of a person).

Jesus agrees that a person reveals their inner spiritual state through their words and actions. However, he spins this advice around towards the people he is addressing. Instead of measuring the character of *others* by interrogating *their* thoughts and actions, Jesus is pointing us towards *our own capacity for self-deception*.

Jesus immediately turns the spotlight on our own hearts. He exposes how our attempts to justify our own selfish desires as morally good do as much good as trying to pick grapes from brambles.

## 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:** Tuesday - Friday  
30 minutes before mass

**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

However, because it requires us to thoroughly examine and change our own hearts and minds, we often try to look for other ways to make ourselves seem and feel good. When we do this, we demonstrate in the way that we live that we follow a teacher other than Christ. But, as Jesus explains, there is only one teacher who has conclusively proved, by the fruits of his words and actions, the goodness of his character and teaching. This is why St Paul exhorts us in the second reading to remember that Jesus has won the victory that will make us capable of living God's way.

God works through our humble hearts when we acknowledge how much we need the truth and love that Christ alone brings, and labour to change ourselves accordingly. In this way, we become like the "fully trained disciple" Jesus describes who can fully emulate "his teacher."

What we experience in the day-to-day journey of following Jesus, with the thousands of little corrections that we need to make to stay on course, is God transforming us into the image of his Son.

This work of transformation in this life will be completed in the life to come. St Paul, in the second reading, shows us a glimpse of the kind of people that we will be when our "perishable natures" will "put on imperishability" and our "mortal nature" will "put on immortality".

St Paul exhorts us to keep going with the spiritual introspection and labour that will turn us from brambles into fruitful trees where, in the words of the Psalm, we will "flourish in the courts of our God".

Joseph Doyle  
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**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Recently Deceased:**

Please pray for Francis John Grosse, Melissa Higgins, Lindinha Leite Da Cunha and Douglas McKirdy who passed away recently.

**Death Anniversaries:**

Please pray for S. Eustace Williams, Mary Mona King, Ronald Blakely Brown, Aidah Philips, Cedric Simons, Gary Raymond Monck and Noreen Rao whose anniversaries occur around this time.

# R O S T E R S

## FOR 9TH MARCH

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo  
 Flowers: Joan Louie  
 Counters: 1. S Fernandes                      2. K John                      3. M Woolford

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
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Acolytes	N Rojan	M Humble	P Doray
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Altar Servers	M Poole A D'Monte R Roki	J Cherian A Evans S Evans	A Kan G Winaulin J Winaulin
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Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	G Lopez L McMin P McMin S Teo V Ng O D'Mello A Khoo	B D'Cruz C Price P Price G Dunsford M Ch'ng M de Rozario C Cox	M Davis M Doray P Demberger P Braganza R Triuntari S Cataldo-Nikolic S Wong S Fialho
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Catechists	CHILDREN'S LITURGY Michelle Lowth		
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Proclaimers	L Sequeira M Sequeira	E Orr M Reutens	R Sciascia L Papineau
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Proclaimers Coordinator: Lilian Sequeira - 9331 5221

<b>Piety Stall</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
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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 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 9.00am: Solemnity of St Patrick
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 9am: Monday of Holy Week
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 9am: Monday within the Octave of Easter
- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 9am: Saturday within the Octave of Easter
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025 at 9am: All Saints
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 9am: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 9am: Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

**PARISH MASSES: With attendance of students from Corpus Christi College**  
**Thursday 9am Masses:** 5<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

### 2025 SACRAMENTAL DATES

First Holy Communion: **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025**

Confirmation: **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

First Reconciliation: **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 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. For more information, please contact the RE Coordinator via email [catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au) or call 9310 1747 (available Tue/Wed).

### ZUMBA CLASSES AT THE PARISH!

Join us for Zumba classes at St. Thomas More Parish! Stay active, have fun, and support the parish. **Mondays at 6pm & Wednesdays at 11am** at Parish Hall. \$5 donation (goes towards parish maintenance). All are welcome!

Please contact Shan for more information at 0432 909 981.

### SHROVE TUESDAY - TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025 AT 7.45AM - 8.30AM

Join us for Pancake Day at St. Thomas More Bateman Parish Courtyard on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.45am-8.30am! Enjoy delicious pancakes for only \$2.50. Payment Options: Cash & Eftpos available. Don't miss out! See you there!

### CALLING ALL CATHOLIC YOUTH - FRIDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025 AT 7-9PM

Join us for the launch of the Catholic Youth Assembly in the Archdiocese of Perth, St Mary's Cathedral Parish Centre, 41 Victoria Square, Perth WA 6000 (Parking: Available on-site). This exciting new initiative is designed to lay the foundation for the formation of a Catholic Youth Council (CYC). This synodal process is an opportunity for young people to have a voice in shaping the future of our Church! Light refreshments and food will be provided. REGISTER NOW: <https://events.humanitix.com/cya-launch>

## 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 – 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

We begin our season of Lent with Ash Wednesday, which will be celebrated on the **5<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Led by Vincent de Paul Group
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Led by Scriptural Rosary Group
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 – Led by Men Alive Group
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Led by Proclaimers Group
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Led by Year 5 Corpus Christi College
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Led by 6PM Music Ministry

### FRIDAY ADORATION DURING LENTEN SEASON

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

### BATEMAN PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2025 AT 7.00PM

Our Lenten Reconciliation Service for the Parish will be held on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

- Como Parish** - Wednesday April 2<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm
- Riverton Parish** - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm
- Willetton Parish** - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm
- Lynwood/Langford Parish** - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 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 (5<sup>th</sup> March 2025). Please bring your old palms and leave them in the collection box at the church foyer by **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025**. Thank you!

### COFFEE GET-TOGETHER - FIRST SAT 1<sup>ST</sup> & SUN 2<sup>ND</sup> March 2025

This Saturday after 6pm mass; This Sunday after 10am mass. Coffee is in the hall every Sunday after 8am mass. Come along to enjoy a coffee; meet parishioners, share fellowship and build community.

**BOOK BARROW:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at both Sunday masses

### REDISCOVERING THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND THE EUCHARIST - TUES 11<sup>TH</sup> FEB - 4<sup>TH</sup> MAR 2025

PLEASE JOIN THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL at their formation on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 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*)

### STUDY OF VATICAN II DOCUMENT SACROSANCTUM CONCILIIUM (*Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy*) - THURSDAYS 6<sup>TH</sup>, 13<sup>TH</sup>, 20<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup> 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.**

### ROSARY WALK TO PINEY LAKES - SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2025

The planned walk to Wireless Hill has been redirected to Piney Lakes. This will allow all abilities and age groups to participate.

### LENTEN CALENDAR - INVITATION TO JOURNEY TOGETHER

In the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, St Thomas Parishioners are personally invited to experience and celebrate our Faith journey. A curated Lenten calendar has been prepared in collaboration between the Parish Pastoral Council Faith Development and Good Mental Health groups. The calendar is in keeping with the spirit of Jubilee Year of Hope offering many practical suggestions for encounters to enrich our Faith. Participating in the pilgrimage rosary walk to Wireless Hill, connecting with a friend in need, spending time with family or even abstaining from social media for a day are some of the many initiatives included in the calendar. The calendar gives parishioners the opportunity to create their personal Jubilee Lenten experience. Don't forget to grab a copy after Mass and take some to share with family, friends or neighbours. Together we celebrate our FAITH journey.

**QUOTE - HOPE:** ... suffering produces endurance, endurance character and character hope. Romans 5:3,4 NRSV

## 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](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, 2 June 2021 Catechesis on prayer

#### 36. Jesus, model and soul of all prayer

We now consider Jesus as the model of prayer for his disciples. The Gospels show us that the Lord chooses his apostles only after a night of intense prayer. Before every crucial moment in his ministry, Jesus withdraws to pray. Only after long prayer does Jesus question the disciples about their faith in him and then reveal to them his coming passion, death and resurrection. On the mount of the Transfiguration, Peter, James and John then see the Lord in prayer, revealed in his glory as the beloved Son of the Father. At the Last Supper he assures Peter that he has prayed for him, for his conversion and for his future mission. Like the apostles, we too can count on the Lord's prayer to sustain us in our journey of faith and discipleship. The Catechism reminds us that the Risen Jesus, seated at the right hand of the Father, constantly intercedes before him on our behalf (cf. No. 2741). As we strive to persevere in prayer, may we be confident that our petitions will rise to heaven on eagles' wings and, with and in Jesus, always find a hearing before the throne of the 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.

### 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.